

COURAGE

Written by  
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Story by  
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FADE IN:

INT. HERAKLION ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - DAY

A dark-haired wisp of a girl, YOUNG ALENA CAMACHO (7) wanders in fascination through a gallery of Minoan artifacts, a culture lost to antiquity.

Oblivious to a rope barrier, she approaches a Taureador Fresco depicting the ancient Minoan sport of Bull-Leaping.

A small hand reaches up to touch the fresco. Her father, MARCO CAMACHO (40) yanks the girl's hand away.

MARCO

Come Alena.

CUT TO:

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - DAWN

Dawn sees a man tapping a walking cane on a stone walkway.

SUPER: 12 YEARS LATER - MADRID

Out of the mist a large bull, ADONIS, horns down, hot breath SNORTS as it races toward the charismatic gentleman, former matador and promoter, PABLO FALCON (58).

At the last moment Adonis pulls up. Falcon's warm hand reaches out for the bull to nuzzle against.

Falcon reaches into his pocket and offers an apple to Adonis.

EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - MORNING

Athletic, slim, ALENA CAMACHO (19) culls a spirited stallion from the corral into a training pen. It skirts away as Alena climbs over the rail.

She struggles heaving the bridle onto the spirited animal who bolts dragging Alena crashing into the dirt.

She reclaims her footing and brushes the dust off.

ALENA

Damn.

Cautious, Alena approaches the SNORTING beast. From a pouch at her side, she pulls out a fresh horse biscuit. The aroma offers intrigue.

ALENA

There beauty. Easy boy.

Sauntering over, the stallion gently nibbles from Alena's hand.

Distraction allows Alena to bridle the horse.

Scrambling onto the horse's back, Alena grabs the reins as the test of wills commence. The stallion rears and bolts as Alena anticipates every move. WILD SNORTS fill the morning silence.

From the barn Alena's brother, MARCELO CAMACHO (23), races out and into the pen to grab the reins. Alena masterfully navigates the horse around Marcelo and in control circles the pen, jerking Marcelo off his feet.

A semi-clad YOUNG WOMAN (18) emerges from the barn and APPLAUDS Alena's skill.

MARCELO

(to young woman)

Inside.

Marcelo regains his footing and approaches Alena.

ALENA

Back off.

Marcelo refuses to yield as he fails to yank the reins out of Alena's hands.

MARCELO

Are you crazy?

Alena waves a hand at the morning sunrise.

ALENA

Tell Father.

A horse trailer rolls down the dirt trail toward them. Alena dismounts the horse holding onto the reins.

MARCELO

Santa Maria. It can't be Sunday?

Grave panic sparks life into Marcelo's face.

MARCELO

Sis.

The horse trailer comes to a stop. Patriarch, Marco Camacho (52), a stern business rancher pokes his head outside the cab.

MARCO

Marcelo, get a move on.

Alena hands the reins of the stallion to her brother but doesn't release them.

MARCELO

(whispers)

I owe you, Sis.

Alena releases the reins. Marcelo walks the horse into the trailer and jumps inside next to his father.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

PROMOTER #1 (50's) and PROMOTER #2 (70's) with SEVERAL OTHERS sit across a conference table facing Falcon. Falcon CLICKS a remote. A half empty stadium confronts them on the screen.

FALCON

Observations?

PROMOTER #1

(jovial to annoyed)

People enjoying themselves. What's the point?

The remote sends a laser marking all the men on the screen.

FALCON

Where's the women, the families?

GRUMBLES rise from the group.

PROMOTER #2

You're talking about our culture.

Falcon grins.

FALCON

The inquisition was our culture. I want to draw a more diverse audience.

(MORE)

Subsidies keeps us afloat. When they are gone and without people filling the stadiums where will our culture be? In beautiful frescos of the past?

CLICK. A fresco of the ancient sport of bull leaping.

FALCON

Courage and grace is a formidable mixture. It's there.

PROMOTER #1

We've added that and the gate has hardly changed.

Falcon displays another ancient fresco and points to a woman flying over a beast. Looks of disbelief goes around the room.

PROMOTER #1

Only in the artist's imagination. We don't need women contaminating the sport.

PROMOTER #2

Women are the measure of beauty and family. They are not like men.

FALCON

No, they're not. Today they do the same jobs, have the same dreams and demand the same opportunities to succeed or fail. They are no longer obedient after thoughts.

PROMOTER #1

What about courage?

FALCON

Courage?

CLICK. A video plays.

EXT. RODEO ARENA - DAY

MARK MCBRIDE (28) bolts out of a chute riding a fierce bull. The eight second, legal ride, BUZZER sounds. Unable to release his grip, the enraged beast chucks the man and tramples him. His hand still held fast in the grip.

Rodeo clown, JESSICA MCBRIDE (23), African-American female, her femininity well disguised, reacts. She throws herself onto the bull and frees her husband's hand.

TWO CLOWNS grab Mark's limp body and drags him from under the bull's hooves.

Jessica's thrown a dozen feet and lands hard on the ground resembling a crumpled bird.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

CLICK. Falcon pauses the video.

The Promoters CLAP.

PROMOTER #2

A man's courage.

The men MUMBLE in agreement.

Falcon nods then CLICKS the remote to continue the video.

EXT. RODEO ARENA - DAY

Clowns rush to help Jessica up. As she stands she removes her cowboy hat and her long dark hair tumbles down.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

FALCON

You could say women are their own man. I'm promoting an experiment. A team of women leapers competing on equal footing with men.

Laughter erupts at the table.

PROMOTER #1

Our teams won't compete.

FALCON

Well, that's your choice. A parallel event would certainly hurt your gate.

INT. CAR - STREETS OF MADRID - DAY - MOVING

Alena drives Marcelo in her black Mini-Cooper.

ALENA

Dad wants you to work the ranch.

MARCELO

You're there.

ALENA

I'm not your MUCAMA. If you're a fuck up, I can't continue college.

MARCELO

Don't speak like that.

ALENA

Like what? One of your fans?

Marcelo frowns then smiles.

MARCELO

They're only FANS.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

As the car comes to a stop in front of the plaza, Marcelo leaps out, grins and jokes to his sister.

MARCELO

Thanks, TATA. Catch you inside.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - STANDS/ARENA - DAY

Alena walks up the stadium steps and spots her brother down in the arena standing around with a FEW TEAMMATES.

He waves to her. A few teammates standing around smoke cigarettes.

Alena yells down at Marcelo.

ALENA

That's practice?

MARCELO

Waiting for coach.

Marcelo goes back to joking with friends.

From down in the arena, a voice.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Hey. Senorita.

GABRIEL LAWRY (22), male, handsome athletic teammate, flies up the barrier wall separating the arena from the public. Clutching the railing he comes face to face with Alena.

GABRIEL

H-e-l-l-o beautiful Senorita. I see you're not fawning over my friend. You have taste.

ALENA

Yes, nor you.

STADIUM ARENA

Marcelo glances over and sees Gabriel hitting on Alena.

MARCELO

(to Gabriel)

Let's go.

Ignored, Marcelo dashes over and grabs Gabriel's leg and drags him back down into the arena. Gabriel waves to Alena then ambles across the arena to join his teammates doing wind sprints and leaps.

STADIUM STANDS

A CLUSTER OF WOMEN annoy Alena as they SQUAWK like a flock of parrots, trying to get their favorite team member's attention.

STADIUM ARENA/STANDS

TEAM MADRID gathers on the far side of the arena around their male COACH (50's) to take instructions.

ALENA

scans her watch and heads out of the stadium.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS - FARMERS MARKET - DAY

A MAN (20's) rushes along and rips a BLUE FLYER off a telephone pole.

At a fruit stand Alena buys a mango and savors it as she strolls through the packed outdoor market. She lingers at a flower stand taking in the fragrance. Buying a bundle of colorful blossoms, she continues her stroll.



On a table she picks up a blue flyer with a picture of a woman leaping over a bull. As she reads a visible excitement comes over her. She walks away leaving her flowers.

Off in the distance loud SHOUTS drift in across the market.

A cadre of YOUNG MEN and YOUNG WOMEN practicing PARKOUR leap over chairs, stands, barriers, and people as they move swiftly amongst the vendors.

WOMEN grab their CHILDREN and MEN CUSS at the disruption of the market's calm.

JULITTA MORALES (19), an athletic tomboy with short pink hair wearing a PURPLE BACKPACK races a MALE YOUTH, the two intent on out-flashing the other's moves.

SLAM!

Items fly as Alena and Julitta crash to the dirt. CURSES go up as each accuse the other for the collision.

JULITTA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Watch it bitch.

ALENA

(sarcastic; in  
Spanish; subtitled)

Pardon me, sir.

JULITTA

Fuck you.

Alena reaches for the blue flyer on the ground. Julitta snatches it up and reads it. Julitta regards Alena's refined look.

JULITTA

Ha. You're just a pretty picture  
girl.

Julitta tucks the flyer into her pocket.

ALENA

Hey.

JULITTA

You don't need this.

Julitta takes off. Alena gives chase. Her stylish designer jeans hinder the pursuit. She soon comes to an angry halt.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS - FARMERS MARKET - DAY

Alena walks among the VENDORS. She pauses at every table with pamphlets or flyers but can't find the blue one.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - STANDS - DAY

Gabriel sits alone writing in a notebook as Alena leans over the rail at an empty arena.

He glances up from his writing.

GABRIEL

Senorita Alena. Marcelo expected you here after his workout.

Alena turns and smiles.

ALENA

Where is he? You're his teammate?

GABRIEL

Yes, sorry, I'm Gabriel Lawry. Your brother left with a fan.

Alena pulls her car keys out of her pocket and moves toward the plaza exit.

ALENA

Thank you.

Gabriel hastily stashes his notebook in his athletic bag and joins Alena.

GABRIEL

I would offer you a ride, if you'd accept.

Alena holds up her keys.

GABRIEL

(motioning to the keys)

They require a car, I believe.

Alena catches on.

ALENA

He has my car?

GABRIEL

Yes, Senorita. His fans.

ALENA

Fans. I'd use another word.

Gabriel grins. Alena continues out of the plaza.

GABRIEL

Still, it's a long walk.

Gabriel notices the dirt stains on her jeans.

GABRIEL

And it looks like you have a story  
to tell and it's well into lunch?

Alena hesitates, regards him closer.

ALENA

You're right, it is a long walk.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Alena and Gabriel sit across from each other at an airy  
cafe. Couples engage in indistinct CONVERSATION at tables  
sprinkled about.

WAITER (20's) brings Alena a salad and they split a  
sandwich.

ALENA

(skeptical)

Why aren't you off with...

Alena searches for the right word.

GABRIEL

Fans.

Gabriel smiles.

GABRIEL

I wasn't blessed with being the  
first born. Ah. The life of  
leisure. No, Senorita, I have to  
work.

Alena let's down her guard.

GABRIEL

I'm hoping to be a great writer  
someday.

ALENA

You're at the university?

GABRIEL

Ah. The affluent. No, I learn on  
the job as a copywriter for a  
small paper, 'La Familia'.

Alena shrugs.

GABRIEL

Soon no one will have heard of it.

Confusion marks Alena's face.

GABRIEL

My uncle's paper. He's not a good  
business man. I do it for  
experience.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY - MOVING

Gabriel drives a broken down Tauro through traffic as  
Alena reads an essay out of Gabriel's notebook. She wipes  
tears out of her eyes from laughter.

ALENA

Are all women of leisure fat lazy  
sows?

GABRIEL

I'm sure, not all?

At the front door to the hacienda, Gabriel pulls to a  
stop. Alena hands back his notebook.

ALENA

This should be published in 'La  
Familia'.

GABRIEL

I'd be on the street. Fat is the  
target audience.

Both laugh.

Alena exits the car and waves bye as Gabriel drives off.

EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - DAY

Alena turns. The smile falls off her face at the sight of her mother, MARIA CAMACHO (mid-40's) walking up with a scowl.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Ranch hands Alena. You're father  
will be furious.

Alena's disposition shifts to aggravation as she stops and confronts her mother.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

He's Marcelo's teammate. His  
father's a physician. Marcelo left  
me stranded. You didn't want me to  
walk home?

Maria's attitude changes.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

A physician? You should invite him  
over.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Didn't you hear me mother? Marcelo  
took my car to entertain his  
women. He should be working his  
inheritance.

Alena stomps off toward the hacienda.

INT./EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - BARN - EVENING

Alena, in work clothes, breaks up a bale of hay and with a pitchfork and feeds the horses.

The WHINE of her Mini-Cooper causes Alena to drop everything and rush out to confront Marcelo.

MOMENTS LATER

Marcelo's a little unsteady from hard partying. Alena steps in front of him.

He tosses her the car keys and moves past her.

ALENA

Your friend Gabriel offered me a ride.

Marcelo stops and focuses.

MARCELO

Where did you see him?

Seeing her brother's concern, she lays it on.

ALENA

He was waiting. He said you asked him to give me a ride.

MARCELO

What? Stay away from him.

ALENA

He thinks, I'm interesting and insisted on taking me to lunch.

MARCELO

You didn't go, did you?

ALENA

I had to. He said you'd be upset at letting your little sister go hungry. He's so wonderful.

Marcelo's sobers.

MARCELO

He's not that wonderful. I don't want him to take advantage of you. I'll talk to him.

Marcelo walks away MUMBLING. Alena smiles.

INT. UNIVERSITAT DE VALENCIA - JOURNALISM CLASS - DAY

Scattered about, STUDENTS in casual attire lounge around a semi-circular stadium auditorium. Alena wears a T-shirt, running shorts, and backpack. She plops down in a seat.

Journalism professor, PROFESSOR GERALD GASTON (50's), a player, whispers and laughs with a beautiful YOUNG WOMAN (18) at the back of the auditorium.

Frustration crosses Alena's face as she glances at the wall clock.

INSERT - WALL CLOCK

reads: 4:20pm

BACK TO SCENE

Alena rises from her seat.

ALENA

Gerald. Class.

The Professor's annoyance flares at this undergraduate's interruption of his dalliance.

PROFESSOR

Young lady. Haven't you learned anything. Don't you know how to address a professor.

ALENA

Sorry Professor, I mistook you for a pervert.

The class laughs.

The Professor glares at Alena as he struts down the aisle toward the podium.

Alena packs her books into a knapsack.

ALENA

Oh wait. I did learn something.  
Never fear pursuing a good story.

As he reaches her she hands the Professor a newspaper.

ALENA

The MATADOR refused to print your story but journalism's not dead at the city paper. LAS PROVINCIAS put you front and center. Don't you think, the title captures the imagination, 'Sexual Blackmail in the University'.

Alena waves to the class as she walks out. The Professor sees his name and yells.

GERALD

You bitch.

EXT. UNIVERSITAT DE VALENCIA - CAMPUS - DAY

Alena explores the campus. She comes to a halt.

On the sculpture garden's grass, Julitta lies listening to MUSIC on her headphones. Nearby rests her distinct PURPLE BACKPACK.

ALENA

(sotto voce)

Let's try this again.

Alena dashes up and snatches Julitta's backpack. She straps it on and streaks out across campus.

Julitta leaps up in pursuit. Alena leads Julitta on a wild chase through the buildings, people, and gardens across campus.

Alena vanishes into a parking structure. TWO MALE STUDENTS blunder in front of Julitta blocking her pursuit.

Julitta breaks free and reaches the parking structure as a Mini-Cooper shoots past her with Alena behind the wheel.

Alena smiles and waves.

INT. CAFE - NIGHT

Alena spills out Julitta's backpack onto the table. She fishes out a coupon book of food vouchers and pockets them.

Alena snatches up a BLUE FLYER.

Spotting a personal journal, Alena reads a recent entry.

JULITTA (V.O.)

Today, I went back home. Mother had moved. Asked neighbors, no one knew. So, angry, she left with that asshole. I wish, I'd kept my mouth shut.

Alena closes the journal and rounds up the backpack's content and puts back the food vouchers.



EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - DAY

A long sleek black limo pulls up at the villa. Out steps FILM PRODUCER and FORMER MATADOR EVA BIANCHI (40's), a sun worn, strong woman, still beautiful, with a past.

Falcon hands his walking cane to MANUEL (18), his male assistant. Falcon grimaces and limps over to greet Eva. Falcon's leg buckles. Eva grabs him and holds him up.

Eva motions for Manuel to bring over Falcon's walking cane.

EVA

Trying to impress.

Falcon emotes a sheepish grin.

FALCON

You've brought talent?

Eva RAPS on the car window. The limousine's back door opens and out steps Jessica McBride wearing jeans and a short sleeve shirt. She lugs a duffle bag over her shoulder.

Behind her, LIN-LU (20), an Asian female, steps out like a sleek panther all in black.

INT. WORLD GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP - DAY - FLASHBACK

Lin-Lu hurtles down the runway with arms extended she strikes the vaulting horse, sticking a perfect triple flip.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - DAY

From the limousine exits a stocky Russian born woman, KACY ANATOLI (27), sporting a butch cut and a stern face.

Kacy turns to Falcon whose smile drops at the sight of the intimidating muscular figure.

INT. MMA CHAMPIONSHIP - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Bell rings. Kacy confidently moves forward, ducks a wild punch by her opponent. A straight right from Kacy ends the match.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - DAY

A long legged blond, INGA SORENSON (23) smiles as she steps out of the limousine and greets her host.

Falcon's smile returns as he extends his hand in greetings then fades as Inga reaches out and grasps Kacy's arm in a more than familiar manner.

EXT. CIRCUS FESTIVAL - DAY - FLASHBACK

A MAN throws a rubber ball at Inga from about thirty feet. She easily side steps it. His FRIENDS laugh and he hands a vendor \$20 for four more balls.

INSERT - BANNER ABOVE HEAD

reads: Win a kiss \$5

BACK TO SCENE

Inga smiles and taunts the man with her body as he throws each ball, GRUNTING with effort. With a quick step, left and right, a duck, a fake, she easily evades each. At one point she even faces away from the man.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - DAY

A CAMERAMAN accompanying Eva films introductions. Eva reads the mixed reaction on Falcon's face as each new woman presents herself.

Eva walks over and holds each woman's hand in turn.

Falcon motions Manuel to show the women to a guest house across the plaza.

MANUEL

Come ladies.

Manuel herds the young ladies away.

As the young women disappear into the guest house, Falcon reclaims his cane and taps out a rhythm on the ground.

EVA

What?

FALCON

These women... they're talented.

EVA

Talented? Talking parrot's are talented. These women can save your bulls.

FALCON

We'll see, in the arena.

INT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - KITCHEN - EVENING

Alena pads in and sees her mother laboring in the kitchen, patiently kneading dough in a large bowl.

With her hands she pats small gobs into tortillas which she plops on a grill.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Mom?

Maria hands the bowl of dough to her daughter, opens the fridge and pulls out two beers. She hands one to Alena.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

What's this for?

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

When I hear you call me Mom, I know I'm going to need a drink.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

What did you do before...

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Before what?

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

You knew, Dad?

Maria pours her beer into a glass and takes a sip. She goes back to kneading the dough. She pours a bit of the beer into the dough.

A long silence.

Alena steps away toward the door.

MARIA  
(in Spanish;  
subtitled)  
Dreams?

Alena turns back.

Maria pulls Alena's BLUE FLYER from a drawer and places it on the counter. She looks into Alena's eyes and speaks with a heavy sigh.

MARIA  
(in Spanish;  
subtitled)  
Men have dreams. We have  
responsibilities. I never told you  
but the writer Octavio Paz had a  
book signing in our town. My  
parents found my flyer and that  
was it.

ALENA  
(in Spanish;  
subtitled)  
What do you mean, that was it?

MARIA  
(in Spanish;  
subtitled)  
I met your dad and raised you and  
your brother. I found my dream.

An exuberant Marcelo enters HUMMING. He grabs a tortilla Maria has just taken off the grill and picks up a guitar resting in the corner and strums a few notes.

MARCELO  
Que pasa?

Alena SLAMS down the bowl of dough and heads toward the front door.

ALENA  
You're all crazy.

Marcelo stops and puts up his hands in confusion as both, he and his mother, watch Alena storm out.

EXT./INT. BARN - DAY

Alena rushes inside and places her hand on the nose of a startled mare. She wipes tears from her eyes and calms herself. Alena continues to caress the mare.

ALENA

Mare or Stallion, you both run in the same races.

Alena leans her brow against the mare's head and cries.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - STANDS - DAY

Alena sits far back in the stadium and watch Marcelo and his teammates practice Superman leaps over a small cow.

ALENA

(nervous)

That's... doable. They're like big puppies.

STADIUM ARENA

Falcon enters with Eva, her FILM CREW, and the athletic women challengers to compete for TEAM SAUTEUR.

Cat calls rise from a squad of male recortadores from TEAM MADRID, just finishing practice.

STADIUM STANDS

Alena zooms in with binoculars on the recortadores and watches a man slap a cow's hindquarters. The cow breaks toward the women who scramble for safety. Marcelo and his teammates LAUGH as they walk out of the arena.

Gabriel gives Marcelo a slap on the back as they walk off.

Disappointment falls over Alena.

ALENA

Men are such a disappointment.

STADIUM ARENA

Two male HANDLERS (20's) lure the cow into a containment pen.

STADIUM MANAGER (50's) walks into the arena and confronts Falcon. From the stands we recognize an argument.

FALCON  
 (to the women)  
 Scheduling conflict, my ass.

ANGRY. Falcon motions for the women and camera crew to follow him out of the arena.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA CORRAL - STANDS - DAY

Alena and GUESTS amble into the stands and disperse among the seats. Everyone focuses on the action down in the arena.

CORRAL ARENA

Male HANDLERS drag two horse gates and place a pole between them four feet off the ground.

Jessica, Inga, Kacy, and Lin-Lu present themselves before Eva and Falcon.

EVA  
 Today, we're giving you a heads up  
 on the tryouts.

Eva motions Gabriel over.

GABRIEL  
 Ladies. Each of you have unique  
 athletic talents. I'm here to  
 introduce you to our culture and  
 teach you basic survival skills.

Gabriel runs up and does a Superman dive over the jump.

CORRAL STANDS

Through binoculars Alena focuses her sights on Gabriel.

CORRAL ARENA

Gabriel brushes off the dust and motions the women to jump the bar.

GABRIEL  
 Ladies.

Jessica takes a run at the bar and does her own Superman dive. Gabriel APPLAUDS her success.

Kacy approaches the bar, executes a nice scissors kick and clears it. Her teammates CLAP and HOLLER.

Gabriel comes over and steps his foot on the spot where Kacy landed, just past the bar.

GABRIEL

That got you maimed or dead. Hang time counts. Showing off kills you. Next.

Inga jogs up to the bar and places both hands on the bar and hops over the bar.

GABRIEL

What the hell was that?

INGA

This is silly.

GABRIEL

You're not going to grab the BULL'S HORNS. It would certainly entertain the crowd but I'm sure they would miss your encore with your guts decorating the arena.

Gabriel calms. He motions for the women to gather around.

GABRIEL

I can teach you all the tricks, the moves that can help you survive. But ultimately to be a champion, IT ALL COMES DOWN TO COURAGE.

CORRAL STANDS/ARENA

Alena clambers down from the stands and jumps down into the arena. Gabriel glances over and smiles at Alena.

GABRIEL

Morning, Senorita Alena.

Alena gestures to the jump gates.

ALENA

This tryouts?

Eva and Falcon confront her. Alena yanks a blue flyer out of a tote bag. Eva takes it and hands it to Falcon who examines it.

FALCON

This is a private practice, Miss Camacho.

Surprise comes over Alena's face.

FALCON

Yes, I know your father and that means you know you're not welcome here. A shame, you're very lovely Senorita Camacho.

ALENA

My father?

Falcon motions Eva to show Alena out of the arena. Eva takes Alena's arm but Alena shucks it off spilling her tote bag.

Gabriel rushes up and gathers up the books. He pauses, recognizing a book before placing them all back in the bag.

GABRIEL

Sorry Senorita, please?

Alena shoots him a look of contempt.

Alena's on fire with rage. She stomps off with Gabriel in tow, carrying her tote bag. Tears flow as she attempts to hold them in.

Kacy steps between Alena and Gabriel. She jabs her hand into Gabriel's chest, stopping him.

Alena rushes off. Gabriel hands the tote bag to Kacy who hurries off and hands it to Alena.

FALCON

Gabriel.

Indecision freezes Gabriel for a moment before ignoring Falcon, he chases after Alena.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA CORRAL - DAY

Gabriel rushes up as Alena's Mini-Cooper speeds away.



INT. UNIVERSITAT DE VALENCIA - GARDEN CAFE - DAY

Gabriel walks up to Alena with her head in a book on writing. Gabriel recognizes the textbook.

GABRIEL

Senorita, that's a bit formal.

Alena looks up and frowns. Gabriel hands her a well worn book on creative writing.

GABRIEL

This is my bible. I hope you find it insightful.

Alena casts him a hard look but flips through the worn pages and the highlighted passages. She pauses to read one.

ALENA

Writing's all about emotion.  
Connect with the reader. Make them  
feel what you feel.

Alena reads to herself a handwritten note in the margin.

ALENA

(sotto voce)  
The soul is found in expressions  
of the heart - my words will  
always be for you Scheherazade.

A smile crosses Alena for a moment before the frown returns.

GABRIEL

Hey. You're not the only one  
finding life's not fair Senorita.

ALENA

Fair. You get to do what you love.

GABRIEL

(sarcastic)  
If you mean, I have a lot of free  
time to make a fool of myself and  
chase my own silly dreams, then I  
am truly blessed.

Confusion flashes over Alena.

GABRIEL

Senor Falcon didn't think I was fully committed when I escorted you out. He replaced me with the great Bernardo Sanchez.

ALENA

Bernardo. He's a misogynistic pig.

GABRIEL

I'm not the president of his fan club. But he's controversial, draws an audience, and that's what this is all about, drawing an audience.

Alena's confusion and irritation returns.

ALENA

I didn't ask for your help.

GABRIEL

Yea. And Newton didn't ask for the apple to drop. But it made a difference.

Alena processes the idea.

ALENA

They won't let me even tryout.

Gabriel lifts the book Alena had just read a passage from.

GABRIEL

To succeed, Falcon needs a full stadium. He can't lose half the population. You represent their core market, the family. You're black listed; your own family won't support your dreams. Sounds like a compelling story. An emotional story that can capture the reader. You just have to make people care for you. Then Falcon will care.

Gabriel hands the book back to Alena.

GABRIEL

The easy part is to teach you to be a recortadore.

(MORE)

You have the hard part, to persuade your brother, friends, family and Spain that you and the your friends should be on the same field as men. Oh yes... and change the culture.

Alena ponders Gabriel's words. The light of commitment flickers.

ALENA  
Change the culture?

Gabriel smiles.

GABRIEL  
We can discuss that over dinner.

INT. RESTAURANT DENIASEIS - EVENING

A HOSTESS escorts Gabriel and Alena to a secluded table. Hostess hands the approaching WAITRESS menus. Waitress steps forward and hands Gabriel a dinner menu and a wine list. She hands Alena a menu but doesn't release it.

Alena's startled when she looks up and sees Julitta.

JULITTA  
Where's my pack?

Alena attempts to stand. Julitta shoves her back and grabs a wine bottle and swings at Alena.

Gabriel intervenes only to receive a blow to the head, knocking him senseless.

Alena and Julitta lay into each other. Patrons scramble.

INT. COMISARIA DETENTION AREA - EVENING

Julitta and Alena sit in adjacent cells. Both a bit battered.

LATER

Marcelo and a bruised Gabriel walks in with a male POLICE OFFICER (30's) who unlocks the two cells. Julitta goes after Alena but Marcelo grabs her and laughs.

MARCELO  
You are a wild one.

JULITTA

She's a bitch.

Marcelo releases Julitta but stands between her and his sister. He raises his hands in defense.

MARCELO

She may be. What do you go by?

JULITTA

Get your dick out of my way.

Marcelo grins, fascinated by this wild creature. He smiles over at Gabriel.

MARCELO

If you promise not to brain me.  
I'm Marcelo, you met the bitch and  
my friend Gabriel.

JULITTA

My backpack.

Marcelo takes a backpack from Gabriel.

MARCELO

Please. A little civility.

Julitta snatches her backpack out of Marcelo's hands.

JULITTA

(to Marcelo)  
Eat a cockroach.

Marcelo grins. Julitta straps on the backpack and takes off toward the door. There's an awkward moment.

MARCELO

Wait.

Julitta ignores him. With a stern look Marcelo motions for Gabriel to look after Alena.

MARCELO

(to Gabriel)  
See my sister gets home safely.  
I'll cover this.

Marcelo rushes out after Julitta. Alena looks over at Gabriel.

ALENA

(from angry to  
compassionate)  
(MORE)

That woman... I don't know. We  
just got off to a bad start.

Gabriel reaches out and gently lifts Alena's face to  
inspect a black eye.

GABRIEL  
Looks like you'll both have a  
story to tell.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Marcelo reaches the street and sees Julitta disappear  
down an alley. Marcelo gives chase and discovers she's  
vanished.

Marcelo smiles.

INT. CAR - CAMACHO'S RANCH - NIGHT - MOVING

As Gabriel and Alena drive down the ranch access road,  
Alena spots her parents coming out the front door.

ALENA  
Jesus. What else? Stop.

Gabriel slows dramatically about a hundred meters from  
Alena's parents.

GABRIEL  
I should meet your parents.

ALENA  
No, you shouldn't.

GABRIEL  
Finish our dinner later?

Alena hesitates. Gabriel eases off on the brake and the  
car rolls forward.

ALENA  
Ok.

Gabriel jolts to a stop.

INT./EXT. CAR - CAMACHO'S RANCH - NIGHT

Alena smiles and exits the car as her parents rush  
forward. Gabriel swings the car around and drives off.

Alena's smile vanishes as she rushes by her parents trying to confront her.

MARCO

Alena.

ALENA

I'm all right, Father.

Marco throws up his arms.

EXT./INT. CITY ALLEY - NIGHT

Julitta maneuvers down a dark alley. She stops at a boarded up building and pries plywood from a window. She squeezes inside.

INT. ABANDONED ROOM - NIGHT

Julitta fumbles around and flips a light switch. A mattress lies on the floor. She empties out her backpack and grabs a folded up note. She opens the note and a hundred Euro bill falls out.

Julitta reads the note.

ALENA (V.O.)

Sorry for taking your backpack. I hope this compensates for your troubles.

Julitta places the contents back in her backpack and pockets the 100 euro bill. She turns over and switches off the lamp.

INT./EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - KITCHEN - MORNING

Marco, Maria and Marcelo crowd around the breakfast table when Alena comes down the stairs heading for the front door.

MARCO

Alena, come here.

Alena pauses then enters the kitchen. Marcelo gives up his seat, steps over to a stool against the wall and grabs his guitar.

Maria's aghast at Alena's black eye.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

What did you do last night?

Annoyance bristles across Alena's features.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Nothing. I was having dinner with  
a friend.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

That's not what your brother tells  
me. You were out with a common  
worker.

Alena shanks Marcelo with an angry glance. Marcelo  
fingers a MUSICAL RIFF to accompany the rising emotions  
in the room. Alena's anger swells.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

What. Common worker. His father's  
a doctor.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Your brother says they are poor.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

He has ambition, unlike my  
brother. Ask Marcelo who he was  
sniffing after last night.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

It matters not. He's a man.

Alena goes ballistic and stomps out. Marcelo strokes out  
a discordant run on the guitar.

MARIA

Alena.

Marco holds up his hand to quiet his wife.

MARCO  
(in Spanish;  
subtitled)  
I'll talk to her.

Marco turns to his son and gives Marcelo a disapproving look.

MARCO  
Who's this woman?

Marcelo gives a sheepish smile.

MARCELO  
Just a girl from the streets.

MARCO  
Treat her with respect. We all  
came from the streets at one time.

MARCELO  
Yes, Father.

INT. RESTAURANT DENIASEIS - EVENING

Gabriel waits at a table. Around him people chat as Spanish guitar MUSIC plays. Gabriel checks his watch as he admires a YOUNG LADY dancing alone between the tables.

It's a moment before Gabriel realizes Alena's watching him. She wears a revealing sheer summer dress. She slides into a seat as the MUSIC ends.

ALENA  
You appreciate the music or the  
woman?

Gabriel smiles.

GABRIEL  
Ah, both remind me of life.

A MEMBER of the band, THE GYPSIES, builds into a hot sensual GUITAR solo. Alena gets up and moves to the MUSIC as other instruments join in.

As her motions slip into the sensuous, patron's voices go silent. Everyone's riveted on Alena's dance.

Alena's movements mesmerize Gabriel.



As the MUSIC ends the band congratulates Alena. The room APPLAUDS. Alena settles down at Gabriel's table and wipes the sweat off her forehead.

ALENA

That builds an appetite.

Gabriel, in a trance, responds.

GABRIEL

It certainly does.

Alena grabs the drink menu and summons the WAITER and orders two beers. Gabriel gathers his wits.

GABRIEL

Sauteur. It's hard, even for a man.

ALENA

Men have their limitations.

LATER

Alena and Gabriel enjoy a wonderful meal.

In intimate conversation Gabriel and Alena lean into each other. Neither notices the last PATRONS leave.

The restaurant OWNER closes out the register and joins his WIFE at a far table.

LATER

Alena notices the time and stands.

ALENA

I've got an early morning.

Gabriel reaches out and holds Alena's hand, not wishing the evening to end.

Alena smiles.

GABRIEL

The evening--

ALENA

Was nice.

Alena retrieves her hand and exits. Gabriel watches her go.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - STANDS - DAY

Wearing athletic gear, Alena sits in the stadium watching Falcon's women go through a series of drills with a young cow.

STADIUM ARENA

The great recortadore, BERNARDO SANCHEZ (26), stands in the center of the ring directing the action.

Jessica races into the arena from behind the barriers and the cow chases her to a safety barrier.

Jessica tags Kacy who takes off across the arena. The cow gives chase. The game of tag is on. The girls keep the cow on the run from one safety barrier to the next. The cow SNORTS visibly exhausted.

Kacy easily reaches Lin-Lu who notices the exhausted cow's hesitation and jogs toward the next safety barrier. The cow gives a half-hearted pursuit.

BERNARDO

Run. This isn't a bus stop.

Inga takes the tag and jogs across the arena. With labored BREATH the cow stumbles to a halt and flops down, exhausted.

Emboldened, Inga bows to her teammates, who APPLAUDS her.

Incensed, Bernardo rushes over and kicks the cow with his boot.

BERNARDO

Move you stupid animal.

Eva rushes out with the CAMERA CREW in tow. She turns to the film crew realizing the ongoing recording.

EVA

Don't film this.

Eva turns her anger to Bernardo.

EVA

Is this your idea of uplifting and empowering.

Bernardo just shrugs his shoulder, indifferent to the woman's anger.

BERNARDO

Oh, shut up.

Bernardo looks around as if searching for something.

BERNARDO

No audience for your tired ass  
whining. I answer to Falcon. You  
belong in the stands, not  
interfering with things you know  
nothing about.

Eva turns her anger on her camera crew, still filming.

EVA

This is not to be used. Get out of  
here.

Bernardo interprets her words as if directed at him.

BERNARDO

When your hormones settle, we'll  
continue.

Bernardo strides out of the stadium.

The women approach a smoldering Eva.

EVA

You all disappoint me.

Eva stares at them for a moment then exits the stadium.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

Gabriel watches Eva and the women file out.

STADIUM ARENA

Gabriel enters and motions Alena down from the stands.

Gabriel's father MIGUEL LAWRY (50's) trots out from a  
containment area with a cow and hands it off to his son.

Alena approaches from across the arena with her athletic  
bag. She traverse halfway before Gabriel motions her to  
stop. The young cow notices her and SNORTS.

Gabriel points toward a safety barrier.

GABRIEL

RUN.

Gabriel releases the cow. Across the arena behind Alena, Miguel twirls a cape. The cow bolts toward the woman.

Alena freezes a long moment before realizing what's happening. She drops her bag and dashes for the barrier as the cow charges.

It's clear, she will not reach the barrier in time. Alena stumbles and falls.

At the last instance Miguel rushes past Alena and draws off the cow with a masterful sweep of his cape.

Alena scrambles behind the safety barrier.

GABRIEL

You failed.

An angry Alena pokes her head from behind the barrier but doesn't step back into the arena.

ALENA

What was that?

Gabriel motions Alena over.

GABRIEL

This is not a game. The animal's natural instinct is to charge and gore. They are faster than you. Understand them, so you can anticipate their moves.

ALENA

I wasn't ready.

GABRIEL

Yea. That's what the rat said just before the cat ate it. Cats don't care if rats are ready. Always be ready... for ANYTHING.

Alena MUTTERS as Gabriel blindfolds himself. Miguel slaps the cow's rear sending it charging toward Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Quiet. Listen. Correctly judging the animal's approach can save your life.

The cow's ground POUNDING charge resonates across the arena. At the last moment Gabriel feigns misdirection then moves laterally. The cow sweeps past, inches away. Gabriel whips off his blindfold.

GABRIEL

Bulls react to movement. Use this. Also, a team can run a bull into the ground. Slow them down. Think of it like this. Speed kills. Use it to stay alive.

STADIUM ARENA

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Gabriel helps Alena play tag team with a tiring cow.
- Gabriel encourages Alena to perfect her dives over a vault.
- Gabriel watches Alena perfect her leaps over the exhausted cow.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Gabriel motions Alena over.

GABRIEL

In ancient Minoan times, a key cultural ritual was the veneration of the bull's power. Men and women, EQUALS, worshipped the bull by risking death.

ALENA

They did more than jump old cows?

GABRIEL

True. The extinct giant AUROCHS were not cows. They stood over six feet at the shoulders with hooves the size of a man's head and they weighed well over a ton.

ALENA

How did anyone jump them?

GABRIEL

If the ancient frescos are true, they did more than that. From this ritual, the Greeks created the gymnastics of today.

ALENA

Well, I'm jumping sticks and tired old cows.

GABRIEL

Patience. Even Falcon wasn't born  
a matador.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - ARENA - DAY

Bernardo motions a HANDLER to release a fresh cow. It  
charges across the arena.

Kacy pulls her legs up and leaps skyward. An awkward  
landing twists her ankle. The cow sweeps around as Kacy  
hobbles toward safety.

Inga steps in front of the cow's charge and diverts the  
attack with a beautiful sidestep. Team members rush  
forward and help Kacy to the safety barrier.

Bernardo's vitriol spills out.

BERNARDO

Don't pamper her. You'll never be  
men.

Eva rushes into the arena.

EVA

You're not going to coach these  
girls, you asshole. That's it.

Eva motions the women to the locker room.

BERNARDO

Fuck you. We'll see.

INT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The women shower and dress.

Inga wraps Kacy's ankle in a support bandage. Kacy leans  
on Inga as they leave to join the women outside.

Inga switches off the lights.

An athletic bag sits on the bench.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Kacy hobbles on Inga's shoulder. Inga motions for Jessica  
to help.

INGA

Forgot our bag. I'll catch up.

Inga turns back toward the locker room.

INT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Inga enters and switches on the lights to an empty locker room. No athletic bag's in sight.

Bernardo steps from behind a locker with the bag. He pulls out a handful of clothes and rubs them against his face.

BERNARDO

You need to be taught you're female.

Bernardo drops the bag. Inga eludes his initial charge but slips on the wet floor. Bernardo gets hold of her and slams her up against a wall.

He turns sensing a presence. Kacy knocks him out cold.

Inga takes a moment to recover.

INGA

Thanks.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Falcon lunches with several Promoters. An angry Eva storms in and confronts him.

EVA

Bernardo attacked one of my girls.

FALCON

I heard. The police report paints a different scenario. Bernardo's not pressing charges.

Falcon hands Eva the official report. Eva scans it.

EVA

Jealous fans. What crap. You replace him or you can get out there and have the bulls snot up your ass.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

A stadium banner reads, 'WOMEN SAUTEUR TRYOUTS TODAY'. A group of MEN and WOMEN carry protest signs.

STADIUM ARENA

Eva stands in the shadows by the entrance watching Gabriel instruct Alena.

A small cow rushes forward as Alena performs Superman leaps over it.

Gabriel runs up CLAPPING and helps Alena to her feet.

GABRIEL

Excellent.

Both turn as they hear APPLAUD from the entrance and Eva walking toward them. Gabriel motions to his watch. Eva smiles. Behind her Eva's personally chosen ELITES and several DOZEN WOMEN file into the arena.

EVA

I imagine you'll need more time  
than that for YOUR team.

The women gather around Gabriel and introduce themselves.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

GABRIEL

I understand, many of you have  
already met the downside of  
bucking tradition. People don't  
like change. You represent that.  
Expect to be ridiculed, hated and  
attacked. I'm here to help train  
you and lend my support.

LATER

The women do a series of jumps and wind sprints. Several of the women labor to a gasping halt. A few quit.

GABRIEL

We must build your stamina.  
Fatigue equals mistakes, poor  
timing, weak jumps, slow movement.  
All these equate to injury and  
death.



In a raggedy line the WOMEN gather gasping and coughing waiting for the next round of wind sprints. Gabriel shouts a command.

GABRIEL

Go.

A dust cloud rises as the women sprint and stagger across the arena. As the drills continue more women drop out.

GABRIEL

You're here to learn your strengths and weaknesses, so we can craft them into a safe and effective presentation.

Gabriel culls out the WOMEN without the basic skills for the team and sends them home.

LATER

Julitta walks in.

EVA

I'm sorry but this tryout's closed.

Alena rushes over to greet Julitta. Gabriel picks up the cue.

GABRIEL

Ms. Eva, it's my fault. I gave her the wrong time.

Eva relinquishes and goes back up into the stands.

LATER

Each woman demonstrates their ability to leap over a live cow. Two women ahead of Julitta refuse. Gabriel dismisses them from the tryouts.

An apprehensive Julitta prepares herself.

Alena comes over, smiles, and squeezes her arm. Julitta returns the smile and steps forward and performs a perfect leap over the charging cow.

LATER

At a distance Eva and Gabriel argue with the Stadium Manager. TEAM SAUTEUR'S women rush over as the Stadium Manager leaves.

EVA

We've been banned from practicing here.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

Gabriel and the women exit the stadium, nervous as they approach Bernardo and a crowd of angry protesters.

Bernardo blocks their path.

BERNARDO

(to Gabriel)

You traitor. You're soiling our women.

Gabriel shoves Bernardo aside and motions the women forward.

GABRIEL

(to Bernardo)

You messed up, man.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA CORRAL - STANDS - DAY

Falcon, Eva and Manuel watch the women practice under Gabriel's expert guidance.

FALCON

(to Eva)

A PUBLIC stadium... shit. At least, my lawyers will appreciate this.

CORRAL ARENA

Women do agility drills around and over a series of obstacles. Julitta shines at this. Alena's close behind.

Falcon watches and marks names off a list.

Gabriel motions for the women to gather around for the TEAM announcement.

Eva walks up to Gabriel and they compare lists.

EVA

Thank you all for participating.  
You all did a fantastic job today.  
But we can only take a few of you.  
I will announce the top scorers  
who can step forward.

Manuel runs up and whispers to Eva.

CORRAL STANDS

Eva walks over to Falcon and shows him the list of top scores.

Falcon takes the list from her and crosses out Julitta, Alena, Kacy. He advances three other women.

EVA

(angry)  
What is this?

FALCON

This is entertainment. These women  
must portray the culture and  
dignity of Spain.

EVA

You mean they don't look like the  
ideal Spanish woman, big breasted,  
with a pretty face, or has a  
father, who doesn't wish for his  
daughter to participate.

FALCON

My decision.

EVA

No. The film company, I represent,  
is collaborating in this venture  
and without a favorable film you  
will have NO support.

Falcon appears put off. Deliberating a moment, he nods  
and concedes to her wishes.

Eva walks away to join the women. Falcon smirks as Manuel  
rushes over.

FALCON

(to Manuel)  
She's a damn tough negotiator or  
I'm a fool.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

Bernardo and others hand out flyers. They wear T-shirts stamped 'Don't Corrupt Our Culture'.

A few YOUNG WOMEN come up to request Bernardo's autograph.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Several Promoters and the city's MAYOR (50's) confront Falcon around a conference table.

PROMOTER #1

People will not support this mockery.

Falcon takes in the room. The Promoters MUTTER in agreement.

FALCON

We'll start out small but we will start out.

Falcon turns to the Mayor.

FALCON

And how's my friend?

MAYOR

My friend, we can't afford to lose revenue. The city counsel is prepared to ban women competing to uphold their honor.

FALCON

(irritated)

Tell your upholders of feminine virtue, I will personally make up the difference in revenue lost to the city or... I will finance a parallel event the same day outside the city and draw off revenue.

An unhappy Mayor nods his support to Falcon.

FALCON

Now. All of you get out.

EXT. FALCON VILLA - PATIO - DAY

Falcon sits alone in a funk. He downs a glass of wine and pours the remains of the bottle into his glass.

Eva notices as she walks up.

EVA

Rough day?

Falcon barely breaks a smile.

FALCON

Those bastards are too stupid to see the future. Between them they couldn't spell IT, even if I spotted them the T.

Eva shakes the empty bottle and motions for Manuel to bring another. She sits and lifts her glass for Manuel to serve.

EVA

We'll just have to teach them to spell.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

A crowd of protesters picket. Falcon and TEAM SAUTEUR drive past on a bus.

SUPER: FIRST COMPETITION

TEAM SAUTEUR disembarks to BOOS and CAT CALLS.

STADIUM STANDS

JEERS greet Falcon as he, Eva, and Manuel take their seats to a hostile crowd.

FALCON

(to Eva)

This is going to bankrupt me.

A TINNY BRASS band ATTEMPTS to rouse the patrons.

STADIUM ARENA

Marcelo's TEAM MADRID marches into CHEERS.

TEAM MADRID performs a series of leaps, dodges and jumps before the crowd and receives APPLAUSE.

MOMENTS LATER

Bernardo's FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM enters to a mixture of CHEERS and BOOS.

They perform a series of exciting moves.

Bernardo with legs tied together dodges a charging bull. Crowd erupts in APPLAUSE.

STADIUM STANDS

Eva, Falcon, and Manuel sit just below the blaring BAND. Eva points to the band.

EVA

That's noise. This needs to come into the 21st century.

Falcon grins.

FALCON

Tradition.

STADIUM ARENA

TEAM SAUTEUR enters the arena to JEERS and BOOS. Unruly patrons toss trash into the arena.

A bull rushes in from the tunnel toward the team during introductions. The women scatter to the safety barriers.

Crowd HOWLS with LAUGHTER.

STADIUM STANDS/ARENA

Irate men CURSING farther up the stands draws Manuel's attention. He leaps up in time to knock Falcon to the ground as a beer bottle IMPACTS the side of Manuel's head.

Four drunkards descend on Eva, Manuel and Falcon. As Falcon scrambles to his feet, a MAN (30's) tackles him.

Eva grabs a beer she'd been drinking and SMASHES it into the side of an attacker's head.

A blood curdling SCREAM drifts across the arena as Falcon bites off part of an ATTACKER's (30's) ear.

From down in the arena...

GABRIEL

notices the confrontation and flies up the barrier to enter the fray. He seizes one of the attackers and tosses him over the rail where a bull turns him into collateral damage.

STADIUM STANDS

In handcuffs the maimed attackers MOAN from their injuries as the police question Falcon, Eva and Gabriel. ONE ATTACKER presses a bloody towel to his ear.

A male WORKER (20's) sweeps up the broken bottles and remnants of the altercation.

Gabriel spots a bloody chunk of flesh and bends down and retrieves it. He hands it to Falcon.

GABRIEL

You've earned this.

Falcon smiles and tosses the EAR to the man with the bloody towel.

STADIUM ARENA

TEAM SAUTEUR'S women look intimidated watching a FULL GROWN BULL trot around the arena.

MONTAGE

-- Kacy steps out from a barrier to first face the bull. Still unsure of her footing, she races toward the bull and her ankle gives out. She falls before the charging bull.

The bull tramples her before teammates rush out and distract the beast. Gabriel rushes out and drags Kacy out of the arena.

With the wind knocked out of her, she raises a hand showing she's all right.

Crowd BOOS.

-- Julitta crosses the arena to JEERS. As the bull approaches, she breaks for the safety barrier.

Skittish, she escapes to the safety barriers several times before committing to an out of control Superman leap, which finds her skidding face first into the dirt after clearing the bull.

Crowd LAUGHS.

-- Relaxing into the routine, Inga dodges the bull masterfully multiple times to light APPLAUSE.

-- Alena jogs into the arena. Racing toward the distracted animal, she leaps over the bull's side. The crowd BOOS.

-- Jessica charges fearlessly toward the oncoming bull and at the last instance plants her feet and performs a back flip over the bull. Some in the crowd CHEER, some JEER.

-- Lin-Lu comes out and faces a tiring bull which refuses to charge. Lin-Lu circles around, runs past the motionless bull and slaps it on the butt.

The bull turns a 180 degrees and charges. Lin-Lu races toward the bull then to the amazement of the crowd dives early and plants both hands on the bulls neck and does a double flip. Silence comes over the crowd. APPLAUSE erupts.

END OF MONTAGE

At the edge of the arena, Bernardo catches one of his teammates APPLAUDING and smacks him in the back of the head.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

TEAM SAUTEUR exits the stadium to JEERS from many in the audience and from PROTESTERS outside.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PATIO - MORNING

Falcon and Eva enjoy breakfast. Falcon opens a BINDER and inserts a picture of TEAM SAUTEUR. He closes the binder and slides it away when Manuel enters with the local newspapers. Falcon irritably skims through the news.



Curious. Eva opens Falcon's binder and flips through the pages. A Young Falcon, as a magnificent matador, fill the pages.

She pauses on a page of herself as a Young Matador.

Falcon reads from the newspaper.

FALCON  
Women mock our culture.

Falcon drops the newspaper and picks up another and reads.

FALCON  
...Mayor requested to file charges  
against the organizers...

Falcon waves the newspaper around and turns to Eva.

FALCON  
He'll do it, too. Our experiment's  
in free fall.

EVA  
They're new. You're the one who  
wanted to fly against tradition.

FALCON  
I have no interest having gravity,  
me and the ground meet. This has  
cost us, your time and alot of my  
money. I am a jackass. No, it's  
over.

Eva pushes the binder over to Falcon, opened to the page of herself.

EVA  
What's this?

Falcon smiles and closes the book.

FALCON  
Memories and dreams.

EVA  
One can dwell on dreams and forget  
living.

Eva excuses herself and walks away. Falcon's gaze follows her.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - GUEST HOUSE - MORNING

Alena, Gabriel, and the team wait for Eva to return from breakfast. Eva approaches, disappointment on her face.

EVA

Spain's not ready for what you girls have to offer.

Julitta and Alena jump in together.

ALENA/JULITTA

Bullshit.

Julitta defers to Alena

ALENA

Men making the rules. I refuse to let a bunch of old pricks dictate my future. We have skills.

A smile comes over Julitta.

JULITTA

Yes, we do. I don't have all the education of some. But I know what men are interested in.

Alena picks up on Julitta's remarks.

ALENA

As a kid I remember a Fresco. Women flying over bulls like angels.

INT. RESTAURANT DENIASEIS - DAY

Alena huddles with Gabriel at a table. She shows him PROMOTIONAL photos of two Sauteur women walking a cow toward a bull. Each woman lifts a glass of milk to her lips.

Carefully FRAMED to reveal little of what they may be wearing.

Gabriel's stunned.

GABRIEL

That will definitely capture the imagination.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS - FARMERS MARKET - MORNING

In the morning chill MEN shiver in line to buy a newspaper.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PATIO - MORNING

Falcon and Eva enjoy breakfast. Manuel steps in and hands Falcon a copy of 'La Familia'.

As Falcon sips his morning coffee, he chokes on the picture of two TEAM SAUTEUR women.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER

caption reads: Got Milk?

The beautiful bodies of Inga and Jessica in FULL BODY PAINT leaves little to the imagination.

BACK TO SCENE

FALCON

This is outrageous.

A smile crosses Eva's face.

EVA

Yes, it is. They're exquisite aren't they?

Falcon contemplates.

FALCON

Yes, they are. Manuel, call and check on event sales.

Falcon admires the picture as he sips coffee. He gazes over at Eva.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PATIO - LATER

Manuel rushes over grinning.

MANUEL

Sir, nearly sold out.

FALCON

The girls are very resourceful. And women have always been a big part of Spanish culture.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - GUEST HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Eva strolls in with a handful of 'La Familia', newspapers.

EVA

Girls, you're amazing.

Behind her Gabriel enters.

EVA

You girls are like the Phoenix.

Confusion crosses many of the girls' faces.

EVA

We're back in the game.

The girls SCREAM in excitement.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Gabriel sits with Eva and Falcon watching a video of the first contest. Falcon shakes his head.

FALCON

They're scared. They're not up to this.

In the corner of the room, several team members congregate in silence. Gabriel invites them over.

GABRIEL

(to women)

You all have a problem.

FALCON

How can you teach a man's courage?

EVA

(irritated)

There is only one type of courage and it is in each person to discover.

GABRIEL

They were no more fearful than I was at the beginning.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PASTURE - MORNING

Out of the mist, Adonis, horns down, hot breath SNORTS as he races toward a cluster of people.

At the last moment, Adonis pulls up and nuzzles Falcon's warm hand.

Approaching Adonis each woman feeds him a biscuit.

INGA

He's the family pet?

Gabriel gives her a look.

GABRIEL

Yes, a three-quarter-ton pet with foot long horns that wants nothing more, if aggravated, than rip your intestines out and throw your dead carcass to the crowd.

A nervous laugh drifts through the group. Each woman takes turns petting Adonis.

GABRIEL

Come, let's play.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA CORRAL - ARENA - DAY

Gabriel sets up a horse vault with a bar set five feet off the ground.

Gabriel demonstrates a Superman dive over the bar and does a perfect roll regaining his footing with the grace of a panther.

Jessica follows with her own dive over the bar.

Inga approaches the bar next but balks at the last moment.

GABRIEL

You have just been gored. Practice without the bar. Next.

Lin-Lu steps back, calms her nerves enough to attack the bar.

LIN-LU

(sotto voce)  
It's just a vault.

Lin-Lu runs up and does a perfect Superman dive.

GABRIEL

(to Lin-Lu)

Make this come naturally. The bull  
won't give you a time out to  
prepare.

Julitta clears the bar.

Alena clears the bar. The girls CHEER.

Kacy's jump leaves the ground five feet from the bar  
which she knocks off with her foot.

The women congratulate each other.

Gabriel walks around the bar and with his foot draws a  
line in the sand. The disturbed sand from the girls leaps  
lay between the line and the bar.

GABRIEL

Many of those jumps would have won  
you a one way ticket to heaven.

LATER

Gabriel runs at the bar and does a Superman dive and  
clears the line he'd marked.

GABRIEL

The bull may balk at the  
recortadore's run up. Then what  
will you do? Call timeout?

Gabriel pulls over a second vault over the line in the  
sand and fits another bar four feet off the ground. With  
his foot he brushes out the marks in the sand before the  
first bar.

MOMENTS LATER

Alena leads off and CRASHES on the second bar. Gabriel  
LAUGHS to himself. He walks over and places his foot over  
the mark where Alena left the ground on her jump.

GABRIEL

You started too far back.

ALENA

You're laughing?

Gabriel's smile vanishes as he helps her up. He walks over and marks a spot two feet from the vault representing the bull with his foot.

GABRIEL

Start your jump here. Try again.

Alena runs up and hits the mark. She clears both bars.

Jessica goes next and sails over both bars.

Kacy races up to the bar, but at the last moment her ankle gives out and she SMASHES into the first bar.

Gabriel rushes over to help her up.

GABRIEL

Lesson. If you fall, don't just crumple to the ground. Fall and roll left or right out of the bull's path.

The women gather around as Gabriel demonstrates the fall and roll.

Inga approaches the bar on the run. At the last moment Gabriel YELLS.

GABRIEL

ROLL.

Inga grins, hits the dirt and rolls. Gabriel helps her up.

GABRIEL

Excellent. Quick thinking.

Julitta takes position and races toward the bar, hits the mark and sails over both bars.

Lin-Lu smiles and races toward the bar.

INT. RESTAURANT DENIASEIS - EVENING

A WAITER escorts Gabriel and Alena to a secluded table. They delight in each other's company over wine and a good meal.

'The Gypsies' enchanting music contributes to the evening.

After a session, Gabriel and Alena raise their wine glasses and invite the band to join them.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

A crowd of Protesters SCREAM and carry on outside the stadium as mostly YOUNG MEN and WOMEN stream into the stadium.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PATIO - MORNING

Eva and Falcon enjoy breakfast. Manuel serves them. Eva on a laptop shows Falcon the previous events closing ceremony.

EVA

Lin-Lu's vault was the most original happening there. Not even an honorable mention.

Falcon shakes his head.

FALCON

That's how it's done.

From behind Falcon Manuel escorts Gabriel and Alena to the table.

EVA

Traditions are about to change.

Gabriel hands Eva a sheet. She reads.

EVA

(to Gabriel)

This is great.

She hands the sheet to Falcon. He scans down it as a stunned look comes over him.

FALCON

Absolutely not. They almost got themselves killed with the standard routines. These are impossible.

Eva sighs.

EVA

Gabriel, tell him your analysis.

Gabriel motions for the laptop. Eva nods. Gabriel drags the mouse to one of the women doing a Superman leap over a bull.



GABRIEL

What do you see?

FALCON

A well executed leap. You did a fine job training.

Gabriel slides the video back to Bernardo doing a similar Superman leap.

GABRIEL

Notice. Higher and longer. In a word, better.

FALCON

He's a man.

GABRIEL

Exactly. Men are naturally stronger than even skilled women.

FALCON

Your point?

GABRIEL

None of these women has a man's strength. But being smaller they have an advantage in agility.

He shows Inga's dodging the bull.

GABRIEL

No man competing can match her at that.

Falcon points to the list and shakes his head.

FALCON

This is not our culture.

EVA

It needs a little revision. In fact every facet of these competitions needs to come out of the Dark Ages.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Julitta looks up at the posted menu and pulls out her wallet.

JULITTA

A chicken salad sandwich and an  
ice tea.

A female CLERK (19) rings up the total and Julitta  
hesitates taking money out of her wallet.

JULITTA

Water instead.

Marcelo steps up behind Julitta.

MARCELO

Two ice teas.

Julitta turns to a smiling Marcelo. She turns back to the  
Clerk, who's smiling at Marcelo.

JULITTA

Cancel everything.

INT./EXT. CAFE - DAY

Julitta walks out of the cafe. Marcelo's right behind. He  
steps in front of her and defensively holds up his hands.

JULITTA

I am not your type.

MARCELO

You're right.

Julitta's incensed, shucks him aside and continues  
walking away.

MARCELO

(yells)

You're not a type.

Julitta smiles to herself. Marcelo throws up his hands as  
she disappears down the street.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Alena hands Gabriel an editorial piece. Gabriel reads it.

GABRIEL

Yours?

ALENA

Falcon talks about tradition.  
Traditions change every  
generation. We need to reach the  
people.

GABRIEL

We can probably put this in 'La  
Familia' but there's a problem.  
Money. We only have a run of a few  
hundred copies a week.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PATIO - NIGHT

Eva pours Falcon another glass of wine as they share  
dinner. Falcon writes a check and hands it to Eva. Falcon  
rubs his hands.

FALCON

I'm starting to get CRAMPS.

Eva LAUGHS.

INT. LA FAMILIA OFFICE - NIGHT

Gabriel yawns as the printing press completes a run.  
Stacks of newspapers clutter the room.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER

headline reads: Women Changing Tradition

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS - FARMERS MARKET - DAY

Stacks of 'La Familia' sit on a HOLDING table. Alena  
breaks open a packet and Julitta, and Gabriel walk off  
among the vendors with a handful.

LATER

Alena hands out her last paper and walks to the holding  
table. In the wind vandalized newspapers scatter across  
the ground.

INT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - KITCHEN - DAY

Marcelo deep in concentration, sits at his laptop. He pecks out words as he picks at his breakfast.

Alena enters.

Marcelo closes the laptop and picks up 'La Familia'. Alena glances over at what he's reading.

MARCELO

(sarcastic)

Our parents are really going to endorse this.

ALENA

They don't own me brother.

MARCELO

You think I can snap my fingers and change people's thinking. I think it's crazy talk. But you're my idiot sister. And I have my own problem.

Alena gives Marcelo a probing look.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA CORRAL - ARENA - DAY

TEAM SAUTEUR stands with apprehension in a row in the arena. Manuel hands out protective goggles to them. Gabriel holds up a bull's horn and a large balloon.

GABRIEL

Ladies. The most important thing in Sauteur is to avoid this.

He rams the horn into the balloon.

KABOOM.

GABRIEL

You're going to master avoiding being gored or your not going back into the arena.

Eva emerges from the stands.

EVA

Gabriel, this seems extreme.

GABRIEL

Yes, it does. Inga convinced me.  
Blame it on her. I'm not going to  
get these girls killed.

Gabriel motions Eva back to the stands.

GABRIEL

Now, goggles on ladies.

Gabriel holds up his paint gun and motions them forward.

GABRIEL

Now, who feels lucky?

Julitta takes off first. Gabriel FIRES, she slides under the projectile. But before she gains her footing, two painful IMPACTS drop her.

Alena takes off to cover the fifty yards separating her from Gabriel. She makes it less than halfway before SCREAMING down in the dust.

After being taken out, one more paint pellet surprises her. SMACK.

ALENA

Damn it. I was down.

Gabriel LAUGHS.

GABRIEL

I guess you better not go down.

Kacy, Jessica and Lin-Lu rush off the line.

A paint pellet to the head drops Kacy, first.

GABRIEL

That must hurt?

Lin-Lu puts on a gymnastic show before paint pellets to her legs takes her out.

Jessica moves well and reaches past halfway before losing her footing, for a moment, taking a pellet to her chest.

Inga smiles at Gabriel, before slowly and methodically stepping forward. Using misdirection and quick reactions, she closes the distance. Teammates CHEER her on.

Inga yanks the paint gun out of Gabriel's hand. He CLAPS in approval.

GABRIEL

Amazing. I'm certain, I could  
learn a few things from you.

The girls approach Gabriel.

GABRIEL

You girls are going the wrong way.  
We're going to do this until each  
of you can reach me.

A GROAN goes up.

Gabriel motions for Inga to hold back.

GABRIEL

(to Inga)  
Advise them.

Inga goes over and motions for the girls to huddle.  
GIGGLES come from their huddle.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- On each pass the women get closer.
- All the women rush Gabriel at once. A few get through.
- Inga advises each woman on their weaknesses and shows how to overcome them.
- The women CHEER each other's efforts.
- Under the scorching sun the women sweat. They seek advice during water breaks.
- Over the course of the afternoon several team members reach Gabriel on their own.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

The Long shadows of evening, advances.

Gabriel admires his team and motions them to call it a day.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - SHOWER ROOM - EVENING

MOANS and GIGGLES go around as the girls remove their paint splattered gear. Alena shows off her paint splatters.

ALENA

Isn't that a slap in the ass.

INGA

Only your legs. I know at least one girl, he'd like to slap in the ass.

The group LAUGH. Alena smiles. Inga motions everyone over. Inga unzips an athletic bag. Its contents unseen.

JULITTA

Alright, payback.

INT./EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - GUEST HOUSE - DAY

ALENA

exits and spots Gabriel conversing with Eva on the patio.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PATIO - DAY

GABRIEL

...I have a GAME DEVELOPER friend, who might be able to help. I'll ask.

EVA

Yes, the scoring system's pretty useless without it. I'll check on our friend's arthritis.

Eva GIGGLES and walks toward Falcon's villa.

Alena approaches Gabriel.

ALENA

The girls have a few questions about today. Join us for lunch.

GABRIEL

I can't. I have a friend to see.

Alena rests her hand on Gabriel's arm.

GABRIEL

Inga can answer any dodging technique questions. I really am busy.

Alena tugs Gabriel's toward the door, ignoring his protest.

GABRIEL

A quick bite.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - GUEST HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Gabriel takes a seat at the head of the table. Before him sits a bowl of ice cubes.

ALENA

We have a gift from all of us.

Perplexed, Gabriel retrieves a wrapped object sticking out of the ICE CUBES and smiles. Unwrapping it reveals a pair of goggles and a note he reads.

INSERT - THE NOTE

reads: Revenge is a dish best served cold

BACK TO SCENE

It takes a beat for the light to dawn in Gabriel.

Julitta, Kacy, Lin-Lu, and Jessica enter carrying paint guns. Gabriel grabs the goggles, leaps up and heads for the door as Alena retrieves her own paint gun from a nearby chair.

INT./EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - GUEST HOUSE - DAY

The slaughter ramps up as Gabriel wearing the goggles stumbles out the front door.

Gabriel pitches forward as a dozen paint pellets brings him to the ground.

Nearby, on the patio, Eva and Falcon CHUCKLE.

EVA

I'm guessing, roping's out as a teaching aid.

EXT. DIRT ALLEY - DAY

Julitta drags herself along in a funk. She notices a ROSE on the ground with graffiti of a figure leaping over a bull sprayed below it.

Taking out her cellphone she snaps a picture and smiles as she retrieves the flower.



INT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - KITCHEN - DAY

Marco sits down at the breakfast table. Two newspapers lay in view. Marco picks up his daily paper. He notices his daughter's name marked across the other. He picks up that paper and reads the lead article.

INSERT - LA FAMILIA

reads: Women Changing Tradition - by Alena Comacho

BACK TO SCENE

ENGROSSING.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Should I feed it to the dogs?

Marco takes his face out of the paper and starts back in on his breakfast.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - DAY

A mob of PROTESTERS, held back by POLICE, curse as TEAM SAUTEUR approach.

SUPER: SECOND COMPETITION

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - TUNNEL - DAY

Entering the tunnel, Julitta looks up at the wall and smiles.

INSERT - TUNNEL WALL

reads: Good Luck J (figure leaping over a bull)

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - STANDS - DAY

Eva and Falcon watch as volunteers hand out the newspaper 'La Familia'. Most of the PATRONS ignore reading it.

Eva's FILM CREW captures both AUDIENCE and COMPETITORS. Eva cringes at the band's discordant MUSIC.

SPECTATORS CHAT, moving back and forth to the refreshment stand.

Eva observes and takes notes at the AUDIENCE'S reactions.

Three official looking JUDGES in the row of seats below Falcon, work their laptops.

Falcon stares down in apprehension at the Judges.

FALCON

You're sure this will work?

EVA

I hope. It will cost both of us,  
if it doesn't.

STADIUM ARENA

Marcelo runs toward the charging bull and twists around to plant his feet away from the bull and does a masterful back flip landing squarely on the ground behind the bull.

He immediately takes off after the bull and grabs it's tail.

The crowd APPLAUDS and LAUGHS.

The bull turns to gore Marcelo, who does a beautiful job of sidestepping the bull's horns.

STADIUM JUDGES' SEATS

The Judges nod in approval and enter scores into their laptops.

STADIUM STANDS

TEAM SAUTEUR occupy the row just above the arena railing below Falcon.

The Judges observe Bernardo perform his signature Superman dive.

LIN-LU

(to Alena)

He is very skillful. It would be  
hard to match...

Lin-Lu turns to catch Senor Falcon's reaction and in mid-sentence disengages and bounds up the steps toward the Judges.

A Chinese Judge, LEE-SHIN (30's), male, stands to greet her.

LEE-SHIN  
 (in Mandarin;  
 subtitled)  
 I am pleased seeing you Lin-Lu. I  
 am honored Senor Falcon has  
 invited me to contribute to your  
 future success.

Delight shows on both their faces.

LIN-LU  
 (in Mandarin;  
 subtitled)  
 I am pleased you are here, Lee-  
 Shin.

Falcon leans forward from his seat just behind them to interrupt.

FALCON  
 (in Mandarin;  
 subtitled)  
 Miss Lu. I am glad both of you are  
 pleased but we are trying to make  
 a scoring system that appeals to  
 the audience and not attract too  
 much attention.

Lin-Lu bows and begins to back down the steps, her eyes fixed on Lee-Shin. Lee-Shin responds hastily.

LEE-SHIN  
 (in Mandarin;  
 subtitled)  
 It would be an honor for your  
 support after the competition.

STADIUM ARENA

A ROAR from the crowd as Bernardo races toward the bull again. This time he plants his hands on the bull's neck and executes a flip. He doesn't quite clear the bull's hindquarters and crashes hard to the ground.

TEAMMATES rush out and help him out of the arena.

SILENCE envelops the CROWD.

MOMENTS LATER

Bernardo hobbles across the arena with the help of teammates and bows to the crowd. The CROWD ROARS their support.

EXT. PLAZA DE TOROS STADIUM - ARENA - DAY

TEAM SAUTEUR takes the arena to CHEERS and BOOS. Inga starts the program with a series of masterfully executed dodges each time approaching the bull closer.

Inga appears to stumble and fakes a fall in front of the charging bull. The audience GASPS. A step away from disaster, she rolls out of the charging bull and springs to her feet moving toward the bull.

The crowd responds with each dodge...

CROWD (O.S.)

OLE.

... drawing the bull dangerously closer.

An exhausted bull SNORTS in heavy breaths as Inga stands before it and pets its head. She hands the beast a treat she had stashed. The crowd explodes with APPROVAL.

It's apparent the bull needs a break.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Well, ladies and gentlemen, looks like it took beauty to tame the savage beast. And it appears we have an unscheduled break while our bull takes a timeout. I can think of better ways to be worn out by such a lovely creature.

The crowd bursts into LAUGHTER.

LATER

Alena, Julitta and Lin-Lu enter the arena. They race toward the charging bull with Lin-Lu in the center. Alena and Julitta veer off perpendicular and the confused bull slows and raises its head toward an airborne Lin-Lu.

Looks like she might get gored.

With an extreme high leap, she clears the bull's horns and plants both hands on its back and executes a perfect double flip landing on her feet. The crowd explodes with APPLAUSE.

MOMENTS LATER

From opposite directions, coming in on the bull's flanks. Julitta uses the bull's back as a spring board and executes a flip as Alena does a Superman dive under her but over the bull's back. The Crowd breaks out in APPROVAL.

INSERT - BERNARDO'S

angry sneer.

BACK TO SCENE

Jessica and Kacy race toward the bull. The bull swings toward them and gathers speed, with a loud BELLOW the beast lowers its head.

At the last moment before the women take to the sky, the bull lets out a SNORTING BELLOW. Both women jump early. In midair they COLLIDE.

Jessica impacts the bull's thigh, slamming her hard to the ground and rendering her senseless. Kacy bounces off the bull's rear and lands in a heap.

Kacy scrambles to her feet and spots the unconscious Jessica. She SCREAMS, distracting the bull.

CHEERS and JEERS swell up from the crowd.

INT. HOSPITAL - JESSICA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel, Marcelo, Eva, Falcon, and the entire SAUTEUR TEAM huddles around Jessica. Her first words.

JESSICA

How's the bull?

ALENA

Yeah, you put a real fright in him.

Jessica LAUGHS.

JESSICA

How did we do?

FALCON

We got the sympathetic vote. We placed.

Each team member hugs Jessica and files out leaving only Alena.

ALENA

You get rest. I'll see you tomorrow. The team's celebrating.

Alena turns to leave. Jessica rolls out of bed and stands.

JESSICA

Not without me.

INT. VANILA SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

On a big screen plays the day's event. In a secluded corner table, TEAM SAUTEUR celebrates. Drinks flow.

At another table a GROUP OF MEN glare at the women. A DRUNK MAN (30's) staggers up to Inga with an unopened bottle of beer.

He grabs her shoulder to get her attention. She shucks it off and shows him her glass of wine and turns back to her friends.

HOOTS from the other table goad the man into a more aggressive response. The man reaches for Inga and almost falls on his face as he grabs empty space.

Gabriel rises. Alena restrains him with her hand.

MAN

Listen, I was only being nice, you stuck-up bitch.

The man makes another attempt to grab Inga. She snatches the beer bottle from his hand. He takes a swing at her. She steps aside and with the bottle SMASHES him senseless to the bar floor.

She walks over to the man's table, pops the bottle open on the table corner and takes a swig. She glares at them for a moment, plops the bottle on the table and walks away.

LATER

Everyone's a little sauced, except Jessica.

BARTENDER

Last call.

Alena's fumbles with her car keys. Jessica takes them from her.

JESSICA

I'll bring the car around.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Jessica moves down a dark alley adjoining the bar. She jumps, spooked by a NOISE from behind a trash container.

A street dog rummages for a meal.

Jessica turns at the SOUND of rapid footsteps approaching. A powerful blow to the head, SMASHES her unconscious to the ground.

EXT. VANILA SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Marcelo, Gabriel and Alena say good night to their friends and watch them meander away, up the street. Marcelo's gaze lingers on Julitta as she disappears up the sidewalk.

ALENA

I guess your charms doesn't work on real women.

Marcelo looks down.

MARCELO

Apparently not.

Alena glances around then pulls out her cell phone and punches in Jessica's contact.

After half-a-dozen RINGS the call goes to voice mail.

Alena, Marcelo, and Gabriel head up the alley Jessica had disappeared down. At the parking lot Alena's Mini-Cooper is missing.

A GROAN behind a dumpster startles them.

Alena spots the half naked body of Jessica and rushes to her. Alena reacts to a SICKLY FRAGRANCE permeating the air.

ALENA

Jesus.

On his phone Gabriel dials emergency.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Police confront the three over the incident. Alena points to where the car was and where Jessica was found.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Alena, Gabriel, and Marcelo greet Falcon, Eva, and Team Members.

A male DOCTOR (40's) comes to inform them of Jessica's condition.

DOCTOR

Your friend suffered a serious concussion. She's still unconscious. There are signs of sexual activity.

ALENA

JESUS. SHE WAS RAPED.

DOCTOR

That's for the police to determine.

Ballistic. Alena grabs the doctor. Gabriel pries off her hands and restrains her.

Marcelo motions the doctor to leave with a jerk of his hand.

EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - DAWN

In the early morning chill, Marco and Marcelo approach the barn.

MARCO

Get the horses in the second stall and hitch up the trailer. I'll bring the truck around.

MOMENTS LATER

Marcelo leads two horses into the trailer, jumps into the cab and they drive off.

LATER

By the barn Alena feeds the horses.



Her Mini-Cooper barrels down the dirt road toward the hacienda. Alena jogs down the road, to meet the car.

Alena stands in the road. The Mini-Cooper accelerates toward her. At the last instance she throws herself out of the way. The car fishtails around as Alena takes off toward the hacienda.

It dawns on her, she won't reach safety. Alena changes course toward the training corral. She flies over the railings with a Superman dive.

As the Mini-Cooper CRASHES through the fence, splintered rails fly. She regains her footing.

At impact, Alena handsprings off the hood, CRASHING unceremoniously into the dirt behind the vehicle.

She scrambles to her feet as the Mini-Cooper slides around to again confront her.

It stalks her, slowly.

Breathing hard from fear and exertion, Alena yanks a fence rail off the ground and leaps onto the hood. She balances, feet spread wide apart, as the vehicle accelerates.

It slides back and forth trying to dismantle her as Alena rams the rail into the car's windshield.

Driver pulls a gun.

Alena drops the beam and sprints over the car roof. The SOUND and sight of bullets puncture the roof behind her steps.

On the ground she turns to face 3000 pounds of metal.

The car stops and a MASKED ASSAILANT steps out, gun in hand.

The assailant levels the gun at Alena.

BOOM.

Gun drops out of the man's hand, as he falls to the ground - DEAD.

Alena turns toward the hacienda to see her mother approaching with a rifle.

Alena runs over and hugs her. Both women breakdown in tears.

EXT. LIVESTOCK AUCTION HOUSE - MORNING

Gabriel trots a horse back and forth before a buyer's crowd.

A male AUCTIONEER (50's) walks over and strokes the beautiful animal's neck.

AUCTIONEER

This beautiful LUSITANO is up for auction from the fine ranch of Senor Marco Camacho. A two year old with papers showing a great history in dressage. Can we start the bidding at five thousand euros.

Gabriel expertly displays the horse's features. Back and forth he marches, highlighting the horse's energy.

Auctioneer works the crowd.

AUCTIONEER

Five Thousand. Do I hear six? Six. Do I hear seven? Seven. Seven once. Seven...

Gabriel holds a carrot in front of the horse's mouth and pulls it away. The horse bolts forward with energy in pursuit of the treat.

AUCTIONEER

Seven. Eight. Nine. Do I hear... I hear twelve. Do I hear thirteen? Twelve going once, twice. Sold to thirty seven for twelve thousand euros. You bought yourself a magnificent animal.

Marco walks up and hands the auctioneer some folded bills. As Gabriel leads the horse away, Marco stops him and places a hand on his shoulder.

MARCO

You're the man that's been seeing my daughter?

GABRIEL

(nervous)  
Yes, Sir. She's very talented.

Marco hands Gabriel a folded stack of money.

MARCO

You did a good job up there. Come by the hacienda and introduce yourself properly.

GABRIEL

Thank you, Sir. I will.

Marco walks away.

EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - DAY

Police and ambulance lights flash as Marco and Marcelo drive up. Maria rushes to greet them as Alena's being questioned.

DETECTIVE

Ms. Comacho, you claim you avoided this man by jumping over your car... multiple times. That's difficult to believe Ms.

Marco and Marcelo comes over and interrupts.

MARCO

If my daughter says this is what happens, it happened detective. Now you write down the details my daughter tells you word for word.

DETECTIVE

Yes, Senor Camacho.

The DETECTIVE (40's) walks over to the Masked Assailant's covered body being placed in an ambulance.

FORENSIC EXPERTS examine the car and the scene.

ALENA

Thanks, Father.

A POLICEWOMAN (30's) comes over.

POLICEWOMAN

Miss Camacho could you check out the car and move it to the road. My daughter has your picture on her phone. I'm sorry this happened.

ALENA

Thank you.

Policewoman walks away then turns back and SLAPS a hand on her holster.

POLICEWOMAN  
Miss, you need to be ARMED.

INT./EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - CAR - DAY

Alena climbs into her car and curls her nose up at a SICKLY FRAGRANCE. She drives the Mini-Cooper to the road near her family and gets out.

EXT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - DAY

Marcelo appears more upset than Alena.

MARCELO  
I'm amazed, you're all right. How did you do it? I'm sorry, I didn't support you.

ALENA  
(shaky smile)  
Yea, my idiot brother's a slow learner.

MARCELO  
Sorry, Sis.

INT. HOSPITAL - JESSICA'S ROOM - DAY

Flowers, teddies, and get well cards litter the room.

TEAM SAUTEUR enters. Jessica's grotesque bruises around her face and eyes reveal the trauma she's suffered.

An unopened box of candy sits in Jessica's lap. At the sight of Alena she gestures for her to open it.

A stammer of words come out of Jessica's mouth.

JESSICA  
Damn box.... Thanks, for coming.

Alena rushes over and hugs Jessica as they both break down in tears.

ALENA  
I'm so sorry.

After a moment Jessica regains her composure. Alena pulls back to allow the other team members to huddle around.

ALENA

You remember anything?

JESSICA

Just the smell of garbage.

A YOUNG NURSE (20's) enters. She scoops up the candy box and hands it to Alena.

YOUNG NURSE

Take this. Your friend needs rest.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Gabriel's mother, nurse ISLA (50's) hears loud VOICES coming from Jessica's room. She pauses a moment outside listening before she hears Jessica crying.

JESSICA'S ROOM

Isla enters to the sight of two male POLICE OFFICERS hovering MENACINGLY over Jessica's bed.

Trauma permeates Jessica's face.

Isla holds up her iPhone and the recorded voices of a Police Officer plays.

IPHONE

...you are very pretty. With the right cooperation we could overlook the charges...

Isla CLICKS off the playback.

The Officers turn in anger.

ISLA

(middle eastern  
accent)

You need to leave. You're upsetting my patient.

A Police Officer takes a step toward Isla but his partner grabs him and motions to a security camera.

They leave.

Jessica grabs Isla's arm.

JESSICA

Thank you, so much.

Isla hands Jessica a get well card which she opens.

INSERT - CARD

reads: Thank you for inspiration (*dozens of signatures and drawings scatter across the card*)

BACK TO SCENE

Isla points to the first name on the card.

ISLA

This is my granddaughter. She has this impossible dream of one day being Prime Minister. Your team is her idol.

The Nurse's BEEPER goes off. She excuses herself.

MOMENTS LATER

Tears well up in Jessica when Eva and TEAM SAUTEUR enter.

EVA

(to Jessica)

What happened?

Jessica gathers herself.

JESSICA

They threatened to arrest me. They claimed witnesses at the club accused me of soliciting.

EVA

That's crazy. We'll back you up.

JESSICA

They didn't forget any of you in the charges.

JESSICA'S ROOM

Jessica stands by the window. In the yard below Young Boys and Girls play soccer. A YOUNG BOY (10) makes an illegal tackle to a YOUNG GIRL (10). She's shaken.

From the sidelines Bernardo rushes over. He helps the Young Girl to her feet.

He turns and shoves the Young Boy to the ground and puts a boot to the Young Boy's backside.

Bernardo looks up at Jessica's window and for a moment before returning attention to the game.

EXT./INT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - CAR - DAY

Marcelo brings around the car. Isla with Alena guides Jessica out in a wheelchair.

Alena helps Jessica into the car and they drive off. After a few miles Jessica notices Alena staring at her.

Jessica offers up a weak smile.

JESSICA

I'm fine. I really don't remember anything. And you made sure the pervert paid good.

Marcelo and Alena exchange glances.

ALENA

I hope so. There was a second set of prints found in the car. The DNA hasn't come back on your assailant yet.

Jessica's trembles.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Julitta looks at her CHIRPING iPhone.

INSERT - TEXT MESSAGE

reads: Meet me at Restaurant Deniaseis 8pm - Alena

BACK TO SCENE

EXT./INT. RESTAURANT DENIASEIS - NIGHT

As Julitta enters a WAITER escorts her to a table in front of the stage.

On stage, cloaked in the shadows, a MAN sits on a stool with a guitar. Fingers gently PLUCK strings as romantic words reach out to touch Julitta.

MARCELO

"OH DID I HEAR YOUR SOUL SPEAK/ OR  
MAYBE I WAS DREAMIN/ YOUR VOICE  
WAS LIKE A GENTLE/ PRAYER/ TO ME/  
IT MUST HAVE BEEN YOUR LAUGHTER I  
HEARD/ YOUR MUSIC SIMPLY CAPTURED  
MY HEART/ IT TOLD ME ALL THE GOOD  
THINGS/ ABOUT YOU/ AND WHAT YOUR  
LOVE COULD BE/..."

The band, "THE GYPSIES", join in as waiters with trays of ROSES walk among the DINING GUESTS and hand a rose to each man. The men present them to their PARTNERS and wives.

As the song ends and the lights go up, the audience APPLAUDS.

Marcelo smiles over at Julitta. He puts down his guitar and walks over to her table with his own rose and presents it to her. She breaks down in tears.

JULITTA

Damn You.

She gets up and rushes out of the restaurant leaving a stunned and embarrassed Marcelo.

INT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - KITCHEN - DAY

Alena dances into the room.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

We've been invited to the  
'Festival of Courage'.

Worry marks Maria's face.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Your brother told me you're going  
away this weekend.

Maria's anxious look deflates Alena's enthusiasm.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

What mother?



Maria removes a chain with a small red cannister from around her neck and hands it to Alena.

ALENA

Mace.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

I worry, so much. Please wear it.

Alena's senses Maria's fear and concern and puts it around her neck.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Yes, Mother. I'll wear it for you.

Alena glances at Marcelo who offers a lifeless shrug.

MARCELO

Yes, I heard. We're also invited.

Maria motions to the food on the table.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Your brother's sick. Marcelo, I have aspirin somewhere.

Maria leaves.

Marcelo sits listless.

Alena suggestively grabs her crotch.

ALENA

Lost one of your fans or did reality finally take a Burdizzo (*castrating clamp*) to you?

A defeated Marcelo shakes his head.

MARCELO

She thinks, I'm someone else.

ALENA

(sarcastic)  
She's only a fan.

INT. FALCON'S VILLA - GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Alena walks in. Falcon, Gabriel, and all the Sauteur women celebrate with champagne except Julitta, who appears as sad and lifeless as her brother Marcelo.

Eva enters much more reserved.

EVA

I was just talking to the promoters. We're one of six teams invited. They don't expect us to accept.

KACY

We're not afraid.

EVA

No, of course not. But this WOULD HAVE BEEN in France. They've always won.

Kacy shadow boxes for a moment and closes with a right cross.

KACY

You have to knock out the reigning champ.

The women LAUGH, except for Alena who appears to ponder Eva's words.

ALENA

Would have been?

EVA

Watch. This is from last year's 'Festival of Courage'.

Eva CLICKS a remote and on a wall monitor. MEN leap, jump and dodge BARE CHESTED.

EVA

Notice anything different?

The women focus on the action. Julitta hesitantly answers.

JULITTA

They're not in uniform?

EVA

Oh, but they are.

It dawns on Falcon. He grabs the invitation and reads.

FALCON

Strict rules of the ancient Minoan traditions will be enforced in this celebration of the human spirit... We are not whores. I'll get them to make an exception.

EVA

Don't you see they have no intention of us competing?

FALCON

I'll get them to change their mind or I'll set up a separate tournament.

Falcon leaves the guest house.

The room turns to Alena as she speaks.

ALENA

What good is a tournament, if we're not competing against the best?

JULITTA

It would be a joke.

EVA

Yes, it would. We've accomplished what's important. You girls showed you could stand tall against anyone.

Jessica holds up the invitation with the fresco of PAINTED Minoan men and women leaping bare chested over a bull.

Excitement fills her face and she pulls out the 'Got Milk?' ADVERTISEMENT in 'La Familia' and holds it and the Minoan picture up.

JESSICA

Would this count as legal entry?

As the women stare at the pictures, a smile comes over their faces.

Eva rushes out.

EXT. LA FAMILIA OFFICE - NIGHT

Gabriel waves down Alena and jumps in as she drives up to the curb. He motions her to douse the headlights. Alena starts to exit. Gabriel puts his hand on her arm.

GABRIEL

Uh. We've had a little setback.

Gabriel motions to the lights of a storefront up ahead going dark.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

A moment.

GABRIEL'S UNCLE, a grey-haired man (60's), steps out to the sidewalk and locks the front door. He looks around then proceeds away down the street.

ALENA

Your uncle doesn't approve?

GABRIEL

He's not a visionary.

EXT./INT. LA FAMILIA OFFICE - NIGHT

On a misty dark street, lights and SOUNDS coming through a window breaks the night's silence.

Inside a printing press runs. As the press cranks out copies of 'La Familia', Alena turns to Gabriel.

ALENA

I've been reading your book. It's the story of heroes. In the margins I found--

GABRIEL

The soul is found in expressions of the heart. That was the passage, I believe you are referring to. Scheherazade's my heroes nickname. She made the IMPOSSIBLE happen through stories. (beat) She made the IMPOSSIBLE happen in my life.

ALENA

She? What does it mean?

Gabriel closes his eyes for a moment. He reaches out and takes Alena's hand and places it over his heart.

GABRIEL

I truly believe, if you can touch someone's heart anything is possible. I'm not native Spanish. My family left the Zagros mountains when I was eight and my brother fifteen. One day, a neighbor was beaten and taken away. My father had an important job and believed it would pass. Mom convinced him it would not. That night we left the country. Soon after, every Christian in the village was murdered.

ALENA

How did you end up in Spain? I remember Germany and Belgian taking in refugees but did Spain?

GABRIEL

You didn't, at least not many. They held refugees for years in containment camps.

CLANG.

The press smokes and GRINDS to a halt.

A tired Gabriel throws the power switch off and breaks down the printing press.

GABRIEL

I'll get this working. Go home. You have a competition.

ALENA

If Scheherazade had gone home, what would have happened to the king?

Gabriel smiles as he works on the press and continues his story.

GABRIEL

Spain offered to take in a few. There was a catch, no boys or men over thirteen. My father offered to leave with my brother. My mother had another solution. She walked into the Spanish Embassy and through her WORDS reached a heart. They made an exception.

ALENA

I'd like to meet her.

Gabriel notices Alena yawning. He puts down what he's doing and walks her over to a small room. In it is a cot.

GABRIEL

Rest. I'll wake you when we're printing again. Oh, there's a shower back there if you wish.

Alena nods, too tired to argue. Gabriel's surprised when she leans forward and gives him a light kiss.

She curls up on the cot. Gabriel covers her with a blanket and cuts out the room light. He returns to the printing press.

INSERT - WALL CLOCK

reads: 12:45am

BACK TO SCENE

The printing press runs again as Gabriel stuffs flyers into 'La Familia'. He binds stacks of 'La Familia' and moves them out of the way.

INSERT - WALL CLOCK

reads: 2:05am

BACK TO SCENE

Gabriel shuts off the office lights and curls up on the rug.

INT. LA FAMILIA OFFICE - SMALL ROOM - NIGHT

In the small room Alena stretches. She wakes to the QUIET darkness.

She walks into the main office. The moonlight through the window reveals Gabriel on the rug asleep.

Alena takes the blanket she holds and curls up against him. She pulls the blanket over both of them.

INT. LA FAMILIA OFFICE - DAWN

Morning finds a mixed trail of clothes leading into the small room. The SOUND of a shower and the GIGGLES of Alena can be heard.

EXT. LA FAMILIA OFFICE - MORNING

In the morning chill Alena and Gabriel haul stacks of 'La Familia' into Alena's father's truck bed. Alena passionately kisses Gabriel and drives off.

INT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - KITCHEN - DAY

Maria picks up the newspaper and hands it to her husband who READS OUT LOUD.

MARCO

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

We all have dreams but why can only men make theirs a reality. We only request the chance of working on our own dreams and not be told what they should be - Alena Camacho.

EXT. FRANCE'S ARENA OF NIMES STADIUM - ARENA - DAY

To a CHEERING capacity crowd, six teams march into the arena, BARE CHESTED to the pulsating MUSIC from 'The Gypsies'.

SUPER: FESTIVAL OF COURAGE

TEAM SAUTEUR enters. The crowd BOOS. The women appear to be clothed.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

WAIT... OH MY GOD.

Announcer erotically BREATHES into his microphone.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

That captures the imagination.  
Body art. Legal in my book.

The women elaborately decorated in body paint wave to the crowd. BOOS go silent and turn to CHEERS as they walk by.

The FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM enters, led by Bernardo to a crescendo of APPLAUSE.

Teams take their positions around the arena, waving to the crowd.

Gabriel hands each woman a TEAM JACKET.

ALENA  
(to Gabriel)  
Can we wear these?

GABRIEL  
You're not competing now.

Women and girls clamor to the railings for TEAM SAUTEUR to sign their programs.

The Sauteur women, ecstatic, reach up from the arena and sign autographs.

Julitta hangs back looking EXHAUSTED. Alena walks over to her and puts an arm around her.

ALENA  
You all right?

Julitta attempts to hold back tears and shakes her head no.

Julitta breaks free and climbs the railings away from the crowd. She walks toward where Falcon and Eva sits.

A spent looking Marcelo breaks away from his team and makes his way over to the Sauteur women.

MARCELO  
(to Alena)  
I'm proud of you, Sis.

Marcelo looks around.

MARCELO  
Where's Julitta?

Alena motions to Julitta disappearing into the stands.

ALENA  
What happened the other night?

Marcelo shakes his head. He turns and walks back to his team.



## STADIUM STANDS

Alena climbs the railing and joins Julitta by Falcon and Eva.

ALENA

I don't know what happened but you and my brother look like someone just drowned your cat.

JULITTA

I don't want to talk about it.

ALENA

You know, my brother's spoiled. It's not my fault. He finally meets a real woman and doesn't know how to deal with her.

JULITTA

He's an idiot.

ALENA

You're right. I told him, he shouldn't waste time writing you a stupid love song.

JULITTA

(pensive)  
Is he all right?

ALENA

He will be. He'll go back to his FANS. I'll tell him to leave you alone. Anyway, his team won't be competitive with him stumbling around like a zombie... I hope he doesn't get hurt.

## MOMENTS LATER

VOLUNTEERS rush along the aisles handing out 'La Familia'.

Isla hands 'La Familia' to Alena and puts her hand on Alena's shoulder.

ISLA

I've heard good things about you from my son.

Alena smiles as the woman rushes off. It dawns on Alena; this was Gabriel's mother.

ALENA  
 (sotto voce)  
 Scheherazade?

Alena shifts her attention to 'La Familia' and pulls out the flyer she and Gabriel had run off last night.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 Our first competitors, TEAM MADRID. Their star, Marcelo Camacho, will start off the competition.

Julitta wipes her eyes and rushes to the railing.

STADIUM STANDS/ARENA

Julitta leans over the rails and waves to Marcelo.

Oblivious to her gestures, Marcelo focuses on the bull circling the arena. The bull charges, Marcelo jukes awkwardly across the arena as the bull closes.

On a 'La Familia' flyer, she scribbles a message and attempts to connect with Marcelo's teammate, PHILLIPE (20), who stands near a safety barrier.

Julitta leans over the railing to YELL over the crowd.

JULITTA  
 Give this to Marcelo.

Unable to make out her words, Phillipe smiles and moves closer.

JULITTA  
 MARCELO.

At Marcelo's name his smile vanishes.

TEAMMATE  
 I don't deliver FAN mail lady.

As Phillipe turns to walk away, Alena reaches down and grabs his shirt.

ALENA  
 Phillipe, you know me.

Alena takes the FLYER and shoves it into Phillipe's hand.

ALENA  
 Get this to my brother.

Alena guides Julitta back to their seats.

STADIUM ARENA

MARCELO

reaches the safety barrier as the bull slams against it.

Phillipe stuffs the flyer into Marcelo's hand.

PHILLIPE

A fan.

Dismissive, Marcelo let's the flyer drop from his grip.

He glances up to see Julitta and Alena walking away up the stands. Marcelo scoops up the flyer as the wind picks up and threatens to sweep it away.

INSERT - NOTE

reads: Sorry about the other night. I was confused. Your words are beautiful.

BACK TO SCENE

Marcelo puts the flyer in his pocket and dashes out into the arena with new energy.

MOMENTS LATER

With a STRETCH BAND Marcelo binds his legs together as the bull bears down on him. At the LAST INSTANCE he leaps in the air, pulling his feet up under his body.

Many in the audience close their eyes expecting disaster.

Marcelo clears the charging bull, CARESSING the bulls back with his feet.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Talk about cojones. Now that's  
skin in the game. What control.  
What timing. What an artist.

Audience toss flowers to Marcelo as he jogs around the arena below the railing.

Marcelo picks up a RED ROSE and walks beneath where Julitta sits. He blows her a kiss.

STADIUM STANDS/ARENA

She rushes to the railing and he presents the rose to her.

Julitta blushes as the audience CHEER.

Marcelo dashes back out to the center of the arena.

STADIUM STANDS

Falcon, Eva, and TEAM SAUTEUR sit in their section.

CAT CALLS go up from some men in the audience.

In the row below TEAM SAUTEUR, the three SAUTEUR JUDGES sit with open laptops.

Isla rushes down an aisle and pauses a moment to hand out 'La Familia' to PROMOTER #1 sitting next to Falcon.

INSERT - FRONT PAGE

reads: CLICK TO DOWNLOAD 'FESTIVAL OF COURAGE' MOBILE APP

BACK TO SCENE

Kacy pulls out the flyer.

PROMOTER #1  
(to Falcon and Eva)  
What's this?

FALCON  
Insurance, that the dice aren't  
loaded.

A male BAND LEADER (40's) of 'The Gypsies' approaches Falcon.

BAND LEADER  
(in Spanish;  
subtitled)  
Senor Falcon, thank you for this  
opportunity.

Falcon warmly greets him by reaching out and holds the man's hands for a moment.

FALCON  
(in Spanish;  
subtitled)  
(MORE)

It's our pleasure to have the  
inspiring music you create lift  
our performers.

CHEERS go up from the crowd and everyone's attention  
returns to the action in the arena.

STADIUM ARENA

BERNARD

legs bound together, does a beautiful misdirection to  
evade the charging bull.

STADIUM ARENA/STANDS

A YOUNG MAN (20's), with the FLYER in his hand, CLICKS on  
the SAUTEUR MOBILE APP on his cellphone.

The man flips over the flyer and slides down the routine  
names sorted in ascending order of difficulty.

INSERT - FLYER

*(equivalent to 'Degree of Difficulty 1.00-3.00' &  
'Execution Score - 0-10' in Gymnastics or Diving)*

#	DIFFICULTY	ROUTINE
01	1.00	CHASE
02	1.05	CHASE-TOUCH
03	1.10	CHASE-TAIL-PULL
04	1.15	LEAP-SIDE
05	1.20	LEAP-SIDE-SUPERMAN
06	1.25	FLIP-SIDE
07	1.30	FLIP-SIDE-PIKE
08	1.35	FLIP-SIDE-BACK
09	1.40	FLIP-SIDE-BACK-PIKE
10	1.45	DODGE
11	1.50	FLIP-SIDE-HANDSPRING
12	1.55	FLIP-SIDE-HANDSPRING-PIKE
13	1.60	FLIP-SIDE-PLANT-DOUBLE
14	1.65	FLIP-SIDE-BACK-PLANT-DOUBLE
15	1.70	FLIP-SIDE-HANDSPRING-DOUBLE
16	1.75	FLIP-FRONT-STANDING
17	1.80	FLIP-SIDE-ROUND OFF-BACK-DOUBLE
18	1.85	DODGE-KNEE
19	1.90	LEAP-FRONT
20	1.95	FLIP-SIDE-PLANT
21	2.00	LEAP-FRONT-SUPERMAN
22	2.00	FLIP-FRONT
23	2.05	FLIP-FRONT-PIKE

24	2.10	DODGE-BANDED
25	2.10	LEAP-FRONT-BANDED
26	2.15	FLIP-FRONT-BACK-PIKE
27	2.20	FLIP-FRONT-STANDING-PIKE
28	2.25	FLIP-FRONT-BACK-STANDING-PIKE
29	2.30	FLIP-FRONT-BACK
30	2.35	FLIP-FRONT-STANDING-BACK
31	2.40	FLIP-FRONT-HANDSPRING-PLANT-LEGSPLIT
32	2.45	FLIP-FRONT-NECK
33	2.50	FLIP-FRONT-NECK-DOUBLE
34	2.55	FLIP-FRONT-NECK-PIKE-DOUBLE
35	2.60	FLIP-FRONT-HANDSPRING-PLANT-DOUBLE
36	2.65	FLIP-FRONT-HANDSPRING-PLANT-PIKE-DOUBLE
37	2.70	FLIP-FRONT-ROUNDOFF-BACK
38	2.75	FLIP-FRONT-ROUNDOFF-BACK-PIKE
39	2.80	FLIP-FRONT-HORNPLANT
40	2.85	FLIP-HORN-PIKE
41	2.90	FLIP-HORN-DOUBLE
42	2.95	FLIP-HORN-PIKE-DOUBLE

*DEFINITIONS*

BACK	- execute a back summersault
BANDED	- legs bond together
CHASE	- avoid
DOUBLE	- execute a double summersault
FLIP	- Summersault
FRONT	- approach head on
HANDSPRING-	commence routine executing a handspring
HORN	- make contact with horns as lever
LEAP	- jump over
LEGSPLIT	- execute with legs split apart
NECK	- make contact with neck as lever
PIKE	- execute summersault from pike position
PLANT	- place hands on to use as a lever
PRONE	- from flat on ground or on all fours
ROUNDOFF	- commence routine executing a round off
SIDE	- approach from the side
STAND	- execute from stationary position
SUPERMAN	- jump with arm extended forward parallel to ground
TOUCH	- make physical contact

BACK TO SCENE

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

An excellent series of dodges by  
France's Team Captain and bad boy,  
Bernardo Sanchez.

## STADIUM ARENA

Lin-Lu charges the bull and plants her hands on the bulls neck and does a double flip. She lands but stumbles.

## ANNOUNCER'S BOX

The Announcer puts his hand over the microphone and leans over to his Assistant.

ANNOUNCER  
(to Assistant)  
What was that?

Assistant pulls out the OFFICIAL LIST OF ROUTINES.

ASSISTANT  
Nada. Not on the list.

Assistant opens 'La Familia' and pulls out the flyer.

Assistant scans the flyer then flips it over to the FLYER ROUTINE LIST.

Assistant slides down the back of the flyer. Assistant pulls out his iPhone and accesses the Sauteur website. He holds his iPhone to the Announcer.

Announcer takes his hand off the microphone.

ANNOUNCER  
Fantastic. This is TEAM SAUTEUR's Olympic vaulting champion Lin-Lu performing something out of box. Grab your alternate program flyer and go to the website. A double flip off the bull's neck in the pike position.

## STADIUM STANDS

The audience CHEERS, many grab their cell phones.

## STADIUM ARENA

Bernardo performs a magnificent Superman dive over the bull in full charge.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Magnificent. The great Bernardo  
has perfected the traditional  
Superman dive.

LATER

Marcelo races toward the charging bull and leaps into a leg split in mid-air. With his hands he grips the bull's back and performs a flip, sticking the landing.

ANNOUNCER'S BOX

Announcer puts his hand over the microphone and motions to the list. The Assistant's fingers down the event list.

ASSISTANT

Found it.

The Assistant holds up his cell phone for the Announcer to see. The display flashes the Sauteur Judges' ruling.

ANNOUNCER

It's a tongue twister. Yep, look  
down the program flyer being  
handed out or connect to routine  
31 on the Mobile App.

MONTAGE

- Teams take turns during acrobatic routines with a bull.
- Competitors suffer injuries: run over, thrown in the air, strained muscles, etc.
- More and more of the audience turns to the Mobile App for information.
- Announcer and Assistant work together to give lively commentary using the Mobile App and flyer.
- Teams march back into the arena for FINALISTS judgement.

END MONTAGE



ANNOUNCER'S BOX

A male MESSENGER (20's) hands the Announcer a note. The Announcer switches off the microphone to read the note with his Assistant.

ANNOUNCER  
That's bullshit.

Announcer turns and points to his Assistant's cell phone.

ANNOUNCER  
What does that thing say?

INSERT - SAUTEUR MOBILE APP ON CELL PHONE

displays: 1st - French National Team , 2nd - Team Sauteur, 3rd - Team Madrid, 4th - Team Valencia, 5th - Team Taurino, 6th - Team Pamplona.

BACK TO SCENE

ANNOUNCER  
(to Assistant)  
That's not what our bosses say.  
Ready to throw a crocodile into  
the mix?

Assistant throws up his hands and grins.

ASSISTANT  
Why not. Summer's not a good time  
to be working.

Announcer switches back on his microphone.

ANNOUNCER  
The final round will be narrowed  
to the top two teams, France's own  
NATIONAL TEAM. Let's hear it.

The crowd goes WILD. Those not on the App yet hang in anticipation for the next announcement.

ANNOUNCER  
The second team to advance... TEAM  
SAUTEUR.

A mixture of CHEERS and BOOS rises up from the crowd. The Announcer's annoyed.

ANNOUNCER

I don't know you all but I appreciate the level of professional excellence these women are bringing to this sport. So, let's hear it again for TEAM SAUTEUR.

This time the CHEERS drown out the BOOS.

EXT. FRANCE'S ARENA OF NIMES STADIUM - ARENA - DAY

Marcelo's TEAM MADRID APPLAUDS.

INT. VANILA SPORTS BAR - DAY

The crowd inside the bar watches the 'Festival of Courage' on the big screen and goes WILD at the announcement. Among them is Gabriel's CHEERING UNCLE.

EXT. FRANCE'S ARENA OF NIMES STADIUM - ANNOUNCER'S BOX - DAY

Bernardo rushes up to a railing surrounding the announcer's box and confronts the Announcer waving the OFFICIAL LIST at them.

The Announcer snatches it from him and scans it. He turns off his microphone.

BERNARDO

That's the official routines and standings.

ANNOUNCER

A bit anemic. And I don't believe you people can count any better than a one eyed cat.

Announcer hands the ALTERNATE ROUTINE FLYER to Bernardo.

ANNOUNCER

Here's our list and you heard the real standings.

BERNARDO

This is crap. This isn't tradition.

Bernardo takes an aggressive step onto the railing toward the Announcer who retrieves a metal baton and lays it across his lap.

ANNOUNCER

Yes. Climb those monkey bars and let's dance monkey boy.

Bernardo backs down.

BERNARDO

I'll see you're both fired.

Bernardo stomps off.

ASSISTANT

That guys a prick.

Announcer crumples up Bernardo's OFFICIAL LIST and tosses it. He turns back on the microphone.

ANNOUNCER

We're scoring things a little differently today. In the finals five members of each team will alternate routines between the members of the opposing team. Each competitor will be given two minutes to execute their program. Their highest routine score will be added to their team score. Highest team score wins. Simple. There are two scoring criteria, just like Gymnastics. First, degree of difficulty. ONE, you take AN EASY JOG AROUND THE ARENA and THREE, you PART THE RED SEA. Second criteria, skill of execution. ZERO, the BULL STOMPS YOU INTO GROUND BEEF. TEN, you get the bull to ASK YOU OUT FOR DINNER AND DRINKS - perfection.

The crowd LAUGHS.

STADIUM ARENA

FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM'S CARLOS VEGA (24) enters the arena to WILD APPLAUSE.

## ANNOUNCER'S BOX

Assistant goes through a notebook of each competitor and hands the Announcer a ANALYSIS SHEET on the current competitor.

## ANNOUNCER

Starting off the competition is FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM'S Carlos Vega. Carlos's specialty is the BACK-FLIP.

## STADIUM ARENA

Carlos trots forward into a beautiful running back flip. As the bull sweeps around, the man does the more difficult standing back flip.

## SUPER:

"	<u>Team</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	19.8	Carlos	2.3	x 8.6	= 19.8
Sauteur	0.0	--	--	--	--

(29 FLIP-FRONT-STANDING-BACK)"

## ANNOUNCER'S BOX

## ANNOUNCER

Magnificent, standing back flip.

Assistant holds up his cell phone, so the Announcer can read the display.

## ANNOUNCER

Carlos has put up an impressive score. FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM starts off strong.

Assistant hands Announcer the Analysis Sheet on Lin-Lu.

## ANNOUNCER

Our first competitor for TEAM SAUTEUR will be Olympic Gold-Medalist Lin-Lu. I'm told she might do a CONTACT routine.

## STADIUM ARENA

Lin-Lu enters the arena to tepid APPLAUSE. She does a few limbering stretches which capture the crowd's imagination.

The two minute BUZZER marks the start of her time period.

Lin-Lu charges the bull and does a round off followed by a blind back flip.

The crowd rises giving a hearty APPLAUSE.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

That was mind blowing. Ladies and Gentlemen, that's why she's a Gold Medalist. This elevates the competition to a new level.

Lin-Lu's follow up routine, a double flip off the bulls neck.

SUPER:

"	<u>Team</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	19.8	--	--	--	--
Sauteur	22.0	Lin-Lu	2.7	x 8.15	= 22.0

(37 FLIP-FRONT-ROUND OFF-BACK)"

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Awesome. Our young lady gives TEAM SAUTEUR a strong opening lead.

MOMENTS LATER

BENITO BAPTISTE (25) enters the arena to cheers.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Next, dodge expert Benito Baptiste, for the FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM. His normal routine won't cut it with what these young women are bringing to the sport.

Benito does a bull dodging pass. A small APPLAUSE rises from the spectators. He lifts his arms to elicit a bigger response. NOTHING.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Tough crowd.

Benito slips on a rubber band, binding his legs together and performs a masterful series of dodges, in complete control. A wave of APPLAUSE goes up around the stadium as a master at dodging brings the crowd to their feet.

SUPER:

<u>"Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	38.8	Benito	2.1	x 9.0	= 19.0
Sauteur	22.0	--	--	--	--

(24 DODGE-BANDED)"

CROWD  
(chants)  
Go France. Go France.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Flawless. Yes, the judges gave his  
DODGE routine a near perfect  
score. This gives the FRENCH  
NATIONAL TEAM the lead.

MOMENTS LATER

Julitta jogs into the arena.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
Next up for TEAM SAUTEUR is  
Julitta Morales. A Parkour expert,  
she's going to attempt (beat)  
something that sounds really  
dangerous. Hope it goes well.

Julitta skip steps into the bulls forward rhythm and does  
a handspring and shoots skyward, her hands land on the  
bull's back before executing a double-flip into a shaky  
landing.

The crowd explodes in APPROVAL.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
That ladies and gentlemen is  
athletics. With this high degree  
of difficulty, we expect to see  
her put up a big number.

A gasp goes up from the crowd, most now looking at their  
Mobile App.

SUPER:

<u>"Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	38.8	--	--	--	--
Sauteur	39.5	Julitta	2.60	x 6.73	= 17.5

(35 FLIP-FRONT-HANDSPRING-PLANT-DOUBLE)"

ANNOUNCER  
These judges are brutal. Even with  
low marks for execution TEAM  
SAUTEUR holds the lead.

MOMENTS LATER

JASON BENOIT (19) enters the arena to CHEERS.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

You might remember the FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM'S newest member Jason Benoit from the World Cup. Huh. His specialty, the straight jump, looks a little anemic. (beat) No. He will attempt a double flip in the pike position off the bulls neck. After this we might be seeing Jason in the Paralympics.

EXT. FRANCE'S ARENA OF NIMES STADIUM - ARENA - DAY

Jason executes the takeoff and sticks the PLANT on the bull's back but lands a little off balance. He scrambles out of the arena as the bull swings around and gives chase.

The crowd CHEERS enthusiastically.

SUPER:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	57.0	Jason	2.55	x 7.14	= 18.2
Sauteur	39.5	--	--	--	--

(34 FLIP-FRONT-NECK-PIKE-DOUBLE)"

The crowd BOOS the score.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Hate to be a student in one of these judges' classes. Still, the FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM holds onto the lead.

MOMENTS LATER

Jessica enters the arena.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

TEAM SAUTEUR'S next competitor is Rodeo expert Jessica McBride, where she rescued bull riders with close contact. I'm guessing... No, I'm not guessing, I've just been informed she will attempt a double flip.

(MORE)

Now get this, off the bull's horns. A stratospheric degree of difficulty. Hope she has private medical.

Inspirational MUSIC from 'The Gypsies' builds momentum as Jessica charges the bull. Like destiny they rush toward each other.

At the last moment she steps out of the bull's path.

BOOS go up from the crowd.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

I believe the young ladies timing was off.

The bull swings around and charges.

Jessica races forward and goes airborne. One hand makes contact with the bull's horn. The other hand slips, landing on his head.

Jessica's thrown by the jerk of the bull's powerful neck muscles and executing the double flip but tossed out of control landing in a heap. The crowd expresses shock. Team members rush out and drag the injured Jessica to safety.

The crowd GASPS then CHEERS wildly.

SUPER:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	57.0	--	--	--	--
Sauteur	49.65	Jessica	2.9	x 3.5	= 10.15

(41 FLIP-HORN-DOUBLE)"

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

I hope the young ladies' all right. This will affect TEAM SAUTEUR'S standing. One thing's for sure, these women are redefining courage.

STADIUM STANDS

Spectators check their cell phone Mobile App.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Here it is. The high degree of difficulty has been offset by low execution score.

(MORE)



Bouncing TEAM SAUTEUR out of first  
and into a pretty deep trench.

A small section of the crowd HISSES at the announcement.

STADIUM ARENA

ANDRE GAGE (28) jogs into the arena and pauses to give a  
salute to Team Sauteur.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Up next for the FRENCH NATIONAL  
TEAM is Andre Gage moving his  
routine into the danger zone.

Andre performs the double flip off the bull's neck and  
hits a decent landing. The crowd CLAPS then turns to  
their cell phones.

SUPER:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	79.50	Andre	2.5	x 9.0 =	22.5
Sauteur	49.65	--	--	--	--

(33 FLIP-FRONT-NECK-DOUBLE)"

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Wow. Another sterling performance.  
Both of these teams have really  
elevated this sport in this  
championship.

The crowd ROARS alive.

MOMENTS LATER

Alena kisses Gabriel behind a safety barrier then enters  
the arena.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Next up for TEAM SAUTEUR is Alena  
Comacho, studying journalism at  
UNIVERSITAT DE VALENCIA. She'll  
have a story to tell if she pulls  
this off this contact routine.  
Good luck.

Alena executes the routine nearly perfect. Her landing's  
a little wobbly. The crowd explodes in APPLAUSE. Everyone  
goes silent waiting for the score. She appears to have  
sprained her ankle. She hobbles off.

SUPER:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	79.50	--	--	--	--
Sauteur	70.85	--	2.65 x	8.0	21.2

(36 FLIP-FRONT-HANDSPRING-PLANT-PIKE-DOUBLE)"

The CROWD BOOS at the low score.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Fantastic. Unfortunately, TEAM SAUTEUR drops another point to the French. All the FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM'S Captain, Bernardo Sanchez, needs to do is his signature leap. With a respectable execution, I believe the FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM can hold onto their cojones.

The crowd LAUGHS.

MOMENTS LATER

Bernardo enters with a STANDING OVATION from the partisan crowd.

He bows, soaking up the ADULATION. When the BUZZER sounds, he charges forward and executes a NEAR PERFECT SUPERMAN.

Crowd goes BERSERK. France's team has come through. He walks off WITHOUT a follow-up routine.

SUPER:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	99.10	Bernardo	2.00 x	9.8 =	19.6
Sauteur	70.85	--	--	--	--

(21 LEAP-FRONT-SUPERMAN)"

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Incredible. About as nearly perfect as I've seen. This gives the FRENCH NATIONAL TEAM what should be an insurmountable lead. I believe our last competitor is Inga Sorenson a dodge expert. The highest LISTED dodge score even with perfect execution, won't even come close.

MOMENTS LATER

Across the arena Inga's in an animated discussion with Gabriel.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We're waiting to confirm what routine Inga hopes to perform. There seems to be some argument at the edge of the arena with Inga and her coach. These women have really shown grit. I hope she'll perform.

Inga marches to center of the arena to light APPLAUSE. Sensuous MUSIC from 'The Gypsies' plays as Inga breaks into the movements of a stalking panther. The crowd CHEERS.

ANNOUNCER'S BOX

Kacy rushes up and hands the Announcer a note.

Announcer reads to himself the note and in alarm puts his hand over the microphone for a moment.

ANNOUNCER

(to Kacy)

Is this a joke?

Kacy shakes her head, deadly serious. Back to the microphone.

ANNOUNCER

Oh, my God. I can't imagine how this young lady's going to... THIS IS SUICIDE.

The crowd goes silent, intense on the Announcer's emotional next words.

ANNOUNCER

The young lady's message, FOR A CHAMPION IT ALL COMES DOWN TO COURAGE.

STADIUM ARENA

The crowd APPLAUDS wildly.

As the BUZZER sounds Inga slinks down on all fours to the MUSIC, tempting the bull with her gyrations. The bull charges.

ANNOUNCER'S BOX

Announcer puts his hands to his head.

ANNOUNCER

This is moving into God's country.  
It's going to be tragic.

STADIUM ARENA

On all fours Inga slips past and grabs one of the bull's horns.

The startled bull yanks Inga off the ground and Inga pivots over the bull's head and grabs the other horn. She bounce steps off the ground as the bull yanks her up, catapulting her skyward.

She releases into a perfect double flip, sticking the landing.

Confused and angry, the SNORTING bull sweeps back around, spraying a wall of dirt in the air. Inga drops back to all fours and repeats the routine again, PERFECTLY.

Music ends in a DRAMATIC CRESCENDO. SILENCE blankets the stunned stadium. People grab flyers searching for what just took place.

NO LISTING.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

THAT WAS SUPERHUMAN. I just checked there's no difficulty score because this was off the charts.

STADIUM STANDS

EVERYONE turns to the SAUTEUR JUDGES as they huddle. The crowd glued to their cell phones - waiting.

ANNOUNCER'S BOX

Assistant and Announcer hover over a cell phone as the difficulty and score flashes up.

SUPER:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Skill</u>	<u>Score</u>
French National	99.10	--	--	--	--
Sauteur	99.35	Inga	3.0	x 9.5 =	28.5

(43 XXXXXXXX)"

ANNOUNCER

I don't believe it. That my  
friends is the stuff of legend.  
Courage has claimed the  
impossible, TEAM SAUTEUR has  
captured the championship.

STADIUM STANDS/ARENA

A DEAFENING ROAR rises from the crowd who swarm the  
field. They lift Inga up and carry her around the arena.

INT. VANILLA SPORTS BAR - DAY

Crowd goes CRAZY. At a table Marco and Maria hug.

EXT. FRANCE'S ARENA OF NIMES STADIUM - ARENA - DAY

Kacy rushes over to join Inga. Lin-Lu climbs the safety  
wall beneath the judges to seek out Lee-Shin.

A female REPORTER (40's) rushes over to question TEAM  
SAUTEUR members who are hugging each other.

REPORTER

(to all the women)  
What motivates... all of you?

ALENA

Why do we do anything?

Alena motions to Jessica.

JESSICA

The excitement of the challenge  
and my husband was badly injured  
in a rodeo accident. No one  
offered to pay the medical bills.  
And this is what I do best.

Jessica turns to Julitta.

JULITTA

Friends were there for me and  
helped me realize my talent.

Julitta holds Alena's hand for a moment then heads off to find Marcelo.

Reporter turns to Alena.

REPORTER

I can see the reasons your teammates have but you Senorita, you come from a wealthy family.

ALENA

Memories.

Reporter cocks her head, perplexed. Alena smiles.

ALENA

When I was this high...

Alena motions with her hand about two or three feet off the ground.

ALENA

I saw the most wonderful sight. A giant fresco of a magnificent bull. Men and women, leaping and playing with it. It scared and excited me.

Reporter appears confused.

ALENA

The way I see it, our lives are composed of a mosaic of beautiful and fearful memories. We can't escape them. The day to day is brushed aside and forgotten. So, I search out beautiful experiences and pluck them up, like a child collecting pretty shells on the beach. And when I'm old, I will take them out and hold them up to the light. (beat) Excuse me.

Alena spots Gabriel sprinting across the arena and breaks away to go embrace him.

EXT./INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Competitors and guests stroll in. A BANNER over the entrance reads, 'WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL OF COURAGE CELEBRATION'.

On stage 'The Gypsies' perform as couples migrate to the dance floor.

As Eva and Falcon dine, two Promoters solicit him.

PROMOTER #1

We'd like you to take charge of  
our summer event calendar and  
introduce your... innovations.

Falcon nods.

FALCON

Call me next week.

Falcon tops off Eva's wine glass. He smiles.

EVA

Wine can compromise one's virtue.

Falcon's smile fades. Eva runs her hand down Falcon's arm and takes the wine bottle from Falcon and tops off his glass.

Julitta warms up to Marcelo and they cozy up in dance.

As different competitors glide around the dance floor, at a table off the dance floor, Jessica's face shows alarm as a group of COMPETITORS pass, heading toward the bar.

Gabriel notices Jessica's distress and nudges Alena who leans over in concern.

ALENA

What's wrong?

Jessica can't put words to a feeling she has but Alena has her own realization.

ALENA

The odor in my car?

Gabriel breathes in the aroma.

GABRIEL

Somewhere else, too.

The dance ends. Gabriel motions Marcelo and Julitta over.

GABRIEL

(to Marcelo)

I don't believe the man at your  
ranch was the only one that  
attacked the girls.

Gabriel scans the room and spots a MAN in the dim light turn back to the bar as he spots Gabriel's interest.

Gabriel jumps up and shoves his way through the crowd toward the bar with Marcelo a step behind.

At the bar men mingle, drinking. Gabriel grabs the man he THOUGHT he saw earlier and spins him around. The man looks stunned.

Gabriel takes a whiff of his clothes and lets the man go.

GABRIEL

It's not him. But he was here.

INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jessica freaks out, struggling to her feet.

JESSICA

I need to go.

Alena reaches out and hugs Jessica until she calms down.

ALENA

You're right. Let me use the restroom and get the guys.

Alena motions for Julitta to look after Jessica. Alena pushes through the crowd toward the restroom.

At the door of the men's room, she KNOCKS and YELLS over the LOUD MUSIC.

ALENA (CONT'D)

Hey, Gabriel, if you or my brother's in there, Jessica wants to go.

Alena steps over and enters the women's room.

The men's room door opens. A figure moves out and shoves a cleaning cart in front of the women's room before slipping inside.

WOMEN'S RESTROOM

Alena stands in front of the mirror with her back to the door. Her PURSE lays nearby as she splashes water on her face.



She stiffens at a familiar repugnant scent and turns to face Bernardo.

ALENA

It was you.

BERNARDO

You should have been the one in the alley, BITCH. Your damn car.

Alena's distracted for a moment by the red security camera's light in the corner above Bernardo's head. She returns her attention to the man standing before her.

SECURITY OFFICE

One of the security monitors displays the drama unfolding in the woman's restroom. Bernardo stands unrecognizable with his back to the camera.

WOMEN'S RESTROOM

ALENA

You're the bastard that attacked Jessica and stole my car. I bet your finger prints and DNA will tie you--

BERNARDO

They will tie me to nothing because you will be dead.

Bernardo takes a step toward her but pauses when Alena pulls a small cannister of MACE from her neck chain.

BERNARDO

Ha. You think that means anything.

Bernardo pulls a gun and points it at Alena.

INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Gabriel and Marcelo arrive back at Jessica's table.

MARCELO

Where's my sister?

Jessica points to the restroom.

Gabriel and Marcelo both glance at the COMMOTION from the stage where a frantic SECURITY GUARD yells and points toward the restrooms.

Alarmed, Gabriel and Marcelo rush through the crowd toward the restroom.

WOMEN'S RESTROOM

Loud MUSIC fades. Bernardo hesitates as Alena reaches for her purse.

INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM.

Gunfire fills the air from the direction of the restroom.

Marcelo and Gabriel reach the women's room. The door swings open and Alena steps out with her own GUN.

ALENA

Bernardo.

The guys reach for the door.

ALENA

He's dead.

They enter. On the ground lays Bernardo with a hole through his head. Alena's PURSE lies on the floor.

GABRIEL

What happened?

ALENA

The dirt bag attacked Jessica.

Marcelo lifts Alena's purse in serious need of repair. A hole blown through one side.

ALENA

I took a ladies advice about  
ARMING myself.

EXT. MADRID-BARAJAS AIRPORT - NIGHT

A crowd with banners greet TEAM SAUTEUR.

INT. CAMACHO'S RANCH - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Marco welcomes the TEAM. Alena and Maria enter from the kitchen carrying a feast. Marcelo comes up from the cellar with several bottles of wine.

ALENA

Were's Falcon and Eva?

GABRIEL

Perhaps, they stopped off at the church to give thanks.

Everyone laughs.

GABRIEL

I don't imagine we need to set a place for them this evening.

LATER

Marco gives toast.

MARCO

I'm proud to see the quality of people my daughter and son call friends. Each of us makes their mark through pursuing their passion. Maria and myself are thankful our children have found theirs. Now everyone, I hope you enjoy the thanks we give you all.

With tears in her eyes, Alena rushes over and hugs her mother.

ALENA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Momma.

MARIA

(in Spanish;  
subtitled)

Now, I'm really going to need a drink.

Maria reaches out and embraces her husband. Marco raises his glass. Others around the table raise theirs.

MARCO

To the future.

Everyone digs in. It's clear, the camaraderie around the table shows a real bond among the group.

EXT. FALCON'S VILLA - PATIO - DAWN

A walking cane taps on a stone walkway. Through the mist a large bull ambles out from a pasture and SNORTS as it picks up speed toward a charismatic gentleman, Pablo Falcon.

The bull pulls up at the last moment and lowers his nose to the man. Falcon reaches out his warm hand for Adonis to nuzzle against. Eva leans in and caresses Falcon's hand.

FADE OUT.

THE END