

**SUPERFIGHTS**

by

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FADE IN:

TIGHT ON HAND

It PULLS away from the CAMERA.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

An old Chinese man, GRANDFATHER, going through a beautiful Tai Zhi Quan form. It is very peaceful and graceful. The form ends with a palm strike towards camera, blacking out the frame. (for possible INTERCUT use)

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - NIGHT

Spotlights cut through the murky darkness while rock music PULSES. The sound of the crowd, barely visible in the darkness, is a RUMBLE in the dark, not unlike the sound of an enraged animal.

They are yelling for blood!

QUICK CUTS of other fighters in the ring, including Punks, Sumo wrestlers, Kickboxers, Shootfighters, and others. It's a spectacle, and we see bits and snippets of it all - the knockout blows, the colorful fighters, the incredible techniques, the bloodshed, the brutality. DARKCLOUD and NIGHT STALKER face off in the ring. (ONE FIGHT)

Darkcloud is slamming Night Stalker in the head over and over. With the second blow, the man's mouthpiece goes flying into the crowd. Soon, the blood starts to spray, but the man doesn't stop hitting.

In the front row, right next to the ring, is JACK CODY, an 18 year old dreamer. Drinking it all in, he is yelling his lungs out for the fighters.

A WOMAN standing next to Jack cringes at the brutality and covers her eyes.

WOMAN

How can you watch this?

JACK

It's great, isn't it? I love it!

The woman looks at Jack uncomprehendingly, then shakes her head and steps over him to get out, then walks up the stairs to the exit.

Though the woman is very beautiful, Jack doesn't even watch her go. He is too intent on the action in the ring.

Now, one of the women fighters, ANGEL, dressed in a sexy outfit that shows off her body, but also displays her finely defined muscles, is fighting another SuperFighter. She is brutalizing the other fighter, yet both are covered in blood.

The towel has now been thrown in, but Angel STILL doesn't stop. Angel has her opponent by the throat and is motioning to the crowd, thumbs up or thumbs down.

"NO MERCY" cries the crowd, and Jack is yelling louder than anyone.

JACK

Take it to her, Angel! Yeah!

Angel spins and hook kicks her opponent in the head, then spins the other way and side kicks her into the ropes. The other fighter FLIES off the ropes and lands face down in the center of the ring.

It's brutal and barbaric.

And Jack loves every minute of it.

A spotlight lights up the stage, and two bizarre FIGHTERS stand in the middle, facing each other.

ANNOUNCER

In the red corner, Budokai!

BUDOKAI is dressed in a gold lame uniform, his belt black. His face is painted like a kabuki actor, a mixture of black and white and gold, and his outfit emphasizes his massive muscles.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And in the blue corner, the Enforcer!

THE ENFORCER, dressed like a street punk, with chains and leather, spikes and chrome, comes into the ring. He is the bad guy here, and everyone knows it. He raises his muscled arms over his head and smiles at the crowd, then brings them down into a fighting stance.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

SuperFight!

The two fighters face off in fighting positions. The rock music increases its BEAT, and the fighters rush each other, the ring echoing with the fury of their techniques. Budokai is a martial artist, while the Enforcer is a thug. But a well trained thug, nonetheless.

Using a mixture of professional wrestling, boxing and street fighting, the Enforcer HAMMERS Budokai in a beautifully choreographed fight.

Budokai beaten, the Enforcer stands before the crowd, seemingly asking them for a decision.

The crowd ROARS.

ANNOUNCER

What'll it be? Mercy?

The crowd YELLS out "NO MERCY!" Everyone except Jack that is, who likes Budokai, after all.

The Enforcer listens to what they want, then smiles and launches a huge roundhouse right. Budokai goes sailing out of the ring.

Jack sees this and runs to where Budokai is going to land, thinking to break his fall.

He does, sort of, but Budokai still lands HARD. They stand up together, both a little stunned. The Enforcer is now out of the ring and coming towards Budokai, and Jack is caught in the middle.

Jack, in the heat of the moment, turns to face off with the Enforcer! He throws a couple of kicks and punches, which have no effect - except to further enrage the Enforcer.

The Enforcer goes crazy and attacks Jack. Budokai grabs Jack and throws him up into the sky, and then knocks the Enforcer out, and Jack lands on top of the Enforcer (like a pin in wrestling), counting him out.

The ref comes out of the ring and holds up Budokai's hand, and Budokai reaches down and pulls Jack up to a standing position, holding his hand up.

BUDOKAI  
NO MERCY! EVER!

Budokai looks at Jack, who is beaming with pride, as the crowd goes crazy. Budokai winks at Jack.

BUDOKAI  
Thanks, man. Couldn't have done it without you...

Jack is in heaven.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - DAWN

A loading dock is closed up, shut down tight. The streets around it are almost empty. A JOGGER runs by in front, getting a workout in before a busy day starts.

INT. LOADING DOCK - SAME DAY

In the loading dock, we MOVE THROUGH the assembled goods, boxes and various things. In the b.g. can be heard the sound of labored breathing, and solid THUNKS and THWOCKS .

We MOVE through a door that is ajar, into an area of the warehouse separate from the storage area. On the walls are posters from "SuperFights", martial arts training posters, pictures of Bruce Lee, Chuck Norris, Jean Claude Van Damme (from "No Retreat No Surrender"), movie posters, professional wrestlers, etc.

Pictures of a fighter named MIKE ROCCO are featured prominently. Rocco, in the pictures, is wearing a special necklace (Open Hand?). There is a magazine with his picture on it, and the legend reads "Rocco: Where is he now?" There is also a picture of Rocco with his arm around a young fighter - a younger Jack.

We see a SHADOW of what looks like two people fighting over the picture of Rocco.

The sounds of violent training are closer, more immediate.

A counter is piled high with training books, and a TV/VCR combination sits next to them, a pile of martial arts training videos sitting on top. A tape is in the machine, and it is paused on one particular instructor, Mike Rocco, demonstrating a technique.

Standing next to the counter are mannequins in various positions, all dressed in sporting goods equipment - at first they look like real fighters. We see Jack moving among them, doing flips (with the aid of an unseen trampoline).

Some of the mannequins are wearing protective equipment, others swimsuits, still others in martial arts uniforms.

Smoothly, we TURN AROUND to see Jack, in a muscle shirt and workout pants, working on a mannequin, and we realize that they are just mannequins, not real people. He is very athletic, and has obviously been training for some time. He is not a master, but he is strong and effective, with a great

deal of raw talent. When he hits and kicks the heavy bag, hanging in the middle of the room, it SHAKES the entire room.

Jack is wearing the special necklace that Rocco had on in the pictures.

After one particularly grueling combination, Jack stops, drinks from a sport bottle nearby. He then grabs the TV remote and pushes a button.

ANGLE ON TV

The tape continues, the instructor (Mike Rocco) moving on to another combination.

Jack watches it carefully, then rewinds it, and plays it again. He then presses "pause" and puts the remote back. He starts hitting the heavy bag again, mimicking the combination the instructor showed on the tape.

As he is working this combination, an alarm on his watch goes off and Jack stops. He gathers himself for a moment, then bows to the mannequin.

JACK

Time for the SuperFight.

He moves to the area of the room where the mannequins are set up. He moves into the middle of them, then raises his arms like Budokai did last night.

He goes into action, throwing kicks and punches at the mannequins, breaking them into pieces, throwing them into all the corners of the room.

When he is done, he stands panting in the center of the mess, then raises his arms again. One mannequin is still standing.

JACK

No mercy.

He jumps off the trampoline (we see it now) and drives a spinning wheel kick at the lone mannequin and hits it, but sends himself sprawling at the same time.

The fantasy is disrupted by reality. Jack smiles and puts his head in his hands, resting.

FRANKIE

Cody? That you?

Jack doesn't answer right away.

FRANKIE (O.S.)

Yo, Jean Claude Van Duncce? You there?

JACK

Yeah, Frankie. Just finishing up!

FRANKIE comes into view.

FRANKIE

Man, are you wasting your time with this stuff again? Hey, don't leave a mess again, OK? Hurry up, we gotta get these orders out!

JACK

(cheerfully)

OK! I'll be right down.

Jack gets off the ground and starts to clean up the pieces of mannequin around the room. He assembles the mannequins again for his next workout, then pauses at the "SuperFights" and "Mike Rocco" posters.

JACK

Someday...

The CAMERA PULLS OUT, past the tapes, books and posters.

EXT. JACK HOUSE - EVENING

Establishing shot of a run down tract house in a "poor white trash" suburb of the city. The house is much cleaner than the others in the area. Obviously, some care has been taken with the house.

Jack's battered Jeep pulls up to the house, and he gets out. He pauses for a moment in the front yard, then shakes his head, picks up some trash from the neighbor's yard, and moves inside.

INT. JACK HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Jack walks into the house, weary from a long day of work, and hangs up his jacket.

JACK  
Mom, I'm home!

MOTHER  
What? No UltraFights tonight?

JACK  
(smiling wearily)  
It's SuperFights, and they were last night.

MOTHER  
What time did you get home?

JACK  
I got to work on time, nobody got hurt, what difference does it make, Mom?

Jack's MOTHER comes around the corner and confronts Jack. This is a road they've been over many times, but that won't stop his Mother from trying to make a point.

MOTHER  
What about you? I think it's hurting you.

JACK  
I'm not in the ring... yet. When I'm one of the fighters, then you can worry. OK?

MOTHER  
You won't be one of them, Jack, not while I'm around.

JACK  
When they have another try out, I'm going to be first in line.

MOTHER  
No you won't. Your father wouldn't have wanted...

JACK  
Let's not do this again, Mom. I gotta go...

MOTHER  
I have dinner ready for you, just like you like it. Where are you going, Jack?

JACK  
Out, that's all.

MOTHER  
Jack, don't walk away from me! I'm talking to you!

Jack doesn't stop walking as he grabs his jacket, and then goes out the door. He can be seen walking to his Jeep through the ripped and patched screen door.

MOTHER

You come right back here, John Jacob Cody!  
This minute!

Jack is gone, and his Mother stands there for a moment, waiting. The Jeep STARTS UP, O.S., and we see the headlights FLARE on Jack's Mother's face.

MOTHER

(to herself)  
Over my dead body!

FADE OUT

EXT. CITY BANK - SAME NIGHT

A deserted parking lot of a city bank. A young, very attractive Chinese woman, SALLY WONG, walks to the Cash machine outside the bank, on her way home from work.

She looks around to make sure no one else is there, then proceeds to the machine. She puts in her card, presses several buttons and completes her transaction. Her cash is counted out into a money drawer, and she reaches in and pulls it out.

Just as she turns to go, a voice behind her calls out menacingly

LEADER

We'll take that, sister.

Sally whirls around to see three GANG MEMBERS moving towards her. They have taken away her escape route. She makes a fist with one hand, as if she is trying to decide whether it's worth a fight.

Just then a Jeep pulls into the parking lot of the bank, making a cut through to another street. It's Jack's Jeep, and he pauses for a moment, taking in the scene. The LEADER turns to look at Jack.

LEADER

Keep moving, asshole.

Jack looks for a moment longer, then pulls out.

Sally starts to raise her hands to fight, and the Leader senses what she is doing and pulls out a wicked looking knife to dissuade her.

LEADER

It's not worth it.

LEADER

Remember, it's only money, and you didn't  
have it long enough to get attached to it.

Sally looks at the knife, then up at the Leader. She takes a quick glance around, noting the surveillance camera up in one corner of the building.

LEADER

No time, sugar. We'll be long gone, and  
you'll be all cut up.

(beat)

NOW.

The Jeep pulls into the parking lot again, and this time it stops right in the middle of the lot, its lights pointed straight at the group. The High Beams of the Jeep flick on, momentarily blinding everyone, and the horn BLOWS.

The Leader, one hand over his eyes, motions to one of his boys to get rid of whoever it is.

LEADER

Take care of that guy!

The Gang Member goes up to the Jeep, and is surprised to find it EMPTY. Running, lights on, but empty.

GANG MEMBER

Ain't nobody here!

The Leader, who was moving in on Sally, turns to the Gang Member.

LEADER

What?

Just then, from behind one of the bank pillars, STORMS Jack, taking the Leader and the other gang members completely by surprise. Using a variety of kicks, punches, strikes and wrestling moves, he takes them out with little resistance. He wades through them like they were the mannequins he trains on at work.

JACK

Oh, yeah! This is just what I needed!

When he's done, Jack turns to Sally and smiles, then motions for her to join him.

Sally gets in Jack's Jeep, and he pulls quickly out of the lot.

The gang members are still on the ground, some of them starting to moan and move around a little bit.

INT. JACK'S JEEP - SAME NIGHT

Jack is driving along, and Sally is sitting very primly in Jack's Jeep. Jack steals looks at her, and she looks at him sideways. Jack is intrigued by this beautiful Chinese girl.

SALLY

Turn right here. This is my house.

The Jeep comes to a stop. Sally opens the door and starts to get out..

SALLY  
(after a beat)  
Want to come in?  
(very softly)  
I'd like you to meet my grandfather.

Jack turns the engine off.

JACK  
Meet your grandfather? Sounds like real fun...

They get out of the Jeep.

EXT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Sally leads him into her house.

SALLY  
He's kind of an old codger... just take him with a grain of salt.

JACK  
Don't worry, I love old codgers.

Through the window, we see a SHADOW looking at them. Then it disappears.

They go inside.

INT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

A meat cleaver THWACKS down into a wooden cutting board and sticks straight up.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Sally's Grandfather, who was cooking dinner when they came in. He is at least 75 years old, and is wearing a dark blue Chinese silk jacket.

GRANDFATHER  
You fought them over money?!? Are you a COMPLETE moron?

Jack looks at Sally for help.

GRANDFATHER  
You could have gotten her killed.

SALLY  
They might not have stopped at the money, Grandfather.

GRANDFATHER  
You don't KNOW that. Do you?

JACK

Gee, correct me if I'm wrong, but most relatives...

GRANDFATHER

You are wrong. Don't speak unless spoken to.

SALLY

Grandfather!

The Grandfather looks at Sally, sighs, and then examines Jack closely.

GRANDFATHER

You are a fighter? What style?

JACK

All different styles.

GRANDFATHER

Which style? Do not attempt to con me.

JACK

I use what works, from karate, kung fu, kickboxing, whatever.

GRANDFATHER

Bullshit!

JACK

Hey, it worked tonight.

GRANDFATHER

Let me see your hands, 'fighter'.

Jack holds out his hands and Grandfather holds them, looking at them and squeezing them. Jack squeezes back, but it has no effect on Grandfather.

GRANDFATHER

You have never trained.

JACK

I can handle myself.

SALLY

Grandfather, what are you doing? I invited Jack in to thank him.

GRANDFATHER

Maybe he set the attack up himself, so he would look good.

JACK

I've had about enough...

Jack tries to pull his hands away, but he cannot. Jack continues to try to pull away, but Grandfather has his hands in a vice grip.

GRANDFATHER

Not yet.

Grandfather takes Jack's hands and forces them into the flour on the counter top.

JACK

What the hell?

GRANDFATHER

OK, fighter, let's see how good you really are. All you have to do is touch me and I will give you the credit you think you deserve. OK?

JACK

This is ridiculous. Does he do this to every guy you bring home?

SALLY

I... Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER

Only the ones claiming to be heroes.  
C'mon, just one touch...

Jack, thinking he is going to catch Grandfather unaware, lunges for him, but he's no longer there. Jack moves again, trying to touch him, but Grandfather is a ghost. No matter how he tries, and with what techniques, he can't lay a finger on him.

Finally, Jack is so frustrated he gives up. He grabs a towel and starts to wipe the flour off his hands.

JACK

I gotta get outta here. Sally, I'll call you.

He walks past Grandfather, who is smiling in success. Before he completely passes him, however, Jack tries one more time to touch him. Grandfather, with eyes in the back of his head, moves subtly out of the way, and all Jack touches is air.

SALLY

Jack, don't go!

Jack is already at the door and opening it. He tosses the towel back into the room. Sally runs after him, giving Grandfather a very dirty look. He just smiles an innocent smile that says, "Just protecting you, my dear."

EXT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Sally pushes open the door of her house, but Jack is already in his Jeep and driving away.

She watches him drive away, then raises her face to the stars.

SALLY  
Just once why can't he mind his own  
business and stay out of my life?

EXT. STREETS - SAME NIGHT

Jack's Jeep, driving on a deserted highway.

INT. JEEP - SAME NIGHT

Jack, still a little angry, driving and thinking.

EXT. JACK HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Jack drives up to his house, and is surprised to see his house all lit up, with tons of people milling around. There are Reporters, Camera Crews, Neighbors and more.

Jack pulls his Jeep into the driveway, and gets out. The entire group explodes in applause, but Jack still can't figure out what is going on. He spots a policeman and yells

JACK  
Is my Mom OK?

He nods and motions that she is inside the house.

Jack heads for the house, but is stopped by a TV REPORTER and her camera crew.

TV REPORTER  
How does it feel to be a hero?

JACK  
What hero? What are you talking about?

Jack pushes his way through the crowd and towards his house, still concerned about his mother.

In the b.g. we hear the TV Reporter finishing her report.

TV REPORTER  
Modest and unassuming, untouched by stardom, Jack Cody might be a hero in the truest sense of the world. Just someone who, despite the odds, does the right thing. This is Carol Hartman, Channel 8, live at the Cody house. Back to you, Bob.

Jack gets to his front door and throws it open.

JACK  
Mom, are you all right?

He goes in.

INT. JACK HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

He walks into the living room, and sees his Mom getting up from in front of the TV.

JACK  
Mom! Are you OK? What's with all the  
people outside?

Jack's Mother runs to Jack, hugging him.

MOTHER  
Jack, I'm so proud of you! You're a hero!

JACK  
What are you talking about?

MOTHER  
Watch! I taped it for you!

She pushes the "play" button the VCR and a news report unfolds.

TIGHT ON TV, INSET PICTURE OF SUPERFIGHTER "PUNISHER"

NEWS ANCHOR  
... Punisher found dead - a violent end  
for a violent fighter.  
(beat)  
And now for some good news: Take a look at  
some extraordinary footage from Fulton  
Bank...

The screen shifts to grainy color security video, which records the rescue scene where Jack came to the aid of Sally. Jack beats the three guys, and then hustles Sally into his Jeep.

NEWS ANCHOR  
We traced the license plate of the Jeep to  
Jack Cody, an employee of GoodSports, a  
sporting goods distributor...

Jack turns off the VCR and turns to his mother.

MOTHER  
They've been waiting hours for you, Jack.  
You saved that girl! You should go out and  
talk to them, Jack!

JACK  
I don't really want to, Mom.

MOTHER  
This is your chance, Jack. You're break.

JACK  
Don't make that much out of it, Mom. I  
just did what had to be done.

Mother leads Jack to the front door and opens it. Immediately, the crowd on the lawn surges forward to the door.

MOTHER  
This is good news, Jack. There isn't  
enough good news on the TV. You know what  
I mean?

Jack nods and opens the front door.

The questions start coming, and the lights of the cameras and the flash of cameras WHITE OUT the picture as we...

CUT TO:

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

TIGHT ON TV IMAGE OF JACK, blinded by the lights of the TV cameras. He is bombarded with questions, attention which he takes with his characteristic good humor.

ANGLE ON ROBERT SAWYER, PROMOTER OF SUPERFIGHTS.

He is watching the TV with interest, the lights from the TV illuminating his face.

He presses the "Mute" button on the remote, and the scene unfolds on the TV without any sound.

ROBERT  
He's perfect.

Robert goes behind his desk and pushes the intercom on his phone.

ROBERT  
Lonnie, get me...

The name "Jack Cody" flashes onto the screen, underneath Jack's image talking to reporters.

ROBERT  
Jack Cody. He's on Channel 8 right now.  
Set up a meeting for tomorrow, here.

RECEPTIONIST  
Yes, Sir.

ROBERT  
Oh, and Lonnie? Make sure he comes alone.  
No agents, no lawyers. Thanks.

He hangs up the phone and then presses "Mute" again.

It's Jack talking on the TV.

JACK  
I just did what I had to do. Anybody else  
would have done the same.

ROBERT  
An All American Hero. Perfect.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Jack is out for his training run, and he is spotted by people walking and working on the street. He runs by a crew of WORKMEN working on the construction of a house.

WORKMEN  
Way to go, Jack!

He heads downtown on his run, and a schoolbus goes by and a group of SCHOOLCHILDREN spot him.

KIDS  
It's him, it's the hero. Hey, Jack! Can we have your autograph?

Jack waves back, feeling really good.

He turns down a city street, and two beautiful WOMEN RUNNERS are coming towards him. One of the RUNNERS nudges the other and points to Jack.

She smiles at him as he runs past.

RUNNER  
Want to run my way, Jack?

Jack continues running, but his pace definitely slows.

INT. JACK HOUSE - SAME DAY

Jack is rushing around, trying to get ready for his meeting with Robert. His mother is following him, haranguing him for even considering becoming a fighter.

MOTHER  
I don't want you to go to this meeting, Jack.

JACK  
You're the one who wanted me to talk to the reporters, and Mr. Sawyer called me because he saw me on TV.

MOTHER  
You want to be a professional wrestler your whole life?

JACK  
No, but being a SuperFighter is a lot different from being a pro wrestler, and a couple of years doing it would be fun. I had my 15 minutes of fame, Mom. Now is the time to capitalize on it.

He starts to tie his neck tie, and is having trouble.

JACK

Mom, can you help me out here? I could die trying to tie this thing.

MOTHER

(after a beat)

No. I won't help you with this.

She walks out of his room, leaving Jack to fend for himself.

He stares at himself in the mirror.

JACK

Great, just great. I hope he's more interested in my fighting than my wardrobe.

He does a sloppy job tying his tie, then grabs a notebook and heads for the door.

JACK

Mom?!? I'm going. Wish me luck?

No answer.

JACK

Thanks a lot!

He goes out the door, and only when he is completely gone does his mother come into the room, a worried look on her face.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Robert's office building, with the legend "SuperFights" over the front door. Jack walks up to the front of the building, admires the sign, then walks in.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - SAME DAY

The elevator door opens and Jack walks up to a very impressive solid wood door, with "SuperFights" engraved into it. He grabs one of the huge brass doorknobs and pulls the door open.

INT. SUPERFIGHT LOBBY - SAME DAY

Jack walks up to the RECEPTIONIST, who is seated at a state of the art computer workstation. Her face lights up when she sees him.

RECEPTIONIST

Jack Cody, right?

RECEPTIONIST

Let me just say I'm a big fan. I think it's great that you're going to be working with us!

Jack doesn't know what to say. Working with the SuperFighters?

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Sawyer is expecting you, Mr. Cody.  
He's just finishing up a meeting.

As she says this, the door to Robert's office opens, and out steps three SUPERFIGHTERS: Darkcloud, Night Stalker and Budokai. They aren't dressed like SuperFighters, however. They are dressed all in black: leathers, sweatshirts, parachute pants, etc.

Behind them walks Robert, and together they notice Jack, who has tried to move out of the way (and to close his open mouth as he watches his heroes come towards him).

ROBERT

Jack! Robert Sawyer! Let me introduce you to some friends of mine.

BUDOKAI

Hey, I remember you! Man, welcome to the team! You're my hero now, Jack!

Jack can't believe he is actually talking to the SuperFighters.

DARKCLOUD

I'm Darkcloud, but call me Chuck, OK? Can I call you Jack?

JACK

Uh... Sure.

NIGHT STALKER

I'm Cliff, better known as Night Stalker. It's an honor to shake your hand, Mr. Cody.

JACK

Honor? C'mon, you guys are...

BUDOKAI

You're gonna love it here!

DARKCLOUD

You sure are. Just make sure you ask for enough money from Robert here.

DARKCLOUD

He can squeeze pennies so hard they bleed, man.

ROBERT

That's enough, gentlemen. Jack and I have some matters to discuss. Where's your lawyer, Jack? Sharpening his pencil?

JACK

No, I...

ROBERT

Don't worry about it, c'mon in! You guys  
be careful out there tonight, you hear?

SUPERFIGHTERS

(together)

Yes, Sir! See ya around, Jack!

Robert leads Jack into his office, and then closes the door behind  
him, smiling at the SuperFighters.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME DAY

ROBERT

Have a seat, Jack. Can I get you something  
to drink?

JACK

No, thanks, Mr. Sawyer. Thanks for  
inviting me over. It was great to meet  
those guys.

ROBERT

Those guys are friends of yours, Jack.  
And, thank you for coming here tonight. I  
know you have a lot of demands on your  
time now. You're a popular man.

(beat)

I want to get right to the point, Jack. I  
want you to be a SuperFighter. Is that  
something that you'd like?

JACK

Are you kidding? I'd kill to be one of the  
SuperFighters!

ROBERT

I'm not asking for that... yet.

(smile)

All I want to do is make you an offer.

JACK

The answer's yes.

ROBERT

I haven't made the offer yet, Jack. Do you  
have an agent?

JACK

No. Should I?

ROBERT

Not necessarily. Most of the fighters  
don't, in fact. I'll walk you through the  
contract, and I think we'll come to a fair  
agreement, don't you?

JACK

You bet!

ROBERT

Before we do that, however, I want to introduce you to my favorite SuperFighter, Angel.

A side door to the office opens up, and Angel, the female SuperFighter from the opening scene, walks in. She is dressed in her very revealing, very sexy outfit, and she comes over to Jack.

ANGEL

I saw you on the news. I can't believe I'm actually meeting you!

Jack is almost speechless.

JACK

I saw you fight the other night...

ANGEL

I wish I had seen you...

ROBERT

If we can come to terms, Jack, I'd like Angel to train you.

(beat)

If that's OK.

JACK

(swallowing hard)

Yeah, that'd be great.

ANGEL

I'm a real slave driver, Jack.

ANGEL

You have to listen to me about... everything. I think you've got great potential, and with a little hard training, you can be a great SuperFighter!

JACK

I can't wait.

ROBERT

Angel, can you excuse us for a little while? Jack and I have to cross the t's and dot the i's.

ANGEL

Don't take too long, OK? I'm hungry.

ROBERT

We'll all go out to dinner after, OK, Jack?

Jack nods, watching Angel leave the room.

Robert pulls out a thick contract and puts it down on the table.

ROBERT

Here's the contract. I advise you to read it carefully, but it's tough going. I'll go over the main points with you. OK?

Angel is now at the door, and she stops and catches Jack's eye, then winks.

JACK

I want to warn you, Robert, I'm a pretty tough negotiator. I'm no pushover.

Robert smiles and sits down, ready to put the hammer to Jack.

ROBERT

I saw that the minute we met, Jack.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Establishing shot of the exterior of the warehouse. Two bodyguards stand outside.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A "Death Match" is going on, with THE BEAST against a Citizen. The crowd is wild and unruly, and betting is going on throughout the scene.

The Beast beats the Citizen handily, and then KILLS him brutally. It's quite a difference from the SuperFights.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

A STREET GANG made up of punks and toughs, along with the occasional girlfriend, is hanging out in an alley, smoking cigarettes and killing time. (6 to 8 GANG MEMBERS - Black, Hispanic, White)

Suddenly, one of the street gang's LOOKOUTS is propelled into the alley. He SLAMS into the wall on the other side and collapses in a heap, MOANS once, then is silent.

The gang is up and on their feet, ready for action.

GANG LEADER

What the hell...?

The SUPERFIGHTERS (Budokai, Night Stalker, Darkcloud) come out of three doorways into the alley, immediately surrounding the street gang. The Leader starts to go for his weapon, but a movement by Darkcloud stops him.

DARKCLOUD

I wouldn't do that, Bubba.

GANG LEADER

Name's not Bubba.

DARKCLOUD

It is if I say it is, Bubba.

One of the gang members moves towards Darkcloud, and he is immediately taken out, brutally, hit and kicked and SLAMMED into the wall.

INSERT shot of THUGS raising guns, preparing for action.

GANG LEADER

What do you want, man?

DARKCLOUD

30% of the action.

GANG LEADER

What the hell for?

DARKCLOUD

So that doesn't happen to you.

GANG LEADER

No thanks, man.

DARKCLOUD

You got a nice operation, Bubba.

DARKCLOUD

Drugs, grand theft auto, extortion - we want in.

GANG LEADER

And if I say no?

DARKCLOUD

You know you can't say no, Bubba. Oh, by the way, it's up to 40% now. Want to try for 50% by complaining some more?

GANG LEADER

Screw you, man.

DARKCLOUD

Wrong answer, Bubba.

The SuperFighters JUMP into action in the alley. They are all trained fighters, and the gang members are no match for them. It's over quickly, with brutal efficiency, the SuperFighters dispatch the gang members.

When it's over, Darkcloud stands the Leader of the gang up by applying a very painful joint lock.

DARKCLOUD

50-50 now, Bubba. Pick ups once a week. Try to cheat me, you get dead. Comprene?

The Leader nods, in a world of pain.

About eight miscellaneous TOUGHS, who are aiming guns, come out from the darkness. Darkcloud turns towards them and smiles, motioning to the Gang Members on the ground.

DARKCLOUD

See, I told you we wouldn't need you guys.  
They said we couldn't beat some sense into  
your thick skull!

He laughs and drops the Leader, motioning for his SuperFighters to follow him out of the alley. The gang members stay on the ground, too hurt to move.

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Jack walks through the door into the training gym, which is very high tech, all marble, machines and red and blue floors. Only the best for the SuperFighters. Jack is astonished by the room, and he walks around looking at it in awe.

As he looks around, in walks Angel.

ANGEL

Good morning, Jack. It's nice to see  
you're on time.

JACK

I'm all yours.

ANGEL

How true. You got a clean bill of health  
from our doctors. Let's see what you can  
do, OK?

She pushes a button on a keyboard located on a pedestal, and three TVs in the marble wall are revealed.

ANGEL

This is the main training area for the  
fighters. Usually, you all train together,  
but we'll be training alone for the first  
couple of weeks, however.

JACK

Why?

They walk over to the two beams of light streaming down against one wall.

ANGEL

Jack, don't ask too many questions, OK?  
When I call out a kick or a punch, you hit  
through the lights. They measure speed and  
power. Got that?

JACK

You bet.

ANGEL  
Stepping side.

Jack does it. A power read out registers on the computer display.

ANGEL  
Backfist, straight punch.

Jack does it.

ANGEL  
Spinning hook, roundhouse, front kick.

Jack performs them, hitting the beams of light each time.

ANGEL  
Left hook. Right jab. Left uppercut.

Jack does them all, and is performing very well. A series of QUICK CUTS shows Jack hitting the bags and targets, with each hit scoring "power points" on the computer read out.

ANGEL  
Now I want to measure your reaction time.  
Enter the chamber, please.

She walks over to the keyboard and punches in several commands.

Jack stands in the middle of the chamber, and suddenly the poles on each side of the chamber come flying out. Jack tries to avoid the poles, but still gets hit a few times while doing it.

We see the computer screen measuring the result of the training.

ANGEL  
OK! Take a break for a minute, Jack.  
(beat)  
Not bad. Your numbers are pretty good.

JACK  
Thanks. Is the test done?

ANGEL  
Not quite yet, Jack.

Angel moves up close to Jack, body to body.

JACK  
What... are you doing, Angel?

ANGEL  
Checking vital signs...

She presses her finger against the vein in his neck, feeling his pulse.

ANGEL  
Not too fast, that's good.

She runs her hands over his body, gently, caressing. She checks the vein in his arm.

ANGEL  
A little faster now - you enjoying  
yourself, Jack? That's good, too...

Her hands goes farther down, caressing his buttocks, then moving towards the front.

JACK  
Angel...?

Jack jumps a little, and Angel snaps.

ANGEL  
Stand still!

She presses her right hand between his thighs.

ANGEL  
Best indicator of heart rate activity.  
Your heart's pumping to beat the band,  
Jack...

She smiles at Jack, then pulls her hand back, taking care to brush up against the front of his workout pants as she goes. Angel growls a little.

ANGEL  
My favorite vital sign... Oh, the things  
you'll see, Jack. We're going to have so  
much fun training together.

JACK  
(forced, throaty,  
embarrassed)  
Should we be doing this?

ANGEL  
You'll do whatever I say.

JACK  
Here? Now?

Angel laughs, then starts to walk away.

ANGEL  
We have all the time in the world, Jack.  
We start for real, training, I mean,  
tomorrow. Get a good night's sleep, Jack,  
you'll need it.

She tosses him a bottle of pills. He catches it.

JACK  
What are these?

ANGEL  
Vitamins. Special for the SuperFighters.

JACK  
I don't like pills.

ANGEL  
They're vitamins, Jack. Take them.

Jack watches as Angel exits, leaving Jack tortured and all alone.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - DAY

Robert is in his office, kissing with Lonnie, his receptionist, when the door flies open and OATES comes in flanked by two BODYGUARDS.

They have knives drawn, and they PULL Robert and Lonnie apart, Oates holding Lonnie, the Bodyguards holding Robert, knives at both their throats.

Robert looks at him and smiles.

ROBERT  
Mr. Oates. What a pleasant surprise.

Oates moves the knife closer to Lonnie's throat, and she tries to pull away, terrified.

OATES  
If I was calling the shots, you'd be already dead. Understand me, Sawyer?

Robert just nods.

OATES  
Instead, my people want to send you a message. You don't agree, we kill the girl.

ROBERT  
The girl?

Oates indicates Lonnie.

ROBERT  
Oh, her.  
(beat)  
Go ahead.

OATES  
Excuse me.

ROBERT  
Go ahead. You got what it takes?

OATES  
I kill her, you're next.

ROBERT  
You have to do her first.

Lonnie looks at Robert, stunned at what he is saying. That he would sacrifice her.

Robert is still smiling, until he moves, and when he moves he is incredibly quick, and brutal. He strikes the two bodyguards, and they go down immediately.

When they are down, he turns to Oates, who still has the knife at Lonnie's throat.

ROBERT

Your turn. I'm calling your bluff.

Oates doesn't move, but he is terrified by this unfeeling maniac. Robert moves and HITS Oates, knocking him away from Lonnie.

INSERT: LONNIE'S THROAT SLASHED

Robert doesn't even see that Lonnie has been hurt. He closes on Oates.

ROBERT

Let me get this straight... You thought you'd tell me what to do? Strongarm me? Is that how your pea brain works?

OATES

What's the big deal?

ROBERT

I'm the big deal.

OATES

Hey, I won't do it again, if that's what you want.

ROBERT

That's only part of what I want.

Robert attacks Oates, and he is brutal and ruthless.

He hits him with a strike to the stomach, which doubles him over.

ROBERT

That hurt? Straighten up.

With difficulty, Oates straightens up and tries to hit Robert. As soon as he comes all the way back up, Robert blocks his strike and hits him again, with a different technique this time. Oates goes farther down, and seems to hurt much more.

ROBERT

That hurt more, I could tell.  
Interesting...

OATES

(between gasps)  
C'mon, I said I'd stop.

He grabs Oates by the hair and stands him up. Oates tries to swing on Robert, but he blocks it easily and drives a strike into the arm, breaking it.

ROBERT

I never knew that was so effective.

Oates' arm hangs limply by his side, and his face is a mask of agony. Robert hits him a couple more times, analyzing the reaction.

ROBERT

Hmmm... Lonnie, you should leave now.

Robert drives a knife hand into Oates' collar bone, breaking it with an audible CRACK. Oates' screams again, and now both of his arms hang useless at his sides.

ROBERT

How bad is the pain? Can you describe it?

No answer from Oates, who is in incredible pain.

He pulls back and gets himself set, then drives forward with a special technique, striking Oates in the chest, right where the heart is.

Oates' eyes go wide, and his mouth opens in a silent scream, then he drops over dead.

Robert stands over Oates and studies his hand.

ROBERT

It works. And, you'll never threaten me again. It's just a win-win day.

He exits the room without looking back.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

An exclusive, gated community - expensive townhouses and security guards. A limousine pulls up and into a parking place, and out step Angel and Jack. She leads him into one of the units.

INT. JACK APARTMENT - SAME DAY

It's an incredible apartment, complete with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, open staircase, eat in kitchen, exercise room and much more. Angel gives him a guided tour, and we tag along.

In the master bedroom, Angel lays on the bed and motions for Jack to join her. Jack shakes his head and moves on to another room.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

VARIOUS SHOTS of Jack eating dinner at an expensive restaurant with other SuperFighters (Budokai, Night Stalker, DarkCloud, etc.), Angel, beautiful women, etc. At the end of the obviously expensive meal, Jack pulls out his wallet and, over protestations from the rest of the group, produces a wad of bills to pay the tab.

EXT. JACK APARTMENT - DAY

Jack comes out of his apartment carrying his workout bag, late for his workout with Angel. He runs up to his Jeep, only this time it's not his beat up Jeep, but a beautiful, new Jeep Cherokee Sport. He hops in and drives off.

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Jack is training with Angel. Before they begin, she hands him a cup of water, and he takes the pill.

They start training, and Angel is a slave driver. Jack has never worked so hard.

ANGEL

This is our newest training device,  
designed by SuperFights for close quarter  
combat.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Jack drives past the warehouse where he used to work, and the irony is lost on him. Frankie is outside, and he spots Jack.

FRANKIE

Hey, Jack! Way to go, man! Hey, can you  
stop for a second? Yo, Jack!

Jack smiles and drives on.

Jack passes by an area of the city in his new car, and Sally is on her way to work, a working girl with a briefcase. She stops at a light, next to a workman carrying a mirror. We see Jack's Jeep first in the mirror, then Sally sees him. She tries to say hello, but he doesn't see her.

EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

Jack is running stairs, with Angel watching, holding a stop watch.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Jack and Angel are standing in the river, throwing kicks.

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Angel is drilling Jack with Muay Thai bags. Jack is kicking hard, sweating up a storm.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jack and Angel are running together. They start to sprint, and Angel is staying right with him.

INT. JACK APARTMENT - DAY

Jack is heading for the door for a workout. He stops at the sink and takes his "vitamin".

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Jack is lifting weights, with Angel as his coach. He is working very hard, and Angel is urging him to work even harder.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Jack is lying in the whirlpool, the bubbles flying around him, the steam rising, taking the pain out of his tired muscles.

The door to the locker room opens and Jack barely acknowledges it, he is so exhausted.

We get the impression of a HUGE, HULKING BEAST who appears in the steam behind Jack, who is totally unaware.

The Beast comes closer, big hands and arms reaching for Jack, when a muffled order is BARKED.

Jack sits up straight in the whirlpool, looking around for someone, something.

JACK

Who's there?

No one answers.

The Beast recedes into the anonymity of the steam, leaving Jack searching in the steam for the something he thought he saw.

JACK

This is a rookie thing, right, guys? Ha, good one! You guys got me a good one!

He sits back down in the whirlpool, but doesn't quite relax the way he was before.

INT. TRAINING GYM - NIGHT

Jack, after his whirlpool, comes out of the locker room.

He goes past the Women's locker room, and there is Angel, in full view, almost completely naked. Jack doesn't want to look, but he stops anyway.

Angel knows that Jack is watching, and she consciously gives him a little show.

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - NIGHT

TIGHT ON RING, where a SuperFights bout is going on. Two flamboyant fighters are going at each other, in a series of great techniques. It's RASPUTIN against THE MERCENARY. Rasputin is dressed like a Red Army General crossed with a mad monk. The Mercenary is dressed like an American soldier in this "patriotic" battle.

Angel and Jack are sitting with Robert in the crowd.

Jack is in street clothes, watching the action (his first fight is not for a little while). The crowd is loud and ready for blood and violence, and the SuperFights are ready to give it to them.

INSERT: Underground betting is going on here.

ROBERT

You ready for this craziness?

JACK

(looking at Angel)

You bet. Just say the word.

ROBERT

It's Angel's call.

ANGEL

Soon.

The fight continues, and The Mercenary is really taking the fight to him, but the things that The Mercenary is doing aren't having any effect on Rasputin.

In fact, Rasputin looks really angry. The Mercenary hits him with a roundhouse right, and there is NO reaction. Nothing.

The Mercenary stops fighting and stares at Rasputin, unbelieving.

THE MERCENARY

C'mon, man. Let's do it.

At that moment, Rasputin attacks, and tears into The Mercenary. The Mercenary is not ready for the onslaught, and he is getting really hurt.

The crowd is going wild, and everyone is on their feet.

Robert is concerned. He looks at Angel.

ROBERT  
What's going on?

Angel shrugs, and looks back at the ring.

ROBERT  
FIND OUT!

Angel nods and rushes off. Robert forces a smile to Jack, then concentrates on the fight again.

ANGLE ON RING

The Mercenary is a bloody mess, and Rasputin is raging at everyone and everything. Darkcloud is yelling at Rasputin to let The Mercenary go.

DARKCLOUD  
C'mon, man, he's hurt. Let me come get him...

RASPUTIN  
He's mine!

The other SuperFighters, including Night Stalker and Darkcloud, are debating whether to go inside to get Rasputin. They are about to go in, when one of the Doctors shows up with a tranquilizer gun.

He takes aim at Rasputin, who is still putting a hurt on The Mercenary. He slaps his neck where the tranquilizer goes in, and SCREAMS at the assemblage, then falls into a heap on the ground. The Mercenary falls unconscious next to him.

Jack is still watching from the stands.

In the Ring both fighters are being carted out by paramedics.

ANNOUNCER  
What a fight! Don't want to meet the Mad Russian in some dark alley later, I'll tell you that... Next up, Darkcloud takes on the Dynamic Duo. It's two against one!  
<BEAT> I've just been informed that we have our newest SuperFighter in the crowd  
- Jack Cody,

A spotlight illuminates Jack, and he puts his hand up to see through the glare. The crowd erupts in applause when Jack stands up.

It's his moment in the sun, and the bright light wipes out the image of the fight before.

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Jack and Angel are working out. They are trading kicks, warming up. Angel is an incredible martial artist. Both of them are wearing protective gear, which is very futuristic and high tech.

They start to speed up, and Jack begins to wonder if he could take her. He tries to score some points on her, and catches her off guard. He scores a kick to the body, and smiles a little.

Angel stops and looks at him, hands on her hips.

ANGEL  
(smiling)  
You want to go?

JACK  
(beat)  
Sure. You?

ANGEL  
You think you're ready?

JACK  
Ready as ever.

ANGEL  
OK. Go for it.

They bow to each other and then touch fists. Jack gets into a fighting stance, and starts to throw a combination, but before he can even move, Angel is all over him. She is throwing all sorts of techniques, feet and hands, and she is scoring at will. Her movements are like lightning, and Jack is getting an old fashioned ass whupping.

Angel spots Robert off to the side, watching. Angel, in order to make Jack look good, starts to lose.

They go at it, and Jack is very impressive. Angel leaves herself open for an attack, and Jack responds with a flying spin kick, hitting her.

Robert comes out of the background now, applauding a little.

ROBERT  
Is he ready?

ANGEL  
Yes.

Robert exits the room, and he and Angel slap hands, excited. Angel then pulls him into an embrace, one that starts as a celebration and quickly moves to something else.

Jack catches himself and pulls away from her.

ANGEL  
You better get some rest, Jack. We can,  
you know, finish this later...

JACK

Right.

(beat)

Hey, I read where the police found  
Rasputin's body. What happened to him?

ANGEL

Random killing, I guess. It's a violent  
world, Jack...

JACK

How'd he get so out of control?

ANGEL

I told you about asking questions, Jack.  
'Sides, the SuperFights await.

JACK

What's it like?

ANGEL

Nothing you've ever seen before...

She walks away.

EXT. SALLY HOUSE - DAY

Sally comes walking up to her house, a piece of paper in her hand.  
It is a playbill advertising the next SuperFights.

Jack, as the "All American Hero," is featured prominently in the  
ad, which is selling tickets and the pay-per-view coverage. Sally  
looks at the playbill for a long time, remembering Jack and the  
way her Grandfather treated him.

Just then, the door to their house opens, and Grandfather, an  
expert in ancient Chinese healing arts, is showing an injured  
PATIENT out of the house.

Sally sees her grandfather and quickly folds the playbill into the  
smallest possible size, then hides it in her purse. She then walks  
into her house.

EXT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - NIGHT

"SuperFights Tonight" lights up the arena marquee.

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - SAME NIGHT

The crowd is jumping, and the arena is packed. In the center is  
the SuperFights ring/cage, and all the spotlights are on it.

A martial arts demonstration is going on in the center, and the  
crowd is cheering as three children use various martial arts  
weapons in a demonstration. They finish and bow to the crowd.

INT. ARENA LOCKER ROOM - SAME NIGHT

Jack is sitting at his locker, his uniform on. It is a mixture of traditional martial arts and patriotic glitz - all in all, however, the effect isn't bad.

He's nervous, tapping his feet and taking deep breaths.

Budokai and Darkcloud come over to him and clap him on the shoulder.

BUDOKAI

Don't worry! The first one's a piece of cake!

DARKCLOUD

You're being groomed for the big time, man. No way you'll lose!

JACK

You think so? You think I'm ready?

DARKCLOUD

Sure! Who you going up against?

JACK

The Enforcer.

Budokai and Darkcloud share a look, their smiles gone. Then, quickly, they smile again.

BUDOKAI

Nothing to worry about. The guy's a punk.

JACK

(wanting to believe)  
Great. Thanks. I feel much better...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - SAME NIGHT

Jack getting SLAMMED in the face by The Enforcer, a huge, very angry fighter.

He gets HAMMERED again, and thrown to the canvas floor!

ANGLE ON ANGEL, WHO IS WORKING HIS CORNER, SHE WINCES AS HE HITS

ANGEL

Take the fall, Jack! Absorb it!

The Enforcer stands Jack up, and puts him into a hold that looks very painful, but really isn't.

THE ENFORCER

We met before, didn't we? C'mon, Jack. I thought you were supposed to be the All American Hero. Show me something.

ANGLE ON JACK'S MOTHER

She is in the audience, and is very concerned about Jack.

The Enforcer smiles and takes him down with an elaborate Judo throw, then LANDS right on top of him. Jack's wind comes completely out of him, and he is just about out.

He looks through the ropes, trying to find Angel, but instead he spots Sally, who is sitting near the side of the ring.

She motions for him to get up, and surprisingly, he starts to get off the canvas.

Jack stands completely up and turns to The Enforcer, who is urging on the crowd in the center of the ring, his back to Jack, not even looking at him.

Jack goes over and taps on The Enforcer's shoulder. The Enforcer turns, face curious, only to get BLASTED with a right cross!

He stumbles back and Jack starts a series of beautiful movements (ones that Angel taught him). The Enforcer is defenseless, and he gets rocked over and over again.

Finally, The Enforcer is out on his feet, and Jack sizes him up. He launches and connects with a flying spinning hook kick, knocking The Enforcer out!

Jack's mother, relieved, gets up and walks out. She is not happy, but she is glad that Jack is safe.

Jack lands on his feet after the kick and the crowd goes crazy! Jack raises his hands in the air and quickly goes to the side of the ring where he saw Sally, looking for her in the crowd.

She is on her way to the ring.

Jack sees that her seat is empty, and before he can look anywhere else, Angel grabs him and pulls him into a deep kiss.

Sally sees this kiss and stops in her tracks, stunned. She turns and walks the other way.

ANGEL

You did it!

JACK

We did it!

Jack is still looking for Sally.

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Jack is training, and now all the other SuperFighters are in the gym training too. They are sparring, they are lifting weights, some are working out on treadmills or exercise bikes. It is a flurry of activity.

Jack is stretching to one side, taking it all in. He pushes his rear end forward, holding that stretch.

ANGEL

I think I remember that position from somewhere... I just can't seem to put my finger on it...

Angel puts her hand on his buttocks, and Jack jumps.

JACK

C'mon, Angel. Cut it out!

ANGEL

You seem a little jumpy, you OK?

Angel smiles and walks up, and Jack continues his stretching.

Budokai comes up to him, holding a kicking bag.

BUDOKAI

Hold this for me, will ya?

JACK

You bet.

He steadies himself for the kick. Budokai does a stepping side kick into the bag, propelling Jack into the wall behind him, where he hits a bunch of pads and other training apparatus. It all falls down around Jack.

JACK

Nice kick, man.

Budokai watches him for a moment, and looks like he's about to erupt in laughter. Then, he thinks better of it and goes over to where Jack is and helps him up.

BUDOKAI

You must have slipped, Jack.

JACK

Right, yeah, I slipped.

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - NIGHT

QUICK SHOT OF JACK IN THE RING, FACING OFF AGAINST ANOTHER FIGHTER

We just catch the tail end, as Jack prepares to knock him out.

CROWD

No mercy!

Jack takes him out with another flashy kick. This time, Jack hasn't gotten hurt at all - he's the All American Hero, after all.

Sally is in the audience again, watching and cheering for Jack.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Jack, dressed in an expensive leather coat, exits the restaurant with Angel on his arm. A line of FANS, mostly KIDS, are waiting outside with things for him to autograph.

Jack loves the attention, and he stops and signs for them.

One especially cute KID waits at the end of the line. Jack smiles at Angel and kneels down in front of him. The Kid holds the piece of paper out to Jack, then looks at him very seriously.

KID

You're my favorite in the whole world!

(beat)

Are you really a hero?

Jack smiles and takes the paper, then turns and looks at Angel and smiles.

JACK

I try my best, kid. I try my best.

He signs the autograph and they walk on.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

An expensive limousine drives down the street. Suddenly, a car careens out of control through the intersection, sliding to a stop right in front of the limo.

The LIMO DRIVER leans on the horn, but nobody gets out of the car.

The Limo Driver gets out and walks up to the car to see if someone is hurt, or if anyone needs help.

From out of nowhere FLIES Budokai, KICKING the Limo Driver in the head, sending him down the ground.

Out of the shadows of the street come two other SuperFighters, Night Stalker and Darkcloud, and they jump into the front seat of the limo.

INT. LIMO - SAME NIGHT

A short, thin man, GERACIOTI, is sitting on the back seat, two beautiful women in various stages of undress are sitting next to him. On the floor is a satchel.

NIGHT STALKER

Sorry to cause coitus interruptus, but I think you have something for us.

The man indicates the bag on the floor.

NIGHT STALKER

I'll take that.

DARKCLOUD

(reaching out for one of the  
women)

And I'll take you!

Night Stalker slaps Darkcloud on the arm and motions for him to get out of the car.

DARKCLOUD

Maybe some other time, my sweet!

They exit the car.

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - NIGHT

Jack is in the ring, facing off against a bigger, faster, better opponent, The Mercenary, this time. However, Jack wins again, using his impressive and very distinctive style to beat him.

In the audience sits Sally, cheering Jack on, anxious for him to catch a glimpse of her. The Grandfather is sitting with her.

INT. JACK APARTMENT - SAME NIGHT

Jack is in the bathroom, washing up. He is staring at himself in the mirror, examining his face and his body. He is wearing only bikini briefs.

JACK

Did you think that fight tonight went awful fast? I mean, I barely hit him and he went down.

ANGEL

You were great, Jack! They loved you!

JACK

Yeah, but was I that great? Am I that good?

ANGEL

Don't ask me, I'm not exactly impartial...

JACK

Yeah, but do you think they're taking it easy on me because I'm new? I don't want anything given to me...

Jack grabs a robe and walks out of the bathroom, comes around the corner towards the bedroom, and there stands Angel, dressed only in a dress shirt and panties. She is in a fighting stance, her hands up.

ANGEL

I want you to give it up to me!

JACK

(after a beat)

C'mon, Angel. What are you doing?

ANGEL

You want a fight, you got one.

JACK

(smiling)

I've never fought anyone in lace panties before.

ANGEL

Enjoy it while you can.

JACK

Angel...

She attacks, and they trade playful techniques, and then Jack SWEEPS her to the bed, landing next to her in an embrace.

ANGEL

Oh, Jack Cody, you sweep me off my feet.

She pulls him into a kiss, laughing. Jack returns the kiss for a moment, then pulls away.

ANGEL

C'mon, Jack. Just one time? It doesn't have to mean anything.

JACK

Yes, it does. Besides, you're my trainer, and my friend.

ANGEL

What are friends for?

Jack doesn't say anything, so she gets up.

ANGEL

You don't know what you're missing.

She leaves, but not before giving Jack a good look at her body.

JACK

I'm getting a sneak preview...

INT. GANG APARTMENT - NIGHT

Geraciotti is sitting with his wise guys in the apartment, talking and bitching about the way things are, and the way things ought to be. Geraciotti is talking to his two bodyguards, MUSCLE 1 and MUSCLE 2.

A large metal ceiling fan is spinning fast above their heads.

GERACIOTI

Those guys think they got us, think we're gonna just roll over - they got another think coming.

The Gang Leader stands up and walks, posturing.

GERACIOTI

They gonna get the message when they open that briefcase, you know what I'm saying? We control too much to just give it away.

Suddenly, the lights go OFF, plunging the apartment into complete darkness. A second later, the emergency lights come on.

GERACIOTI

What the hell?

MUSCLE 1

I'm there, checkin'...

The door to the room SMASHES open! The Beast BLASTS through the room, hitting everything in his way. He knocks out both of the Muscles, then GRABS Geraciotti by the throat and lifts him off the ground.

They are right under the fast moving ceiling fan.

Geraciotti is screaming, and sounds of running and shouting can be heard out in the halls.

Robert walks through the shattered door, flanked by Darkcloud and Night Stalker.

ROBERT

We opened the case.

(beat)

Wake one of them up! I want a witness when he dies.

Darkcloud JERKS one of the Muscles up off the ground, and SLAPS him in the face to bring him around.

Robert walks over to Leader and smiles. He looks up at the ceiling fan.

GERACIOTI

C'mon, man! DON'T!!

Robert ignores him and turns to the Muscle.

ROBERT

You see this? This is what happens. DO YOU SEE?

The Muscle nods his head, scared that he's next.

Robert, after a BEAT, turns back to the Beast and nods.

ROBERT

No one steals from me. No one.

Robert motions to the Beast and he raises Geracioti up.

Geracioti's head hits the fan, and blood SPRAYS all over the room.

ROBERT

This must be what they mean when they say  
the shit hits the fan.

Robert watches for a moment, then turns to the Muscle. He comes  
right up to him, face to sweating face.

ROBERT

Spread the word. Fear me.

He exits without another word.

EXT. PARK - MORNING

Jack is running and training outside, throwing punches while he  
works on his endurance. It is foggy out, and as Jack turns on one  
of the paths, he sees a hulking Figure.

He stops for a moment, spooked, and looks for the Figure, but it's  
gone.

JACK

Who's there?

He continues running, but suddenly, he is attacked by a Masked  
Man. They fight, and the Masked Man is a much better fighter than  
Jack. Jack is trying to block him, but he cannot.

MASKED MAN

You're not winning the fights, they're  
losing them.

JACK

Bullshit! I'm a great fighter.

The Masked Man SLAMS Jack HARD, sending him to the ground.

JACK

What do you want?

MASKED MAN

Robert's not just a promoter, and you're  
not just a fighter. It goes way beyond  
that. Illegal death matches, fixing  
fights, gambling, drugs, organized crime,  
murder - he's into it all. You've got to  
get out while you can.

JACK

I haven't seen any of that...

MASKED MAN

Not yet. But you will. You're a product,  
and once you are the fighter he wants you  
to be, you'll become a killer too. Like  
the rest...

JACK

I won those fights...

MASKED MAN

We both know you didn't. Pull out while  
you still can. And, Jack, don't take the  
pills. They aren't vitamins...

JACK

Wait! How do I do that?

The Masked Man is walking away, but he pauses right before he  
exits.

MASKED MAN

Just say no.

He is gone, leaving Jack standing in the park all alone. Suddenly,  
the life of a SuperFighter doesn't seem quite so glamorous.

EXT. RIVERFRONT - DAY

Jack is walking along the riverfront, his hands in his pockets, He  
is absently watching the traffic on the river, and the people  
walking around him.

Jack walks a little bit more, then notices a man off to one side,  
in a little park, going through a martial arts routine. It's soft  
style Tai Zhi Quan, and the man is obviously an expert. Jack comes  
a little closer for a better look, and realizes that the man in  
Sally's Grandfather.

Jack smiles and watches the man move. Very athletic, very  
graceful, with an underlying strength.

The man finishes up a particularly intricate set, then goes and  
drinks some water out of a bottle.

GRANDFATHER

(his back to Jack)

You haven't come to see my granddaughter  
again.

JACK

I didn't feel particularly welcome.

GRANDFATHER

You give up on everything so easily?

Jack thinks about that one for a moment.

JACK

No, but I...

GRANDFATHER

She is a rare jewel, a wonderful girl... woman.

JACK

Yes, she is.

GRANDFATHER

Yet you don't come to see her?

JACK

(after a beat)

I have no answer for that.

GRANDFATHER

I see you in the TV ads. You're a famous fighter now.

JACK

Yeah. Famous.

GRANDFATHER

You are troubled by something?

JACK

You could say that.

GRANDFATHER

I began training my daughter in the martial arts. Will you do me a favor?

JACK

What?

GRANDFATHER

Come to her training tomorrow morning, 6:30 am, sharp! It will be a happy surprise for her.

Jack thinks for a moment, then smiles.

JACK

For us both. Can you teach me to move like you?

Grandfather scribbles an address on a piece of paper.

GRANDFATHER

I'm not a miracle worker. <Smile> Here's the address. It's not much, but it serves our purpose.

JACK

See you tomorrow morning.

Grandfather starts in on another form.

JACK

Is that Tai Zhi?

No answer from Grandfather. Jack smiles and walks on, feeling better than he's felt in a long time.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MORNING

It is deserted when Grandfather and Sally drive up in his beaten up pick up truck. They get out and Grandfather looks around for Jack. There is a homeless person sleeping under a paper box near some trash barrels, but no Jack.

Grandfather shakes his head, angry at Jack, and at himself.

GRANDFATHER

Damn it!

SALLY

What's the matter, Grandfather?

GRANDFATHER

Life is filled with disappointments,  
Granddaughter. Let's go inside.

As they head for the door to the warehouse, the figure under the paper box stirs, and then stands up.

It's Jack!

SALLY

Jack!

Jack turns towards her and smiles.

JACK

Where have you guys been?

Grandfather is sincerely pleased that Jack is there, but he is doing his best to hide it.

Jack and Sally embrace, but that is quickly broken up by Grandfather.

GRANDFATHER

We are here to train, not kissie kissie.

Jack and Sally come apart, reluctantly, and line up.

JACK

Time's a wasting, Grandfather!

They go inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME MORNING

Jack and Sally are lined up in the middle of the warehouse, which has some old Chinese training devices in it, as well as miscellaneous boxes, etc.

GRANDFATHER

The martial arts are about controlling  
your body, your mind... and your emotions.

Jack and Sally look at each other and smile.

GRANDFATHER

Horse stance!

They both get into a horse stance, and what follows is a MONTAGE  
OF TRAINING SEQUENCES:

Grandfather repositions Jack's hands. Sally SLAMMING Jack in the  
chest with a palm heel. Grandfather working on footwork and  
movement with Jack. Jack kicking, and Grandfather coming up and  
showing him a slightly different

way. Jack and Sally stretching together. They are sweaty and  
tired, but there is a spark there.

The workout is over, and Jack is riding a high that he's never  
felt before. He yanks his jacket off the floor, and his keys fall  
out, and so does one of the pills.

GRANDFATHER

(picking up the pill)

What is this?

JACK

They said they were vitamins.

GRANDFATHER

I don't think so. Don't take any more  
until I check it out.

JACK

Sure. Thanks for having me.

GRANDFATHER

You will come back tomorrow?

Sally smiles and looks at Jack.

JACK

Bright and early.

(to Sally)

You want to have dinner tonight?

Sally smiles and is about to say yes. Before she can say it,  
however,

GRANDFATHER

Jack!

Both Jack and Sally, surprised, turn towards the Grandfather. Jack  
is steeling himself for another scolding.

GRANDFATHER

You have her home by 11:00 pm, no later!  
You hear!

JACK  
You bet, Grandfather.

Grandfather smiles.

JACK  
See you tonight!

He exits.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jack and Sally are eating at a very nice restaurant. We can see them through the front plate glass window. A couple of people come up for autographs, but then they are alone.

INT. TRAINING GYM - SAME DAY

Jack is lifting weights, around the other SuperFighters. At a certain time, all of them are provided with pills and cups of water to drink them with. Jack takes his, and makes like he is drinking them.

After he drinks, Darkcloud winks at Jack.

DARKCLOUD  
Breakfast of champions, eh, Jack?

Jack smiles and then coughs into his fist. The pills he put in his mouth are shot into his hand, and he stuffs them into the pocket of his workout shorts.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Jack and Sally are training together, doing a little sparring. After they have warmed up a little, Grandfather puts them through the paces. He runs Jack through an agility drill, then holds the pads for him to hit.

GRANDFATHER  
I had the pill checked out, Jack.  
Steroids, growth hormone and some other  
chemical.

JACK  
Which one?

GRANDFATHER  
Don't remember. The pharmacist said  
something about mind control.

JACK  
I stopped taking the pills, but they'll  
know something's going on if I'm not  
getting any stronger.

GRANDFATHER

You will.

JACK

What do you have in mind?

GRANDFATHER

Qi training.

He places an aluminum can in front of Jack.

GRANDFATHER

Hit this.

Jack goes to punch the can, but Grandfather moves it so that Jack is punching at air.

GRANDFATHER

With your qi. Qi is inner energy. Your life force. Everyone has qi, you just have to learn how to use it. Watch!

Grandfather puts his hand out and stops it about 6 inches from the can. He closes his eyes and concentrates, an amber glow surrounds his hand (SFX), and then the can MOVES ABOUT SIX INCHES!

All by itself!

JACK

What the hell?

(beat)

Do that again!

GRANDFATHER

(fire in his eyes)

It's not a magic trick! You do it!

Jack puts the can up on the table and put his hand out, mimicking Grandfather, looking stupid. He concentrates but the can refuses to move.

Jack smiles. He thinks it's a trick.

JACK

That's qi? Qi.

(mispronounces the word)

Sounds like you are sneezing.

GRANDFATHER

Qi.

JACK

Bless you.

Grandfather walks over to Jack and puts his hand on his shoulder.

GRANDFATHER

It's Chinese for inner energy, Jack. QI!

He then flexes his palm on Jack's shoulder, and Jack goes flying across the room, SLAMMING against the wall and sliding down.

Jack nods, then pronounces the word correctly.

JACK

Q-Q-Q-Q-Q-Qi.

GRANDFATHER

Qi can be used for protection, and for attack. It requires much practice, and meditation. Breathing and qi are connected. Each breath brings in power and strength...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME DAY

Jack is sitting and meditating with his eyes closed. Sitting next to him is Grandfather, who has his eyes OPEN! Sally is behind them both, her eyes closed.

Jack is having real trouble concentrating. He is shifting in his position, rolling his head on his shoulders, trying to get comfortable. He opens his eyes and looks around, and sees that Grandfather has his eyes open.

He looks at Sally, then back to Grandfather. He then puts his hand out in front of Grandfather, to see if he can see the hand.

No reaction.

He does a few more things, then decides he is going to attack Grandfather. He prepares a backfist, then lets it fly towards Grandfather's head.

Before it can land, however, Grandfather blocks it with one hand, and SLAPS the back of Jack's head with the other.

GRANDFATHER

This meditation is more advanced. It trains you to distinguish the false from the true. Now, clear your mind and continue.

Grandfather and Jack continue to meditate.

EXT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

They are saying good-bye outside the house.

JACK

Your grandfather's a great guy.

SALLY

Didn't start out that way...

JACK

He was just looking out for you.

SALLY

I got news for you, he's still looking out for me.

She pulls him into a kiss, and it's a major league, passionate one.

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Jack is training with Angel. He's working on the heavy bag, and she's watching him, charting his progress.

ANGEL

You're not getting much stronger, Jack. I don't get it. We normally see 25% increase by this time, and you're way behind schedule. What gives?

JACK

Got me, Coach.

Just then, Robert walks in, briefcase in hand, and motions for Darkcloud and Night Stalker to join him. They break off from their training and follow him.

JACK

I gotta take a leak... I mean, I have to use the facilities, Ma'am. May I?

ANGEL

I'll be right here.

Jack grabs towels and heads down the hallway to the bathroom, and walks right by the room where Robert, Darkcloud and Night Stalker went. Jack pauses outside the door for a moment, and sees Robert put the briefcase down on the desk and open it. Jack gets a glimpse of money in the suitcase, lots of money, before the door is closed.

Jack continues on to the restroom.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

Robert and Angel are getting dressed, after having made love in his office. Robert treats Angel like his property, and Angel is starting not to like it.

ROBERT

So, what's up with Jack? He checking out, strength and speed and all that?

ANGEL

(after a slight hesitation)  
He's right on schedule.

ROBERT

Do you think I can trust him? I look at a lot of fighters, Angel, and I can't afford to get burnt. Do you think it's time we took him out with us?

ANGEL

Not yet. Hell, he still thinks he's winning his fights, fair and square.

ROBERT

Good. Keep it that way. It's good for business, and he's become quite a star, hasn't he? He's young, and we've got all the time in the world.

Robert watches Angel as she continues dressing.

He GRABS her by the hair and pulls her to him, yanking her hair back, lifting her face to his.

ROBERT

You're not getting star struck, are you?

Angel tries to shake her head, but Robert has her held too tightly.

ROBERT

You don't forget who trained you, and Darkcloud, Night Stalker and the others, do you?

Again, she tries to shake her head, but cannot.

ROBERT

Good!

He kisses her brutally, then lets her go, pushing her back to her clothes.

ROBERT

Let yourself out. I have a meeting.

He exits the room, and Angel wipes her mouth with the back of her hand, trying to get the taste of him off her.

There is real anger in her eyes as she continues dressing.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Grandfather is drilling Jack in qi cultivation. They are doing sticking hands, and Grandfather talks while they drill.

GRANDFATHER

The key to using qi is your waist and legs. You can use your opponent's energy against him, by sensing the attack and reacting immediately, before he hits you.

JACK  
What do you mean?

GRANDFATHER  
Attack me.

Grandfather closes his eyes, and Jack throws a punch at him. It looks like it is going to hit him, but at the last minute, Grandfather avoids the punch, redirects the force, then comes back at Jack, throwing him back about 3 feet.

GRANDFATHER  
I am talking about spontaneous reaction.  
Your body has a field around it, and when  
an attack comes, you feel it.

Jack looks at Grandfather, and he knows Jack doesn't understand.

GRANDFATHER  
Hold out your hand.

Grandfather looks at the hand, then thrusts a pin into it. Before it can go in too far, Jack YELPS and pulls his hand away.

GRANDFATHER  
Spontaneous reaction. See?

JACK  
Yeah, I see.

They start sticking hands training again.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Three SuperFighters, Budokai, Night Stalker and Darkcloud are duking it out with an Asian gang (5). They beat them handily.

BUDOKAI  
You're out of business.

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - NIGHT

Jack is fighting in the ring, and at one critical moment in the fight, he tries to use the qi training he is learning. It doesn't work, however, and Jack is SLAMMED by the other fighter, Night Stalker.

Surprised, Jack moves away from him, trying to recover. Finally, he finishes off Night Stalker, then raises his hands to the crowd. The applause is deafening.

Jack turns to all corners of the crowd, and smiles at Sally.

Angel watches him closely, and sees the look he gives Sally.

INT. TRAINING GYM - DAY

Jack is lifting weights with the other SuperFighters. Several CLOSEUPS of SuperFighters training (men and women), their rage apparent. They are so big, and so emotionally on edge.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Jack working on his qi training with Grandfather. He is frustrated by Jack's inability to concentrate, so he gets a machine out. This machine generates lights and sounds, allowing Jack to concentrate. Jack puts on glasses, and does his meditation.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Jack, in the early morning rays of the sun, is doing a soft style Tai Zhi form. It's beautiful.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Sticking hands.

More Machine

Jack working on moving the can.

More machine.

Grandfather turns off the machine and attacks Jack, who still has the eye piece on. Jack is able to defend himself. He doesn't even notice that he cannot see anything.

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Jack is eating dim sum in Chinatown with Sally and Grandfather. Grandfather and Sally are busy ordering, in Chinese, and so Jack is very bored.

Jack is sitting there trying to move a can of soda. An amber glow appears for a split second (SFX), and the can jiggles a little. Jack is elated.

JACK

It moved! It moved!

Grandfather looks at the waiter and shrugs.

GRANDFATHER

You bumped the table.

JACK

I'm telling you it moved!

GRANDFATHER

All right, all right. It moved. We're in a restaurant, Jack.

INT. SUPERFIGHT ARENA - NIGHT

The crowd is going crazy, ready for the next SuperFight.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Next up... Darkcloud against The All  
American Hero!

INT. ARENA LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Jack is all dressed and ready to go for his next fight. He is standing near the door, waiting for his introduction. There is a light sheen of sweat over his skin, and he can't wait to get into the ring.

Robert and Angel appear at Jack's side.

JACK  
Mr. Sawyer! How are you?

ROBERT  
Jack, I want you to lose this fight.

Jack smiles and nods, then does a double take. He stares at Robert, looks at Angel, then decides that he's joking.

JACK  
Good one, Mr. Sawyer.

ROBERT  
The decision has been made, Jack. You don't win this fight. I'm setting you up for a huge title match later. You lose to Darkcloud tonight.

The crowd is chanting Jack's name.

INSERT: Underground betting is going on here.

CROWD  
Jack Cody! Jack Cody!

Robert starts to walk away, leaving Angel standing there. Jack looks at Angel, but she cannot meet his gaze.

JACK  
Mr. Sawyer?

Robert doesn't listen and continues to walk away.

ANNOUNCER  
Give it up for a fighter who needs no  
introduction, the ALLLLL AMERICAN HERO!

The spotlight swivels around to find Jack, standing at the entrance to the locker room. It lights him up and the crowd ROARS, but he is still looking off towards Robert.

Stunned.

Finally, Angel edges him towards the ring, and he goes, in a sort of fog.

INT. SUPERFIGHTER ARENA - SAME NIGHT

Jack is inside the ring, facing off with Darkcloud.

Jack is losing, as he is supposed to. He is still in kind of a daze.

Robert is in the crowd, and he looks a little concerned.

Darkcloud clinches with Jack, and whispers in his ear.

DARKCLOUD

Jack, man, you gotta make it look good.  
You gotta be beating me before you take  
the dive.

JACK

Why do I take a dive?

DARKCLOUD

It's in the script.

Jack breaks the clinch and still he is being beaten up. He gets taken down, and is in real trouble.

Jack looks into the crowd and sees Sally, who has a very concerned look on her face. Jack is filled with confusion, and gets back up slowly.

They start fighting again, and now Jack begins to show some spark.

Robert, seeing the change, is relieved.

The fight continues for a little bit, with Jack having the upper hand now.

The fighters clinch again.

DARKCLOUD

Good man. Let me catch my breath, then I'm  
gonna take you out.

JACK

You and what army?

DARKCLOUD

Don't try it, Jack, man. It ain't worth  
it.

JACK

I'm not going down.

They break, and now Darkcloud is pissed. This was supposed to be his win. He charges Jack, intent on really taking him out.

Jack sidesteps the attack, and mounts his own. It's fast and furious, and very dangerous. Jack uses some of the techniques that Grandfather has been teaching him.

ANGLE ON ANGEL

She knows what Jack is supposed to do, and sees what he is doing. She's not sure if she should be angry, or cheer his rebellion.

Jack avoids Darkcloud's brutal attacks, and continues to score. He finally sets Darkcloud up for the knockout blow.

He pauses for a moment, looking first at Angel and then into the crowd for Robert.

TIGHT ON ROBERT

ROBERT

Don't do it.

He smiles, then the CAMERA PULLS OUT and Jack KNOCKS Darkcloud into oblivion.

ANGLE ON ROBERT

Who is furious.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - DAY

ANGLE ON TABLE

Jack's contract SLAMS down on the table.

ROBERT

See this contract? You signed it! You don't decide that you are going to win a match. I tell you to do something, and you do it. You hear me?

JACK

I...

ROBERT

Nobody asked you to talk! Was I clear when I told you to lose the match?

JACK

Mr. Sawyer, let me explain...

ROBERT

WAS I CLEAR?

JACK

Yes.

ROBERT

Before I decided to train you, you were a box boy at a sporting goods store, for crying out loud. Now, you're a hero and you're famous. A pretty good deal, I think, and all I ask is for you to follow orders. Can you do that?

JACK

I think I can...

ROBERT

Don't think, Jack.

JACK

You can count on me, Mr. Sawyer.

ROBERT

(softening up)

Jack, maybe we started off wrong. This is entertainment, and we want to give the audience a good show. Sometimes, that means we have to play with the outcome, make a fight better than it otherwise would be, right?

JACK

Right.

ROBERT

Good. Night Stalker and Darkcloud are leading a little expedition tonight, and I want you to go along, help out. OK?

JACK

OK. I'm there.

ROBERT

Good. And Jack?

JACK

Yes, Mr. Sawyer?

ROBERT

No one disobeys me twice.

JACK

Yes, sir.

Jack exits the room.

EXT. CHINATOWN - SAME NIGHT

A restaurant sits on the corner of the street. It is closing up for the night. A van pulls up to the front of the store, and the SuperFighters, Jack in tow, pile out and go into the restaurant.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - SAME NIGHT

The group, led by Darkcloud, Budokai and Night Stalker, walk into the restaurant.

DARKCLOUD

Don't sweat it, Jack. It was a lucky shot, anyway! Don't ever do that again. You won't live to see the sun. You understand?

NIGHT STALKER

It's humiliating to get reamed out, man, but at least you're still alive, bro.

JACK

Yeah. What are we doing here?

BUDOKAI

The dirty work. You develop a taste for it, though.

JACK

Chinese food?

NIGHT STALKER

Yeah, right.

Darkcloud goes up to the main counter and SLAMS his fist down on the glass, SHATTERING it into a thousand pieces.

DARKCLOUD

Wang, you've been a bad boy.

BUDOKAI

(to Jack)

Wang is the head of the Tong down here, and he owes Robert a percentage. We're collecting.

JACK

I've eaten here before...

WANG, a 40ish Chinese man, comes out of the back.

WANG

I already sent it to you.

DARKCLOUD

Give it up, or we trash your place.

WANG

Trash?

Darkcloud, in answer, KICKS the front of the display case, SHATTERING it as well.

DARKCLOUD

TRASH!

Out of the back come three WAITERS, and they attack the SuperFighters, Jack included. Jack is forced to fight alongside the SuperFighters, even though he knows that it's not right. But, on the other hand, these are Chinese criminals, so...

They quickly win the fight, the Waiters aren't very good fighters and corner Wang.

Darkcloud holds Wang, while Night Stalker savages him. He is hitting him over and over, and blood is everywhere.

Jack turns away, not wanting to look at what they are doing to Wang. Budokai grabs him and turns him back, forcing him to look.

WANG

OK, OK, I pay you, I pay you.

Wang opens his cash register and pulls out all the money. He hands it to Jack.

WANG

You are a customer here - why do you do this?

Jack has no answer.

WANG

Take it all, I don't care. What do I tell the Tong when they come for protection?

ANGLE ON JACK

Who is stunned by the man's words. He turns on Budokai.

JACK

I thought you said he was the head of the Chinese Mafia?

BUDOKAI

So, I may have overstated a little. It's no big deal. You have to go along anyway, you have no choice.

They take all the money and then leave the restaurant.

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The SuperFighters get back into the van, the destruction done.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - SAME NIGHT

The van that took the SuperFighters on the raid to Chinatown pulls up in front of the office building, and Jack gets out.

DARKCLOUD

Sweet dreams, Jack.

The van door slides shut and the van takes off. Jack, still shaken by the attack in Chinatown, walks slowly into the parking garage.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Jack is getting into his Jeep, when he hears the sound of footsteps and SHOUTS. Jack ducks behind his Jeep and watches as several of Robert's HENCHMEN SPRINT through the parking garage.

HENCHMAN 1

Where'd he go?

HENCHMAN 2

Over here! We've got him cornered!

They run off, and Jack is too curious not to follow them. He slowly moves around the corner and looks.

And is stunned.

There, surrounded by Jack's Henchmen is the Beast. Crazy and wild.

One of the Henchmen tries to grab onto him, and the Beast destroys him, SLAMMING him and then discarding him.

ROBERT

Back away!

Jack, alarmed at the sound of Robert's voice, pulls back against the wall. Robert comes walking up with a man in a lab coat, who is carrying a case.

Robert pulls a keypad from his pocket and points it at the Beast. He pushes a button, and the collar around the Beast's neck glows.

Pain fills the Beast.

ROBERT

Rock, don't do this to me, man!

He motions for the doctor, who opens the case and hands Robert a tranquilizer gun.

Robert takes the gun, loads it and aims at the Beast.

ROBERT

Sweet dreams.

He fires, and the dart sinks into the Beast's neck. Almost immediately, the Beast calms down and starts to sink towards the floor.

Robert comes close to the Beast then, and kneels down next to him.

ROBERT

I'm close, Rock. I'm really close. A couple more and I control it all.

The Beast shakes his head and roars.

ROBERT

Yes! I say yes, and you will do it!

ANGLE ON JACK

Who reacts to the tortured cries of the beast.

ROBERT

I need you, Rock. And you need me.

Robert stands up and motions for the Henchmen to come get the Beast.

Jack, sickened by the entire night, makes his way back to his Jeep. He gets in and sits there, breathing deeply.

INT. JACK APARTMENT - SAME NIGHT

Jack opens the door to his apartment, and he is immediately attacked. It is the Masked Man again, and this time Jack is not such an easy mark.

They fight for a little while, and Jack is incredibly improved. The Masked Man is losing. Jack manages to take the Masked Man down to the ground, and rips off his mask.

It is Budokai!

JACK

BUDOKAI!

BUDOKAI

You've improved.

JACK

What the hell are you doing?

BUDOKAI

You've seen, haven't you? You know what's going on?

JACK

Yeah, I have. You were right.

BUDOKAI

You have to do something about it.

JACK

What, quit?

BUDOKAI

No, help me get him.

JACK

Get Robert Sawyer? How are we going to do that?

BUDOKAI

I'm getting proof, and I need your help.

JACK

I just want out. I saw a Monster tonight.

BUDOKAI

You know who that is?

Jack shakes his head.

BUDOKAI

Mike Rocco.

JACK

No.

Budokai nods his head.

BUDOKAI

Sawyer's got us all on a mixture of steroids and mind control drugs. I know you're not taking yours, and I stopped taking mine, a little too late. Rocco was the first, but that's the future for all of us.

Jack pulls out his necklace.

JACK

This was Rocco's - he gave it to me when I was a boy. He was my hero, my inspiration.

BUDOKAI

And he's now Robert's personal killing machine.

Jack looks out the window for a long moment.

JACK

What do you want me to do?

BUDOKAI

Good man. We need proof - papers and testimony by both of us. Rousting some criminals isn't enough...

PAN AWAY FROM THEM.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APARTMENT SHOWER - MORNING

PAN DOWN FROM SHOWERHEAD. Jack is in the shower, and we hear the rest of Budokai's dialogue, while Jack thinks about what to do.

BUDOKAI

... we need the murders, the death matches and the drug dealing - the proof...

INT. JACK APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jack is meditating. He is having trouble concentrating.

FLASHBACKS HERE:

Jack's Mother, Wang from the restaurant, Budokai, Sally, Grandfather, Angel, Rocco, Robert, etc.

SPECIAL FLASHBACK:

The young boy from earlier in the movie (maybe several times, one right after the other)

BOY  
Are you really a hero?

Finally, Jack opens his eyes and yell, throwing one very powerful punch, smashing a large vase on the table to bits.

He knows what he has to do.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - DAY

Jack is in Robert's office, and Robert looks very pleased.

ROBERT  
I'm glad to hear you're with us. You are the elite. If Nietzsche were alive, he'd call you a Superman. A guy like you needs that excitement, that adventure. I need warriors I can count on.

JACK  
You can count on me. When can we go out again, the whole team?

ROBERT  
Soon. I'll let you know.

JACK  
Good-bye, Mr. Sawyer.

Jack exits the office.

EXT. JACK HOUSE - DAY

Jack pulls up in his new Jeep and walks up the sidewalk to his Mother's door. He knocks on the door, and his Mother comes to it.

Over Jack's shoulder, we watch as Mother opens the door and sees Jack. She registers shock, and then starts to close it.

Jack stops the door gently with one hand.

JACK

Mom. I need to talk to you - you...  
(beat)  
were right. They're trouble, and I'm  
trying to stop it.

His Mother looks up at him, even more shocked. She wants to be happy to hear this, but she's also worried about her son.

MOTHER

Are you in danger, Jack?

JACK

Not just yet, Mom. We're gonna bring them  
down, though. Can I come in?

His Mother smiles and opens the door wide, and Jack goes in, hugging her. His Mother starts to close the door, but Jack stops it and leans out of the door.

JACK

There's someone I want you to meet...

He motions to Sally, who is waiting in the Jeep. She gets out and runs to the house.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME DAY

Robert is sitting at a table with DarkCloud and Night Stalker.

DARKCLOUD

We made quite an impression on Jack the  
other night. He wants in, as badly as we  
did.

ROBERT

We've got a problem.

NIGHT STALKER

We own the Italians, the Chinese, the  
Koreans, the Jamaican posse - what now?

ROBERT

Someone from inside, feeding information  
to the cops...

Looks of surprise from Darkcloud and Night Stalker. Could he mean us?

DARKCLOUD

You know who?

Robert steeples his fingers and smiles.

INT. JACK HOUSE - SAME DAY

Jack, his Mother and Sally are sitting in the living room, talking and getting along famously. The cellular phone in Jack's pocket rings, and he excuses himself.

JACK

Hello?

ROBERT

I need you tonight. Special exhibition, 7 pm.

JACK

The Arena?

ROBERT

No, it's a private affair. Come to Warehouse 14, off Columbia Avenue, not far from the office.

JACK

I know...

(beat)

... that area a little bit, I'll find it.

ROBERT

See you tonight.

He hangs up and Jack stands there looking at the phone.

SALLY

What's up?

JACK

I won't know until 7 tonight...

He goes back in and sits down in the living room, a little worried now.

EXT. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT - NIGHT

There are cars all around Warehouse 14, and people are going inside. There is a ring/cage set up inside, which is glimpsed briefly as people pass through the heavy curtains at the door.

Jack pulls up in his Jeep, and parks. As he is walking into the warehouse, he spies Angel and goes over to her.

JACK

Angel! What's happening?

ANGEL

What's happening to you, Jack? Why are you getting involved with that son of a bitch...

JACK

Aren't you?

ANGEL

We all are, I guess.

JACK

What's going on tonight?

ANGEL

A cage fight, for the high rollers.

She motions to the door, where huge FIGHTERS are checking credentials and invitations. One of the guys doesn't have the right ID, and one of the Fighters THROWS him away from the door.

ANGEL

Robert wanted me to make sure you got inside...

JACK

What's that mean, Angel?

Angel doesn't say anything, but walks towards the door, and Jack watches her go, thinking that he might be in trouble. If he is, and he goes in, he's dead. If he's not, and he takes off, the party's over.

He shrugs and starts after her.

JACK

Hey, Angel, wait up!

She turns and waits for him, unable to stop a smile from appearing as he jogs over to her.

They go through the door arm in arm.

INT. WAREHOUSE 14 - SAME NIGHT

Jack and Angel walk in. There are people everywhere, and bets are being made. Jack spots Robert on the other side of the arena.

JACK

Who's fighting tonight?

ANGEL

I don't know.

They find a seat. The lights around the ring/cage go low, and special lights around the rim of the ring/cage go on. They go very bright, lighting up the whole ring. Robert is in the center of the ring, playing the part of the announcer.

ROBERT

Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome to the famous 'Cage Match' - where only one man leaves alive. Tonight's bout pits Budokai...

Budokai comes out towards the ring, and the crowd erupts in applause.

ROBERT  
Against the Beast!

Jack and the crowd watches in awe as the Beast is wheeled in restraints towards the ring/cage.

ANGLE ON BUDOKAI

He knows this fight is going to be the real thing. He walks toward the ring/cage, escorted by Darkcloud and Night Stalker.

ANGLE ON JACK, WHO IS WORRIED ABOUT HIS FRIEND

JACK  
Who's gonna win?

ANGEL  
This one is for real, Jack. I really don't know.

The fight starts, and the Beast is let out of the cage to attack Budokai. The Beast gets hit on the way in, but that doesn't seem to phase it. Budokai circles, trying to stay out of the Beast's range.

The Beast is so quick, however, and so strong, that soon Budokai is trapped in a corner of the cage. Budokai mounts a furious assault on the Beast, but the Beast shrugs it off and attacks.

The attack is brutal, sadistic and bloody. Budokai is being slaughtered, and the crowd is going crazy. This is what they pay to see, and they are getting their money's worth.

Jack is watching, and he knows he has to act. He gets up and goes over to where Robert is watching.

JACK  
You gotta do something! He's getting hurt!

ROBERT  
That's the reality of our business. It's brutal.

JACK  
C'mon, Mr. Sawyer. He could get killed.

ROBERT  
Yes, he could.

At that moment, in the ring, the Beast RIPS off a hunk of Budokai's shoulder, and stuffs it in his mouth. Jack REACTS to this, and the crowd, and Robert smiling. Jack's head is spinning, and he knows that Budokai will be killed if he doesn't do something.

He runs over to where Angel is sitting and YANKS her to her feet.

JACK

Help me!

ANGEL

What?

JACK

Wait for me get into the ring, then kill the lights.

ANGEL

Why are you doing this, Jack? You're throwing it all away!

JACK

They're killers, Angel. I have to help him!

Angel HOLDS for a moment, then nods her head and goes towards the office. Jack, meanwhile, makes his way ringside.

The Beast is on top of Budokai, and Budokai isn't even moving.

Jack jumps into the ring and SLAMS into the Beast, knocking him off of Budokai and out of the ring.

The Beast lands in the crowd, and starts ravaging the people in the crowd.

The lights go out, and the warehouse is in chaos.

Budokai is a bloody mess, and Jack HEAVES him up onto his shoulder and starts out of the ring. The Beast jumps back into the ring and moves to cut them off.

Jack faces off with the Beast, with Budokai over his shoulders.

JACK

Rocco!

The Beast stops at the mention of his name.

Jack pulls out the necklace that he always wears.

JACK

Rocco! I gotta get him some help. OK, Mike? He's done fighting. You won.

The Beast lowers his arms, and Jack climbs back over the ropes and heads towards the exits.

Robert is trying to see what is happening over the pandemonium, and he catches a glimpse of Jack leaving with Budokai.

ROBERT

Rocco! Get him!

The Beast turns to Robert and stares at him. He punches a button on the keypad, and the collar around the Beast's neck glows.

ROBERT

Get Jack! Now!

The Beast still doesn't move. More power to the collar, and now the Beast is in agony. He still doesn't go for Jack, however.

ROBERT

Do it.

Instead of charging after Jack, the Beast comes for Robert.

ROBERT

You won't hurt me.

The Beast comes on, but Robert hits another button, putting the collar up to the limit. The Beast stops his charge and goes down on his knees in total pain.

Robert walks up to him and shakes his head.

He hits the Beast and kills him immediately.

ROBERT

Told you.

Robert is furious.

INT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Budokai, bruised, broken and bloody, is laying on a bed in Sally's house. Sally is trying to clean him up, but a great deal of damage has been done.

Grandfather pushes her off to the side and lays his hands on Budokai's chest. An amber glow comes off his hands as he tries to apply his Qi (SFX), but it won't penetrate.

GRANDFATHER

He's almost gone, Jack.

Jack comes to the bed and sits next to Budokai.

BUDOKAI

Well, you got your proof. Take him down, you got that?

JACK

You're gonna get better.

BUDOKAI

We both know that's a lie...

He starts to cough, and blood comes out of his mouth.

BUDOKAI

You get him, Jack.

Grandfather takes Jack and Sally out of the room.

GRANDFATHER

We have to help him. Focus your qi.

Jack shakes his head, trying to concentrate.

JACK

I gotta get my Mom. They know where I live.

SALLY

I'll get her. You stay here and help Budokai.

Jack nods and concentrates. Soon, he is completely drained, and he sits down heavily, leaning his head back and closing his eyes.

INT. SALLY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jack is sleeping on the couch in the living room, and somewhere a phone is ringing (O.S.).

Jack starts to wake up, and the phone keeps ringing.

JACK

(sleepy)

Somebody get that!

The phone keeps ringing, and Jack finally comes awake and realizes that it's his cellular phone. He pulls it out of his pocket.

JACK

Hello?

We now INTERCUT between Jack and Robert.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

Robert is sitting at his desk, talking on the phone.

ROBERT

Hello, Jack. Quite a show you put on.

INT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Jack sits bolt upright, completely wide awake.

JACK

He was going to die, Robert.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

ROBERT

That was the whole point! I had such plans for you, Jack, and now you've gone and thrown them all away.

INT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

JACK  
What do we do now?

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

ROBERT  
Well, I could let you talk to your  
girlfriend, and your Mother, but they're a  
little tied up now.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Sally and Jack's Mother sitting in chairs in  
Robert's office, tied to them.

INT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

ANGLE ON JACK, EVERY FIBER OF HIS BEING CONCENTRATED

JACK  
Let them go.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

ROBERT  
I don't think so. I'm staging another  
fight in one hour, Jack, and you're the  
main attraction. Show up alone, or they're  
gone. Got that?

JACK  
Yeah.

INT. ROBERT OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

ROBERT  
See you soon, Jack.

Robert hangs up and smiles at Sally and Jack's Mother.

ROBERT  
That's some guy you have there. He really  
wants to be a hero.

INT. SALLY HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

ANGLE ON JACK, WHO HANGS UP HIS END OF THE CONNECTION

He walks into where Budokai is lying and checks on him. He is  
barely conscious.

JACK  
You doing OK?

Budokai nods.

BUDOKAI  
He went for medicine.

JACK  
Tell him they have Sally and my mother.  
I'm going into the ring with Robert.

BUDOKAI  
Give him hell.

They clasp hands, then Jack leaves.

EXT. WAREHOUSE 14 - NIGHT

The Warehouse is deserted now

INT. WAREHOUSE 14 - SAME NIGHT

As Jack walks into the Warehouse proper, the loudspeaker system is running a tape.

ANNOUNCER  
... The All American Hero!

The taped crowd erupts.

ANNOUNCER  
... against the man who started it all,  
Robert Sawyer!

More cheers from the taped crowd.

Jack makes his way to the ring, and he notices that Sally and his mother are the only "crowd," and they are being guarded by Darkcloud, Night Stalker, and Angel.

Robert is already there, warming up and watching him.

JACK  
I'm here. Let them go.

ROBERT  
You beat me, they go free.

JACK  
You wanted me, you got me.

Jack climbs into the ring, and a bell is RUNG. The fight is on.

Jack circles Robert warily, not wanting to commit. Robert is itching to get his hands on Jack.

Jack is having a hard time concentrating, because he is concerned about his mother and Sally.

They attack each other, and it's clear almost immediately that Jack is really no match for Robert's technique.

They continue to fight, and soon Jack is bleeding from several different wounds, and the Robert doesn't even look winded.

ROBERT  
You betrayed me!

Jack is losing.

ROBERT  
I trusted you. I gave you a future!

Jack looks over at Sally and his mother.

ANGLE ON SALLY AND MOTHER

Angel is guarding them, but they all have the same look on their faces. They know Jack is losing, and they can't do anything about it.

Robert sees that Jack is not completely focused, and that makes him very angry.

ROBERT  
Goddamn it! Fight me!

JACK  
How can I? You gotta let them go!

ROBERT  
I don't think so.

Robert is hitting Jack almost at will. Nothing Jack does works, and he is getting slaughtered.

Jack has to do something to save his mother and Sally, so he maneuvers Robert into one corner and manages to hit him hard enough to send him pitching back against a pile of junk. When Robert's back hits the boxes, wire and boxes come falling down on top of him.

Jack takes this opportunity and SPRINTS to where his mother and Sally are being held. He attacks both Darkcloud and Night Stalker, and, taking them by surprise, quickly defeats them.

Meanwhile, Robert is struggling to get free.

He starts to free his mother and Sally, and Angel tries to help him. Jack turns to look at her, and she stops.

ANGLE ON ANGEL, CONFLICTED

Just then, Robert gets free and launches himself at Jack. Jack doesn't see him, but Angel does.

She jumps at Robert, to put herself in between them, to save Jack. Robert strikes Angel just as she lands an incredible kick on Robert, while at the same time he hits Sally and Mother away from

Angel. Robert staggers a little, but not before he hits Angel several more times.

Critically.

Angel falls back to one side, while Robert falls to the other.

Angel is hurt very badly, and Jack goes to her.

She is dying.

ANGEL

I always wanted to do the right thing,  
Jack.

JACK

I know, Angel. You're a hero.

She's gone, and Jack holds her for a moment longer.

Robert is struggling to clear his head, and Jack stands up to face him one last time.

ROBERT

I made you a star, now I'm going to  
destroy you!

Robert SWEEPS him to the ground, then stands over him.

ROBERT

I told you no one disobeys me twice.

He is preparing for the killing blow.

ANGLE ON SALLY AND MOTHER

Sally, dazed, shakes her head to clear it, then runs to the junction box. flipping it on and off, blinking the lights, like during Jack's meditation practice.

SALLY

Concentrate, Jack.

Unbelievably, Jack CLOSES HIS EYES!

Robert, shocked, stops for a moment, watching Jack.

He then smiles, sensing an easy target. He rears back, ready to let go with the killing blow.

He launches the deadly strike and Jack BLOCKS IT!

Without even opening up his eyes!

Jack holds Robert's arm in front of his face, then SNAPS his eyes open.

We know Robert is in trouble now.

JACK  
I'm gonna kick your ass.

Jack then accepts Robert's force and SLAMS Robert with a technique that ROCKS him back to the other side of the ring. Jack then attacks, hitting him with everything he has: strikes, kicks, punches, knees, elbows.

Robert is out on his feet, ready to be put away.

Jack glances down at Angel's unmoving form on the canvas, then turns back to Robert.

He spins and leaps into the air, connecting with a beautiful jump, spinning hook kick that sends Robert flying.

Sally and his Mother come to Jack. Sally hugs him, and his Mother puts an arm around him.

Suddenly the SOUND of police sirens can be heard, O.S. Grandfather and a heavily bandaged Budokai appear there with a whole squad of police officers.

Budokai stands at the door and raises his arm in a fist salute to Jack, while Grandfather runs down to where Jack is.

Jack returns the salute, with Sally and his mother draped on him.

They start walking away from the cage. As they walk by a pile of resin at cageside, Jack puts his hand in it. He then smiles and hits Grandfather in the middle of the back.

Jack's handprint stands out in stark relief on Grandfather's black silk jacket.

Grandfather smiles, thinking Jack is congratulating him.

Freeze Frame on huge white hand print.

CREDITS ROLL

FADE OUT

THE END