

# **Moto Xtreme**

**WRITTEN BY**

**Tony Rush & Bruce Franklin**

**AND**

**Herb Berlin & Dorie Rush Taylor**

**Tony Rush  
(310) 231-1115  
Grant Cramer  
(310) 276-5433**

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREET - SUBWAY ENTRANCE - STREET LEVEL - DAY

TWO TRANSIT COPS are standing at a food cart near a subway entrance. COP 1 is a paunchy, middle-aged veteran. His partner is an athletic rookie.

COP 1 eyes the grill as he stirs five sugars into his coffee. COP 2 shakes his head disparagingly at his partner and bites into a Power Bar.

COP 1

(to vendor)

Ah, to heck with it...give me a cheese steak with the works.

COP 2

How can you do that to yourself? That stuff is gonna take up residence in your colon.

COP 1

That's where you're wrong. The secret is washin' it down with plenty of coffee. The caffeine and grease cancel each other right out.

RACK FOCUS TO PICKUP TRUCK IN B.G.

A ratty old mini pickup truck, with a nervous sixteen-year-old at the wheel, whips around a corner and stops abruptly in a red zone. Inside the truck Foghat's "Slow Ride" can be heard blaring from blown speakers.

RACK BACK TO COPS:

COP 1 (CONT'D)

(continuing)

No, it's true. My herbalist said so.

Cop 1 takes casual notice as three scraggly teenagers fly out of the back of the truck. One teen is toting bolt cutters.

The three kids beeline for a bicycle rack just outside the subway entrance. With rehearsed precision they begin to cut locks and load bikes into the truck's bed.

Cop 1 reacts as the truck rapidly fills with stolen bikes.

COP 1 (CONT'D)

Check out these little jag-offs!

Cop 2 turns to see the action and starts to move. Cop 1 holds him back.

COP 1 (CONT'D)  
(into radio)  
Dispatch, 316, we have theft in progress,  
curbside top of the E Street entrance.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
Copy that, 316.

Cop 1 releases Cop 2.

COP1  
Okay, Richard Simmons, go earn your  
keep.

Cop 2 rushes off with zeal. Cop 1 sets his coffee on the food cart and ambles after his partner. "Slow Ride" underscores the chase.

COP 1  
(to vendor)  
I'll be back for that!

Cop 2 closes in on the boys as two more transit cops emerge from the mouth of the subway entrance.

The three boys see the officers and break for the truck.

The driver panics and peels out as the three boys scramble to climb into the bed.

The first boy makes it into the bed as a cascade of bikes begins spilling out the open tailgate of the accelerating truck.

The second boy hurdles a series of falling bikes and dives headfirst into the truck.

The youngest of the group, fifteen-year-old TOMMY HUDSON, frantically tries to keep up. He leaps for the tailgate, but a falling bike takes a bad hop and catches his feet. He does a horrendous header as the truck speeds off.

The cops swoop in. Scuffed and dazed, Tommy disentangles himself from the BMX bike, stands on the front wheel and spins the rear in an arc to keep the cops at bay as he mounts it and takes off.

In an amazing exhibition, he bunny hops onto a line of parked cars, then jumps from car to car, pedaling furiously to get away.

Rounding a corner, he tears into an urban plaza full of stairs, concrete benches, planter boxes, walls, and a large fountain.

Using the rich assortment of obstacles, Tommy performs an outrageous series of extreme vertical and "big air" maneuvers to avoid the cops, each move showing his extraordinary ability on two wheels and natural talent, fearlessness and athleticism.

But as the cops tighten the noose on Tommy, he charges toward two officers, who duck at the last second as he launches off a bench, skips up a wall and kick-turns over an eight-foot cyclone fence.

Back on the street, more cops arrive and Tommy darts head on into oncoming traffic to avoid them. Pandemonium ensues. Several cars crash to avoid the crazed cyclist, including one spectacular roll-over.

He barrels toward an open intersection when squad cars suddenly screech into his path, creating a road block.

Tommy skids to a stop and reverses course, revealing the unbelievable chaos and carnage in his wake. He races back through the wreckage toward the opposite end of the block.

Pedaling for his life, he flashes toward daylight when more cop cars screech into position, sealing the street.

Between him and the roadblock is the overturned car, resting on roof and hood. On instinct he uses the undercarriage of the car as a launch ramp, executing a full back flip over the roofs of the cop cars.

The cops resume chase. The scenery transitions from the upscale business district into gritty inner city as Tommy continues to evade the police, racing through graffiti-laden alleyways, littered with junkies and homeless people.

Tommy breaks for a subway entrance.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - STAIRWAY - DAY

Tommy flies down the stairs, avoiding a transit cop with a beautifully executed rail grind down the center handrail.

He hits the bottom and bunny hops the turnstile to the shock and protest of the attendant.

Tommy furiously pedals down the subway platform, leaving his pursuers behind.

Reacting to the HORN BLAST of an express train speeding through the station, he glances over his shoulder.

Suddenly Cop 1 steps out from behind a pillar and, holding his sandwich in one hand, whips out his night stick and shoves it into the front spokes of the bike.

Tommy does a brutal, instant endo and slides straight toward the edge of the platform and the oncoming train.

With the HORN BLARING, the train smashes the bike as it falls onto the tracks. The bike explodes and flies down the tracks in fragments.

EXT. GREYHOUND BUS ON RURAL COUNTRY HIGHWAY - DAWN

The bus sounds its AIR HORN.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - DAWN

The driver waves at a vegetable stand owner on the side of the road. The bus rolls through the countryside, a dozen or so sleepy passengers aboard.

Seated in the back row is Tommy, his appearance dramatically altered. He sports a short haircut and neat, preppie attire. His left wrist is wrapped.

He nods in and out of sleep as the bus lumbers along.

As the dawn sky brightens, a one-ton stake-bed TRUCK slowly passes the bus. In the back are a half dozen new motocross motorcycles.

Tommy watches dreamily as, in the corner of his vision, a bike shakes loose from its tie-down straps and starts bouncing from side to side.

Half awake, Tommy watches as the bike works itself out of the bed, hits the ground and careens over the embankment.

He nods back off to sleep.

EXT. TWO-LANE HIGHWAY - DAY

The bus rolls through a quaint small town and comes to rest at the station.

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - CLOSE ON BUS DOOR - DAY

The bus door hisses open and the passengers disembark. Tommy steps off the bus, looks around, and takes a deep breath. He looks like he's headed to the gallows.

Sitting in a pickup truck awaiting his arrival is Tommy's cousin DARREN SANDERS, fifteen and a young heartthrob. He wears baggy jeans, a tight nylon t-shirt and loud sneakers.

With him is Tommy's uncle, NED SANDERS, a ruggedly handsome man in his forties.

Darren jumps out of the truck and rushes over to greet Tommy. They embrace.

DARREN

Nice outfit, cuz. What--did you come here straight from the courthouse?

TOMMY

Funny! Talkin' about outfits.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You know what never ceases to crack me the hell up? When I see a slice of straight white-bread like you trying to dress "ghetto". Now that's funny.

Darren playfully hits him on the arm. They laugh, but there is a tinge of gravity on Tommy's face.

DARREN

Seriously, good to see you--for reals.

NED arrives from the truck and hugs Tommy.

NED

Welcome, Tommy. Let's get you to the house. Helen's dying to see you.

(to Darren)

Grab his bag.

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - PARKING LOT - DAY

At the approach of the boys, JASPER, a big enthusiastic Alaskan Malamute, jumps around in the bed of the pickup.

TOMMY

Hey, big guy ... how are you? You remember me?

NED

Come on, boys, let's go. Load up.

INT. NED'S PICKUP - DAY

They drive through a rustic town surrounded by family farms. Tommy appears preoccupied.

DARREN

This is going to be an epic summer!

TOMMY

Yeah. Should be cool.

Ned glances down at Tommy's wrist.

NED

When does the bandage come off? I was thinking you might get a kick out of driving a tractor.

TOMMY

The doc said two more weeks ... But I'm ready to lose it now.

NED

We'll talk about it in two weeks.

As they drive, they pass under a giant banner announcing a professional freestyle motocross exhibition that is coming to town. Tommy immediately takes notice.

TOMMY

Freestyle! No way! Since when is there motocross in Mayberry?

DARREN

Apparently this Sunday!

TOMMY

You're jokin', right?

DARREN

Word up, dog!

Tommy breaks out in hysterical laughter at Darren's lingo.

TOMMY

Dude, you're killin' me with that. You are so not pulling it off. So are we going to the freestyle or what?

DARREN

No doubt!

NED

Oh shoot, it's this Sunday? I'm sorry, I forgot. I was planning on having you two help me mend the fences along the south rim. That will be fun too.

The boys are crest-fallen.

DARREN

Dad, we don't have a south rim.

Ned reaches into his shirt pocket and with a big smile pulls out five tickets.

TOMMY AND DARREN

Sweet!

Ned stops the truck in front of the post office and jumps out.

NED

Hang out, guys. I've got to run into the post office.

Across the street is SAM'S CYCLE SHOP. The boys look longingly at the motorcycles lined up in front.

DARREN

How hot are those?

TOMMY

Let's go check 'em out.

DARREN

Nah. I can't deal with Lee Parker before breakfast.

TOMMY

Who's Lee Parker?

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - REAR - DAY

LEE PARKER, grandson of the shop owner, is a muscular seventeen-year-old with chiseled features, a sleeveless shirt and a tattoo.

He is agitated as he checks the inventory on the loading dock. The stake-bed from the highway is parked alongside. Lee walks into the shop.

INT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

SCOTTY, the driver of the stake-bed, is mid-thirties and stocky with an easy-going face and the start of a beer belly. He is at the counter talking to SAM PARKER.

Sam is a silver-haired cowboy in his sixties. He's a gentle guy--just don't piss him off. Lee storms up and interrupts.

LEE

Hey, Grandpa! The shipment is short.

SAM

Calm down, Lee. What's the problem?

LEE

We're missing a 125. He signed for six and there's five bikes out there.

Lee hands Sam the paperwork and points to one of the waybills.

LEE (CONT'D)

I checked the VINs and this bike's missing. Looks like someone's trying to rip us off!

SAM

Now don't start making wild accusations. I'm sure there's an explanation. Scotty, any problems at the warehouse?

SCOTTY

Not that I'm aware of, Sam. If it says six, there should be six. Let's go take a look.

LEE

I can count to five, okay! Where's the other bike, Scotty?!

Scotty's face reads indignation at Lee's remark.

SAM

That's enough out of you! I'll handle it. Now apologize to Scotty and go wheel the bikes in...now!

In defiance, Lee says nothing and stamps off.

SAM (CONT'D)

Sorry, Scotty. Sometimes I don't know what to do with that boy.

SCOTTY

Don't worry about it. Guess you just got to keep bein' patient. You know what they say: time heals.

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - REAR - DAY

As Lee storms out, he passes his sister ROBYN PARKER on her way in. Fifteen and vivacious, she's the beauty of the family.

LEE

This is bullshit.

ROBYN

What did you screw up this time?

LEE

Oh, shut up!

INT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

Robyn enters. Sam and Scotty are still talking.

SAM

I'll call over to the warehouse. Damn thing's probably still sittin' on the loading dock.

ROBYN

Morning, Grandpa. Hey, Scotty.

SCOTTY

Well, hey there, sweetness. I swear you're prettier than a sierra sunrise. If your momma could see you now...

Robyn smiles a little Mona Lisa smile and blushes. Robyn, Sam and Scotty emerge from the shop.

INT. NED'S TRUCK - DAY

The two boys act as typical adolescents would at the sight of the nubile angel. Tommy perks up like a prairie dog, while Darren goes catatonic.

TOMMY

Now that is an ass that makes it  
absolutely impossible to deny the  
existence of God!

Tommy looks over at Darren, who is still transfixed on Robyn.  
He waves his hand in front of Darren's face.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Hey! Jive Master.

Ned returns from the post office and jumps back in the truck.  
Darren stays frozen, staring at Robyn as she walks away. Ned  
notices his son's catatonic state.

NED

What did I miss?

EXT. SANDERS HOME - DAY - EST.

The Sanders home is a modest two-story country home nestled in  
the middle of sprawling orchards.

Ned and the boys pull up and get out of the truck.

EXT. SANDERS HOME - PORCH - DAY

JESSICA SANDERS, Darren's impish eleven-year-old sister, sits  
on the porch with their mother, HELEN SANDERS, mid-thirties,  
warm and attractive.

Helen greets Tommy enthusiastically.

HELEN

Oh, Tommy...my goodness...let me look  
at you.

(examining him)

Now, I promised your mom I'd return you  
spit and polish, so this is going to be  
a mellow summer, right, kiddo?

TOMMY

I missed you, too, Aunt Helen.

HELEN

(to Jessie)

You remember your cousin Tommy?

JESSIE

Yeah--hi, Tom.

TOMMY

Hey, squirt--long time no see.

NED

Well, ladies, is breakfast ready? Me  
and the boys here are hungry!

JESSIE

Dad! That's totally un-PC! What? Are we just here to serve you?

NED

All right, Gloria Steinem, I was just kidding! Geez.

The family all files into the house.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - LATER

Darren enters his room to find Tommy sitting by the window, looking despondent. The room is a typical boy's room, covered in posters of sports and women.

DARREN

Wanna go into town? Go mess around?

TOMMY

I don't know, dude ... I think I just want to chill.

DARREN

Man, you really need to get out of your head. Come on, dude ... I'll whip your sorry ass at a couple videos.

Tommy looks over and raises an eyebrow.

EXT. CLOVIS GENERAL STORE - DAY

The boys ride up on their bicycles and head into the store. In the window there is a case full of knives prominently displayed.

DARREN

Check that out. That's the bad boy I want right there.

TOMMY

What are you waitin' for, Christmas?

INT. CLOVIS GENERAL STORE - DAY

The boys head down the aisle toward the back. The owner, MR. BOTELLI, is on a ladder stocking shelves. Darren calls to him as they pass.

DARREN

Afternoon, Mr. Botelli. Hey, this is my cousin Tommy. He's visiting from Philadelphia for the summer.

MR. BOTELLI

Afternoon, boys. Now remember, no beating on my machines.

At the rear of the store are a couple of video games, including a motorcycle game.

MONTAGE OF QUICK CUTS AS THE BOYS PLAY--Tommy plays expertly.

TOMMY

Smoked ya again, beeyatch.

DARREN

Three out of five?

Tommy shrugs. Darren plays intently. Looking bored, Tommy casually scans the store. Mr. Botelli is still busy stocking.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Beat that, gimpy.

Darren looks around, realizing Tommy has stepped away. Tommy reappears.

TOMMY

I'll give it to you--let's get out of here.

Darren is left limp at Tommy's concession. As they head toward the door, Mr. Botelli suddenly intercepts them.

MR. BOTELLI

(to Tommy)

Son, didn't you forget something?

DARREN

Huh?

MR. BOTELLI

Not you, him. The knife, you were planning on paying for it, I assume.

TOMMY

I don't know what you're talking about.

MR. BOTELLI

(points at round mirror in corner)

I saw you take it, son.

DARREN

Dude, what's going on? Did you steal something?

TOMMY

Hell no! This old coot's going senile. I didn't steal jack!

MR. BOTELLI

Darren, I don't want any trouble. Why don't you talk to your cousin here?

Darren shrugs, not knowing what to say.

TOMMY

This is a bunch of BS! Let's get out of here.

A green-and-white sheriff's cruiser pulls up outside the window.

MR. BOTELLI

Fine! We'll let the sheriff figure it out.

Tommy spins to exit and finds himself face to face with SHERIFF CODY REDTREE. Sheriff Redtree is a Native American in his forties. A no-nonsense, small-town sheriff who keeps a tight reign on his county.

SHERIFF REDTREE

What's going on, Ben?

MR. BOTELLI

Caught Darren's cousin here stealing a knife. I tried to give him a break, but he's being pigheaded. Maybe you can straighten him out.

SHERIFF REDTREE

Hand over the knife, son.

Tommy reluctantly pulls the knife from his pocket and hands it to the sheriff.

TOMMY

I was going to pay for it. Besides you can't do nothing to me--I never left the store. I know my rights!

SHERIFF REDTREE

How much money do you have on you, son?

TOMMY

Ahhh...about ten bucks.

SHERIFF REDTREE

(hands knife to Botelli)

How much is this?

BOTELLI

Forty-two fifty.

SHERIFF REDTREE

Guess you were planing on buying it on lay-away, huh?

(to Botelli)

So what do you want me to do here?

Tommy suddenly bolts for the rear exit, leaving Darren standing there. Sheriff Redtree shakes his head and casually exits out the front door.

EXT. CLOVIS GENERAL STORE - DAY

Sheriff Redtree steps to his car and opens the rear door. A police K-9 explodes out of the car and into the store.

INT. SANDERS LIVING ROOM - DAY

A heavy-handed knock sounds at the door. Ned opens the door to see Sheriff Redtree holding Tommy by the arm. Tommy is in cuffs and the left leg of his jeans is in tatters.

NED

I appreciate this, Cody.

SHERIFF REDTREE

Mmm hmm. My benevolence knows no bounds. But you had better keep him on a short leash, Ned. I'm serious. 'Cause if he gives me another excuse to blow his probation, I will! And his narrow white ass will end up on a work farm, married to the guy with the most cigarettes.

Sheriff Redtree un-cuffs Tommy and departs. Ned and Tommy look at each other. The tension is thick.

NED

(motions to porch swing)

You and me need to talk.

EXT. SANDERS HOME - PORCH

Ned and Tommy sit side by side on the swing. Tommy has withdrawn. He stares down at his shoes.

NED

Ben Botelli is a friend of mine: I've known him a long time... So is Sheriff Redtree.

Tommy doesn't respond.

NED (CONT'D)

(continuing)

...You with me?

TOMMY

Yeah.

NED

You know you're in pretty serious trouble.

TOMMY

What else is new?

NED

I'm not talking about today, I'm talking about you.

TOMMY

Whatever.

Tommy waits for the drone of authority to run its course.

NED

Tommy, we got ten weeks of summer together and if we can't talk to each other, this incident is the least of our problems.

TOMMY

Look, it won't happen again...are we done?

NED

No, we're not done...

TOMMY

Then just send me home. I don't want to be here anyway.

Ned takes a moment to re-center himself.

NED

Well, ultimately, that's your decision. I'm not your jailer. But I can tell you that running away again won't solve your problems.

TOMMY

Don't try and "analyze me". You don't know me that well!

NED

I know you're not happy. I can see it in your eyes.

(beat)

Tell me I'm wrong.

TOMMY

You don't know shit. You don't know how I feel.

NED

I think I may. I know how I felt. I used to be a lot like you, Tommy. I used to get in trouble all the time, mostly for starting fights.

TOMMY

You?

NED

Yup. I was on a first-name basis with every cop in the county.

TOMMY

What did you fight about?

NED

Doesn't matter. Just like why you did what you did doesn't matter. What's important is how it affects you and the people around you. I'm sure you didn't mean to hurt Darren or me, but you did. Is that what you wanted?

TOMMY

No.

NED

I didn't set out to get kicked out of seven foster homes but I did. Then one day, after one more fight, I was looking at the bruises on my face and it dawned on me--I was blaming everything in the universe for my problems and the whole time, it was me! The guy looking back from the mirror that day had the saddest eyes I'd ever seen. He was miserable.

TOMMY

Why are you telling me this?

NED

You have the same eyes.

Ned has pierced the veneer of Tommy's tough guy act. Ned lets his words sink in.

TOMMY

So what now?

NED

Assuming you decide to stay and quit getting arrested, get in the house.

TOMMY

Am I grounded?

NED

No, I'm gonna let this go. But it's not a freebie...you owe me one...big.

Tommy looks surprised.

TOMMY

Sure.

NED

Good. Now go on up and change your pants.

Tommy gets up from the swing and heads inside.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Darren sits at his desk downloading music from his desktop computer onto his iPod.

Tommy sits on one of the twin beds, staring over at Darren. They're both wearing pajamas. Jasper sleeps on the floor.

TOMMY

What'cha doin'?

DARREN

Ripping tunes.

TOMMY

Yeah, I can see that. Which ones?

Darren ignores Tommy and continues to work. Frustrated, Tommy turns on the TV.

DARREN

I'm trying to concentrate--will you turn that down?

Tommy looks over at Darren, who still ignores him. Then Tommy shuts the TV off completely, crosses his arms and sits back on the bed.

TOMMY

Why you being a dick?

They sit in silence for a moment. Darren turns to Tommy.

DARREN

What part of your head thought boosting something from Botelli's was a good idea? You made me look like an idiot. What's up with you?

TOMMY

I don't know--I thought it would be fun to get you the knife, that's all.

Darren softens.

DARREN

It wasn't cool...and I didn't appreciate you just hauling ass and leaving me standing there with my dick in my hand!

Tommy nods.

TOMMY

Seriously, I'm sorry, bro. I didn't know what else to do--I've got two years joint suspended hanging over me.

DARREN

It's cool, I guess... But if you're gonna do something stupid like that, at least warn me first, will ya? I could have told you that old man has eyes in the back of his head.

TOMMY

So we're cool?

DARREN

Yeah, it's all good.

Tommy gets up and stands over Darren at the computer. He leans over and begins typing rapidly. Darren watches and begins to smirk as Tommy repeatedly types and smashes the Enter key.

DARREN (CONT'D)

It ain't gonna work.

Tommy glances at him.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Internet blockers.

Tommy snorts and grabs the mouse and continues working. Darren sits on the bed and cracks a soda.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Man, I thought our motocross tickets were history. They would've been if I had done something like that.

TOMMY

Your dad's all right. You're lucky.

DARREN

Have you heard from your dad since he moved out?

TOMMY

Not really.

Tommy stabs the Enter key a final time, leans back and crosses his arms.

Darren does a double-take on the screen and cocks his head--his eyes get huge, a look of wonder spreads across his face. He looks slackjawed at Tommy.

DARREN

Is that...Is she...Dayummm! How did you do that?

TOMMY

Two semesters of computer science.

Suddenly the door opens and Jessie pops her head in. The boys rush to block the computer screen. Just then the sound kicks in and carnal moaning fills the room.

JESSIE

That is so demeaning to women and you are so busted!

DARREN

Get out of my room!

Darren wings a pillow at her head. She quickly ducks out. The pillow smacks into the closed door. Jessie reappears.

JESSIE

Nah nah nah nah! You missed me and I'm still telling Mom.

Darren wings another pillow. She ducks back out, slamming the door. Jasper begins barking excitedly.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - NED AND HELEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ned and Helen are in bed reading. They hear the racket.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tommy goes to the door.

TOMMY

Quick--she's coming back. Toss me a pillow.

Tommy stands poised on a chair at the side of the door. The door opens and Tommy swings full force, bursting the pillow open on Ned's head.

A look of terror crosses Tommy's face. Jessie stands back from Ned, reacting with great amusement.

JESSIE

You just can't win for losing, can you?

Ned notices that Tommy is actually afraid. He grabs Jessie, drags her into the room and shuts the door. Picking up a pillow, he squares off against the three of them.

NED

(funny accent)

Prepare to die.

Ned starts swinging against all three and pandemonium breaks out. Flying feathers quickly obscure the action as pillows explode.

Helen walks in and sees the mayhem. A guilty hush falls over the room as a cascade of feathers settles to the ground.

NED (CONT'D)

I can explain.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

A streak of moonlight catches one of the many posters tacked to the wall. It shows a freestyle rider doing a back flip.

SOUND OVER: The revving engine of a 250cc motorcycle.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. FREESTYLE EXHIBITION - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A rider executes the back flip over a freestyle jump.

EXT. FREESTYLE EXHIBITION - GRANDSTAND - DAY

The bleachers are packed. Tommy, Darren, Ned, Helen and Jessie are all seated together. The two cousins, wide-eyed with excitement, are hooting and hollering.

TOMMY

That dude is straight nuts!

DARREN

No way! He's got mad skills!

TOMMY

Dude, he better. If he misses the rotation...it'd be like dropping a motorcycle on your skull from six stories up.

DARREN

Damn--I never thought of it like that.

TOMMY

Do you have a clue what it takes? When you pull back on those bars and hit one degree past vertical, there's no turning back. You're all in. I've pulled off a back flip on a BMX, but on a two hundred motorcycle, no friggin' way... That's insane! The first time Metzger did it everybody stopped breathing...like a giant vacuum sucked the air out of the stadium. History was forever changed that day.

The rider executes and lands the flip perfectly. The bleachers erupt.

A series of pro free-style riders executes one sick trick after another as a constant rapid-fire commentary flows from the PA. The action on the track is reflected in the wild enthusiasm of the two boys.

Robyn appears from behind a trailer in the pit area.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Hey--isn't that the hot little sausage  
wallet from the bike shop?

Darren perceives Tommy's interest and gets defensive.

DARREN

Have a little respect, huh.

TOMMY

Okay, whatever, what's her deal? She  
got a boyfriend or what?

DARREN

Forget it.

TOMMY

Whaddya mean? She's totally tasty. I  
may have to make her my summer project.

DARREN

She's not your type. She's a nice girl.

TOMMY

Whoa, bro, what's that supposed to mean?

DARREN

Just forget it. She's not your type.

TOMMY

It was a simple question. Don't have a  
melt down.

DARREN

Look...

Darren drops his disposable camera through bleachers.

DARREN (CONT'D)

...Crap, just forget it.

Darren climbs down through the bleachers to retrieve his camera.

Tommy leans over to Jessie, who has been watching the exchange.

TOMMY

What did I say?

JESSIE

Oh, Robyn? Boys are so dumb. Hello!  
He obviously has a crush on her.

TOMMY

Whoops! Is she into him?

JESSIE

Yeah, no accounting for taste. But  
he's so stupid he'll never say anything.  
They're doomed!

Darren, still upset, climbs back up to his seat and Jessie shakes her head, pitying him.

TOMMY

Dude, I wasn't trying to jump on your action. If you're into her, you're right, she's not my type.

DARREN

(chilling out)

I just think she's really cute, that's all.

Another free-stylist dominates the track with a custom move. The crowd roars while the announcer gives commentary.

The boys are vocal and wild, completely immersed in the action. Tommy spies Robyn down in the pit area once again.

TOMMY

Let's go down to the pits and check out the bikes.

DARREN

We don't have pit passes.

TOMMY

Oh, ye of little faith.

(to Ned)

We're going to the concession stand.

NED

Get me a diet Coke.

The boys climb down off the bleachers and walk along the fence toward a security guard who's checking pit passes.

EXT. FREESTYLE EXHIBITION - PIT AREA - DAY

Tommy grabs Darren and herds him away from the guard toward the official's trailer, which sits up on blocks.

Tommy checks to see that the coast is clear then scurries underneath with Darren right behind. They come out the other side and casually blend in with the people milling about the pits.

In awe, they check out the multicolored, state-of-the-art, factory machines and the pro riders.

Beside the announcer's tower, a Honda tent is set up with a half dozen prototype dirt bikes. A sexy vamp, GABRIELLE, sporting a Sam's Cycle Shop jacket slinks around the display. She catches Tommy's eye. Tommy elbows Darren and indicates Gabrielle.

TOMMY

Shh. Shh. Dude, did you hear that?

DARREN

Hear what?

TOMMY

There it goes again...sounds like  
(in a girl's voice)  
"Spank me."

DARREN

She's bad news. Don't do it!

TOMMY

Why, you don't like her too, do ya?

DARREN

No! But I'm serious. She's trouble.

TOMMY

Yeah, but that's the kinda trouble I  
try to get into.

Tommy purposefully adjusts his baseball cap and approaches.  
Darren reluctantly follows. She is perched on a bike.

INT. HONDA FACTORY TENT - DAY

TOMMY

Nice hardware...looks fast.

GABRIELLE

Oh, she is--built for speed and comfort.  
Handles good, too. You ride?

TOMMY

A little.

GABRIELLE

What size? 125s?

TOMMY

125, 126, whatever.

GABRIELLE

Bigger's always better.

Tommy grins.

Gabrielle smiles at his flirtation. Suddenly, Lee and his  
unsavory cohorts, FLASH, BOB and SONNY, step up. Lee puts his  
arm around Gabrielle. Extends a hand toward Tommy.

LEE

(big smile)  
Hey, I don't think we've met. I'm Lee.

TOMMY

Tommy.

LEE  
 (saccharine sweet)  
 Nice to meet you, Tommy.

Like a snake, Lee's demeanor changes.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 So Tommy, who the hell gave you  
 permission to talk to my girl!

Steely eyed, he stares Tommy down. Gabrielle is not amused.

GABRIELLE  
 Oh stop it, Lee...I hate when you do this.

TOMMY  
 No need to get nasty, pal.

DARREN  
 Tommy, let's get out of here.

LEE  
 Now that's a really good idea, Darren. Why  
 don't you kids get the hell out of here?

Lee snatches the cap off Tommy's head and puts it on.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Buh-bye, girls.

Tommy starts to react as a couple of deputy sheriffs amble by.  
 He thinks twice and follows Darren toward the exit.

GABRIELLE  
 I can't even be sociable without you  
 marking me like a fire hydrant!

Lee shakes his head in irritation with her, returns to his  
 friends and gloats.

LEE  
 Did you see that? What a couple of lames!

EXT. FREESTYLE EXHIBITION - PIT AREA - DAY

Tommy and Darren head back to the stands.

TOMMY  
 Who was that douche-bag?

DARREN  
 That was Lee Parker.

TOMMY  
 I do not like that dude.

DARREN  
 Told ya!

A young rider doing his routine blows an enormous trick and crashes. People gather over the downed rider as he lies writhing on the ground. The boys rush over to get a glimpse as two medics with a backboard push their way through to administer aid. The downed rider doesn't look good.

EMT 1

His blood pressure is dropping and he's pale and clammy. Probe the abdomen for internal injuries.

EMT 2

Yup. I think there is bleeding. Let's load him up.

They begin fastening the rider to the backboard. He looks frightened and in pain. Another pro rider leans in and grabs his shoulder to console him.

PRO RIDER 1 - CAMEO

You look a little green there, bud. You know what that means--ruptured spleen. You'll be all right.

PRO RIDER 2 - CAMEO

(leans in, pulls up his jersey, revealing a scar)  
Don't worry, bro. Losing your spleen--it's a right of passage. Congratulations--you're one of the boys now.

A couple other pro riders pull up their jerseys to compare scars. The fallen rider forces a prideful smile. The officials disperse the crowd as the rider is carted off.

Tommy and Darren make their way back to stands.

DARREN

Holy crap. These guys are really nuts.

TOMMY

Told ya--it's no joke!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Don't worry folks, these guys are indestructible. He'll be back for next week's exhibition. Meanwhile for all you motocross fans out there, Sam Parker, owner of Sam's Cycle Shop, has a special announcement.

Tommy and Darren glance over to see...

INT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - DAY

Sam sits down next to the announcer and address the crowd.

SAM

Howdy, folks. I'm pleased to announce that six weeks from today Sam's Cycle Shop will proudly sponsor the annual Labor Day amateur motocross event.  
 (indicating beautiful dirt bike)  
 And the winner'll to take home this brand-new 125cc race bike. Hope to see you all there.

EXT. FREESTYLE EXHIBITION - GRANDSTAND - DAY

The event has resumed as the boys make their way back to their seats. The crowd is going wild, cheering and shouting, Finally, as the noise level dies down...

NED

Hey, where's my soda?

HELEN

And where's your hat?

INT. NED'S TRUCK - DAY

The family is driving home.

TOMMY

That prize bike is soooo sweet!

DARREN

We are so entering that race.

JESSIE

On what...your Schwinn?

Tommy and Darren shoot daggers at Jessie.

NED

(stifles a laugh)  
 She has a point, guys. Aren't you guys overlooking something?

DARREN

Dad, we got six weeks, we'll figure out something... Can we try to fix up your old Enduro?

NED

(laughing)  
 You're welcome to try but I wouldn't get your hopes up--that thing is no race bike. That said, if you want to try, you're on your own. I've got my hands full this summer.

HELEN

Time out!

(MORE)

HELEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry boys, but it's out of the question. You are not racing dirt bikes. You saw what can happen. Darren, you know how I feel about it, and Tommy, your mom would kill me.

NED

Helen...

HELEN

No, Ned. I'm serious!

EXT. SANDERS HOUSE - DAY

Helen and Ned unload the truck. The children have scattered.

HELEN

Ned, that boy could have been killed today! I can't believe you're sanctioning this when you know how strongly I feel about it--either I cave in or I'm the bad guy.

NED

Honey, you're working yourself up over nothing. There's no way they're going to get that old heap of junk race-ready. Besides, look how excited they were. Especially Tommy. This is exactly the kind of constructive outlet he needs.

HELEN

An outlet is great, but this is going to end up at the emergency room, I know it.

NED

Well, that's some prophecy. But trust me, honey, they'll never get that far.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

The boys stare at Ned's dilapidated Enduro motorcycle.

DARREN

Well, there it is...our ticket to glory.

TOMMY

(belly laughing)

What--did you bump your head? That's not a race bike. It's a rat's nest.

DARREN

Well, it's a start...we could...ohhh, you're right. There's no way.

The boys are deflated.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - MORNING

The boys are asleep. Tommy's eyes fly open, and he springs up and leaps out of bed.

TOMMY

Darren, get up--we gotta' go.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CLOSE ON TWO BICYCLE WHEELS - DAY

The wheels are about two feet in the air, next to each other.

WIDEN TO REVEAL:

Tommy and Darren doing side-by-side wheelies. They're on the road that Tommy's bus traveled into town.

TOMMY

You're not listening. It's simple. My dream this morning made me realize that my other dream wasn't a dream at all.

DARREN

Dude, are you smoking crack?

TOMMY

I'm telling you, I saw it fall off the truck and bounce over the embankment right near these three trees.

Lining the side of the road, about every thirty feet are trees, all in groups of three or four.

DARREN

Really glad you pinned down the spot so well.

TOMMY

Yeah, well, I do a helluva lot better around buildings. They have things like addresses on them--it's really a good system.

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATER - DAY

Darren climbs up the embankment from a group of trees. Tommy searches around at the next group. Darren shakes his head "no".

He mounts his bicycle, rides toward Tommy and calls out.

DARREN

Look, even if it wasn't a dream, they probably came back for it...or someone else found it first.

TOMMY

Maybe, but I'm not giving up.

They continue foraging through the ravine, and just as they're about to give up, Tommy starts screaming wildly.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I found it! Here it is...I told you!

Darren furiously pedals up to Tommy and skids to a stop. Tommy stands holding up a broken brake lever. Darren stares at the bike part, then at Tommy.

DARREN

Right on! If it still starts we can ride it home!

TOMMY

Shut up! The rest of it's got to be here somewhere!

Next to them is a broken barbed wire fence with a "NO TRESPASSING" sign. On the other side is a clump of mangled shrubs. The boys start combing the bushes frantically.

Suddenly an ATV bears down on them. A helmeted rider with what appears to be a rifle slung over his shoulder stops abruptly.

The boys look up and freeze. The rider removes his helmet, and a look of relief washes over Darren: the rider is his friend MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ.

MIGUEL

Hey, Darren--I thought that was you. What are you doing?

DARREN

Damn, Miguel, you scared the crap out of me! What's with the gun?

MIGUEL

B.B. gun. It's got a scope and everything. Cool, huh? Who's your friend?

DARREN

Oh, this is my cousin Tommy.

The boys exchange greetings.

MIGUEL

So, what are you doing out here, anyway. Lookin' for something?

DARREN

No...

MIGUEL

Really? Then how come you're ass-deep in the shrubbery.

TOMMY

It's for the Eagle scouts, okay. We're working on our merit badges.

MIGUEL

Oh right. The trespassing, bush-destroying,  
lame-excuse merit badge.

DARREN

I collect hubcaps, okay. I thought I  
saw something shiny.

MIGUEL

Good. 'Cause I was afraid you were  
lookin' for that dirt bike I found a  
couple days ago.

DARREN

So there really is a bike?!

TOMMY

I told ya.

DARREN

I'll be damned.

MIGUEL

So how did you know it was here, anyway?

TOMMY

I saw it fall off a truck.

DARREN

We got a plan for it, too. We want to  
enter the Labor Day race!

Miguel looks at them and chuckles.

DARREN (CONT'D)

What?

EXT. RODRIGUEZ BARN - DAY

Miguel flings back a tarp, revealing the wreckage of what used  
to be a brand new 125cc race bike. Tommy and Darren look  
visibly disappointed at the extent of the damage.

MIGUEL

So you want to try to get this into the  
Labor Day race? Who do you think owns it?

TOMMY

I'm thinking that at least for the time  
being, we do. It fell off a truck a  
week ago. No one has come lookin' for  
it and it's wrecked. Finders keepers.

DARREN

Sounds good to me, but do you think we  
can get this back together?

MIGUEL

It needs work, but it's do-able. That's what I was planning to do, but I have summer school, and my dad wouldn't appreciate me spending a lot of time in the shop instead of studying. If we can take it to your house that would solve that.

DARREN

No problem. My dad already said we could use our barn to wrench on a race bike.

They simultaneously make fists and knock them together in acknowledgment.

MIGUEL

What do you say we meet back here late tonight and move the bike? We can use my dad's ATV...But we gotta be stealth!

TOMMY

Cool...We'll meet back here at midnight.

INT. SANDERS KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ned sits with Jessie at the dinner table as Helen clears the dishes.

HELEN

They're over an hour late.

Ned looks at his watch, not too concerned.

JESSIE

This is totally irresponsible of them. Don't be lenient on them this time... you need to discipline them severely and harshly, otherwise you only reaffirm the negative behavior.

NED

Thanks for your input, Dr. Phil, but I think you ought to leave the parenting to us, okay?

JESSIE

Fine, but I'm telling you you'll only damage them in the long run.

Tommy and Darren burst in through the kitchen door.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Boy, are you gonna get it.

NED

Now, Jessie!

DARREN

What?

HELEN

You're a little late, aren't you?

DARREN

Sorry, Mom. We lost track of time.

NED

You did get your chores done today?

Both boys look at each other.

TOMMY

Well, we didn't exactly finish...

NED

Exactly what did you do?

Both boys shrug and shake their heads.

DARREN

We sorta got side tracked. I'm sorry, we'll make it up to you, honest.

NED

Yes, you will. For blowing off your chores today, you're both on the apple truck first thing in the morning.

DARREN

Oh, Dad, not tomorrow. Please...

Helen arrives with a plate of food for each boy.

JESSIE

Be firm, Dad.

Ned shoots Jessie a look and Helen hides a grin with her napkin.

NED

Whatever you wanted to do tomorrow will just have to wait.

So that only Tommy and Darren can see her, Jessie crosses her eyes and sticks out her tongue at them.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Darren stands at his door peering out listening and looking. He turns back to Tommy.

DARREN

We're good... Let's go.

Tommy throws back his covers, revealing that he's fully clothed.

The boys creep out of the room, down the stairs and out of the house.

EXT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Miguel, wearing a hooded sweatshirt, makes his way toward the barn, continually looking back toward the house.

INT. RODRIGUEZ BARN - NIGHT

Miguel cautiously enters. He attaches a small trailer to the back of the ATV, then slowly pushes the ATV out of the barn.

EXT. RODRIGUEZ BARN - NIGHT

As he exits the barn, Miguel spots Tommy and Darren approaching on their bicycles. They help Miguel push the ATV to the wreckage of the race bike.

The boys load the motorcycle carcass into the trailer along with their bicycles.

They push the ATV a safe distance away from the house. Miguel fires up the ATV, Darren jumps on the back and Tommy climbs into the trailer.

EXT. CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO - NIGHT

The boys ride through the rural farmland and emerge onto the shoulder of the highway. Rising up like a giant neon phoenix in front of them stands an all-night burger drive-thru.

TOMMY

I'm hungry!

MIGUEL

No. I got to get this back home--bad idea.

DARREN

Yeah, I think we ought to just keep going.

TOMMY

I'm buyin'!

EXT. BURGER JOINT - NIGHT

Miguel whips into the parking lot and heads into the drive-thru. The boys order burgers and shakes and proceed around to the pick-up window.

The attendant is deadpan to the three boys on an ATV in the middle of the night.

The boys come around the rear of the burger joint and see a large, menacing pickup truck equipped with roll bar, gun rack, and lots of off-road lights.

Inside are Lee and Bob, with Sonny and Flash in the bed. Outside the truck, Gabrielle feeds a stray mutt as it stands on its haunches begging for handouts.

LEE

Come here, boy, I got something for ya.

A beer bottle hurled from the truck narrowly misses the dog and shatters at its feet. The dog stays put.

GABRIELLE

Asshole.

Another bottle comes flying from the truck. It connects, sending the dog yelping in retreat. Lee and his guys laugh and resume eating.

DARREN

I can't believe those jerks.

The mutt takes a running leap into the passenger window and leaps back out the driver side with Lee's burger in his mouth.

MIGUEL

Way to go, perro!

The truck fires up and takes off in pursuit. Lee chases the dog around the parking lot, trying to run it over.

Tommy, infuriated, reacts without thinking. As the truck passes them, he wings his jumbo strawberry shake at them.

TOMMY

Hey, you bunch of inbred pecker-heads!  
It's a dog!

Darren reacts in horror as the milkshake sails right into the window of the truck.

DARREN

Oh...you didn't!

MIGUEL

Nice shot. Really dumb, but nice shot.

INT. TRUCK CAB - NIGHT

Shocked and covered in milk shake, Lee locks up the brakes, throws it in reverse, spins 180 degrees and heads for the boys.

EXT. BURGER JOINT - NIGHT

DARREN

Holy shit, time to bail!

The boys jump back on the ATV and run for it. Tommy blows the stunned Gabrielle a kiss as the boys drive by.

The truck, with all its lights beaming, chases the boys through fields and farms. On and off road, it stays right on their heels.

Miguel valiantly tries to lose them while Tommy, in the trailer, hurls food at them.

INT. TRUCK CAB - NIGHT

A cheeseburger pancakes onto the windshield and Lee smears it with the wipers.

LEE

Little shit! I'm gonna end him!

Darren points Miguel into an orchard.

EXT. ORCHARD - NIGHT

The boys gain an advantage by slaloming through the trees.

The boys dodge out of visual range. The truck roars around the perimeter of the orchard with the spotlight on, looking for the boys, kicking up dust.

INT. CULVERT - NIGHT

Crouched down inside an irrigation ditch with the engine off, the boys push the ATV into a culvert. The truck circles above them like a shark.

EXT. ORCHARD - NIGHT

The cherry lights of a sheriff's cruiser approach in the distance. Sheriff Redtree pulls Lee over.

INT. CULVERT - NIGHT

The boys react to the siren, realizing that things just got worse!

EXT. ORCHARD - NIGHT

Sheriff Redtree hauls the milkshake-soaked Lee from the truck's cab. Several beer bottles fall to the ground.

LEE

Quit hassling me, man... I told ya-- it's not our fault! It was those punks on the ATV--look at my truck! Now why don't you go do your job?

The Sheriff, throws him up against the squad car and cuffs him.

SHERIFF REDTREE

I am doing job! I don't see any ATV... What I do see is a DUI and three drunk and disorderlies.

BOB

But Sheriff...We didn't start nothing!

SHERIFF REDTREE

Best stop flapping your lip or I'm gonna add vandalism and trespassing. And you can come along downtown, too.

As he puts Lee into the rear of the squad car, he looks up and spots the boys on the ATV riding away in the distance.

INT. SANDERS BARN - NIGHT

The boys enter the barn, jump off the ATV, and start to unload the bike.

MIGUEL

Damn! Talk about family trees with no branches.

DARREN

The next time you decide to provoke a bunch of brain dead cheese-wienies in a 4x4, leave me out of it!

TOMMY

Oh, please...tell me you didn't love seeing that.

MIGUEL

Look, I gotta get the ATV back before my dad wakes up. I'll talk to you guys tomorrow.

EXT. BRICK BUILDING DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

Sam exits a building the sign above the door reads: "Bail Bonds/Notary/Locksmith - Open 24 Hours".

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - DAWN

The boys settle into bed and close their eyes just as daylight breaks. Moments later, Ned knocks on the door and rouses them.

NED

Rise and shine, boys!

EXT. APPLE ORCHARD - DAY

Darren stands on a ladder picking apples into a shoulder bag. He looks completely haggard.

Darren hands his bag down to Tommy in the bed of the truck, but Tommy is not there to take it.

Tommy is nestled amid stacks of wooden crates in the truck bed with his hat over his eyes, napping contentedly.

DARREN

Hey! Wake your lazy ass up! If I gotta do this, so do you.

Tommy tips his hat back and looks up at Darren on the ladder.

TOMMY

Sorry. Migrant farm work just isn't my specialty. You go ahead, you're good at it.

Tommy lowers his hat and resumes sleeping.

An apple splatters squarely between Tommy's eyes.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

HEY!!

INT. APPLE TRUCK - DAY

The driver, a day laborer, sits behind the wheel reading the paper. He glances up to the mirror and reacts with disbelief.

DRIVER

What the hell?!

INSERT - VIEW THROUGH TRUCK MIRROR:

Apples fly back and forth like something from a cartoon.

INT. LEE'S ROOM - DAY

Sam storms into the room, extreme anger on his face. He sees Lee sleeping in a fetal position, clutching a photograph.

ANGLE ON PHOTOGRAPH:

It is a tattered snapshot of Lee and Robyn and what we can assume are their late parents, posed and happy. Sam's anger dissipates and he quietly exits.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - DAY

Miguel's father, ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ, a Latino man in his forties, sits at a breakfast table, cringing as he examines a picture in a National Geographic magazine as if it were some hideous centerfold.

The remains of breakfast cover the table and there is an untouched bowl of oatmeal across from Ernesto. Ernesto sets down the magazine and glances at his watch.

A gas-powered leaf-blower is propped up against the counter. Nearby are a set of gloves, earmuffs, and safety goggles.

Ernesto methodically dons the equipment, but instead of heading out the door, he walks upstairs.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOME - HALLWAY - DAY - OVER ERNESTO'S SHOULDER

Stopping at a door, Ernesto quietly opens it and enters.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - MIGUEL'S ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ernesto creeps into the room, where Miguel is sprawled out, fast asleep, walks over to the bed and with one deft pull fires up the blower, pointing it full blast onto Miguel.

Miguel startles. His eyes snap open and he bolts upright as his father nonchalantly blows the covers off the bed and works his way around the room, stirring up a tornado of clothes and debris.

MIGUEL

Dad...Dad...PAAAAPIIIIIIII!!!

Ernesto casually glances over to Miguel and shuts off the blower. He removes his goggles and earmuffs.

ERNESTO

Oh, Miguelito, I didn't realize you were here. How rude of me, I'm sorry.

MIGUEL

What in the world are you doing? Esta loco?

ERNESTO

Loco? I always do the dusting Tuesday mornings, you know that ... Oh, that's right--you're not usually here at 8:00, because you're in...

MIGUEL

...summer school! Oh, I'm late!

Miguel leaps out of bed and frantically starts dressing and apologizing to his father. Ernesto looks on and chuckles.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Sorry, Papa. It won't happen again.

Miguel hurriedly completes dressing and heads for the door. Ernesto calls after him.

ERNESTO

Hey, don't forget to eat your oatmeal--it's on the table.

Ernesto stands at the door laughing heartily.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

It's late in the afternoon. Still covered in apple pulp, Tommy and Darren are busy removing the mangled cosmetic parts from the race bike. Miguel enters carrying his book bag and settles in to help.

DARREN

You were right--this thing is pretty thrashed.

Miguel opens up his backpack and pulls out a thick sheaf of paper. He tosses it on the bench.

MIGUEL

Pulled the shop manual off the internet.  
Thought we might need it.

TOMMY

I like this guy better all the time.

DARREN

How do you want to do this?

MIGUEL

We might as well figure out what all is  
broke. Let's finish taking the body  
work off.

The boys are industriously tearing down the bike. Darren disassembles the bent-up muffler on the workbench while the other boys continue pulling parts off the carcass.

Darren cracks a sinister smile as he rubs grease around the open end of the tailpipe.

DARREN

Hey, Miguel, I think the baffling inside  
is screwed up--take a look.

Miguel takes the exhaust pipe holds it up and notices the grease around the end and tosses it back to Darren.

MIGUEL

Nice try, slick. I'm going to remember  
that. Now stop acting like an idiot  
and help me take off the forks.

Darren goes around to the front of the bike and helps Miguel.

DARREN

I can't wait till race day. We are  
going to win that bike.

MIGUEL

Yeah, right. Think about it--we can't  
beat Lee Parker.

TOMMY

Why not? We got talent.

MIGUEL

He's been riding since he was born, his  
grandfather owns the cycle shop and  
we've never raced in our lives. You do  
the math.

TOMMY

So what. We can still smoke him.

MIGUEL

Whatever, we're not doing diddly 'til  
we get this fixed.

Miguel goes back to work on the forks.

Tommy is trying to loosen and remove the bent seat. When it  
pops loose, he sees a transport slip.

INSERT ON TRANSPORT SLIP:

It reads, "SHIP TO: SAM'S CYCLE SHOP 110 Main St. Clovis, NM".

BACK TO SCENE:

Tommy stares at the document. He looks over at Darren and  
Miguel, who are oblivious to his discovery. He hesitates,  
then slips the paper into his pocket. The boys continue working  
on their various projects.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

We better start making a list of parts that  
we're gonna need. Tommy, toss me my bag.

Tommy has picked up a file and is frantically filing the serial  
numbers off the bike's frame.

DARREN

Whatcha doin'?

TOMMY

I just thought...You know to be on the  
safe side.

DARREN

Dude, we're not fencing it, we're just  
racing it. Finder's keepers, remember?

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Miguel enters and sets down his book bag. Ernesto has his  
back to him at the stove.

MIGUEL

Hola, Papi.

Ernesto turns and faces him, instantly noticing that he is  
covered in grease.

ERNESTO

Why are you so filthy?

MIGUEL

My friends and I were working on a  
motorcycle.

ERNESTO

Were these the same friends you were  
out with on my ATV?

MIGUEL

Huh? Ah...what do you mean?

ERNESTO

Last night?

MIGUEL

I'm not sure I...

ERNESTO

Careful...Before you answer, you should know that I ran into Sheriff Redtree today.

MIGUEL

Yes, Papa, we were out on the ATV last night.

ERNESTO

And that's why you overslept?

MIGUEL

Yes, Papa.

ERNESTO

I'm not even going to ask what you were doing in the middle of the night on my ATV without permission. But I'm sure that's the last time that will ever happen.

MIGUEL

Yes, Papa.

ERNESTO

Good...And I'm not going to tell you who your friends are, but I don't want you slacking off at school because of them. You have a lot of responsibilities and I expect you to live up to them. Comprendes?

MIGUEL

Yes, Papa.

ERNESTO

Good. Enough said then.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Darren comes out of the bathroom ready for bed.

DARREN

Your turn.

Tommy enters the bathroom wearing only his jeans. He closes the door and starts his before-bed hygiene ritual.

He pauses and pulls the transportation slip from his pocket. With one last glance he crumples it up and flushes it down the toilet.

He turns back to the sink, raises the toothbrush to his mouth to brush and then stops.

He takes a long look at himself in the mirror and lets out a deep sigh.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Darren is fast asleep. Tommy lies in bed staring at the ceiling.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - NED'S STUDY - NIGHT

Ned is at his desk paying bills. Tommy appears at the door. Ned can see he is disturbed.

NED

What's up? You all right?

TOMMY

Couldn't sleep.

NED

Why not?

TOMMY

I can't believe I'm doing this...I think I better just show you.

INT. NED'S PICK UP TRUCK - DAY

Darren and Tommy sit next to Ned, pure misery on their faces.

DARREN

It's not like we stole it, Dad!

NED

I didn't say you stole it. Even if it was junk on the side of the road, you should have told me when you brought it home.

DARREN

You said if we could figure out a way to get in the race, we could have at it.

NED

You're right, I did say that. Look, I'm sorry. I know this is tough, but the bottom line is that the bike belongs to Sam.

Tommy stares out the window and mutters.

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

Ned pulls up in front of the shop.

CUT TO: REAR OF SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Robyn is tying her horse to a post. Seeing Darren arrive, she smiles excitedly and bounds inside.

CUT BACK TO FRONT OF SHOP:

Ned starts inside, leaving Tommy and Darren to unload. As he passes Tommy, he stops for a moment.

NED

I'm proud of you. You did the right thing.

TOMMY

Why does doing the right thing suck so bad?

INT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

Sam is behind the counter when Ned enters. Robyn sits perched on a workbench, drinking a soda. She looks past Ned anxiously to see if Darren is following him.

SAM

What can I do for you, Ned? Come to buy a bike?

NED

No, Sam. But I came to talk about one.

SAM

Okay?

NED

The boys found a brand new 125cc...

SAM

(interrupting)  
Where?

NED

On the highway into town.

SAM

Ah, that's where it went. Where is it?

NED

Out front.

Lee stomps in the rear door and interrupts.

LEE

Hey, where's Eddie? My damn throttle cable's sticking.

SAM

Excuse me, but are you signing Eddie's paychecks these days? If you want your throttle fixed, you know where the tools are!

LEE

Why can't Eddie do it? That's what he gets paid for.

SAM

Wrong! If you want to ride the bike,  
then you get to fix it. Otherwise labor  
is sixty-five bucks an hour.

LEE

I'm the rider--he's the mechanic.

SAM

I'm not going to argue with you and  
you're interrupting us. Now go fix  
your bike.

Lee grabs a handful of tools and with a defiant look storms  
out. Robyn, concerned, calls after him.

ROBYN

I've got Fiero tied up out back...be  
careful, please.

SAM

Sorry about that, Ned. Sometimes that  
boy just gets on my last nerve.

From outside comes the sound of Lee intermittently hitting his  
bike with a mallet and trying to kick start it.

Suddenly the bike screams to life with the throttle pegged  
wide open. Over the redlining engine, a horse whinnies in  
terror.

Robyn jumps up and bolts for the rear door. Sam and Ned follow.

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - REAR OF SHOP - DAY

The horse rears wildly against its tether. Robyn rushes to  
help but can't control the frightened animal.

Darren and Tommy hear the commotion around back and react.  
Hearing Robyn yell, Darren runs to Robyn's aid. Tommy follows.

The boys tear around the corner and Darren races over to help  
Robyn. Together they manage to calm the horse down.

Meanwhile, Sam runs to the revving cycle, pulls the spark plug  
wire, and the bike sputters to a stop. Sam glares at Lee and  
shakes his head.

ROBYN

(to Lee)

What is your problem?! We can't be  
related!

Darren and Robyn finally find themselves face to face.

DARREN

Are you all right?

ROBYN

(shaken)

I'm fine. He could have really hurt himself though. Thank you.

SAM

Nice work, son!

(to Ned)

I think your boy's got a little cowboy in him.

Darren and Robyn lock eyes.

SAM (CONT'D)

(glancing at Lee)

Now that the sideshow is over, let's see about that bike.

Sam leads everyone back inside, leaving Lee stewing, the shame and rage visible on his face. Tommy brings up the rear. Looking back, Tommy can't resist digging Lee.

TOMMY

Smooth.

Tommy slips inside before Lee can respond. In rage Lee heaves the mallet at the bike.

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - FRONT OF SHOP - DAY

Sam, Ned, Darren, Tommy, and Robyn all stand looking down at the pile of bike parts.

NED

Well, here it is.

Sam bursts out laughing so hard he has to remove the ever-present cigar stub from his mouth.

SAM

This is the "brand new" cycle you boys found?

TOMMY

Yes, sir. We took it apart to repair it.

ROBYN

Wow, I'm impressed.

SAM

Ned, this doesn't do me any good. You boys might as well keep it. Far as I'm concerned, I never saw it.

NED

Are you sure about this, Sam?

SAM

Yeah, I'm sure. I can't touch it. I already filed the insurance claim. Besides, I like their initiative.

The boys stand breathless, staring at Ned.

NED

Well, guys... If it's okay with Sam, I guess it's yours.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - NED AND HELEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ned stands in his boxer shorts leaning into the shower to turn it on.

Helen walks up behind him with a rolled up towel and snaps him on the butt.

NED

Owww!

HELEN

"Trust me," you said. "They'll never get a bike together for the race..." Now what, genius?

NED

You didn't see their faces when Sam said they could keep it.

HELEN

Look, I hate to be the turd in the punch bowl here but...my feelings aside, we're talking about Shelley's kid. What if she doesn't want him riding motorcycles? Then you'll have gotten his hopes up for nothing.

NED

I guess you better call her then.

Helen exits. Ned takes his shower.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - NED AND HELEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Helen is lying in bed on the telephone.

HELEN

(giggles)  
...All right, I'll let the boys know. Love ya. I'll talk to you later.

She hangs up the phone as Ned enters from the bathroom wearing a towel.

NED

So what did she say?

HELEN

She couldn't believe her son actually had an attack of conscience, so, and I quote: "My Tommy did the right thing? I'm pretty sure that's one of the signs of the apocalypse... If the world is coming to an end anyway, he might as well ride and have fun."

NED

Phew! Guess I dodged that bullet.

HELEN

Not quite.

Helen aggressively yanks the towel off him and pulls him into bed.

HELEN (CONT'D)

You still have some making up to do.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

The bike is now partly reassembled. Tommy tightens the bolts on the handlebars and notices something.

TOMMY

Damn, the triple-clamp is cracked. We need a new one.

DARREN

We better head down to Sam's before they close.

Miguel tinkers at the workbench with the rear mono-shock assembly.

TOMMY

You coming?

MIGUEL

No, you guys go. I'm gonna stay and work on this shock.

Tommy and Darren exit.

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

Robyn is busy shining up the motorcycles on display in front of the shop. Darren and Tommy approach on their bicycles.

Robyn smiles at the sight of Darren. Tommy, seeing the chemistry between the two, excuses himself.

TOMMY

Hang out and watch the bikes. I'll go grab it.

## INT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

Tommy enters the shop to find Lee standing behind the counter. Lee looks up in disbelief, starts to well with anger.

LEE

You just keep showing up here. Are you stupid or suicidal?

TOMMY

You're the only parts store in town.

LEE

Don't think that you're gonna get a pass on the other night.

TOMMY

Aw, get over it. It's not my fault you can't drive.

LEE

I spent the night in jail because of you.

TOMMY

One night, that's no big deal. Why are you so sore? Aww...you dropped the soap, didn't you?

Veins in his neck about to burst, Lee reaches for something under the counter but Sam walks up from the back of the store.

Lee contains his hostility. They return to the business at hand, but the tension lingers.

SAM

Hey, son, how's the bike coming? Up and running yet?

TOMMY

Practically, sir--just need a new one of these.

Oblivious to the tension between the boys, Sam grabs the clamp from the wall and tosses it on the counter.

SAM

Here ya go, son...Lee, ring him up and give him twenty percent off.

(to Tommy)

Soon as it's ready, you ought to get with Lee. I'm sure he'd be happy to give you a few race tips for Labor day. Be sure to say "hi" to your aunt and uncle.

Sam grabs the order book he came for and disappears into the back. Lee's demeanor suddenly shifts.

LEE

You guys are entering the Labor day race? ...no shit... Well then, let me ring that up for you.

TOMMY

Yeah, you do that... And don't forget my discount.

Lee stares coldly at Tommy as he punches the register keys with force.

LEE

That's \$59.06.

TOMMY

(surprised)  
\$59.06?!

LEE

Yup...with the discount. Racing could get real expensive for you. Are you sure you can afford it?

Tommy drops three twenties on the counter.

TOMMY

Well, if I couldn't, I wouldn't be in here buying it.

Lee slips the part in a bag and hands it over the counter. Just as Tommy reaches for the bag, Lee drops it on the floor.

LEE

Oops...sorry.

Tommy lets the insult go and bends to pick up the part. While he is bent over, his change rains down around him.

LEE (CONT'D)

There I go again...clumsy me.

Tommy leaves the coins on the ground. He stands and heads for the door, turning back to Lee as he exits.

TOMMY

No, you keep the change...counter boy!

Tommy, seething inside, contains himself and calmly walks out without looking back.

LEE

See you on the track...bitch!

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

Tommy exhales hard and marches toward his bike. He vents as he passes Robyn and Darren.

TOMMY

What the hell is that guy's malfunction?!  
Nothing personal, but your brother is a  
major punk!

He reaches his bicycle, snatches it up, and jumps on.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I got to go. You coming?

DARREN

In a second.

TOMMY

Whatever.

Tommy rides off hard. Darren remains with Robyn for a moment.

ROBYN

Tell Tommy that I'm sorry about my brother.

DARREN

You don't have to apologize for him.

ROBYN

Actually I do...I always do. I get so  
sick of his crap sometimes. I miss our  
parents, too, but he has got to quit  
taking it out on everyone else.

Robyn tries to collect herself.

ROBYN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to dump all  
that on you.

DARREN

(shrugs)

It's okay. I like that you talk to me.

Robyn puts her arm around Darren's shoulder.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Ernesto stands at a bench working with a grinder. Miguel enters  
holding the rear shock assembly.

MIGUEL

Papi...PAPI!

Ernesto hears him, turns around, and shuts off the machine.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

I can't get this to work right. It's not  
rebounding. Can you help me with it?

Ernesto takes the shock and examines it.

ERNESTO

I'll take a look at it later.

MIGUEL

I was kind of hoping we could work on it together tonight.

ERNESTO

Is your homework done?

MIGUEL

Well, not all of it, but...

ERNESTO

...I'm busy right now. I'll work on it, you go finish studying.

Miguel hesitates.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

I'll drop it by Ned's tomorrow, don't worry. Now go do your work.

Miguel exits. Ernesto puts down his project, picks up the shock and inspects it.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

The boys are hard at work. The pile of wreckage has been transformed into a nearly complete race bike.

O.S. we hear the distinctive sound of a custom car horn blurting out the song "LA CUCARACHA".

TOMMY

What the hell is that?

Miguel rolls his eyes. He gets up and heads for the door shaking his head.

EXT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Ernesto sits idling in a perfectly restored pink and white Nash metropolitan.

MIGUEL

Look, Dad, the car is bad enough, but you have got to get rid of that horn. It's embarrassing!

ERNESTO

I love this car...And I love my horn, because all the rednecks around here hate it and I think it's funny. You'll understand when you're older. Anyway, here's your shock.

(MORE)

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

I had to make a couple of modifications  
because of the piston being damaged.  
But it works real good now.

Miguel thanks him. Ernesto hands over the shock, turns the car around and heads out, sounding the obnoxious horn and waving as he leaves.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Miguel enters carrying the shock.

TOMMY

That was your dad? Cute car!

MIGUEL

Don't start.

Darren comes over and grabs the shock. He notices a homemade attachment bolted onto the outer spring.

DARREN

Hey, what's this?

MIGUEL

My dad said he had to modify it to make  
it work.

TOMMY

(singing)

M...I...C... See, it's fixed.  
K...E...Y... Why, because we can't afford  
a new one.

DARREN

Dude, if Miguel's dad fixes it, trust  
me, it's fixed!

MIGUEL

Thanks, man. Now let's get this bolted  
on and get this thing fired up.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - NIGHT

Helen is in the kitchen preparing food. The quiet is shattered by the distinct sound of a race bike coming to life and crisply revving its motor.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Helen pokes her head in to address Ned, who is watching TV.

HELEN

Honey, isn't that the sound of a race  
bike that the boys will never ever put  
together?

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - DAWN

The track is vacant. Darren, poised to take the maiden run, is decked out in ridiculous 70s-era riding regalia including a red, white and blue metal-flake helmet.

Miguel stands poised with a clipboard and stop watch. He hands Darren some riding goggles.

MIGUEL

You might want these.

DARREN

(puts on goggles)

Thanks, man.

TOMMY

Show us how it's done, Captain Fabulous.

He drops his arm like a flagman and Darren takes off down the track.

Darren negotiates his way around the track. He starts out cautiously but rapidly gets more aggressive.

Passing the starting line, Miguel logs the lap time. Tommy gestures to Darren to go for it.

Riding harder, Darren begins to lift the front wheel off some of the jumps. With his confidence up, he dials it up through a straightaway toward a large jump.

Misjudging, Darren gives it full throttle right at take off. He loops it, landing square on his butt while the bike skitters down the track.

Tommy and Miguel watch in shock.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Oh shit!

Tommy and Miguel, in full panic, sprint across the track towards the crash site.

POV FROM GROUND:

Tommy and Miguel bend over and stare down with deep concern.

MIGUEL

How bad is it?

TOMMY

Well, it doesn't look like anything is broken.

Tommy and Miguel stand over the fallen motorcycle while Darren lies off to the side rubbing his tail bone.

DARREN

No, really, I'm fine. Thanks for the concern.

Darren picks himself up and lumbers over to the others.

TOMMY

Severe pilot error, dude...you're grounded. My turn.

Tommy picks up the bike, gets it started and stages back at the starting line. Darren removes his goggles revealing a large orange ring around his eyes. He hands them to Tommy.

DARREN

Here you go.

Tommy glances at Miguel who is nonchalantly twirling an orange marker. He looks back at Darren.

TOMMY

(laughs)

Na. I'm good.

DARREN

Watch the throttle, the front end will come right up.

TOMMY

So I noticed.

MIGUEL

Remember, it's one down and five up.

TOMMY

I got it! I've been riding BMX all my life.

DARREN

I don't know if you noticed, but this thing doesn't have any pedals.

TOMMY

Just chill, Bozo... Watch and learn.

Tommy fires up the bike. Stomps down on the gearshift, revs the throttle, and drops the clutch.

The bike stands straight up and rockets away. Tommy hangs off the back, forcing him to twist the throttle even further.

The bike flips and careens down the track leaving Tommy in a pile only a few yards from where he started.

O.S. we hear roaring belly laughter.

Lee sits on his motorcycle with Gabrielle on the back. He is flanked by his cohorts Flash, Sonny and Bob. The pack sits idly behind the starting gate, watching.

We recognize Lee's bike from the cycle shop.

LEE

Hey, asswipe! That was the sorriest thing I've ever seen! I got that tip for ya. Pack up your clown act and get the hell off my track or you're gonna get hurt!

SONNY

Yeah, you sorry-ass lames. You have no business out here!

Tommy picks himself up and glares over at Lee and his gang.

TOMMY

Kiss my ass, butt-muncher.

He motions toward his behind. Gets back on the bike in defiance. Tommy takes off down the track, this time managing to stay aboard.

LEE

Ya know, it really doesn't get any better than this... This is just too good.  
(to Gabrielle)  
Get off!

With a look of protest she dismounts.

Without a word, Lee's gang mounts up and gives chase, leaving Gabrielle standing there.

Tommy rides recklessly and totally out of control. His complete lack of fear coupled with natural ability keep him upright, but just barely.

Lee and the gang execute wild aerial freestyle moves as Tommy struggles to remain on the bike.

The pack closes in on him. Lee suddenly pulls along side Tommy and muscles him toward the hay bales. Lee aggressively tries to unseat Tommy several times.

Lee closely tails Tommy as they approach a big double jump. He dials on the throttle and launches over Tommy's head in mid air, clearing both jumps.

Now ahead of Tommy, Lee begins roosting his unprotected face with mud and rocks. Having caught up, the gang boxes Tommy in and takes turns taunting him. Trapped, Tommy rides frantically, but the gang easily stays with him.

This game continues around the track. Again headed toward the double jump, Tommy tries to break away.

Lee, seeing Tommy accelerating past him toward the double, hits the brakes and slides to a stop.

Tommy sails off the jump but without enough momentum to clear the second hump, he stuffs the front end of the bike into the ramp and launches like a rag doll over the handlebars.

Tommy and the bike bounce ass-over-teakettle down the track.

The rest of the gang narrowly avoid Tommy as they shoot past him, skid to a stop and look back.

Darren and Miguel sprint toward Tommy.

Lee drops his bike into gear and floors it toward the jump. Again catching huge air, he deliberately aims his bike at Tommy, who lies sprawled out on the ground.

Tommy frantically rolls to the side as Lee lands inches from him and skids to a stop next to his buddies.

Darren and Miguel rush to Tommy's aid and help him to his feet. Tommy limps off the track with Darren's help while Miguel pushes the crippled motorcycle. Lee calls after them.

LEE (CONT'D)

I warned you. Racing is expensive.  
I'll tell you what though, if you really  
want more of the same, we'll be out  
here every single day until the race!

Gabrielle arrives from the starting area.

GABRIELLE

You always have to take it a step too  
far, don't you?

LEE

What do you care?!

She turns to leave.

LEE (CONT'D)

Where the hell are you going?

GABRIELLE

What do you care?!

Gabrielle leaves. Flash looks over at Lee.

FLASH

She's right.

Lee laughs and shrugs it off.

LEE

Let's ride!

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

The boys make their way back home, Tommy still limping, Miguel pushing the bike, and Darren carrying broken bike parts.

MIGUEL

So that's it, we walk away...just give up?

TOMMY

Hell no!

MIGUEL

We obviously can't ride there. And if we can't practice on a track we can forget about the race.

TOMMY

So where do we practice? I don't suppose there are any other tracks around here?

DARREN

I think I know the perfect place!

EXT. SANDERS DIRT WASH - DAY

The three boys stand in front of a large sand wash on the outskirts of the Sanders property.

DARREN

This is it!

Tommy look across the barren wash.

TOMMY

It's a little flat, don't you think, Bozo.

DARREN

What's with the Bozo?

Tommy and Miguel bust out laughing. Tommy reaches over and pulls Darren's reflective sunglasses off his head and has Darren look into them.

Miguel takes off running, and Darren takes off after him.

EXT. SANDERS HOUSE - ROOF TOP - MORNING

Ned is papering the roof. Darren emerges and yells up to him.

DARREN

Dad, I need a favor.

EXT. SANDERS WASH - DAY

A tractor shovel lowers through frame.

WIDEN OUT:

Darren at the wheel of the tractor as he takes the first bite out of the wash. Tommy and Miguel ride along on the fenders.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SANDERS WASH - DUSK

The tractor shovel drops a scoop of dirt and raises through frame.

WIDEN OUT:

The boys on the tractor are caked with dirt, and the barren wash is now transformed into an elaborate practice track.

Darren shuts the motor off and the boys stand up and admire their handiwork.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is pitch black. The clock says 5:30 a.m. An ALARM CLOCK breaks the silence. The light comes on and both boys begin pulling on clothes.

DARREN

Hurry up.

TOMMY

I'm waiting on you.

Darren very quietly closes the door.

EXT. PRACTICE TRACK - SUNRISE

Darren is about halfway around the track. He rides slowly, feeling out the terrain on his first lap. Tommy waits at the finish line as Darren rides up.

TOMMY

How was it?

DARREN

Killer!

TOMMY

You ready to time this one?

DARREN

Why not?

Darren revs the throttle and takes off as Tommy clicks the stopwatch. Tommy watches as Darren progresses around the track. Miguel arrives.

MIGUEL

How's it going?

TOMMY

Tell you in a second.

Tommy clicks the stopwatch and shows it to Miguel. Darren pulls off the track and joins them.

DARREN

Whew! How did I do?

TOMMY

Two-twenty-one.

DARREN

Two-twenty-one--the time to beat.

(to Miguel)

Thought you had class today?

MIGUEL

What, and miss the time trials? After all the work I did, I don't think so.

Toss me the helmet.

Darren smiles Miguel suits up and takes off.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

The boys take turns riding and timing each other. Their skill level improves as the day wears on.

Miguel executes a series of elementary freestyle tricks as he rounds the track. He is technically proficient but not extremely colorful.

Darren is less consistent. Although he catches big air, his overall track speed is slower.

Tommy is aggressive, dynamic and reckless. He consistently pushes the envelope. He is exciting to watch as he walks the thin line between brilliance and disaster.

The sun moves in its arc overhead.

EXT. PRACTICE TRACK - LATER - DAY

Tommy, who has improved noticeably, pulls off an impressive cross-up over one of the jumps.

Tommy pulls off the track as Miguel records the lap time.

DARREN

Nice cross-up, dude!

TOMMY

The weight takes a little getting used to, but it's basically the same as a BMX.

MIGUEL

Just don't get too cocky and break the hardware, rookie. I have to get home. See you guys here in the morning.

DARREN

Not a bad first day.

TOMMY

One more lap.

Tommy takes off on a wheelie.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - DAY

Miguel opens the kitchen door carrying his book bag. His Dad calls after him.

ERNESTO (O.S.)  
Have a good day at school, Mijo.

MIGUEL  
Okay. Bye, Dad.

EXT. PRACTICE TRACK - DAY

When Miguel shows up, Darren is on the track and Tommy sports the stopwatch.

MIGUEL  
How's it going? Let me see the times.

Tommy shows Miguel the list of lap times. He is a bit surprised by what he sees.

Darren pulls off the track and dismounts, preparing to let Miguel ride.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)  
Darren...is Tommy pencil-whipping us on the lap times?

TOMMY  
Very funny. I don't need a pencil to whip y'all.

Miguel takes the helmet and heads onto the track.

MONTAGE:

Various shots of the boys, alternating laps on the track, are intercut with inserts of the stopwatch face. The lap times are steadily decreasing.

END MONTAGE:

Tommy finishes his run with a nice whip over the last jump, then pulls off to join Miguel and Darren.

Darren, Tommy and Miguel huddle as Miguel crunches numbers on a scratch pad.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
So, what's the dealio?

MIGUEL  
Chill out...I'm almost done.

DARREN  
Whatever, hurry up.

Finally, Miguel stops writing and turns to Darren and Tommy.

MIGUEL

After throwing out our slowest lap time  
for each day and averaging the rest...we  
have the official rider for team...

DARREN

Who won already!

MIGUEL

Tommy. By over fifteen seconds.

Darren shakes Tommy's hand, as does Miguel.

EXT. SANDERS HOUSE - ROOF TOP - DAY

Ned hollers down to the boys as they head out of the house.

NED

I could really use some help with the  
roof today.

DARREN

But Dad, we need to practice. The race  
is in a couple weeks.

NED

But nothing. We need to get the roof done.

DARREN

Do we both need to help?

NED

It would be better, but I guess two of  
us could do it.

DARREN

(to Tommy)

You need the track time. Go practice.  
I'll help dad.

(to Ned)

Is that cool, Dad?

NED

It's okay with me.

TOMMY

You sure?

DARREN

Yea, I'm sure. Get out of here.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY - EST.

A candy-apple red 1967 El Camino cruises down the road, radio  
blaring.

INT. EL CAMINO - DAY

Gabrielle drives, singing along with the radio. Out the window she sees a motorcycle pop up over a hill in mid air and disappear again.

Her curiosity piqued, she slows and turns onto a frontage road toward the motorcycle.

EXT. PRACTICE TRACK - DAY

Tommy puts the bike through its paces on the practice track. He is "in the zone" on the bike and it shows. This kid is a natural athlete.

Out of the corner of his eye he sees the red El Camino with Gabrielle sitting on the hood, watching him.

Tommy rides over to her and cuts his engine. He conspicuously scans the area.

GABRIELLE

What are you looking for?

TOMMY

If you're here, I figure any minute now your boyfriend is going to try and run me over.

GABRIELLE

I'm nobody's girlfriend. Don't worry, I'm out here alone.

TOMMY

The question is...why?

GABRIELLE

I saw you catching big air and I wanted to come check you out.

Tommy looks over at her El Camino.

TOMMY

Nice ride. Do you even have your license?

GABRIELLE

(puts finger to lips)

Shhh. Don't tell anybody. I'm not exactly old enough, but I've got my permit.

Tommy notices that she is sporting an array of multi-colored "Sex Bracelets" on her arm.

TOMMY

Look at all those colors. I guess you do a lot of things you're not supposed to.

He reaches for one, smiling. She pulls her arm back.

GABRIELLE

Maybe, or it could just be a fashion statement.

TOMMY

So you like what you see, huh? You wanna see more?

GABRIELLE

Definitely. Show me what you've got.

Tommy smiles, kicks the bike to life and tears out on the track with a mission. He starts pulling off some agro-freestyle tricks. She eggs him on and applauds his maneuvers.

Tommy attempts a "Superman Grab" and lets go of the bike but misses the grab. The bike sails off riderless, and Tommy does a belly flop from twenty feet onto the packed dirt.

He lies there gasping for air as Gabrielle rushes over and helps him sit up until he can get his wind back.

TOMMY

(barely able to speak)  
I meant to do that.

GABRIEL

You all right?

TOMMY

I'll live.

Tommy pulls up his Philly 76ers t-shirt and inspects his scraped up stomach.

GABRIELLE

Well, that doesn't look too bad, but we'd better make sure.

Gabrielle pulls Tommy's shirt off over his head.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

If you tell me where it hurts, I'll kiss it and make it better.

Tommy smiles and his eyes drift downward.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

Don't even think about it.  
(beat)  
At least not on the first date.

She leans in and kisses Tommy. They begin to make out, lean back and out of frame.

EXT. GABRIELLE'S CAR - DAY

Tommy, shirtless, leans in the window kissing her good-bye. His hand creeps over to her arm, and he "snaps" the blue bracelet from her wrist and holds it up.

TOMMY

For our next date.

GABRIELLE

I'm disappointed. Is that all you think of me? I thought you would have gone for the black one.

She flashes a wicked smile and peels out in a cloud of dust, leaving Tommy standing there wide-eyed.

EXT. SANDERS DRIVEWAY - LATER

Tommy is wheeling the bike home. He has a nice patch of road rash on his stomach. Darren intercepts him and sees that he has obviously crashed.

DARREN

Damn, what happened to you? You okay?

TOMMY

I wiped out...no biggie.

Tommy seems evasive yet mysteriously lighthearted.

DARREN

No shit. How?

TOMMY

I bit it, that's all.

DARREN

Doing what? What aren't you telling me?

TOMMY

I missed the grab on a superman, okay?

DARREN

A superman?! You're prepping for a motocross race, not freestyle! What the hell possessed you to try that?

TOMMY

If it's any of your business, I was showing Gabrielle a couple of my signature moves.

Darren is dumbstruck.

DARREN

Of course it's my business, stupid ass!  
(MORE)

DARREN (CONT'D)

That bike is one-third mine and you break it show-boating for that chick?

TOMMY

It ain't like that. I was just havin' fun.

DARREN

We can't afford for you or that bike to get broken. And definitely not over that tramp.

TOMMY

Lighten up. It wasn't like that. I think she digs me.

DARREN

Will you get your head out of your ass? She doesn't dig you, she's playing you. I told you before, that chick is trouble.

Darren looks hard at Tommy.

TOMMY

(rolling his eyes)  
Okay, coach.

DARREN

Let's go get you cleaned up.  
(motions to bike)  
And see if you broke anything.

They walk toward the house.

INT. SANDERS KITCHEN - DAY

Helen grimly dabs hydrogen peroxide on Tommy as he winces.

EXT. SANDERS HOUSE - DAY

As Ned returns to the house in his truck, he encounters Helen standing on the porch in her best June Cleaver outfit, holding a motorcycle magazine. As he opens the door...

HELEN

Don't get out. We're going shopping.

INT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - DAY

Helen stands at the counter talking to Sam. Ned stands behind her, holding an enormous pile of riding gear. He can barely see over it.

HELEN

Are you sure this is absolutely the best you have?

SAM

The nervous mother special? Wearing that armor your boy could survive a train wreck. It contains more kevlar and carbon fiber than a stealth bomber!

NED

Yeah, costs about as much too.

Helen shoots Ned a dirty look.

HELEN

Don't even start... You're the one who sanctioned this racing idea in the first place. Now pay the man!

NED

I can't reach my wallet.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Darren and Tommy are watching TV.

HELEN (O.S.)

Boys, come downstairs for a minute, will you, please?

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ned and Helen are sitting on the couch when Tommy and Darren come filing down the stairs. The new riding gear is laid out on the floor.

HELEN

Whenever one of you rides the race bike, you have to wear this stuff. No exceptions and no arguments.

The boys' eyes light up and they immediately tear into the gear, each putting on some pieces. They start rough-housing with each other.

NED

I think they'll adjust.

Jessie walks by, wearing a terry cloth robe and bunny slippers. She has a green mud mask on her face and is carrying a copy of the New Yorker magazine. She looks over at the boys with disgust. She shakes her head and walks upstairs.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - AFTERNOON

Wearing a bikini, Gabrielle lounges in a lawn chair in the bed of her El Camino, watching Lee and the gang ride. Lee is skying jumps and riding very aggressively with his gang.

Lee flagrantly muscles Flash off the track while passing in a corner.

Flash shoots him a dirty look, leaves the track and rides over to the El Camino.

Unamused, Gabrielle types away intently on her Sidekick.

ANGLE ON SIDEKICK - IT READS: "THERE IS NO GRAVITY HERE...LEE SUCKS!"

Flash pulls up, whips off his helmet and steps off his bike. He jumps up on the tailgate with Gabrielle and grabs a drink from the cooler.

GABRIELLE

He used to reserve that for people he didn't like. Doesn't that crap get old? I don't see how you put up with it.

FLASH

His grandfather sponsors me. I have to put up with him. Why are you here?

Lee pulls off the track and rides over. He doffs his helmet, dismounts, and approaches Gabrielle.

LEE

Anything cold left?

Gabrielle seductively reaches into the cooler with her bare foot, grabs a bottle between her toes and extends her leg out, dangling the bottle right in Lee's face.

LEE (CONT'D)

Damn, baby, you look good up there.

GABRIELLE

Don't even.

LEE

No, really, it was hard to concentrate on riding. Hell, Flash was so busy eye-balling you he rode straight off the track.

Flash, who stands watching from the side, reaches into his pocket and pulls out his chirping Sidekick.

ANGLE ON SIDEKICK IT READS: "THERE IS NO GRAVITY HERE...LEE SUCKS!"

Flash and Gabrielle trade glances.

GABRIELLE

Yeah, but nothing distracts you from riding, does it?

LEE

Well, the track closes in 45 minutes, and after that I can focus entirely on you.

GABRIELLE

Lucky me!

LEE

Come on, baby, don't be like that. Seriously, I was thinking about you and me going to the drive-in tonight. We could bring a blanket and get that spot with the broken speaker.

GABRIELLE

There is nothing but reruns at that old drive-in.

LEE

Don't be like that. Come on--it'll be fun.

Gabrielle considers Lee and a seductive gleam comes into her eyes.

GABRIELLE

It has been a while.

LEE

See...you know.

She folds the chair and jumps down close to Lee.

GABRIELLE

Why wait? We could just crawl into the front seat right now, do it two or three times and you'd still have 40 minutes left to practice.

Flash chokes on his soda laughing.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

You'll never change.

LEE

Maybe--but you keep coming back, don't you? Must be something here you just can't stay away from.

GABRIELLE

Watch me.

Gabrielle slams the tailgate and moves to the driver's door. Lee follows.

LEE

Actin' like you have some place to go.

She pulls a Philly 76ers t-shirt from the cab and slowly and seductively pulls it over her head and tugs it down.

GABRIELLE

I'm already gone.

Lee breaks out in genuine, gut-busting laughter.

LEE

Oh, man...you are really slippin' if you think that pathetic, no-riding, out-of-town wanna-be is gonna make me jealous.

GABRIELLE

(starts the engine)

Don't be jealous--be afraid! I bumped into him out on his track the other day and he's amazing. He has a natural ability you'll never have...And he's a nice guy. Focus on that!

She drops it in gear and takes off, leaving Lee standing in the dust.

FLASH

You don't appreciate anything, do you?

LEE

Where'd he get a track?

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Lee and the gang see Tommy rocket into the sky from the same road where Gabrielle spotted him. They pull over to watch.

LEE

I don't believe what I'm seeing.

SONNY

Man, look at the track.

LEE

Not that...look at the little sphincter ride. Tell me that's the same guy.

FLASH

It's him.

SONNY

Damn, check out his height. She was right--he has improved a lot.

(off Lee's look)

For an amateur.

Lee watches Tommy intently.

Tommy pulls off the track and rides over to Darren and whips off his helmet. He is truly in his element.

BOB

Well, let's roll.

LEE

Shut up, I'm thinking.

BOB

Am I missing something? I thought we came out here to beat the snot out of him for Gabrielle.

LEE

Screw her. She's just one of a long list of reasons to punish him...and not the most interesting. Besides, pain fades. I want to take away something that matters.

SONNY

Well, then, what are we going to do?

Miguel passes by on his ATV with a picnic basket and fishing pole in the back. Lee takes notice.

LEE

I think I got it.

Lee turns the truck around and heads back to the road.

EXT. PRACTICE TRACK - DAY

Miguel pulls the ATV to a stop next to Tommy and Darren.

MIGUEL

I got my fly rod and some sandwiches. You guys ready to hit the river?

DARREN

Absolutely. Swing me by the house so I can grab the Enduro.

EXT. DIRT TRAIL - DAY

The boys are riding down a trail, playfully roosting berms, doing wheelies and bouncing off the terrain. Ned's old Enduro bellows white smoke as he trails the pack.

As they round a bend the Enduro fouls a plug, sputters and dies. Darren repeatedly tries to kick-start it without success.

DARREN

Not again! This stupid piece a crap.

TOMMY

I told you not to bother pulling it out of the barn.

Robyn rounds the bend on horseback. She pulls up alongside the frustrated Darren.

ROBYN

I thought I heard bikes. You look like you're having fun.

Darren furiously tries to start the bike.

DARREN

Oh, yeah. The bike's runnin' just great.  
Having a ball!

ROBYN

Yeah, really looks like it.  
(pats her horse)  
You should get one of these instead.

The horse poops right next to Darren.

DARREN

Nah, I don't have to clean up after it,  
and besides, bikes are much faster.

ROBYN

Really? Is that so?

DARREN

This was settled 100 years ago. Over  
any considerable distance the iron horse  
always wins.

ROBYN

Is that so?

Darren kicks the starter once more and the bike comes to life.

DARREN

(smiles)  
To the river?

She digs her heels into the horse's flanks as Darren drops the bike into gear. Horse and machine thunder off.

EXT. ORCHARD - DAY

Robyn rides expertly, traversing the orchard, slaloming through trees and ducking branches. Using the horse's agility, she pulls ahead. Darren gives valiant chase on the bike.

Darren manages to close the gap as they approach a split-rail fence. Standing up in the stirrups like a jockey, Robyn leaps the obstacle easily.

Darren veers to the side and through an opening in the fence, but Robyn has taken a decisive lead as they enter a field.

EXT. FIELD - NEAR RIVER - DAY

They tear across the field at full speed, Darren narrowing her lead as the river comes into view in the distance and overtaking her as they close in on the water.

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - DAY

Darren floors it toward the embankment. He sails the bike over an incline at the water's edge and lands smack dab in the middle of the river.

Landing like a bomb, the water crests over him and he immediately stalls. He is stranded, engine steaming.

Robyn gallops smoothly through to the other side and stops.

ROBYN

(laughing at his predicament)

Looks like you got your little plug wet.

DARREN

(laughing)

I don't suppose you would consider tossing me that rope?

Robyn pulls a coiled rope from her saddle and twirls it expertly overhead. In one deft toss she lassos Darren securely around the shoulders, pinning his arms.

Tommy and Miguel emerge from the orchard just as she ties the rope to her saddle horn and jerks Darren into the river. They all have a good laugh at Darren's expense.

MIGUEL

Way to go, Romeo!

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - LATER

Tommy, Darren and Robyn lounge by the water's edge, eating sandwiches and enjoying the afternoon.

Wearing hip-waders, Miguel stands in the middle of the river and thoroughly entangles himself in monofilament from his fly rod.

TOMMY

Check out Mr. Field-and-Stream.

DARREN

Hey, LL Beaner--as long as you're landing so many whoppers, can I have your sandwich?

MIGUEL

Touch my sandwich and I'll give you another swimming lesson.

(beat)

Do you hear a bike?

Lee emerges from the trail and rides straight over to them. Tommy stands up.

LEE

Relax, little man, don't be scared.

ROBYN

What the hell do you want, Lee?

LEE

Don't get your panties in a bunch. I just came out to talk to my boy here.

TOMMMY

So, what do we have to talk about?

LEE

Word is you think you can ride now. I say we quit dancing around each other and find out.

DARREN

What kind of shit are you trying to pull now?

TOMMY

I got nothing to prove to you.

LEE

Sure you do. You want to do this as much as I do and you know it.

MIGUEL

Don't bite. He's baitin' you.

LEE

No tricks. Just you and me and our bikes.

TOMMMY

That's what I was planning. I'll see you on Labor Day.

LEE

You may have some skills ridin' solo on your private track, but technique alone doesn't win races. You got to have nerve under fire.

TOMMY

I have ridden out of situations a hell of a lot tougher than a few jocks going around in circles.

LEE

Oh yeah? Cool. I hear you like big air. Is that true, Superman?

TOMMY

Yeah... What of it?

LEE

Well, I got a jump that I don't think you have the sack to try.

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

If you can't go head to head with me off one jump, you sure as hell aren't going to hang against twenty guys banging into you for twelve laps.

ROBYN

Don't do it--he's up to something.

LEE

You're not gonna hide behind my sister, are you?

Tommy sizes him up and contemplates the challenge.

LEE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I thought so.

He turns to mount his bike and ride out.

TOMMY

All right. You're on. When?

LEE

Meet me at the fairground track at 5:30. We'll take a little ride.

Lee fires up his bike and rides off.

MIGUEL

Do you ever listen to the good voice?

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - DAY

Lee and his gang sit poised on their bikes. Tommy, Darren and Miguel ride up. As they do, Flash pulls out a Sidekick and begins to text.

LEE

Glad to see you made it.

TOMMY

Yeah. So now what?

LEE

Follow me.

They all fire up their bikes and head out.

EXT. CENTER OF TOWN - DAY

Walking down the street, Gabrielle reads a message on her Sidekick. She jumps in her car and drives frantically, her eyes darting back and forth. She spots the sheriff's cruiser, parks, jumps out and rushes up to him.

EXT. SPILLWAY - DAY

Lee and Tommy are positioned in an empty concrete trough. It is twenty feet wide and has ten-foot vertical walls.

Directly behind them is the base of a dam and a quarter mile ahead the spillway ends in three five-foot diameter pipes that fall steeply into a holding lake sixty feet below. Between the pipes are concrete abutments, two feet wide, that create 45 degree ramps to the lip of the spillway.

The spillway is surrounded by a cyclone fence, recessed ten feet from the top edge.

Miguel, Darren, Sonny, Bob and Flash peer down at them from the rim inside the fence.

TOMMY

So, all we have to do is hit those abutments and clear the fence?

LEE

That's it. I'm left, you're right. First one out of the trough wins.

TOMMY

I thought you said this jump was a challenge.

LEE

The jump isn't the challenge, the landing is. You can't just hit it full speed. Fifteen feet on the far side of the fence, the road drops off sixty feet to the reservoir. Too slow, you eat chain link, too fast, you and your bike end up in the drink.

TOMMY

You're nuts. You've done this?

LEE

Not exactly...but what the hell, we're here.

TOMMY

Screw this.

A low rumble becomes audible in the background.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

What's that noise?

LEE

That? Oh, I forgot to tell you, they refill the reservoir from the dam back there every night.

(looking at watch)

Right about now.

Tommy looks behind him to see white water falling down the face of the dam toward the spillway.

LEE (CONT'D)

If you can't handle the jump, I sure hope you can swim. See ya!

Lee jumps on his starter, pegs the throttle, and rockets down the spillway in a wheelie. Tommy double times it after Lee as a head-high wall of water rushes toward him.

Tommy and Lee race down the spillway side by side, hardly daring to look back. They race desperately to get enough ground on the rushing white water to be able to slow down and time their jump.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Wheels spinning madly. Chains humming. Close-ups of the boys' determined faces. Concrete flashing by in a blur.

The boys blast down the channel toward the narrow abutments. Tommy and Lee exchange looks.

Tommy looks again for Lee but he is GONE. Suddenly, out of the corner of his eye, he spots Lee veering to the wall.

Lee hits a small ramp, obviously staged for him, and arcs up to land cleanly on the rim above and out of harm's way.

The ramp is swept away in the flood. Lee watches Tommy riding furiously, with the torrent on his heels. Lee waves.

Tommy looks back to see the water boiling behind him. He accelerates hard, hurtling toward the abutment ramps.

Just short of the ramp, Tommy slams on the brakes, wheels briefly smoking. The water crashes in behind him, engulfing him just as he hits the ramp.

Tommy launches out of the spillway, narrowly clearing the fence as the water slams into the culverts below.

Just as he clears the fence, Tommy kick-turns the bike ninety degrees in mid air, sticks the landing on the roadway, and skids to a stop inches from the cliff.

He tears his helmet off. Shell-shocked, he peers over the precipice as Darren and Miguel ride up.

DARREN

Holy shit, man! Are you okay?

MIGUEL

That was absolutely unreal!

The gang rides up, Lee bringing up the rear, laughing.

LEE

I'm impressed.

Tommy snaps. With a yell he drops his bike and charges Lee, who stands firm. Darren and Miguel body-block Tommy and pin him by the arms as he strains to reach Lee.

TOMMY

Get off of me! I'm gonna rip his head off!

LEE

Bring it on, little man. Nothing between us but air and opportunity.

Miguel and Darren fight to restrain Tommy. Tommy swings his helmet above his head like a mace.

DARREN

Easy, dude, we can't win this.

TOMMY

Screw that! I'm gonna beat him down, and if his friends are feelin' froggy, they can jump in for some too!

SONNY

Ribbit! Ribbit!

Tommy surges.

MIGUEL

Think about it, Tommy. If you really want to hurt him, take him down on the track. He only wins if you give up... or if you do something stupid.

DARREN

Listen to him, man. Think.

BOB

Ribbit, ribbit.

Tommy surges one more time with a guttural scream. In the distance we see the sheriff barreling toward them. Tommy hears the blaring siren and throws the helmet down and backs off a step.

TOMMY

I'll see you on the track, bitch!

LEE

Looking forward to it. Oh, yeah...

He throws Tommy's 76ers t-shirt at him.

LEE (CONT'D)

Gabrielle wanted me to get this back to you. She said it didn't fit. Too bad.

The boys all jump on their bikes and fire them up. They scatter just before the sheriff arrives.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - MIGUEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Miguel, haggard, enters his room and finds Ernesto sitting on the bed waiting for him. Ernesto holds a letter in his hand.

MIGUEL

What's up, Papi?

ERNESTO

You tell me. I got this letter from your school today. It says the attendance office needs a note from me for a two-day absence a couple of weeks ago.

MIGUEL

(beat)

I cut class.

ERNESTO

I sort of figured that part out. Why?

MIGUEL

Time trials.

ERNESTO

Time trials? Unh huh...the motorcycle again. After your escapade on my ATV, didn't you promise me you would handle your responsibilities? Was I not clear about what I expect from you? You made a commitment to me.

MIGUEL

But Papi, I'm getting an A in the class that I'm not even supposed to be in for another year. At this rate I'll be in college while I'm still sixteen!

ERNESTO

So it's okay that you cut school then?

MIGUEL

Uh...no, but this was important.

ERNESTO

Nothing is more important than your schooling. You know how I feel about that. I can't believe you did such a thing. I'm sorry...but you are grounded for the next two weeks.

MIGUEL

Dad, you can't...the race is this weekend!

ERNESTO

That's too bad. You have to learn what it means to keep a commitment.

MIGUEL

But Papi!

ERNESTO

I'm sorry, son, but that's it.

Ernesto gets up and walks out.

INT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - REAR OF SHOP - NIGHT

Lee and the gang hang out with a few illicit beers.

SONNY

Did you see the look on his face when the dam opened up?

BOB

Yeah, he crapped himself for sure.

FLASH

What the hell was that all about anyway? That was pretty jacked up.

LEE

If you're gonna be a punk about it, you shoulda' stayed home.

FLASH

That's funny, I'm not the one who hatched this heinous cluster-fuck because he's afraid of a little competition.

Lee turns to Flash.

LEE

Does this face look like it's afraid to you? Competition, please! I could blow his doors off on a moped! That was just about pay back!

BOB

Nahhh...Lee's pissed because the little punk is gonna doink Gabrielle and the other one is trying to get up next to his sister.

Sonny laughs.

LEE

Shut up, dick-weed, before I knock the crap out of you.

SONNY

Oh, someone hit a nerve?

Lee turns suddenly and knocks Sonny into the dirt.

LEE  
Laugh now, bitch.

SONNY  
Damn, dude, what's your problem?

LEE  
I don't have a problem. My problems  
are solved.

FLASH  
You know, that kid might actually beat you.

LEE  
It'll never happen. Trust me.

INT. SANDERS HOME - DARREN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Darren rouses from sleep to see Tommy, shoes in hand, half way  
out the window.

DARREN  
Leave it alone, dude.

A beat of deliberation--and Tommy drops out of sight with a  
thud, followed by giggles from the lawn below.

Darren shuffles to the window and spots Gabrielle standing  
outside her car. She lifts her shirt and flashes her bra.  
Tommy turns and shrugs--"What can I do?" Darren's not amused.

EXT. GABRIELLE'S CAR - NIGHT

HIGH ANGLE ON CAR:

As it travels down a moonlit road, the windows fogged from the  
inside, the car rocking erratically as a sexy song thumps.

INT. GABRIELLE'S CAR - NIGHT

TOMMY  
You did what?!

GABRIELLE  
Yeah, I told the sheriff!

TOMMY  
(interrupts)  
--while I'm on probation?!

GABRIELLE  
Thank God he got there in time to save  
your ass!

TOMMY  
He didn't! I handled my own business.  
And I don't need you callin' down a cop  
who's itchin' to bust me!

Gabrielle veers the car to the side of the road, slams the brakes, and slides to a stop sideways. They glare at each other--it's a standoff. She suddenly grabs him by the back of the neck and jerks him into a deep, hungry kiss.

GABRIELLE

(then re-thinking--breaks the kiss)  
That is such a bunch of boy bullshit!

A beat--then she yanks him roughly back into the kiss.

TOMMY

(through kiss)  
Is this a fight?

GABRIELLE

(through kiss)  
Yes!

Tommy cranks the kiss up a notch, then pushes her away and composes himself, a wily smirk breaking across his face.

TOMMY

So does this qualify as our second date?

Another beat, then Gabrielle pulls Tommy back into an even deeper kiss than before.

CAMERA PULLS BACK AND OUT OF THE CAR AND UP TO A HIGH ANGLE ON THE CAR BELOW.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - NIGHT

Gabrielle and Tommy walk the track, scrutinizing the terrain as they go and continuing the night's conversation.

GABRIELLE

Lee gears his bike low for torque so he can power out of the turns, and he generally stays to the inside.

TOMMY

Gabrielle, just answer the question.

GABRIELLE

(ignoring him)  
You can't see behind that hill from the tower--it's a blind spot. If there's any trouble, that's where it's gonna happen.

TOMMY

Answer the damn question.

GABRIELLE

You wanna know? ...Fine.

Buying some time, she scrambles to the top of a giant jump, plps down and grabs two fistfuls of dirt.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

It's like this. My dad has a PhD in dirt. He's an "agricultural scientist". So when he gets a grant--from the people who spend money to study dirt--we pack up and move to the next place with a lot of dirt. I've never lived anywhere more than two years. And when we ended up in this dirt pile, I met Lee and he seemed cool, not that there are tons of choices around here. So we hung out, got together...

Tears well up in Gabrielle's eyes.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

I don't know why I put up with him... I guess I never thought I didn't have to until I met you--and now you're leaving in a week.

Tommy takes her into his arms.

TOMMY

But we're here now.

Tommy cuddles her in his arms and kisses her. They sink to the ground.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Tommy enters in his full riding regalia, wearing a huge smile and with a spring in his step.

TOMMY

Where is Miguel? He knows this is the last day to do any tweaks.

DARREN

Search me, I'm sure he'll show up.

EXT. PRACTICE TRACK - MORNING

Tommy leaps on the bike for the final practice session and starts the engine.

DARREN

Hey, don't bend up the bike since you're riding on no sleep.

TOMMY

Actually, I feel great this morning. There are ways besides sleep to make you feel invigorated. But you wouldn't know about that.

He takes off. The engine shifts from first to second and into third as he picks up speed.

Suddenly there's a loud EXPLOSION, and smoke billows out of the cycle. The rear wheel locks, throwing the cycle into a sideways skid. Tommy is thrown off.

DARREN

Oh, no...no no no!

Tommy picks himself up and backs away from the smoking cycle as Darren runs up.

DARREN (CONT'D)

What happened?

TOMMY

I don't know. The engine blew up.

DARREN

What did you do?

TOMMY

Nothing! You saw me. It just blew up!

They stand over the ruined bike.

DARREN

This can't be happening.

INT. RODRIGUEZ HOUSE - DAY

Miguel picks up the ringing phone.

MIGUEL

Hello... What? What do you mean blew up? Slow down... Dude, I can't--I'm grounded... my dad found out I bailed on school... No, he'd kill me!

(beat)

Christ, all right. I'll be there in twenty.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Miguel is inspecting the damaged bike as the other boys hover. He tries to depress the kick-starter but it's frozen solid.

MIGUEL

Yup, it's seized all right.

DARREN

Well, can we fix it?

MIGUEL

Sure, we just need parts we can't afford, time we ain't got and a machine shop.

DARREN

So?

MIGUEL

So, we're screwed. Game over!

Tommy sits and puts his head down. Darren stands silently in shock, while Miguel continues to poke at the bike.

Miguel notices a strange dark ooze around the blown head gasket. He rubs it with his finger and holds it up.

Miguel bolts upright and removes the bike's gas cap. There is a thick brown residue on the rim of the filler cap. He smells it, then tastes it.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

That hijo de puta!

Tommy lifts his head.

DARREN

What?

MIGUEL

There's molasses in the gas tank!

TOMMY

(bursts out laughing)

Perfect, of course there is! Oh, shoulda' seen that coming.

DARREN

Whoa, I don't get it. What do you mean there's molasses in the tank?

MIGUEL

It's just like sugar--it seized the whole motor.

They stare at the sabotaged bike as the realization sets in. Tommy is uncharacteristically calm.

TOMMY

He got us good this time!

Darren wells up with anger and explodes! Erupting in a fit of rage, he lets loose a primal scream.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ned and Helen are puttering around when they hear the O.S. scream coming from the barn. They look alternately at each other.

HELEN

That can't be good.

They move toward the door.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Amazed, Tommy and Miguel watch with shock as Darren thrashes around the barn, kicking things, sweeping all the tools off the bench and cursing at the top of his lungs!

Darren snatches the helmet off the bike and heaves it the length of the barn, directly at the window.

EXT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Ned and Helen trot across the yard. As they approach the barn, the motorcycle helmet explodes through the window toward them in a shower of glass.

NED

Jesus!

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Ned and Helen enter and find Darren in the middle of his tantrum.

NED

Someone care to explain what's going on in here?

DARREN

LEE PARKER, that's what! He sabotaged our bike!

HELEN

He what?

DARREN

It's obvious, who else could it be? He broke into the barn last night and totally destroyed our bike! He's trying to keep us out of the race.

NED

Hold on a second. If someone broke into our barn and destroyed your bike, I damn sure want to know who it was, but you can't go accusing somebody on a hunch.

HELEN

What makes you think it was Lee?

Tommy crosses over to a support post and yanks his baseball cap off a nail.

TOMMY

Remember this?

INT. SANDERS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Ned enters, crosses to the phone and picks up the receiver.  
The boys are close on his heels.

TOMMY

Wait, uncle Ned, hear me out.

NED

I'm sorry, Tommy. It's gone way too far already. I'm calling Sam.

Tommy has begun pacing.

TOMMY

You don't need to do that--we'll handle it.

DARREN

Damn skippy! This time I'm with him!

NED

Absolutely not!

Tommy stops pacing and turns to Ned, completely composed.

TOMMY

You don't understand. If you tell Sam, he'll probably pull Lee out of the race.

MIGUEL

Uh, amigo, it doesn't matter... There is no way. The motor is toast.

TOMMY

He has been straight screwing with us all summer and I don't know about you, but I'm tired of walking around with a bull's-eye on my forehead.

DARREN

But dude...

TOMMY

But nothing, if I have to take out the motor and put pedals on it, I am going to race Lee!

MIGUEL

The race is tomorrow morning--what you're talking about is impossible.

TOMMY

I don't care.

MIGUEL

I don't think you understand. The engine's got to be completely rebuilt.

TOMMY  
Then we rebuild it.

MIGUEL  
There's no way!

DARREN  
You really think we can?

TOMMY  
I'm sure as hell gonna try. I'm not  
just walking away this time.

DARREN  
All right, I got your back.

HELEN  
(to Ned)  
They're gonna need your help.

Tommy looks over to Ned. Ned hangs up the phone. Miguel gets up and heads toward the door.

DARREN  
Hey, where you goin'?

MIGUEL  
Well, if we're going to do the  
impossible, I need to talk to my dad.

INT. CLOVIS CHEVROLET - SERVICE AREA - DAY

Ernesto is working underneath a car on a lift. Miguel enters. Ernesto sees his son approaching, stops working and sets down his tools. He notices that Miguel is covered in grease and he's not happy.

ERNESTO  
What are you doing here? You're supposed  
to be at home. Where have you been?

MIGUEL  
We need to talk.

ERNESTO  
Okay, what's so important?

MIGUEL  
Our motorcycle blew up and the race is  
tomorrow. We need your help to rebuild it.

ERNESTO  
Come here!

Ernesto grabs Miguel and leads him outside so as not to make a scene at work.

EXT. CLOVIS CHEVROLET - PARKING LOT - DAY

MIGUEL

Papi, will you listen to me?

ERNESTO

No! I am not hearing this. You're grounded because of that pinche bike. Now you not only defy me and leave the house to go work on it again, but you come here to ask me for help? Have you lost your mind? You, my friend, have a lot bigger problems than a broken motorcycle. Now get your butt home. I will deal with you later!

MIGUEL

I'm not leaving until you listen to me.

ERNESTO

Miguel... I'm trying not to lose my temper. Now go home before--

MIGUEL

(interrupts)

Papi, I'm sorry about school and I'll take whatever consequences after the race, but I'm not going home. This isn't about a motorcycle, it's about responsibility. I made a commitment to my friends and I'm going to keep it. You taught me that. I was hoping to get your help but I see that's not going to happen. Sorry to bother you at work.

Miguel exits, leaving Ernesto standing there.

INT. SANDERS BARN - DAY

Miguel enters the barn looking crestfallen.

Ned and the boys have the motor on the bench and have started stripping parts off it.

MIGUEL

How's it going?

NED

We won't really know until we get it torn apart. It looks pretty bad.

TOMMY

Is your father coming?

MIGUEL

No. He can't make it.

DARREN

Did you tell him how important it was?

MIGUEL

Look, he isn't coming, okay? It's up to us.

The crew returns to work.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Ned and the boys work on the motor as the light outside fades and evening falls.

INT. SANDERS BARN - NIGHT

Helen carries a large tray heaped with hamburgers, a pot of coffee, and a gallon of milk.

HELEN

I sort of guessed we wouldn't be sitting down for a regular dinner.

They each grab a burger and continue to work while they eat.

The door opens again and Ernesto steps into the barn. Miguel glances at his father and returns to work, ignoring him.

ERNESTO

Evening, Ned.

NED

(surprised)  
Hey, Ernie.

ERNESTO

Miguel, come out to the truck.

Miguel continues to work without responding. Ned and the others perceive the tension between the father and son.

ERNESTO (CONT'D)

Miguel... Come out to the truck.

MIGUEL

I told you I'm not going home!

ERNESTO

Miguelito... I need help unloading my roll-away.

Miguel stops and turns to his father. Ernesto turns and walks back outside. Miguel follows.

EXT. SANDERS BARN - NIGHT

Miguel and Ernesto unload a giant roll-away tool chest from the bed of the truck.

ERNESTO

This is obviously very important to you.

MIGUEL

Thank you, Papi.

INT. SANDERS BARN - NIGHT

With Ernesto taking charge, work proceeds rapidly, and the engine is soon completely apart.

Ned is welding on the case in the corner. The torch pops as he finishes the job and lifts his welding goggles.

NED

The hole in the case is handled--how's the top end?

ERNESTO

The fuel system is clean and I can re-bore the cylinder but there is no way to salvage the piston. We need a piston kit and a new rod, minimum. Has anyone considered how we're going to get parts for this thing at ten o'clock at night?

DARREN

I have. Keep working, just give me the list.

EXT. SAM'S CYCLE SHOP - NIGHT

The back door opens a crack and Darren tiptoes out. In his arms is a box of parts.

Robyn's head pokes out after him as he exits.

DARREN

I really owe you one big time.

ROBYN

It's the least I could do. Good luck tomorrow.

Robyn leans out and gives Darren a peck on the cheek.

INT. HELEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Helen and Darren are driving back home.

HELEN

I always liked that girl.

Helen pulls a Kleenex from her purse, licks it, and wipes Darren's face.

HELEN (CONT'D)

You have lipstick on your cheek.

INT. SANDER'S BARN - NIGHT

Ernesto and Ned are boring out the cylinder while Tommy and Miguel work on the carburetor. Darren arrives with the parts.

INT. SANDER'S BARN - NIGHT - LATER

The boys, grimy-faced, rub their eyes.

NED

What time is it, Ernie?

ERNESTO

Three a.m.

TOMMY

We're not going to make it, are we?

NED

It won't matter whether we do or not if you don't get some sleep. You'll be in no shape to ride... all of you get inside and get some rest.

TOMMY, DARREN, MIGUEL

(over each other)

No way... not till we're done... not a chance...

NED

Do what I tell you: go get some sleep. Now. Ernie and I will finish this... I promise... Now scoot.

Grumbling and groaning, the boys retire to the house.

With a final glance at the many pieces of the engine still lying on the bench, the three boys retire. Tommy looks back, shakes his head hopelessly, sighs and closes the barn door.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - PARKING LOT - DAY

The lot is filling up with spectators and participants and there are many pickups, motor homes and trailers carrying cycles.

INT. SANDERS HOUSE - DARREN'S ROOM - DAY

Jessie bursts into the room and starts blaring reveille as loud as she can on a kazoo, clearly enjoying being as obnoxious as possible.

Darren rolls over with the pillow over his head. Jessie leans in, lifts the pillow, and blows the second stanza right into his ear.

The three boys scramble out of bed. Tommy looks out the window and sees Ned loading the bike into the back of the truck.

TOMMY

Thank you, uncle Ned.

The three boys throw on their clothes and rush downstairs.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - PARKING LOT - DAY

The parking lot is now filled with vehicles, but there are few people around.

Rounding a corner, trailing a cloud of dust, Ned parks his truck and Ernesto pulls in next to him. They all file out and begin unloading.

NED

Win or lose, I want you boys to know  
I'm proud of all of you.

Tommy impulsively hugs Ned. Miguel throws his arms around Ernesto's shoulder.

ERNESTO

Tommy, you better hang on extra tight.  
I matched up the ports and tweaked a  
few things. I think we squeezed some  
extra ponies out of it. Good luck!

MIGUEL

Thanks, Papi.

Ned and Ernesto relieve Darren unloading the bike.

NED

We'll get the bike unloaded, you boys  
hurry up and register.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - REGISTRATION TABLE - DAY

The table is deserted when Tommy, Darren, and Miguel run up.

From his pit area, Lee looks up and is surprised to see the boys. He checks his watch, and his grimace turns to a snide grin. He saunters over to the registration table.

LEE

I'm surprised to see you guys.

TOMMY

I bet you are.

LEE

Spectators' entrance is that way.

TOMMY

Give it a rest. We're going head to head  
and there's nothing you can do about it.

LEE

Gosh, I really would have enjoyed that but unfortunately, registration closed...  
 (checks his watch)  
 ...twenty minutes ago. Jeez, that's a shame. Better luck next time.

Lee laughs and walks back to the pits, leaving the boys flattened.

Robyn, having seen the confrontation, runs to Sam and whispers in his ear. Sam listens and marches over toward the table.

Sam strides up just as Ned arrives, pushing the bike.

SAM

You boys are a bit tardy.

DARREN

So we heard.

SAM

(holding out registration form)  
 Well, sign here and here. Ned and I will fill out the rest.

Sam hands them their designated race numbers--#163.

SAM (CONT'D)

You better hurry!

Darren and Miguel quickly paste the decals onto the number plate. Tommy kick-starts the bike once and it roars to life. He drops it into gear and tears off.

NED

Thanks for cutting us some slack, Sam.

SAM

Don't mention it. Engine's sounding real good...you must've been up all night.

Ned looks quizzically at Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)

Robyn just told me. Good luck to your boy. Those motor parts are on me.

Ned tips his hat and turns to go.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - DAY

Tommy speeds out onto the track for practice. He quickly gets the feel of the bike and track.

## ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

For you newcomers to motocross, this is how we score. The riders ride three motos. Out of twenty riders, first place gets 20 points. Second place gets 19 and so on. At the end of three motos, the rider with the most points wins!

The flagman signals the end of practice and the bikes pull off the track.

Lee is pulling into his pit area he sees Tommy ride by, and leers at him.

## ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Riders, please come to the base of the tower for instructions and our National Anthem.

The riders assemble at the tower.

## STARTER

If you see a yellow flag, use caution 'cause there are downed riders. If a red flag comes out, it means restart. White flag means one lap to go. You all know what the checkered flag means. Now, everyone ride clean out there and good luck!

The riders stand in a group as the crowd comes to their feet for the playing of the National Anthem. Lee stares at Tommy with an angry scowl.

## BOB

You're gonna wish you stayed home!

Tommy just keeps walking back to his pit. When he arrives, Darren and Miguel are busy making last minute adjustments to the bike.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - TOMMY'S PIT AREA - DAY

The boys finish the last-minute tweaks on the bike.

## TOMMY

Stop fussin' with it. The bike's as ready as it's going to get.

## MIGUEL

How about you, you ready?

## TOMMY

I'm ready.

Gabrielle walks up to the boys. She is dressed in a matched outfit of sexy riding apparel from one of the manufacturers.

GABRIELLE

Hey, Superman.

TOMMY

Hey, sweet thing.

She kisses him, takes a jelly bracelet off her wrist and puts it on his. Darren gives her a look over the tool box.

GABRIELLE

I just came by to wish you luck and give you this. You forgot it last night.

TOMMY

Why don't you hang out here in the pit?

GABRIELLE

Can't, I'm working. But there's a good view from the booth. I'll see you in the winner's circle.

She bounces off and Tommy rides to the starting line.

MIGUEL

Did I miss something?

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - STARTING LINE - DAY

Lee bullies another kid out of his spot so he can be next to Tommy. Lee and Flash flank Tommy on the left, Sonny and Bob on his right.

The starter signals for riders to start their engines. Bob slyly leans over and tries to pop Tommy's spark plug wire.

Tommy strikes like a snake and intercepts Bob's hand, bending his wrist back painfully.

TOMMY

I think not.

Bob struggles to get his hand back as riders begin to rev their engines.

Just as the gate drops Tommy, still pinning Bob's clutch hand, sticks out his foot and jams Bob's bike into gear. Bob's bike abruptly stalls.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The gate drops and Lee gets the hole shot. Tommy is the next one out of the pack, followed closely by Flash.

Back at the starting line, Bob tries furiously to restart his bike.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Out of the hole it's #23, Lee Parker, with Tommy Hudson, #163, in second and Flash Monohan, #42, going into turn one. Bad luck for #16 who stalled out at the gate.

Tommy presses hard to take the lead from Lee, misjudges and overshoots a berm, getting caught up in the flag rope.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Oops--Hudson overshoots a berm... one... two...three...four...

(beat)

Four riders pass him. Tough break-- Hudson had a good start.

Tommy gets his bike back on the track. Three riders remain between Tommy and Lee.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

But wait a minute! Hudson's back in the race and making up lost ground. He's in fourth place and closing the gap on the leaders.

Tommy skies over a jump with daring and control and slips by one of the riders.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Third place gets squirrely in the ruts and Hudson makes the pass. Now it's Parker, Monohan and Hudson.

(beat)

In the corner Hudson dives in under Monohan to regain second place.

Lee looks over his shoulder to see Tommy threatening his lead.

In the pit Darren and Miguel yell and slap each other on the back.

Lee goes high into a large berm and squares it off, cutting Tommy off and causing him to brake hard.

In the maneuver, Lee's rear wheel hits Tommy's front wheel, almost dumping him. Flash and Sonny pass Tommy down low through the corner.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

(reflects action)

Sonny is purposely slowing Tommy down and widening Lee's lead. Tommy tries everything he can to get past Sonny as they set up for a jump.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Hudson makes a mid-air pass to regain second. A beautiful move by a novice rider. Now it's Lee Parker, with Tommy Hudson, and Sonny Hayes... The white flag is out.

Riding as hard as he can, Tommy tries to close in on Lee.

Tommy makes his charge, just one bike-length behind as they approach the final jump.

Tommy pegs the throttle and launches clean over the top of Lee's head and spreads his arms wide in a "no-hander". He lands the jump and takes the win.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

(reacts incredulously)

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - FINISH LINE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The flagman is jumping up and down as Tommy crosses the finish line.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And that, ladies and gentleman is what motocross is all about. Tommy Hudson #163, a newcomer to the sport, pulls off an amazing win at the wire. But hang on, folks, there's two more motos to go.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - GRANDSTAND - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Sanders family is on their feet, yelling and cheering.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - TOMMY'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Tommy passes Darren and Miguel on the way back to the pits. He raises both his index fingers to his head and makes the sign of the bull. Darren and Miguel respond in kind.

A yellow water truck circles the track, wetting down the dust.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - LEE'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Sonny pull into their pit, fuming. Flash follows.

SONNY

How could you let him beat you?

LEE

I wouldn't talk. He beat you, too!

SONNY

Yeah, 'cause I was back running interference for you!

Flash and Bob roll up behind them.

FLASH

Beat him on a moped, huh?  
 (to Bob)  
 Nice start!

BOB

I'm going to kill that little prick!

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - TOMMY'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Tommy is off the bike, drinking from a sports bottle. Miguel pulls the spark plug and looks it over for the next race. Darren fills the gas tank.

MIGUEL

It's running a little rich--I'm switching to a hotter plug.

Darren hands Tommy another drink.

DARREN

You have to stay hydrated.

TOMMY

Stop--my teeth are already floating. Just make sure the bike is ready, I gotta go take a squirt.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - LEE'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Lee sees Tommy enter the bathroom.

LEE

We're gonna finish this thing right now! Come on!

They head for the bathroom.

FLASH

Lee, man, let it go.

LEE

Just watch the door, wuss.

FLASH

Not this time. I'm done.

Flash turns and walks away.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Tommy has his back to the entrance as he stands at a urinal. He finishes peeing, zips up and turns around.

Tommy gets cold-cocked square on the chin. He reels back, shakes it off and sees Lee standing in front of him.

Tommy charges Lee, tackles him to the ground and lets fly a flurry of well-aimed punches. Sonny and Bob jump in.

LEE  
Get him off me!

Sonny and Bob yank Tommy up and off Lee. Lee jumps to his feet and the three bullies struggle to subdue Tommy.

SONNY  
Grab his arms!

The momentum of the brawl sends the four of them careening backwards over a trash can. They land in a heap with Tommy at the bottom. There is an audible pop.

TOMMY  
Ahhhh!

Startled, the bullies quickly get off of him, leaving Tommy writhing on the floor in pain, holding his left wrist.

SONNY  
Oh man!

Lee picks up the garbage can and chucks it at Tommy.

LEE  
He's done. Let's get outta here!

The three boys turn and make a hasty retreat.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - TOMMY'S PIT AREA - DAY

Tommy returns to the pit, jersey torn, holding his wrist. Darren and Miguel rush up to him.

MIGUEL  
What happened?

DARREN  
Are you okay?

TOMMY  
They jumped me in the bathroom.

MIGUEL  
Hijo de puta! How bad is it?

TOMMY  
I don't know, but it hurts like hell.

DARREN  
Can you ride?

TOMMY  
(flexing his hand)  
I think so.

MIGUEL  
Let's try taping it.

He grabs a roll of duct tape from a toolbox and starts wrapping it around Tommy's wrist.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)  
Can you handle the clutch?

TOMMY  
If I can just hold it in for the start,  
I can speed shift during the race.

Miguel finishes taping the wrist.

TOMMY (CONT'D)  
That feels better.

Tommy gears back up and heads for the starting gate for the second race.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - STARTING GATE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The riders focus on the starter and rev their engines. Tommy's wrist shakes as he strains against the clutch lever.

The starter trips the mechanism and twenty riders emerge from a cloud of dust and roar down the track.

Lee gets the hole. Tommy emerges mid-pack.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
(reflects action)

Tommy's wrist gives him a lot of trouble. His engine over-revs as he misses a shift.

He does all right in the straight-aways but has a rough time in the jumps. His grip on the bars is repeatedly broken by the impact of the landings. He's no match for Lee in this moto.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - GRANDSTAND - DAY

The family watches the race with concern.

HELEN  
Something's wrong.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

RACE MONTAGE:

Riders negotiate various sections of track: a jump, a hairpin, a straightaway, a berm, a hill, and a steep curve.

Several more riders pass Tommy and he slips further back into the pack with each lap.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
On the last lap, Parker, #23, leads by four lengths, with Sonny Hayes, #16, in second, and Flash Monohan, in third.

Lee flies toward the finish and does a victorious "knack knack" over the last jump. Sonny does a cross-up behind him. Tommy crosses the finish line buried in the pack.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

And in first place is Lee Parker with Sonny Hayes and Flash Monahan rounding out the top three. Team Parker seems to be a dominant force.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - TOMMY'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Darren and Miguel wave Tommy in. Darren helps Tommy off the bike.

TOMMY

I can't hang onto the bars.

Tommy winces as Darren pulls off his glove and removes the tape. Miguel and Darren share a look of concern.

MIGUEL

Damn!

DARREN

Man, that doesn't look too good.

TOMMY

Just re-tape it tighter!

Darren starts to re-tape the wrist when Ned and Ernesto walk up.

NED

What happened, Tommy? What's wrong with your hand?

TOMMY

I'm okay--I just twisted it.

Skeptical, Ned examines Tommy's wrist. He sees the swelling and Tommy trying very hard not to show his pain.

NED

This looks bad--you need an x-ray.

TOMMY

Sure, as soon as the race is over.

NED

It may be broken. Look, Tommy, you've made your point. I know how important this is, but you can't race like this.

TOMMY

I can't quit now.

Ned shakes his head.

ERNESTO

Your uncle is right.

TOMMY

I'm finishing this race!

Ned studies Tommy and sees the absolute commitment in his eyes. Against his better judgment, he acquiesces.

NED

The least we can do is ice it down a little.

Ned reaches down, grabs a bag of ice from the cooler and hands it over to Miguel.

NED (CONT'D)

Here, keep this on his wrist.

MIGUEL

(sotto voce)

I'd like to ice Lee.

Ernesto overhears Miguel's comment. Glancing over at Lee's camp he sees Lee staring back at them. Putting two and two together he excuses himself.

NED

I gotta get back to the stands and reassure my wife. See you after the race.

Ned exits. Just then, Flash rides by on his way to the starting line.

FLASH

Yo, Tommy.

The boys look over expecting trouble.

TOMMY

What the hell do you want?

Tommy, Darren and Miguel start to square off for another confrontation.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Riders to the starting gate.

FLASH

Whoa, easy. You got a lot of heart and I respect that. I came over to help.

DARREN

We don't need any help from you.

FLASH

Yeah, you do.

(to Miguel)

Toss me the duct tape.

(to Tommy)

Grab the bar.

Tommy looks skeptical but complies. Flash begins to tape Tommy's hand securely to the grip, leaving two fingers free.

MIGUEL

Why didn't I think of that?

FLASH

How's that feel?

TOMMY

Pretty good...thanks, man.

FLASH

No problem. I just want to see this thing end fairly. Good luck!

Flash nods and rides off. Tommy starts to roll and stops. He looks over at the tool box and calls out to Miguel.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - TRACK SIDE - DAY

Ernesto slips a twenty-dollar bill into the hand of a man sporting a Peterbilt hat.

EXT. RACE TRACK - STARTING GATE - DAY - CLOSE ON TOMMY

Lee is in the lineup revving his engine. Tommy positions himself next to him. Lee looks over and sneers.

Tommy looks Lee in the eye, removes Gabrielle's jelly bracelet from his wrist, hangs it on Lee's clutch lever, and smiles.

TOMMY

I think you lost something.

Lee stares at him with murder in his eyes. The starting gate drops and Tommy gets the hole shot.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And they're off!

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - DAY - MOVING

The pack races down the first straightaway.

Tommy and Lee fly over a jump at the same time. They jockey for position around a tight hairpin turn. Clearly, the tape worked.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's really a fight between Parker and Hudson. Neither one is giving an inch...

The pack is trailing these two, who are off to an early lead.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

...Going into the whoops it's Hudson, but Parker is really putting the pressure on...and he makes the pass.

Lee pulls ahead of Tommy and establishes a three-length lead. Tommy bobbles and Bob slides in under him as they approach the double jump on the back straightaway.

Tommy regains second as they sky over the jumps. Tommy sets up for a berm but Bob nails his back end, causing him to go down hard on the left side.

Tommy rights the bike, pulling hard on his fastened hand. He loses a couple of spots but re-enters the race and makes a couple of aggressive passes to re-take third position.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
(reflects action)

The crowd and the family react as the action unfolds.

Tommy starts putting intense pressure on Bob, looking for an opening. Miguel and Darren cheer from the pits.

Tommy muscled by Bob to regain second. He pushes the outside of the envelope as he charges on Lee.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
What a race, folks. These two are riding like they're possessed. It's Parker out in front as they approach a big jump. Man, they're really moving, we're gonna see some big air on this one!

They fly off the jump and Tommy lands hard. His face contorts in pain but he retains his grip on the bars. He presses hard to close on Lee.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
(reflects action)

Tommy pulls abreast of Lee as they barrel through a corner and head for a series of jumps. Both set up their speed to optimize the section.

Lee jams down on Tommy's gearshift lever with his foot, causing him to lose speed and ruining his timing. Bob and Flash pass Tommy and Lee pulls ahead.

The officials don't see Lee's illegal move. But Sam does. Tommy recovers and tears back into the fray. Sam throws down his cigar.

SAM  
Go get 'em, Tommy!

Lee crosses the line and the flagman waves the white flag. Flash and Bob are second and third. Tommy is in fourth place.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
We have one lap to go.  
(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Will Hudson regain his ground or will  
 Parker take it all the way?

The crowd is on its feet. The family cheers. Darren and Miguel yell wildly from the pits.

Tommy is riding right on the edge, slowly closing on Lee. He has Flash and Bob in his sights.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 (reflects action)

It is a four-bike race and the battle for second is vicious.

Tommy makes several attempts to pass but Bob repeatedly interferes. Tommy charges but is again stymied. Flash looks at Tommy.

Flash bumps Bob in a turn and sends him into the hay bails. Tommy avoids the crash on the inside and goes after Lee.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 Tommy Hudson is really pulling out all  
 the stops... But can he close the gap  
 on Parker?

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - TOMMY'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

DARREN  
 Bust on him, dog!

MIGUEL  
 Both horns, baby!

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Lee is trying every sleazy trick he knows to offset Tommy, but Tommy stays neck and neck, trading the lead on every turn and every jump.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 (reflects action)

They're in the last turn before the final set of jumps, and they are welded side by side.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 These two are really dukin' it out and  
 it's anybody's race as they approach the  
 final jump. They better have clearance  
 from air traffic control for this one!

Tommy and Lee barrel toward the final jump, both of them going for broke. As they hit the ramp Lee looks over to see Tommy edging past him.

At the last second, Lee, in desperation, veers his bike hard, straight toward Tommy. Tommy sees Lee on a collision course and pegs the throttle as they launch skyward.

MIGUEL

He's going kamikaze!

DARREN

Dirty suicide bomber!

The two bikes rocket upward and Lee flies toward an inevitable, disastrous collision with Tommy.

Tommy takes evasive action. He throws back his head and pulls hard on the bars. His bike goes vertical and the crowd freezes.

Tommy is inverted as Lee passes, missing him by a hair's breadth. Lee continues to sail off the track and drops like a scud missile into a group of track-side port-a-potties. It's ugly.

Well past vertical, Tommy is now committed. He pulls back on the bars, completes a spectacular back flip, lands, and shoots across the finish line as the checkered flag waves wildly.

The crowd erupts, everyone up on their feet, chanting.

EXT. TOMMY'S PIT AREA- DAY - CONTINUOUS

Tommy pulls off the track and flashes a huge winner's grin. Miguel cuts Tommy's hand free, and he dismounts as the family arrives and circles to congratulate him. Helen pushes her way through with a cold pack and some first aid adhesive and starts tending to his arm.

HELEN

You keep that pack on 'til we get you looked at, young man. Now go get your trophy.

Darren and Miguel hoist Tommy onto their shoulders and carry him toward the podium.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - WINNER'S PLATFORM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They hoist Tommy on top of the platform. He reaches down, grabs their arms and pulls them up with him.

The cheering crowd gathers, with the family front and center.

They hold their arms up triumphantly as a buxom, bikini-clad girl presents Tommy with a large trophy. From the wings Sam and Robyn wheel in a brand-new cycle and place it before Tommy.

Robyn climbs up onto the stage, quickly hugging Tommy and Miguel. When she reaches Darren, she gives him a big hug and plants a kiss on his lips.

Robyn turns to step down. Seizing the moment, Darren takes charge, spins her around and pulls her close to him.

He dips her dramatically and plants a really long, sensuous kiss on her.

Ned and Sam exchange sheepish but approving looks. The kiss lingers on, amidst hoots and wolf calls from the cheering crowd.

Tommy basks in the glow of the winner's circle. Ned and Helen approach.

HELEN

Hurry up we're off to the emergency room.  
(glaring at Ned)  
In accordance with the prophecy.

TOMMY

I'll get my stuff--meet you at the gate.

EXT. TOMMY'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Tommy and Miguel pack their gear--Darren is conspicuously absent.

MIGUEL

You really did it, man.

TOMMY

We did it.  
(confidential)  
I need one more favor though.

MIGUEL

Name it?

TOMMY

(indicates race bike)  
Take care of this for me.

MIGUEL

You serious?

TOMMY

You built it... Besides it won't exactly fit in my duffel bag. I'm giving Darren the trophy bike.

Miguel's face lights with joy. Miguel picks Tommy up in a bear hug. Gabrielle appears.

GABRIELLE

Hey, that's my job.

Miguel sheepishly puts Tommy down. Tommy turns toward her. She lays her hand on his arm.

GABRIELLE (CONT'D)

Does it hurt? It's really swollen.

A smile creeps across Tommy's face.

TOMMY

It's kinda starting to throb.

GABRIELLE

Your arm, randy boy.

Gabrielle drops to her knees takes his wrist and kisses it then slowly slides upward across his body and plants a big wet one on his mouth.

TOMMY

Wow!

GABRIELLE

You know, I have an aunt in Philadelphia. She's always bugging me to visit.

TOMMY

Tell your dad there's lots of dirt in Philly.

She laughs. Flash rides up.

FLASH

Diabolical move, brother.

TOMMY

Thanks, Flash. You're all right.

GABRIELLE

Yeah, he is all right...

(to Flash)

Hey, Flash--give a girl a ride?

FLASH

Hop on.

Gabrielle jumps on.

TOMMY

Hey, where you going?

GABRIELLE

To grab my car.

TOMMY

Am I going to see you later?

Gabrielle gives a coquettish nod and blows Tommy a kiss as she and Flash ride off.

EXT. LEE'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Lee, having extricated himself from the shattered outhouses, stands track side, covered in unspeakable muck, berating Sonny and Bob. In the background, a big yellow water truck motors toward them.

Passing near the boys as they squabble, the water jets open full blast, drowning the three in a deluge of cold water.

EXT. MOTOCROSS TRACK - PARKING LOT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Sanderses and Miguel head for their cars.

MIGUEL

Has anyone seen my dad?

INT. WATER TRUCK - DAY

Ernesto is at the wheel, wearing a dirty Peterbilt hat. He smiles and drives on.

EXT. LEE'S PIT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Tommy passes by. Lee spots him and pursues him.

LEE

Hey, Hudson!

Tommy spins around, expecting the worst.

LEE (CONT'D)

What you did out there... It was sublime, dude.

Tommy nods and studies him for a beat. Lee turns to walk away.

TOMMY

Lee.

LEE

Yeah?

TOMMY

(looks intensely at him)

I never noticed it before but, you have really sad eyes.

Lee stands there bewildered. Tommy turns and walks away, a slight grin forming on his face, no trace of sadness in his eyes.

**THE END**