

1 INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - EVENING

1

JAK

Lemme get uh...

Jak & Jeysin's heads and hair peek just above the counter, staring up to the menu. The bored teenage cashier raises a hand to cover their yawn.

*double stack, extra everything,
um... wild style fries.. ooh and a
strawberry shake!*

JEYSIN

And I'll have a single stack, plain-

CASHIER

-Just meat and cheese?

JEYSIN

*Just meat and cheese.
Small order of fries and a sweet
tea, please.*

Neon sign for 'Up-n-Down Burger' illuminates the early night, shining on the side of an empty road. A long-distance bus stretches half the parking lot. The driver sits inside, spending his break with playoffs play-by-play on the radio. Inside, ceiling lights buzz & 80s pop creaks out of speakers just as old. In the biggest booth, the brothers sit across from one another. White wrappers & red trays cover the table.

Gulping down a big bite from his burger, Jak turns a thought around in his head. He stops eating, looks out the window, then looks to his brother. Jeysin raises a brow. He shovels down a handful of fries and places two fingers to his temple.

JEYSIN

*(Telepathically)**..You good?*

JAK

Yeah.

He responds on the mental link.

Was just thinking...

JEYSIN

About what?

JAK

*What's the difference between a
double cheeseburger and a double*

burger with cheese?

He chomps a big bite of his burger.

JEYSIN

*They are two different things on the menu.
Weird.*

JAK

Right. But why?

JEYSIN

Maybe it's the way they put it together?

Jak pulls back & gives the burger a good look

JAK

This one's cheese, patty, cheese, patty.

He takes another bite.

JEYSIN

Which would make the double burger patty, patty, cheese, cheese?

JAK

Works for me.

He shrugs & inhales the last of his sandwich.

Track 2: From The Ground Up

2 INT. LONG DISTANCE BUS - NIGHT

2

JAK

...Are you seeing this!?

His eyes light up staring at a big city skyline flashing in the distance.

JEYSIN

Hard to believe we're just hours from home.

Jeysin sits beside him, holding an unfolded San Diego brochure.

*But that's where we'll find our
first official SFC training gym.*

JAK

That place has to have it all!

He leans over onto Jeysin. Images of attractions fill the page, including a gym with the SFC logo.

*Those 5 Star hotels would treat us
like princes.*

JEYSIN

*And their prices would leave us like
paupers.*

JAK

Which is why we're headed to..?

JEYSIN

*(With perfect
pronunciation)*

*La Mesilla.
It's a little suburb of the big
city.*

JAK

*So we'll find a cheap spot to crash.
Tomorrow, we get ready for the big
leagues.*

They travel deeper into the night. Various other passengers depart at different stops along the way. Jeysin fights his sleep, his eyelids growing heavier til he lets out a big yawn. Propping up his bookbag as a pillow, he dozes off.

Yo.

Yo Jeysin. Jeysin!

Jak pushes lightly on his brother's arm to wake him
Get up. We're here.

The bus departs, leaving the brothers in a small town.

3 EXT. LA MESILLA - LATE NIGHT

3

The neighborhood is dark - streetlights out on every other corner.

It's kinda like home.

The brothers walk for a short while, scoping out a place to stay. Jak keeps his eyes sharp, but a yawn sneaks out. Jeysin

looking stays close, looking around and over his shoulder. Jak sets eyes on a two-story motel's flickering VACANCY sign.

Let's give that one a shot.

JEYSIN

Uh... yeah. Sure.

Jak pokes around the place. He looks through the lobby windows, finding no one.

JAK

Looks like a bust. Let's keep moving.

STRANGER

You boys need a place to stay?

They turn to see an orange dot glowing from a shadowed corner of the motel. A woman (their mother's age, dark red hair in a ponytail, cigarette in the corner of her mouth) steps forth. Jeysin nudges his brother in the arm.

JAK

Ye-yeah. Yes we are.

WOMAN 1

Way too late for kids to be walking around here on their own. I'll get you guys a room for the night.

JAK

...You sure?

WOMAN 1

Call me selfish, but wouldn't be able to sleep tonight if I didn't.

The woman takes another puff of her cigarette & puts it out beneath her foot, motioning for the brothers to follow.

On the second floor, she unlocks a door and flips up the light switch.

Here we are. Presidential suite.

Inside is a simple room with twin beds and an old TV. Jak plops onto a bed and rolls himself up in the covers.

JAK

Nice and cozy...

He smiles.

This place is cool with me.

The woman hands Jeysin the room key and takes her leave.

JEYSIN
We really appreciate it, Miss..?

WOMAN 1
GAIL. You can call me Miss Gail.

She's frank, but warm. Sure of herself.

JEYSIN
That's my older brother Jak and my name is Jeysin.

He smiles, extending a hand.
It's a pleasure to meet you.

She stares at him a moment then turns. Lightly chuckling, she waves him off.

GAIL
Save the formal stuff for now, kid. Try & get some shuteye.

3A INT. MOTEL ROOM - MORNING

3A

Jeysin sleeps neatly tucked beneath his covers. Jak sleeps with arms and legs sprawled out, covers and pillows tossed around. A small knock at the door wakes the older brother from his slumber. He tumbles from the bed and stumbles to the door, rubbing his eyes.

GIRL 1
(Cheerful)
Good mooorning!

A little girl (6, dirty blonde hair down her back) stands on the other side. Her green eyes filled with joy, her wide smile unbothered by a few tooth fairy visits. Her skin is tanned from hours spent under the sun.

Mommy wanted me to tell you breakfast is ready!

JAK
Breakfast? That's two of my-

He pauses to think.
That's one of my favorite words!

GIRL 1
Mommy said it's a, um.. compli...

Her brows lower.

*Compli...tary? "Compli-men-tary"
breakfast! Yeah, that's what she
called it!*

Jak applauds her effort, tilting his head.

JAK
*So we're going to eat and say nice
stuff about each other? That's cool.*

JEYSIN
(Yawning)
Free.

Jeysin sits up in bed, stretching out his arms
Complimentary means free.

Jak looks back down to the girl. She nods her head, holding
her grin.

GIRL 1
*It just sounds more fancy. That's
why it's one of my big girl words!*

JAK
Free is the best kind of food!

Jak lifts her up, lightly tossing and catching her. The girl
giggles and cheers. Jeysin stresses at the sight, raising his
hands and lowering them.

5 INT. MOTEL DININGROOM

5

Birds singing their morning songs & sizzling **PSSTs** soundtrack
the lower level of the motel. Door-less walkways connect the
motel's kitchen its small dining hall. Gail (rocking a
stained apron) turns from the stove, hands filled with
skillets. She carefully places the last dishes onto a round
table loaded with breakfast grub.

GAIL
House Special breakfast. Eat up.

Jeysin wipes drool from the corner of his mouth. Jak uses
both hands to hold his shut. The girl smiles, swaying side to
side. Jak clears his throat and straightens his posture.

JAK
We really do appreciate all the-

GAIL
*Steamin' hot food in your face & you
wanna chat?*

JAK

Say less.

He fills his plate with food from all across the spread. The girl watches, eyes wide.

GIRL 1

You put bacon in between your pancakes!?

Jak looks to her, proudly drizzling syrup on his short stack.

JAK

Get the crunchy with the fluffy with the sweet all at the same time. It's the best.

She marvels at his masterpiece.

GIRL 1

I wanna try!

JAK

The key is the base. It's all about picking that perfect pancake...

With his help, she layers her food fortress. At the sight, Gail can't help but laugh to herself.

GAIL

Jeysin and Jak, right?

JEYSIN

You remembered.

GAIL

Part of being a good host.

JEYSIN

Then this breakfast must be for bonus points.

Jeysin packs his plate & scoots closer to Gail.

GAIL

"Fill the stomach, fill the heart," my old man always said.

JEYSIN

I take it this place been in your family for quite some time?

GAIL

Opened by my old man's old man. He passed the torch to my old man, who handed it to me last year. I'm hoping, one day, I can pass the torch to SONYA.

She stands to wrap a hair tie around her daughter's locks as Sonya pours syrup onto her pancakes.
If that's what she wants.

The pancake bacon stack lights up Sonya's taste buds and eyes. She stands up in her chair to high five Jak.

(Cont.)

What about you two? Never had kids room here without any parents. Your mom must be worried sick.

JEYSIN

See, about that...

He's unable to find the words.

JAK

It may not look like it, but we aren't kids at all. We're traveling lotion salesmen and our products have made our skin as soft and smooth as a child's.

Jeysin shoots him a look.

JEYSIN

(Telepathically)
Really?

Jak clears his throat and flexes his biceps.

JAK

-I mean, we're here road tripping to the SFC so we can enter the tournament and win big!

SONYA

SFC.. Ooh! I know that!

Words and crumbs rush from her mouth.

That's the thing on TV with the superpower people!

She stood to flex her muscles like Jak, making the toughest face she could muster. Jak wipes his face.

JAK

That's the one.

GAIL

SFC, huh?

She laughs to herself, pulling a cigarette from her pocket. She sparks and takes a drag.

*You two actually believe that stuff?
Looks so phony.*

JAK

*Phony or not, we have to see it
through.*

GAIL

Why's that?

She exhales, blowing the smoke away from the table.

GAIL

Must be serious if you left home.

JAK

*Long as I can remember I've been
itchin' to get out of Rosace and see
the rest of the world.
Wasn't what I expected, but entering
that tournament is our chance to
make it happen.*

Jeysin nods his head proudly as he eats. Gail smiles, shaking her head. She exhales smoke through her nose.

GAIL

*The 48 bus has a stop three blocks
down, across the street. Should get
you walking distance from the heart
of the city.
You guys made it here all the way
from Rosace, should have no trouble
finding your gym.*

JEYSIN

*Any idea when the next bus will be
coming?*

GAIL

Every other hour on the 15s, so...

Gail glances down to her wristwatch.

*Should be one coming in the next
five.*

JAK

Let's bust a move!

He picks up his plate, sliding the last of his meal down the hatch in one gulp. Jeysin hurries to finish his plate.

JEYSIN

We still haven't talked to her about paying-

GAIL

We can sort that out later.

She waves them off.
Get going.

JEYSIN

R-Right! Leaving now!

Jak bolts from the room. Jeysin downs a glass of orange juice, pushes his (and Jak's) chair in, grabs their bags, and chases after his brother.

Wait up Jak!

Sonya waves from the doorstep. Gail takes one last drag from her cigarette, stuffing it out in an ashtray.

GAIL

Don't meet a pair like them every day, that's for sure.

5A INT: #48 BUS

5A

Jeysin sits calmly during the ride, thumbing through a travel brochure. Jak bounces from seat to seat to catch every window-side view. A while into the ride, Jak swings his arms, hanging by his legs upside down from the handrails. The bus jerks to a stop - he's flung to the floor. Jeysin switches to playing 'MiniMon' on his handheld 'Gameguy Advance.' Jak stays close by to coach him on.

Before they'd even noticed, the brothers arrive at their stop. Jak fist bumps the driver, exiting with Jeysin close behind. putting on his backpack. **Diego City Boxing and MMA: An Official WSFC Training Gym** read the front of the almost cube-shaped building, wedged between two much taller ones.

5B INT: DIEGO CITY GYM

5B

SFC memorabilia covers every inch of the lobby walls. Framed photos from both the gym and the grand stage. Newspaper front page headlines crowning champions. Championship belts and commemorative plaques.

JEYSIN

(Excitedly)
*Who'd have ever thought we'd get off
 to such a good start?*

JAK
*With all these decorations, it
 better be worth the hype.*

Jak sits in a chair near the vacant welcome desk, swinging his legs. Jeysin takes a closer look at the walls. His eyes sparkle reading headlines about fighters from the gym who had won big matches - captured in photo with fists high held or landing the finishing blow.

QUICK CUT: SAN DIEGO STREET

Around the corner from the gym, a pair of feet push hard onto the pedals of a bike. The rider hits a sharp turn, hops the curb, and slides into place at the gym's bike rack.

CUT: GYM

JEYSIN
Hey Jak, get a look at this.

Jak joins his brother, looking up to the walls of fame.
*"'Turbo' Terry Omega uses his
 signature 'Volcanic Upper' to seal
 come-from-behind victory and advance
 to the semi-final of SFC 1980!"*

A newspaper front-page spread depicts a younger version of their father connecting to his opponent's chin with a fire-covered fist.

(Amazed)
*Can you believe that's really our
 dad?*

JAK
Nah, but I totally believe that is.

He points elsewhere. Jeysin turns to see, his amazement becomes confusion.

JEYSIN
*That's just a blank spot on the
 wall.*

Jak bursts into laughter but he's cut off by the biker. The tall man not fully visible to either of the brother rushes inside. He apologizes as he brushes past Jak and heads right, deeper into the gym.

MAN 2

Sorry I'm late. Li's grading papers tonight so I had to make an early grocery run.

He passes by a pair footsteps heading in the opposite direction.

WOMAN 2

Don't sweat it; your 10 o'clock is waiting on you.

MAN 2

You're the best. Think those kids were waiting to sign up - could you handle that for me?

WOMAN 1

Got you covered.

That second set of feet stops before the brothers.
What's up guys?

Standing before them was a white-skinned teenage girl, just taller than Jak. Her curly auburn hair is tied up in a side ponytail, her smile and big blue eyes beam with confidence.
You can call me BELLA; I'll be getting you started today.

She walks the boys over to the sign-up desk.

BELLA

You know, it isn't every day that guys your age sign up for the pro-level training.

JAK

You grow up real fast when you grew up how we did.

He leans up against the desk with his forearms.

BELLA

(Grinning)

Confident! I like it!

Jeysin stands beside him as Bella slides over clipboards with papers attached.

Here are some waivers for you guys to fill out, agreeing to all the "physical activity" that'll be going down in your classes.

JEYSIN

Ooh! That reminds me!

Jeysin kneels down to search through his bag. Jak looks to Bella with a shrug before Jeysin pops back up with two small slips of paper.

*I brought along spare permission
slips from our mom - in case you
need them.*

Jak shakes his head and chuckles. Bella can't help but smile at Jeysin's innocence. Nearby, two figures laugh with one another. Jak is quick to notice. Bella looks at the slip with a raised eyebrow then looks to Jeysin.

BELLA

*Good thinking dude.
You two go ahead and knock these out
for me and I'll go see if I can find
your instructor.*

JEYSIN

*What's their name, if you don't mind
me asking?*

BELLA

*I don't mind at all! You two are
actually in luck.
Your trainer will be AMIR FERNANDEZ,
former SFC Finalist.*

JAK

*(In disbelief)
Nah.*

JEYSIN

*(Excited)
No way!*

BELLA

*He's a star in the Championship's
community, and the top dog here. He
can hold his own in the ring with
any fighter in the world, but he's
so laid back outside it that you'd
never guess.*

Bella's words get Jak to loosen up.

*Who better to teach future pros than
a pro himself?*

She leaves the room with a friendly wave. The brothers finish filling out their forms shortly after. Turning his attention back to the wall of fame, Jeysin's eye wandered back to the photo of their father - surrounded by glimmering championship gold. Jak throws his arm over Jeysin's shoulder, pointing up at their old man.

JAK
*Our names are gonna be the next ones
 up there!*

Jeysin holds a smile, his eyes drifting down to stare at the floor.

JEYSIN
 (Nervously)
*But there's still so much that we
 don't know, and so much that we
 don't know that we don't know.*

JAK
We gotta start somewhere, right?

The two figures in the room laughed again.

FIGHTER 1
 (Mocking)
"We gotta start somewhere, right?"

Jak's brow lowers as he steps forward.

JAK
*Sure hope fighting is your day job
 because that impression was whack.*

FIGHTER 2
*Get a load of these two. For newbies
 you sure are bold.*

JAK
*I just prefer my trash talk to my
 face.
 Who the hell are you and what's your
 deal?*

FIGHTER 1
*My deal is I'm tired of everybody
 and their mom seeing one highlight-
 reel then thinking they can just go
 to a big-name gym and straight to
 the top.
 You get in the way of us strong
 enough to actually have a shot.*

Another white-skinned teen, not much older, though much taller and bigger, approaches the brothers. His friend, a tan-skinned teen of the same age, but closer to Jak in size, tries to wave him off.

FIGHTER 2

Chill out EDDIE, he ain't even worth it.

Jeysin grows worried as Jak and Eddie's stare-down continues. After a moment longer, Jak closes his eyes and smirks. He turns away with his hands behind his head.

JAK
Might want to listen to your sidekick, Edward. This ain't worth it. Believe me.

He walks back towards the sign-up desk.

EDDIE
We'll see how tough he is when I catch him during training.

JAK
Since you clearly got a bone to pick, how 'bout we cut to the chase?

He approaches Eddie again, fists clenched. Eddie laughs to his friend.

EDDIE
Alright, you're on. But I've got one condition.

CUT: GYM - COMMON ROOM

Bella enters another room elsewhere in the gym, scanning around until her eyes lock on her target. Inside stands one man speaking with another and two women. The three adults of varied ages and sizes listen intently to the voice of their instructor, the biker who'd spoken with Bella.

He was on the tall side with curly black hair poking out from his upwards faced baseball cap. Think-rimmed glasses and an equally curly beard covered most the golden-brown skin on his face. His fit consists of a black-trimmed, forest green karate top, opened with a white t-shirt underneath, bottoms that matched the top, and a spotless pair of retro high-top 'Air Michael' sneakers.

AMIR
You guys are all set to begin our total fitness program.

He explains with charismatic charm.

We'll meet three times a week to make sure everybody's on top of their diets and daily goals, so

don't get too excited for that cheat day, alright?

The group laughs together.

Remember, the key to our training is the same as anything else in life, we're only going as far as we're willing to take ourselves. I'll see you guys in two days.

He waves to his clients as they depart the gym. Bella walks over to his side.

Thanks for covering for me Bell.

BELLA

No sweat.

They share a quick hand slap and fist bump.

AMIR

So, who are our new recruits?

CUT: GYM - SPARRING ROOM

Jak stretches his legs, squaring off with Eddie in another part of the gym. The two stand on a large, white-marked, blue martial arts mat with only Jeysin and Eddie's associate as an audience.

JEYSIN

We just made it to this gym. You sure you want to risk getting kicked out?

JAK

The only thing getting kicked here is that guy's ass. We didn't come all this way just to get punked by some chump who thinks he runs the place.

He cracks his knuckles and neck.

Besides, after I put the hurt on this guy, we won't have to see his ugly mug around here again.

EDDIE

(Smirking)

Should warn you now kid, I'm a member of the advanced class in this gym. You trying me is not gonna end well.

JAK

Then I should warn you: I never gave a rat's ass about anyone's class in a fight.

Eddie raises his arms and takes a stance.

EDDIE
Big talk, but I won't believe it 'til I see it.

JAK
Then you better pay attention!

With a quick first step, Jak rushes into a series of targeted strikes - forcing Eddie to block and evade. The young challenger continues his assault, pushing back his opponent.

EDDIE
(Thinking)
He's faster than I thought and swinging like he's trying to knock my head off..

Eddie observes Jak's attacks while defending.
But his technique is all over the place. Someone like him can't beat me!

He brushes off another jab from Jak to create space. Eddie winds up and launches a strong downwards chop. Without missing a beat, Jak steps aside and counters with a fast right hook. Sweat drops from Eddie's forehead as he narrowly dodges by stepping back. Jak's punch packed a good amount of power - his curved arm extended forward leaving him wide open.

This will show him!

Eddie plants his foot and readies a punch of his own. Jak smirks.

JAK
Caught you slippin'.

The boy switches his footing to push forward and elbow Eddie directly on the nose. He follows with a swift forward kick to the ribs, sending his opponent to the ground. Jak puts his hands behind his head and lets out a deep breath.

We can call it there. Think I got my point across.

Jeysin is relieved at the sight - til he notices Eddie's friend grinning and shaking his head. Slowly, Eddie rose to his feet.

EDDIE

Done so soon?

He wipes the small streams of blood from his nostrils.
We were just getting started.

Jak squints his eyes and points to his own face.

JAK

*Maybe I hit you a little too hard,
but you're the one who's still got
red rivers running out his nose.*

Jak turns and walks away. Eddie's smirk turns into a sinister grin. He dashes forward with impressive speed and a powerful right punch. Jak reacts with just enough time to block with both arms, but the punch plowed through his guard.
What the hell?!

Before he could think of his next move, Eddie knocks the wind out of him with a fierce body blow - following with another fist to the younger fighter's face. Jak barrels across the mat, dazed and hurting.
Does he have the power too..?

He tries to make sense of things as he struggles to his feet.
*...Was he using it before? ...Was I
using it before?!
This shouldn't hurt so much...*

Jak falls down on one knee, holding his stomach and breathing hard.

EDDIE

*It's like I said, you can talk all
the talk you want.*

He marches over to Jak.
*But you need more than talk to hang
with the big leagues.*

Jak coughs, slowly standing up once more. One hand raised to fight, the other holding his head.
*Big leagues?
Ain't you the the guy picking on the
newbie...?*

He smirks.

QUICK CUT: GYM - HALL

Amir and Bella arrive at the desk, confused the brothers weren't there waiting.

BELLA

*Huh. They were just right here.
Wonder where they could-*

She's interrupted by a loud **THUMP** echoing through the building.

QUICK CUT: SPARRING ROOM

EDDIE

Had enough yet?

He taunts, standing before Jak's outstretched body. The younger fighter breathes slowly.

JAK

*(Thinking, fading)
Damn powers... Where the hell are
they?!
Am I.. about to lose..?*

Jeysin is by his side, shaking his arm and pleading for response.

JEYSIN

*Hey! Say something! Jak! Please!
Come on..!*

EDDIE

*He's done for. Peel him off the mat
and be on your way.*

BELLA

What the hell did you do?!

She rushes to Jak's side with Amir closely behind.

EDDIE

*New kid thought he was a hotshot so
I put him in his place.*

His cocky demeanor turned cowardly.
*There isn't space at the top for
everyone! I was defending the gym.*

AMIR

*(Sternly)
Hazing new students ain't cool.
We've been over this.*

He scans the the room to observe the damage. Cracks in the walls. Indents on the training mats.
*Especially if you use your power so
recklessly!*

He could be seriously hurt!

Eddie puts his head down in frustration.
*We're supposed to be a team in here
 - a family. We lift each other up,
 not push each other down.*

Bella and Jeysin help Jak to his feet. His head hangs forward, hair covering his eyes.
*You're suspended from my class until
 further notice.*

EDDIE
 (Shocked)
*You're kidding me! But I-
 My folks pay top dollar for my
 lessons here and this is how you
 treat me?*

BELLA
 (Forcefully)
*He gave you an order. Get your stuff
 and leave.
 If you want to fight about it, I've
 got no problem laying you out on
 this mat. Again.*

Anger brews in her eyes. Eddie's hands shake with rage. He exits the sparring room with his friend, punching a wall on his way out. He turns to point a finger at Jak.

EDDIE
*How 'bout you fight your own battles
 next time!*

Jak was gone from Bella and Jeysin. In an instant he sped to Eddie and gripped the bigger boy up by his shirt, hoisting him off his feet. Eddie's face is overcome with fear. His friend fell to the ground in awe. Staring at Jak's tightly clinched free hand, Eddie gulps and winces - waiting for the hit.

JAK
*...Nobody fights my battles for me,
 but me..*

Jak releases his grasp and collapses. Jeysin slides in just in time to catch him. Eddie lands on his feet and stumbles back - shook. Bella's eyes widen at the sight.

BELLA
*He's got that kind of strength
 already?*

Amir nods his head and smiles.

FADE IN: GYM MEDICAL ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

With a gasp Jak's eyes shoot open. He sits up, breathing heavy and looking around the room frantically. A shock of pain runs through him and he doubles over, holding his ribs.

AMIR

Easy man, easy.

Jak looks up to see Amir sipping water from paper cup. He waves a hand to calm the boy down.

The fight's over; you can relax.

Jeysin sighs with relief. He sits nearby on another med cot.

JEYSIN

We're glad you're alright.

JAK

Tell that to the ringing in my head.

He notices long white bandage wrapped around his forehead. He lifts his shirt to see similar bandaging wrapped around his ribs.

Guess that dude really did a number on me..

AMIR

He's got a rep for getting carried away and today was the worst of it. Sorry you had to deal with that, but it takes guts hanging in there how you did.

JAK

(Not pleased)

Nice to know I make a decent punching bag.

Jeysin notices his brother's mood is off, but Amir is unphased.

AMIR

Soon as you're feeling up for it, I'll walk you two through the basics of your lessons.

JAK

Gonna have to pass.

He slips out of bed and reties his shoes.
A promise is a promise.

JEYSIN
You can't be serious.

AMIR
Promise?

JAK
*Made a deal with Edward that if he
 could beat me I wouldn't show my
 face around here again.*

JEYSIN
*But Amir suspended him already, the
 deal should be void.*

He raises his arms in an x shape.

JAK
*It's still on for me.
 Already lost a fight today; I'm not
 about to break my word too.*

Amir shrugs his shoulders.

AMIR
*I'll let you rock.
 Door's open if you have a change of
 heart.*

JAK
Don't hold your breath.

Jak heads for the doorway, stopping to look his brother in
 the eye.

You'll be fine.

He gives his brother a thumbs up.
Learn everything you can.

Reassured, Jeysin raises his thumb too.

JEYSIN
Got it.

DREAMERS' PLAYLIST

DREAMERS' PLAYLIST

CUT: GYM - UPSTAIRS

Student and teacher ascend the staircase to the gym's second
 floor. Stretches of hardwood split islands of blue matted
 flooring. Walls here are stocked with martial arts equipment.

Protective gear, striking pads, kendo sticks & nunchucks in the assortment of melee weapons.

AMIR

So you were telling me you two have been in your own training for a while.

Jeysin nods.

What disciplines did ya'll get into?

Jeysin pauses.

JEYSIN

Uhh...

He thinks back to days he and Jak had spent in their dojo.

QUICK CUT: THE HIDEOUT

The brothers sit before their gaming setup. The TV flashes a sequence of one man knocking out another in a one-on-one brawl before flashing the title, 'ROAD WARRIOR.' From 'training mode,' the brothers take turns trading the crescent-shaped controller back and forth.

JAK

Dragon Punch!

Jak yells out in a phony deep voice, mimicking the same leaping uppercut as the fighter on screen rocking a red headband.

JEYSIN

Backflip Kick!

Jeysin lands an impressive somersault - almost identical to the soldier character.

JAK

TORNADO SPIN KIC-

Jak spins backward and swings his heel - slamming his leg into one of the gym's support beams. Jeysin shudders while his brother howls with tears in his eyes.

QUICK CUT: DIEGO CITY GYM

JEYSIN

...Mixed martial arts?

Amir lets out a laugh.

AMIR

*Fans of it all, huh? That's good.
SFC brings out fighters from all
over the planet - each the pride of
their stomping grounds.*

They approaches a group of teen boys dressed in athletic attire.

*I've studied core skills across all
sorts of styles & teach these combat
essentials to a small group.*

Amir waves a peace sign to the group. They respond with head nods and waves as they warm up.

Down to jump in our warm-up spars?

JEYSIN

(Daunted)

*You do the sparring before the
lesson?*

AMIR

(Confidently)

*To find out what we're looking for.
Each session opens with a little
toe-to-toe. The guys end up teaching
each other before I ever say a word.*

Jeysin surveys his classmates as he searches his feelings.

You in?

He looks to his teacher and nods.

JEYSIN

I'll give it a shot.

TRANSITION - SPARRING MATCHES

Two students take center stage on the mat. The rest of the class sits side-by-side, waiting for their turn in the action. Jeysin is next in line, his quiet face hiding the flurry of detail his mind rushes to take in. He plays over directions from Amir in his head while watching the two students grapple for control.

AMIR

*Get in position for a clean strike
or lock your opponent into a
submission hold to secure the dub.*

Sharp, swift strikes are exchanged. One student speeds up his strikes, overwhelming his opponent with a punch strong enough to knock them to the ground. The striker bows to show respect for his opponent who rises to his feet to do the same. Jeysin

looks to Amir for confirmation before stepping onto the mat and bowing to the victor of the previous round.

JEYSIN

(Thinking)

*From the look of it he's a pure
striker. Lack of wrestling nearly
cost him the round.
He's confident stepping into his
right-handed jab..*

Jeysin's face is cool and calm as he breezes by the striker's slew of swings. He analyzes every angle of his opponent's approach - keeping himself a hair beyond harm's reach while planning a careful counterattack.

*Fatigue's setting in too.
Wear him out a little longer and-*

Between dodges, Jeysin's stance turns and flashes an opening. The striker takes aim for another knockdown punch.

Got 'em.

Jeysin ducks and presses his shoulder into the striker's chest. Dodging into the punch, he latches onto his opponent's arm - rolling forward in a seamless reversal toss. The striker lands gently on his back. The other students can't believe their eyes - looking to one another in disbelief. The room is speechless. Amir rustles the curls on his chin, nodding his head.

Jeysin bests each of Amir's students in similar fashion. Within seconds, his brain diffuses each scenario - exploring every possibility & executing counters with precision. He springs to his feet looking for the next in line - finding himself last man standing. His classmates stare - some in amazement, others in frustration.

JEYSIN

(Nervous)

Beginner's luck?

He rubs the back of his head.

STUDENT 1

(Hushed)

He don't even go here!

AMIR

*Alright, everybody. Take 15 then
we're jumping into today's lessons.*

Amir tags one of his pupils on the shoulder as the crowd disperses.

AMIR
 (Laughing)
*We gotta talk about how you all got
 cooked by a newbie!*

STUDENTS
 (Off-screen)
Groans
Awww!
Chill man!
*I don't know how - but he definitely
 cheated!*
I got my dub - fair and square.

Jeysin awkwardly tail ends the line until Amir pulls him
 aside.

JEYSIN
I did good?

AMIR
Real good.
*Like, "why didn't you tell me you
 were that good?" good.*

JEYSIN
There's nothing to it really.
*All I know, I picked up trying to
 keep up with my brother.*

Amir's brows lower.

AMIR
*So you're telling me he's this nice
 too?*

JEYSIN
*I'd tell you he's even nicer. The
 way he attacks, he'd have beaten
 everyone here too.*
And showboated while doing it.

AMIR
*And as his training partner, you
 became a defensive natural.*

Jeysin shrugs.

JEYSIN
*If he ever turns evil I'm gonna have
 to put him down.*

Amir leans back with a hearty laugh.

AMIR

*You two are too much yo.
Here's the thing: I don't think I
can teach you along with the rest of
my class.*

Jeysin's face is tight with suspicion.
But I can offer you an opportunity.

CUT: LA MESILLA MOTEL - EVENING

GAIL

Personal mentorship?

She catches up with Jeysin outside the motel, sitting in a rocking chair with Sonya by her side.

JEYSIN

*It's to show me special techniques
that will help us out in the
tournament!
He says at my speed just a week
should be enough time to cover all
the bases.*

SONYA

I don't really get it,

She hops up from her coloring book and approaches Jeysin.
*but it sounds really cool!
Go for it!*

They share a high-five.

GAIL

*Had a feeling you two were going to
make strong impressions early. Glad
yours was a good one.*

JEYSIN

*(Curious)
Mine?*

JAK

*(Annoyed)
Hey mom that's not my mom, you're
doing that whole 'mom' thing again.*

He sits behind the railing of the motel's upper level, swinging his legs. Sonya crosses her eyes and shakes her head.

SONYA

Mommy wasn't happy when he told her what happened.

Jeysin is both impressed and intimidated.

JEYSIN

Looks like he actually listened.

GAIL

You can tell it doesn't happen often.

She cups her hands around her mouth to shout up to Jak.
Bet you're wishing you wouldn't have held onto that bet!

He crosses his arms and turns his head.

JAK

Bet you I'm not!

Jeysin looks up at him.

You for real about mentor stuff? A week's a long time and we've still got a lotta road to hit.

JEYSIN

You said it yourself, I should learn everything I can. Amir knows way too much to pass up a chance like this.

GAIL

(To herself)

That's a name I haven't heard in a while...

JAK

And what am I supposed to for a whole week? Just sit around while you learn everythi-

Jak jumps down from the top level and gets in Jeysin's face with a big grin.

That's exactly what we're gonna do!

JEYSIN

(Skeptical)

Not mind reading right now. Fill me in.

JAK

You can teach me everything he teaches you!

JEYSIN

*You're crazy! There's no way..!
...You really think we could pull
something like that off?*

JAK

(Sincerely)

*You're the only one with the brain
juices to make it happen.*

The praise raises Jeysin's spirit, but he's still not sold.

JEYSIN

*Even if I were to go through with
this, we still haven't paid Miss
Gail, figured out where we'll be
staying for the next week, or how
we're going to pay for that either.*

GAIL

*This might be a shocker, but no
one's busting down my door begging
for you guys' room.
I wouldn't mind extending your stay.*

JAK

*We don't have enough cash to pay you
for this whole week, but if there's
anything I could do for you while
I'm here, I volunteer!*

GAIL

(Chuckling)

*Now that you mention it, I could use
an extra hand around here. And Sonya
sure seems to like you.*

She stands and places a loving hand on her daughter's shoulder.

*You're more than welcome to stay
here while you practice.*

The brothers rejoice - each throwing an arm over the other's shoulder.

*Since you've got a big day tomorrow,
I'll get a head start on dinner.
Sonya, grab your chef hat.*

SONYA

On it!

JEYSIN

She is really good at the mom thing.

LA MESILLA MOTEL - THE FOLLOWING MORNING

The sun still casts orange rays onto the clear sky above as Jeysin steps out of the motel. He stops at the doorway to wave to Gail and Sonya. Jak pops up beside them, shooting his brother a pair of finger guns.

JAK
Do your thing.

Jeysin smiles and fires back.

JEYSIN
Nothing else for me to do.

Using yesterday's route he boards the bus to Diego City. He's greeted by Bella at the door before running upstairs.

6 INT. DIEGO CITY GYM - UPPER LEVEL**6**

AMIR
*To excel in any pursuit, there are
three practices one must master.*

He paces back and forth. Jeysin sits nearby, listening intently.

*Build the body. Mold the mind.
Search the spirit.*

Jeysin begins his workout with standing punches and kicks - replaying Amir's message in his head over and over.

*First up is building the body:
pushing ourselves to new heights.
Many people want strength - few are
cut out for the discipline it takes
to build.*

Training progresses to Jeysin following Amir's motions and choreography step by step.

*Can't fully change ourselves
overnight, but if we push our limits
day after day-*

7 EXT. LA MESILLA MOTEL - EVENING**7**

Side by side and drenched in sweat, the brothers endure a series of push-ups. When Jeysin pushes up, Jak drops down into his next rep. They maintain their rhythm a while longer before collapsing.

JEYSIN
(Echoing Amir's words)

We grow a little more each time...

JAK
(Panting)
Does growing always hurt this much?

8 INT. DIEGO CITY GYM - THE FOLLOWING DAY

8

AMIR
Next we have molding the mind. The body is capable of amazing things, but only if the mind is trained to lead it.

Amir moves a piece across the chessboard, claiming a piece from Jeysin's side.

*If the mind is clear & collected,
the motions will follow suit.*

Jeysin is vexed. He raises his hands in frustration before focusing on his next move. His hand unsure as he selects a piece from the chessboard between him and Amir. He smirks as he places a piece in line before Amir's king.

JEYSIN
Check.

Amir smiles. He slides a piece across the board to defend his king - claiming another piece & trapping Jeysin's king.

AMIR
Mate.

JEYSIN
I-I didn't even see you set up that attack!

Amir lifts his gaze from the board.

AMIR
Is it about being on the attack? Or protecting your pieces?

MIX CUT: TRAINING MONTAGE

For the next three days, the brothers continue their training of the body and mind. During mornings, Jeysin studies fight footage and reads books of philosophy with Amir. Afterwards he practices hand-to-hand by sparring with Bella.

Jak starts his days back at the motel by being Miss Gail's helping hand. He lifts beds, allowing her and Sonya to easily clean underneath and uses his high energy to re-paint walls & scrub bathrooms in the blink of an eye.

When Jeysin returns, the duo picks up where they left off - practicing til the sun sinks into the ocean. Sonya watches on with starry eyes until Gail calls all three in for supper.

DIEGO CITY GYM - THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON

Jeysin and Bella square off before rest of Amir's class. He moves sharper than ever - needing to in order to keep pace with Bella. The class watches the tight scrimmage anxiously. Amir sits back and enjoys the show, snacking on a bag of sour gummi candy.

Bella flashes a grin and Jeysin tightens up. She seizes his shirt with both hands and positions herself for a takedown. Jeysin notices a narrow opening in her grip and reverses the throw while they tumble. He lightly rolls his superior onto the floor - amazing himself with the feat. The class is stunned silent. Bella grins ear-to-ear.

BELLA

Good stuff dude!

Jeysin helps her to her feet before the class rushes in mobbing them both in celebration. Amir smiles proudly.

After the room clears, Jeysin sits before Amir once more.

JEYSIN

(Curious)

My true strength?

AMIR

That's what we find in our third practice - searching the spirit.

Jeysin listens carefully.

Mind and body are given, but spirit is special in coming from within. What you bring from your soul - what you generate - is strength like none other.

JEYSIN

..What I bring from within... You don't mean-!

Amir salutes him with a nod.

AMIR

*That special power you carry. Your
brother too.
Didn't take much for me to tell
you're both part of the rare few.*

He points to his chest then to Jeysin's.

JEYSIN

Is there a name for this power?

Sun glare shines through a window above, bathing the space between the two in bright, warm light.

AMIR

Jensai. *The power of creation.*

Jeysin's eyes widen. A mystic aura radiates within the space.
*Name varies from culture to culture,
but the power is unmistakable. **Users**
of Jensai alter the world around
them at will.*

Jeysin thinks back to his experiment with Marie and shakes his head.

JEYSIN

(Thinking)

She was ahead of us all. As always.

(To himself)

*..Creation is strength, found by
searching the soul-*

(To Amir)

*So every battle you faced was more
deeper than physical competition.
They were contests of will.*

AMIR

That's the key.

Conscious will devoted to change.

9 EXT. MOTEL - SUNSET

9

The brothers lay out on their backs in the motel yard. Covered in grime from the day's work, they stare up at the warmly toned sky, watching the single cloud pass.

JAK

...I get it now.

Jeysin looks to him.

*first day here, when I lost that
fight to what's-his-face... I felt
like something was missing.*

FLASHBACK - SAN DIEGO BEACH

Jak sits cross-legged with his fists to his face and his sneakers to his side. Other beach goers blur by. His gaze is fixed on the shore.

I knew he was using the power, those hits hit like dumpsters, but I couldn't find mine. It was the weirdest thing...

I thought about every time I did. I found my power you or Marie were with me... I had something to fight for.

Jak looks to his fist then out to the ocean. He releases, opening his hand. An ocean breeze rolls over him.

Just wanting to hurt someone didn't get me going happen... I don't think it's supposed to.

CUT: - MOTEL

JAK

(Cont.)

From here on out I'll keep my mind on what drives me.

The cloud up above passes by, revealing the last of day's sunlight. Jak hops to his feet and grabs a rock from the ground nearby. With a rapid-fast wind-up, he launches the stone sky high. Sonya watches on from the motel with a hand over her eyes.

SONYA

Going... going.... gone!

Jeysin rose to stand beside his brother.

JEYSIN

Incoming.

Like a bullet the rock shoots back down toward them. Focusing Jensai to his left arm, Jak snatches it clean from the air as it passes his sight.

JAK

Feels good to be back.

He spins the rock on a fingertip.

JEYSIN

You'll have to tell Amir all about it when he gets here.

The rock drops.

JAK
(Surprised)
He's coming here? For what?

JEYSIN
*Been telling him about Miss Gail's
cooking all week so he and his wife
insisted on bringing something over
for our last night in town.*

Jeysin holds his shirt towards his nose and sniffs.
*Let's go wash up. We probably smell
like we've been out here "learning"
all day.*

He jogs back to the motel. Jak raises an arm to get a whiff
of his underarm. Jerking his head away at the scent, he
rushes after.

9A INT. AMIR'S HOME - EVENING

9A

In the foreground a young woman (20s, deep brown skin,
glasses, box braids up in a bun) sits before a table - red
pen in hand. She grades through stacks of handwritten essays
on looseleaf. R&B scores the space. In the background, Amir
stands in the kitchen chopping ingredients. His head tilts to
prop the cordless house phone up to his ear.

AMIR
*Ma'am. Ma'am. Ma'am. I hear you just
fine.*

Indistinct angry gibberish feeds into his phone. He dices the
food with precision - keeping his flow.

*Yes, I know your son is "especially
gifted." That's how he tested into
my class.
At the same time, my class has rules
your son didn't follow. Twice.*

The woman at the table nods her head.
*We can try and work out whatever's
got him riled up, but til we see
some character change his suspension
stands.*

The gibberish roars louder.
*Plenty of places in the city could
use the money.*

Click. Amir sighs, slides his chops into a bowl & turns down the stove. He takes a seat at the table.

LIARA
That sounded fun.

AMIR
I've had worse.

LIARA
That woman's son needs therapy, not combat training.

AMIR
They can't all be like the dynamic duo.

Liara laughs, neatly piling a finished stack of papers.

LIARA
So we've got official confirmation?

AMIR
He's teaching his brother every lesson. No doubt about it. It's in the way he listens.

LIARA
He learns so that he can teach to others. A sign of a true leader.

A map rests on the far end of the table, beside a set of markers.

TIME CHANGE - NIGHT

Car headlights shine over the yard the brothers trained in. Doors open and shut.

10 INT. - MOTEL KITCHEN

10

Jeysin looks up from his watch.

JEYSIN
Right on time.

JAK
Don't know how much longer I coulda waited.

He sits between his brother and Sonya who also salivate at the sight of the night's dinner. Gail lights another cig.

GAIL

*Show some manners, you two.
Can't remember the last time we had
guests for dinner. We should make a
good first-*

She looks up towards the doorway. Both her jaw & cigarette drop. Amir, who just entered the room, does the same - nearly dropping his tupperware. Liara stands beside him with a puzzled look. The brothers are equally confused. Sonya's just happy to be there.

GAIL & AMIR

(Surprised)

Y-you're you!

Jak and Jeysin tilt their heads.

JAK

Wait, wha?

Liara's brows raise then lower.

LIARA

She's who?

SKIP FORWARD

AMIR

*Ended up filling old man's shoes
after all. How's he doing?*

Despite the initial confusion, dinner continues. Gail smiles and shakes her head, taking in a deep pull.

GAIL

*Stubborn as ever.
Living up the coast is driving him
crazy, but he ain't getting any
younger and the air here's no good
for his lungs.*

Amir, Liara, and the boys stare at her.

(Chuckling)

Point taken.

She presses it into an ashtray on the table.

JEYSIN

*Who'd have thought the world we set
out to see would be so small?*

JAK

Sure as hell not me.

Gail rocks forward in her seat and points a finger at Amir.

GAIL

Last time I saw this guy, he hardly had whiskers on his face and was scrawny enough to eat all this by himself. Kinda reminds me of someone.

She side-eyes Jak then smiles & folds her arms.
Til he got here, he was surviving on takeout and gummi candy.

LIARA

Half of that is still true.

A drop of sweat rolls down Amir's temple as he finishes a bite of his meal.

AMIR

They're full of vitamin C?

JAK

(to Jeysin)
Wow, that was as bad as one of mine.

SONYA

You moved here all the way from Washhington D.C.?

AMIR

Crazy right? I thought so too. But my family cheered me on so I found my way across the country.

The brothers listen close to their teacher's story.
Just when I was runnin' on E, I wound up at a certain motel.

GAIL

Been so long I'd damn near forgot about it.

FLASHBACK - MOTEL KITCHEN, YEARS EARLIER

Teenage Amir and Gail sit across from one another the very same table. Her arms are folded, an oversized denim jacket resting over her shoulders.

(Concerned)

An underground amateur league?

AMIR

(Unbothered)

Dressed in athletic wear (and wrapped in bandages) Amir looks like he'd spent night brawling.

You should see the other guy.

GAIL

You look like hell.

She looks away toward the stove and gestures to him with her hand.

AMIR

*Not my best day, but I've had worst.
There's still more life to live.*

His stomach rumbles loudly, his confidence shaken but still brimming. A large hand places a plate before him. Homemade roast beef sandwich stacked high & steaming hot.

AMIR

*(Innocently)
I.. I shouldn't... I-*

His stomach speaks for him.

GAIL'S FATHER

*Your pride will lie. Your gut won't.
Eat up.*

The older, chiseled man speaks from behind his bushy moustache. He places one of his large hands atop Gail's head, playfully rustling his daughter's hair. The moment he departs Amir tears into the sandwich.

GAIL

*Sorry if my old man's a little..
unusual.
He's got a mean poker face-*

AMIR

*(Happily)
And a mean roast beef.*

She smiles.

GAIL

*He takes his job serious. This place
and the people in it are life to
him. Even if they're just passing
through.*

Amir finishes his meal.

AMIR

Takes toughness, caring for others.

Gail looks away.

GAIL

*It's enough pressure to break
someone, you know..?*

She looks to him and points.

*You're one to talk! I've seen those
"super" fights! The not-amateur
ones! Guys there would snap you like
a twig!*

Amir laughs.

AMIR

*Got me there... But I still have to
see it through.*

GAIL

Don't you ever feel..

She looks around the motel.

*Like what want.. might be too much
for you...?*

AMIR

*All the time.
Just can't shake the feeling, like
I'm supposed to do something crazy.
And if doing that something crazy
makes me happy, who am I to turn it
down?*

Inspired, Gail's eyes widen. She plays it off.

GAIL

*Fight as smooth as you talk and you
just might have a chance.*

AMIR

*And with a poker face like yours,
you'll be fine calling the shots
here.*

MOTEL KITCHEN, PRESENT MOMENT

AMIR

(Cont.)

*Never would've guessed it was you
looking out for two of my favorite
students.*

Jak brows rise.

I hope they haven't been too much trouble.

GAIL

Aside from tearing up my yard and eating all my food, I hardly noticed them.

JAK

So you knew about our plan?

Liara laughs.

AMIR

Nah, but now I do.

LIARA

He's been bragging to me about you two all week. You should both be proud of yourselves.

GAIL

No pair like these two anywhere in this world. That's for sure.

The grown-ups smile as the brothers bashfully receive their praise. Sonya pops up between Jak and Jeysin, grabbing each of them by the arm.

SONYA

My big brothers are awesome!

LIARA

(To Gail)

You got two more?

GAIL

Sweetie, you don't have any big brothers.

SONYA

Yes I do! They're right here!

She clings tight to Jak and Jeysin.

They call you mom and everything!

Gail smiles and looks around the table, landing on Amir who gives an approving nod. He holds Liara's hand in his own.

LIARA

You never know what family will look like, but there's no mistaking the feeling.

10A EXT: MOTEL LOT - NIGHT

10A

The boys, Gail, and Sonya saw off their guests from the front step.

AMIR

*We'll be seeing you around, G.
And you two - make sure you stop by
the gym before you leave town.*

The brothers are curious.

LIARA

*We put together a little parting
gift for the journey ahead.*

AMIR

*It comes with a special surprise,
but you'll have to wait and see.*

They ready to enter their car, but Jak steps forward.

JAK

Show us what you can really do!

Amir stops.

*We spent all week on the easy stuff.
I have to know what a pro's like! At
least a little.*

AMIR

*There any cans or bottles in the
recycling?*

Jeysin plucks an empty soda can from atop a bin nearby.

JAK

*Alright, Captain Planet, what's
next?*

AMIR

Try not to blink.

A gentle breeze rolls through the area slowly picking up speed. Gail and Sonya watch on with anticipation, Liara with pride, and the brothers with amazement.

JEYSIN

Something feels... different...

JAK

I feel it too...

The grass dances below, joining tree leaves rustling above. Wind chimes hanging by the front door clank in chorus as the gentle wind reaches a pitch. In what feels like slow motion, Amir slowly lifts his head with his eyes closed. Silence and stillness fell across the motel's lot as the sudden winds pass.

AMIR
Catch y'all in the AM.

The couple enters their car and makes their exit. The rest of the group sits dumbfounded.

SONYA
...I don't get it.

JAK
(Annoyed)
Yeah, what gives?

GAIL
What in the hellllLOOO

The soda can splits in half - clean through the middle.

JAK
(Screaming)
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

JEYSIN
(Also screaming)
DID YOU SEE THAT?

JAK
(Still screaming)
IT WAS IN MY HAND! I FELT THAT.

SONYA
(Starry-eyed)
It's just like on the TV!

GAIL
(Shocked)
That's what you guys do?!

JAK
I've never done that! Did he tell you he could do that?

JEYSIN
I wouldn't have believed him if he did!

The newly formed family chatters into the night.

11 EXT. MOTEL LOT - THE FOLLOWING MORNING

11

SONYA

Be safe and come back and kick a lotta butt!

Jak and Jeysin kneel to hug the young girl. She fights tears back the in her eyes - wrapping her arms around her brothers.

JEYSIN

We'll try not to worry you.

JAK

And we'll kick as many butts as we can.

SONYA

Promise?

The brothers pull back and Jak extends his pinky finger. She gasps with hype.

A pinky promise?!

JAK

The most special kind of promise there is.

They lock in their promise. Jeysin turns to Gail who tries her best to downplay the departure by pulling out her lighter and another cigarette.

JEYSIN

I wish we could do more to thank you.

She closes her eyes and waves him off.

GAIL

Yeah yeah. Just remember to call your mom before she has a heart attack, and try not get into too much trouble out there, you hear me?

Her cool is thrown off by Jak and Jeysin hugging her on both sides.

JAK

Got you covered, other mom.

She tosses both cigarette and lighter away and hugs the boys. Sonya joins in seconds after. Mother and daughter wave from the doorstep as the brothers walk on toward the horizon.

12 INT. GYM - SPARRING ROOM

12

BELLA

Too bad you're leaving already.

She speaks to Jak while doing her daily warm ups.

Jey talked you up pretty big, but I never got to see what you're made of.

He smirks and flexes his arms as hard as he could.

JAK

You can challenge me for the belt when I come back on my victory lap.

She grins.

BELLA

You're on!

Nearby, Jeysin kneels beside Amir.

JEYSIN

Texas... and then Georgia?

AMIR

End destination: Virginia Beach, home of the tournament.

A US map is laid out before them. Stretching from San Diego, to Virginia Beach, a marker line connects the series of starred stops.

Liara and I made calls to the gyms in Houston and Atlanta. We've got good friends in both that are going to take you guys to the next level.

Jeysin picks the map up, rotating it as he reads words encribed around its border. "Purpose, strength, warrior, devotion" and others fill the map's edges - each in a different color.

Li also marked it with a little extra love to guide your way.

Jeysin smiles at the sight.

JEYSIN

And the bags?

AMIR

Grub for the road ahead. Just because you guys are hungry, doesn't mean you have to go hungry.

Jak swiped the map before Jeysin even noticed - holding it up like a newspaper.

JAK

(To himself)

It's real.. This is really real..

AMIR

*Jotted the gym number on there too.
Don't be afraid to give me a ring
while you-*

Gym door flings open with force, slamming into the inner wall. Dressed in street clothes, Eddie marches in - his friend not far behind.

EDDIE

(Loudly)

*It's my lucky day. The chumps are
still here!*

Bella steps to face him.

BELLA

*Maybe you forgot, but you aren't
supposed to be here.*

EDDIE

*I ain't here for any more crap from
you or your precious "sensei."
I've got unfinished business.*

Amir stands, but Jak waves him off. The floats down to the floor. He stretches his left wrist and speeds forward. The bigger fighter barely notices Jak looming in. Jak takes a strong stance - turning to prep a punch. The room's still air seems to follow Jak's attack. Wind rushes through the area following the release of the strike. The sheer power tosses Eddie to the floor in a heap - rustling the awards on the walls.

JAK

*Whatever business you got, you can
keep it.
I got no interest fighting anyone
weaker than me.*

After holding the pose from his punch for a moment, Jak stands up and turns to retrieve his belongings. Eddie's friend scurries from the gym.

*Save a spot on the wall. We'll be
back.*

He looks Amir in the eye. His teacher responds with a nod.

Let's hit the road Jeysin.

JEYSIN

Right behind you!

The younger brother waves to his instructors as he grabbed his things and follows Jak out of the gym.

BELLA

Those two are gonna go far.

She shakes Eddie to see if he was still conscious. Amir picks a championship belt that fell from the wall.

AMIR

Yeah...

He smiles as his eyes read, "'Turbo' Terry Omega" engraved in gold.

Can't wait to see it.