

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. A RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

20

Bronson chases Leona into the street and follows her when she ducks into the driveway of a small frame house.

EXT. THE BACK YARD - ESTABLISHING - DAY

21

The driveway curves around behind the house so that the garage is concealed from the street. There is a small patch of grass, a tree, some flowers and shrubs. The whole place is fenced, private and a little overgrown. Leona rides in, followed by Bronson. She stands the bike and faces him.

LEONA

Hey! You're on private property!

BRONSON

That's okay. I'm with you.

She laughs as she walks to the garage door.

LEONA

Want to see my car?

Bronson shuts down the Harley as she opens the garage, revealing her car -- the one Bronson is driving in the DERBY FOOTAGE. CAMERA PUSHES IN WITH Bronson as he walks past Leona into the garage.

LEONA

So far I did all the work myself.

The car is up on blocks with the hood up, the insides of the transmission hanging out on the floor.

ANGLE ON BRONSON

22

Bronson walks to the front of the car on the driver's side. The car has a radio antenna that is badly bent. The name, "Leona" is painted on the door. Bronson pauses and runs his hand over the letters.

BRONSON

Where'd you learn so much about cars?

22

CONT'D
(2)

LEONA'S VOICE (O.S.)

From my brother. He owns a gas station.

Bronson registers the fact as he ducks the bent antenna and moves to the front of the car to have a look at the engine. Leona meets him there.

LEONA (cont'd)

But I'm stuck if this part doesn't fit.

Bronson is on another wave length entirely.

BRONSON

Is this where you live?

Leona moves to the tool box, on a bench across the back of the garage.

LEONA

No. This is my girl friend's house. I live with my brother. Darryl.

She pronounces his name distinctly, emphasizing each syllable. She brings a socket wrench back to the car and lies across the fender to reach under the hood, handling the tool like a man.

LEONA

My girl friend's out of town with her parents.

Bronson steps back and bumps into the bent antenna.

BRONSON

Oh.

(coming to think of it)

What town is this anyway?

Leona is still under the hood. Bronson admires the profile of her back as he bends the antenna straight.

LEONA (slightly
muffled)
Come on! You must know where you
are. Otherwise how could you be
here?

22
CONT'D
(3)

BRONSON
I came in the back way.

She comes out from under the hood and looks him in the
eye.

LEONA
What's your name?

CLOSE SHOT - BRONSON

23

Bronson smiles.

BRONSON
Jim Bronson.

CLOSE SHOT - LEONA

24

Leona smiles back. Suddenly she seems very shy.

LEONA
I'm Leona.

CLOSE SHOT - BRONSON

25

BRONSON
I know. I read it on your door.

We PULL BACK to include Leona IN SHOT as Bronson indi-
cates the door. She moves to the box and finds an
extension for her wrench.

BRONSON (cont'd)
Listen, Leona. Why don't we go
inside and put on some music...
and...you know...

LEONA
And dance? Are you kidding? I
like to dance, but I gotta work
on my car!

She grabs a crawler and flops down on it on her back.

25

CONT'D

(2)

LEONA (cont'd)

But you can turn on the radio if
you want.

Her shirt comes out of her jeans as her head and shoulders disappear under the car. Bronson is bemused by the sense of this girl; she seems completely and genuinely naive. Looking down, he steps over her as he moves to the bench to turn on the radio. The SOUND comes on in the middle of a high-powered commercial for the Demolition Derby:

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

Yes fans, tomorrow Sunday don't
you miss it!! The big Demolition
Derby at Raceway Stadium!!

We HEAR the SOUNDS of the Derby: engines roar, brakes squeal, metal grinds against metal.

DISSOLVE TO:

FOOTAGE - THE DERBY IN PROGRESS

26

Darl and Billy bounce apart, then disappear as a swirl of other cars surrounds them. CAMERA FOLLOWS THE ACTION as the radio continues to blare:

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

Thirty cars will battle it out in
a fight to the finish with five
hundred dollars to the last car
running! That's two o'clock
tomorrow Sunday at Raceway
Stadium! The big...Demolition
Derby!!!

We FREEZE FRAME on a spectacular crash.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - CLOSE SHOT - A RADIO

27

The NOISE of the Derby FADES. A good ol' country record comes on as CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Darl and Billy, working on their cars in the littered rack room of the

station. They have Darl's car up on the rack and are reenforcing the front bumper with an extra nut and bolt. Over the MUSIC as they work:

27
CONT'D
(2)

BILLY

Hey, Darl? You figure ol' Leon's really gonna try to drive in the Derby?

DARL

You know she's got a car stashed somewhere, Kid. What else could she be up to?

BILLY

I don't know. Maybe she's planning to run away again.

Darl laughs.

DARL

Naw. She hasn't run away for years!

CLOSE SHOT - DARL

28

DARL (working)

Last time I brought her back she promised never to do it again. That's one thing about Leon. As far as I know she never broke a promise or told a lie.

CLOSE SHOT - BILLY

29

BILLY (watching Darl)

That's pretty good.

CLOSE SHOT - DARL

30

DARL

That's the way I raised her.
(he grunts)

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - TWO SHOT - BRONSON AND LEONA - EXTREME
LOW ANGLE

31

Bronson and Leona are under her car, both on crawlers.
There is oil everywhere. Leona is flat on her back,
working on her transmission. Bronson is on his shoulder,
watching her, handing her a tool or a part now and then.
The RADIO is tuned to the same station, though softer.

LEONA

I'm really going to show them
tomorrow, you know?

BRONSON

Show who?

LEONA

My brother and all his dumb friends.
I'm really going to demolish them!

BRONSON

What for?

Leona stops and looks at him.

LEONA

What for?? Because they deserve
it!

Bronson flops down on his back.

BRONSON

Well, people generally get what
they deserve.

LEONA

Sisters don't! Not from their
brothers anyway.

CLOSE SHOT - LEONA

32

Leona rolls up on her shoulder and FACES CAMERA.

LEONA

You know, all my life my brother
made fun of me, even when I tried
hardest to be what he wanted me
to. I never understood it.

CLOSE SHOT - BRONSON

33

Bronson nods understandingly.

BACK TO LEONA

34

LEONA

When I was little he taught me
how to fight, then every time I
had a fight he would beat me up
for having it. Isn't that weird?

TWO SHOT - LEONA AND BRONSON

35

Bronson agrees that it is.

LEONA

I'm a good fighter, too.

BRONSON

I bet you are.

She laughs.

LEONA

I used to fight The Kid -- Billy
-- all the time. Once I knocked
out his tooth. See the scar?

She makes a fist under Bronson's nose. He touches her
knuckle, admiring the white line under the grease.

BRONSON (respectfully)

Um. When was that?

She thinks for a minute.

LEONA

Gee. Almost five years ago. I
was sixteen.

Bronson chuckles and rolls up to face her.

BRONSON

Sixteen is a little old to be
fighting with boys. Was it a
matter of virtue?

She lies back down and resumes her work, a little embarrassed by the question.

35
CONT'D
(2)

LEONA

Not really. He called me "Leon"
and it sounded so much like my
brother I just punched him out.

(she laughs)

It was at the Senior Prom.

(she pauses)

I got paid back, though.

BRONSON

How's that?

LEONA

I got a "reputation." Now, every-
body calls me Leon and treats me
like I'm a boy, or something.

She shakes her head and makes a face. Bronson laughs.
Leona looks at him.

LEONA (cont'd)

It's not funny! Between that and
my brother...

BRONSON (interrupting)

Hey! I don't want to fight.

(mock serious)

I promise I will always call you
Leona...and never treat you like
a boy, okay? Boy, do I promise!

LEONA

Don't tease me! I can't stand it.

Bronson rolls up on his shoulder and faces her.

BRONSON

I don't tease.

He leans slowly toward her. She is frozen by the realization that he is actually going to kiss her. She backs away very slowly, moving the crawler.

LEONA

Wait a minute, Bronson...

BRONSON

I never kissed anyone under a car
before...

35

CONT'D
(3)

He continues to lean forward. Abruptly, she pushes herself away from him on the crawler. As she scoots OUT OF SHOT Bronson loses his balance and has to put his hand in the pool of oil on the floor. Then he bumps his head. Then he falls off the crawler.

EXT. THE GARAGE

36

Leona is onto her bike and has it running before Bronson can get out from under the car.

BRONSON (he hollers)

Leona!! Wait!

He struggles to his feet, awkward because of the oil. She looks at him quizzically.

LEONA

What?!

MED. SHOT - BRONSON

37

He stands in the doorway of the garage, trying not to touch anything.

BRONSON

Are you...free tonight?

MED. SHOT - LEONA

38

Leona pushes back her hair.

LEONA

You want to take me out? On a
date?

CLOSE SHOT - BRONSON

39

BRONSON

Yeah. Yeah. I'd like to take
you out dancing.

CLOSE SHOT - LEONA

40

She looks at him openly for a long moment before making up her mind.

LEONA

Okay. I'll come back later.

She grins and pops the clutch. We PULL BACK as she revs out of the driveway. Bronson skips INTO SHOT, whoops and claps his hands together, thus remembering the oil.

CUT TO:

FOOTAGE - THE DERBY IN PROGRESS

41

Remember that crash? CAMERA PUSHES IN as the two cars separate and limp away. One of the cars is marked "Pit Stop Cafe," the other, "Big Red." The driver's faces are concealed by scarves and goggles and helmets but their motives are clear: try to keep it running. Wounded, they have become targets. The car from the Pit Stop Cafe is worst off. It takes one hit, then another, then another. As it starts to roll over, we FREEZE FRAME.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO