

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

EXT. ANGLE ON THE BEAR - DAY

118

The combined NOISE of the crowd and the Derby are a symphony to the old Bear's ears. He sits with closed eyes on the running board of his two truck, his hat in his hand and his hand over his heart. Leona walks INTO SHOT and sits down beside him. She is depressed. He opens his eyes long enough to glance at her and take in her mood. We PUSH IN TO A CLOSE SHOT of The Bear as he speaks.

THE BEAR

Don't let 'em grind you down,
"Miss" Leon. If they won't let
you play the game just 'cause of
who you are, then it's the game
that's wrong.

CLOSE SHOT - LEONA

119

She turns and looks at The Bear, smiling.

LEONA

I know what you mean, Bear.

VARIOUS SHOTS - THE DERBY IN PROGRESS

120

THROUGHOUT SEQUENCE, Bronson, Darl and Billy are seen. They are obviously after him. SEQUENCE ENDS with the overturning of another car -- the first fatality of the Derby. The cannon roars, bringing the cars to a stop.

ANGLE ON THE BEAR, LEONA

121

The Bear puts on his hat and stands up.

THE BEAR

Now these fools are going to pay
me to haul away the same ton o'
scrap I sold them just a few days
ago.

Leona stands and faces the old man.

PROMOTER'S VOICE (O.S.)

Two him away and let's get on with
it!

121

CONT'D
(2)

As the CROWD CHEERS its response, The Bear climbs to the
cab of the truck and starts the engine.

THE BEAR (chuckling)

Game or no game, the way I figure,
I'm the one that's makin' out!

He backs OUT OF SHOT. Leona watches him go.

ANGLE ON THE WRECK

122

The car is up on its side. The driver is standing there
looking at it. He is unhurt. He walks away with his
head down as The Bear backs in and lowers the hook.

ANGLE ON THREE CARS - STOPPED

123

Darl and Billy have boxed Bronson in. He is nose-to-tail
with Darl so they are quite close together. We PUSH IN
TO AN ANGLE FAVORING Bronson, PAST Darl, with The Kid
in the B.G.

BRONSON

You guys are really serious about
this!

DARL

Naw...I'm just here for fun. But
I take my fun real serious...and
I don't like anybody muckin' with
my sister...

BRONSON

Ain't that kind of up to her?
(over his shoulder)
What do you think, Kid?

We ZOOM IN on Billy. He knows Bronson is right. He
doesn't know what to say. The CANNON SOUNDS. BOOM!

FULL SHOT - THE ARENA

124

The carnage continues. The Bear drags the victim away
from the field. Leona jumps on the running board and
climbs up.

THE TRUCK - MOVING

125

The truck grinds along in low gear. The Bear is sweating.

THE BEAR

Hot work.

LEONA

I wish it was over.

THE BEAR

You should be watching...

(he mops his brow)

Whew! He's doin' okay, your boy.

LEONA

Bronson? That's nice.

THE BEAR

Naw. I meant The Kid.

She looks at him sharply.

THE BEAR (cont'd)

Listen. If you ain't gonna watch,
maybe you could fetch me some of
that ice cold beer from the shed.

LEONA (she smiles)

Sure, Bear.

He hands her some keys.

CUT TO:

VARIOUS SHOTS - THE DERBY IN PROGRESS - INTERCUT BRONSON'S
POV - CROWD SHOTS

126

Bronson is successfully avoiding the attack of Darl and Billy. This is an underdog sport and the crowd is beginning to select its favorites. "Two against one no fair!" someone shouts as again Bronson evades the onslaught. But he's trapped against the wall!! And here comes Darl!! The CANNON SOUNDS. Darl hits him anyway. The crowd "Booos."

EXT. THE JUNKYARD - DAY

127

Leona pulls INTO SHOT in The Kid's pickup truck. She leaves the RADIO on as she runs to the gate, undoes the lock, slides it open and enters the yard.

INT. THE SHED - SHOOTING TOWARD WINDOW

128

The beer tap is in the EXTREME F.G. Through the heavy mesh screen of the window, Leona can be seen as she crosses the yard.

EXT. THE SHED DOOR

129

The door is closed with a padlock and a strong hasp. Leona opens it with the key.

BACK TO SHOT

130

Leona enters the shed and crosses to the keg in the F.G. Something to put it in. She looks around, spies a gallon jug on a bench. It'll do if she washes it out. She picks it up and steps behind a partition, looking for the washbasin. The MUSIC from the truck radio can still be faintly HEARD.

THE WASHROOM

131

She switches on the light and, lo! The walls are covered with pin-ups! Calendars! Playboy centerfolds! Ebony cut-outs! The works. Old and new. We see as much as we dare. Leona looks around, first in shock, then in comparative appraisal. Not bad. She begins to mimic the poses and facial expressions, checking her reflection in the spattered mirror. Great. The CANNON SOUNDS O.S., HEARD faintly over the music. BOOM.

DISSOLVE TO:

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS - THE DERBY IN PROGRESS

132

One of the cars has thrown a wheel. Though he is still mobile the others turn on him like sharks. It is Red.

The car is quickly reduced to rubble as the others take their shots. Glory, what a mess! It turns into a pile-up of half-a-dozen cars just as the CANNON SOUNDS, ending the first half.

132
CONT'D
(2)

PROMOTER'S VOICE (O.S.)

Half time! Keep 'em running, boys!

Line up for water!

ANGLE ON BILLY

133

CAMERA FOLLOWS The Kid as he leaves the field, passing The Bear on his way in.

BILLY

Where's Leona? Where's my truck?

THE BEAR

She went over to the yard for me.

Billy is alarmed by this.

BILLY

In my truck?!!

The Bear shrugs and goes on about his business. It's too hot to bother about anything else.

THE BEAR

You know Leon.

We PUSH IN on The Kid. He is sweating heavily.

BILLY (correcting

The Bear)

Leona.

We PAN as he drives AWAY FROM CAMERA, crossing the track, heading for the yard in "Darryl's Service #2."

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON BRONSON - DARL BEHIND HIM

134

Bronson is in the line for water. Darl is right behind him.

DARL (yelling)
You done okay so far, outlaw!
But we ain't done with you yet!

134
CONT'D
(2)

He rolls his car forward and bumps Bronson.

DARL (cont'd)
Me and Billy! We're gonna get you
good!

He bumps Bronson again. Bronson grits his teeth.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SHED DOOR - LEONA

135

Leona is standing in the doorway when The Kid comes into the yard. He carries his helmet with his goggles and scarf inside. She has the gallon jug of beer in her hands and the keg can be seen in the B.G.

BILLY
Leona, I got to talk to you...

CAMERA PUSHES IN as he approaches her. He drops his helmet on the ground and reaches for the jug. Leona pulls it away. She begins to see her chance...

LEONA
This is for The Bear.
(crafty)
But the keg's in there. Ice cold.

We ZOOM IN on the keg. Frosty. Beautiful. Irresistable.

BILLY'S VOICE (O.S.;
parched)
Okay...

He runs INTO SHOT, fumbles a paper cup from the box and hits the tap. Ahhh, beer. As The Kid drinks and turns to FACE CAMERA, we ZOOM BACK to the door. Leona closes it in front of LENS.

BILLY'S VOICE (O.S.)
Leona!!! Don't!!!

We PAN TO A CLOSE SHOT of Leona as the hasp slides over the staple right in front of her nose. She nods intently and drops the padlock into place. The Kid is there, pounding on the door.

135
CONT'D
(2)

BILLY'S VOICE (O.S.;

cont'd)

How can you do this to me!?!)

We PAN as she hurries to pick up his helmet, goggles and scarf, leaving the jug in their place. Billy's face appears at the window.

BILLY (cont'd; screaming -- behind the glass)
Leona!! Let me out!! I got something important to tell you!

LEONA

Tell me later, Kid.

She is putting on his gear as she runs OUT OF SHOT. We ZOOM IN on The Kid at the window. He looks for a way to open it as he watches her leave the yard.

BILLY (crying out)
Leona...!!! Leona...I love you...

MED. SHOT - LEONA

136

She is closing the gate. She stops for a moment and looks back in the direction of The Kid. She heard him, all right. A big grin covers her face as she closes the gate on CAMERA.

CUT TO:

FULL SHOT - THE ARENA

137

Only a dozen cars have survived the first half of the Derby. The Bear has the others neatly lined up at one end of the field. The survivors don't line up at all, they just circle slowly, waiting for the signal to hit someone. Leona makes it onto the field with The Kid's car just as the CANNON SOUNDS. Of course, everyone thinks she is Billy.

VARIOUS SHOTS - THE DERBY IN PROGRESS - INTERCUT LEONA'S
POV - CROWD SHOTS

138

Leona is on a rush -- having the time of her life -- and driving pretty good, too. Once she nurf's Darl away from Bronson, who returns the favor by lambasting her. Instead of pursuing him, she turns again on Darl.

ANGLE ON DARL - DRIVING

139

Darl can't understand why The Kid is driving the way he is. Leona wheels past, her face concealed by the goggles and scarf.

DARL (shouting)

Kid!! What are you doing!? Get
him!! Not me!!!

CUT TO:

INT. THE SHED - SHOOTING TOWARD DOOR

140

Billy is working on the door with a crowbar. First he tries it at the lock. The tool slips and he skins his knuckles. He picks it up and takes a look at the hinges. Then he remembers the beer.

CUT TO:

THE ARENA

141

The demolition goes on -- only seven cars left -- the crowd still loves it all. CAMERA PANS to include a group of eliminated drivers, watching the ACTION from the sidelines. Both Red and Foley are among them. Darl can be heard screaming over the roar of the combat:

DARL (faintly)

Get him, Kid! Get Bronson!

Instead, Bronson gets a whack at Darl.

RED

Ol' Leon sure picked a winner when
she got that biker to drive for her.

FOLEY (correcting

Red)

Leona.

141
CONT'D
(2)

CUT TO:

INT. THE SHED - SHOOTING TOWARD DOOR

142

The Kid is feeling a little better. Beer in one hand, crowbar in the other, he attacks the hinges. He sets the beer down and puts his weight behind the bar when he gets it under the top hinge. It starts to give. He puts his back against the door and pushes up on the bar with all his weight. Grrrunt -- and it goes. The door falls away, still held by the lock and the bottom hinge. The Kid sits down in his beer.

CUT TO:

THE ARENA

143

The number of cars still running has been reduced to three: Bronson, Darl and Leona, whom everybody thinks is Billy. To the great delight of the crowd they play tag until Darl and Bronson lock bumpers. Screaming and yelling, Darl grinds his car back and forth. Bronson lets it happen, turning his wheels to try to break free.

DARL

Get him now, Kid!! Nail him!

Leona whips around the two cars in a tight circle, picking her shot.

MOVING WITH LEONA - OVER SHOULDER

144

Leona guns it and heads into the two slowly moving cars. Darl sees her coming and points at Bronson, waving her away.

ANGLE ON THE CARS

145

CRASH! She knocks the two vehicles apart by literally crushing the front of Darl's car. Bronson backs away. So does Leona. The promoter fires his cannon. Darl has

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fallen. He comes out of the wreck, livid. The crowd
"Booos" as he runs to The Kid's car.

145
CONT'D
(2)

DARL

Are you out of your mind??

Leona raises her goggles. We ZOOM IN TO A CLOSE SHOT as
she grins at him.

LEONA

Not half, brother!

She grinds it OUT OF SHOT.

CLOSE SHOT - DARL

146

Darl is momentarily incapable of speech. We PULL BACK as
The Bear hauls his car THROUGH SHOT.

THE BEAR

Get on out of there, Darl. 'Fore
you hurt something more than your
pride.

Darl turns, then trots AWAY FROM CAMERA after the tow
truck.

DARL (looking around)

That's Leon...That's Leon...driving
The Kid's car...

CUT TO:

INT. THE SHED - SHOOTING TOWARD DOOR

147

Billy walks INTO SHOT from the left, another full beer in
his hand. He looks at the door hanging there, chugalugs
the beer, then kicks the door off the other hinge and
stomps outside. CAMERA FOLLOWS him into the yard. He
runs to the gate, but it too is locked. He jumps and
climbs to the top.

CUT TO:

THE ARENA - INTERCUT SHOTS - LEONA AND BRONSON

148

They stalk one another, bump a fender, run one another around the ring.

ANGLE ON DARL

149

Darl is still trying to figure it out. In the B.G. behind him, Billy wheels into the stadium, gunning his pickup in the dust.

BACK TO SHOT

150

The cars roar TOWARD CAMERA, fender to fender. Bronson suddenly veers away, clears about six feet and hits the brakes, whipping the car in a tight circle as he double clutches it into low gear. Sure enough, he catches her coming around.

BRONSON'S POV - THE CAR

151

It is the SAME FOOTAGE USED BEFORE. CAMERA BEARS DOWN on "Darryl's Service #2" as Bronson responds to the flash of victory in his grasp. Again we FREEZE FRAME on Billy's name.

LEONA

Bronson!!!

She pulls down her goggles and scarf and her hair starts to fall, giving Bronson just a glimpse of her face and her fear.

ANGLE ON THE CRASH

152

Bronson hits Leona broadside, rolling her over and over. But before "Leona's Dream" has fully stopped, Bronson himself gets clobbered! It's Billy -- hauling the old pickup truck right into the arena and broadsiding Bronson -- rolling him over and over.

LONG SHOT - THE ARENA - ZOOM FROM TOP OF GRANDSTAND

153

CAMERA ZOOMS BACK SLOWLY as all three come out of their wrecked vehicles. The crowd goes wild, seeing the driver

of one of the cars is a girl, watching her leap into Bronson's arms, then turn and worry over Billy's wounds as her brother and the other drivers run INTO SHOT. Darl goes for Bronson, then for The Kid, but neither takes him seriously. In fact, everybody is laughing at Darl. Chaos reigns supreme. Leona is the queen.

153
CONT'D
(2)

DISSOLVE THROUGH TO:

EXT. EXTREME CLOSE SHOT - BRONSON - DAY

154

Birds are singing and the wind rustles the leaves of trees. An ORGAN is PLAYING faintly in the background. Bronson looks sad.

BRONSON

That's a beautiful dress.

EXTREME CLOSE SHOT - LEONA

155

She is facing Bronson; sad, too, but in a different way.

LEONA

It was my mother's.

BACK TO BRONSON

156

BRONSON

Are you sure you don't want to change your mind and ride along with me?

BACK TO LEONA

157

LEONA

I'm sorry, Bronson. I can't.

BACK TO BRONSON

158

BRONSON

Well, at least I made a hundred dollars.

She LAUGHS O.S. We PAN to include her IN SHOT.

LEONA

Half of half of five hundred.
Less twenty-five for your share
of the beer.

158
CONT'D
(2)

DARL'S VOICE (O.S.;
hissing)

Leona May! Come on!

They both ignore him.

LEONA

I have to go.

BRONSON

I guess I do, too.

LEONA

I'm going to miss you, Bronson.
Will I ever see you again?

Bronson manages a wry grin.

BRONSON

What town did you say this was?

DARL'S VOICE (O.S.;
louder)

Leona May! Everybody's waiting!

They look at one another for a long moment. She smiles,
but there are tears in her eyes. Impulsively she leans
in and kisses him -- sweetly -- briefly, just once.

LEONA

Good-bye...

BRONSON

So long, little sister. I'm going
to miss you, too.

CAMERA PULLS BACK and PANS as she floats away, revealing
that she is wearing a wedding dress. Bronson is seated
on the Harley at the curb in front of a small church.
Darl comes INTO SHOT and takes Leona by the arm. He is
wearing a dark suit and a tie. From the F.G., Bronson
watches them walk into the church. In the EXTREME B.G.,
Billy waits at the altar in a shaft of sunlight. When

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they are framed in the doorway, Leona looks back. Darl tugs her arm. The organ strikes up THE WEDDING MARCH. In the space between the intro and "Here comes the bride..." Bronson kicks over the chopper. The church doors close. Bronson rides OUT OF SHOT.

158
CONT'D
(3)

EXT. BRONSON ON THE HIGHWAY

159

Bronson rides out of town as "The Wedding March" plays. He is looking straight ahead.

FADE OUT.

THE END