

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. SAN DIEGO CITY STREET -- DAY (PRESENT TIME)

A late model two-door coupe slaloms through traffic.

INT. COUPE -- CONTINUOUS

BETTINA NASH (20, African American), attractive, stylish, drives. Her passenger, BARNABAS ("BARNIE") EVANS (21, African American), handsome, athletic, studies though glances up often.

BETTINA

Keep studyin, I won hurt you.

EXT. SAN DIEGO CITY STREET -- CONTINUOUS

The coupe stops outside "Sterling Recording Studios." Bettina grabs sheet music. Barnie jumps out and gives Bettina a quick hug and kiss. She hurries toward an awaiting MAN (45, Caucasian).

Barnie and the Man exchange a nod.

MAN

Good luck, nine.

BARNIE

Thanks, man. Sing well, Babe.

Bettina blows Barnie a kiss as he hops in the coupe.

INT. COUPE -- CONTINUOUS

Barnie starts the car. His book is "Advanced Calculus."

INT. LOCKER ROOM, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY -- DAY

The sound of cleats on concrete precede the entrance of sweating FOOTBALL PLAYERS (College age, various sizes, races/ethnicities).

Barnie carries his helmet, wears a red jersey with the number "9." He moves easily with his teammates.

Football equipment hits the floor, showers start up. A few voices sing conflicting lyrics, disharmonious.

INT. SOUND RECORDING STUDIO, CONTROL ROOM -- DAY

The Man, headphones on, looks through the Control Room window. In the Studio proper, Bettina, with headphones and microphone, eyes closed, puts her heart into a song.

A SOUND TECHNICIAN (29, Caucasian), at a NASA-like soundboard, also with earphones, gives the Man a thumbs up. We don't hear a sound.

INT. LOCKER ROOM, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY -- DAY

The athletes are in various states of dress and partial nudity. Barnie dresses next to TOLANI BENGA (21, Samoan), huge. Nearby is CRAIG GENTRY (22, Caucasian), solid build.

TOLANI

Man, can you loan me \$20? Or \$10?

BARNIE

And you'll pay me back when?

TOLANI

Coach takes that red off you I promise not to sack you.

BARNIE

You gotta catch me, big boy.

A beat.

BARNIE (CONT'D)

If I had it, I'd give it to you.
I'm in the same boat.

Tolani looks at Craig. Craig inverts his empty pockets.

TOLANI

Some way to go through four years.

A handsome player strolls by, an Adonis in jockey shorts.

ATHLETE'S VOICE (O.S.)

We love you, 88.

The football player smiles, walks on.

CRAIG

Gotta be a way to make money off that.

BARNIE

Off eights?

TOLANI

In my town the firemen made a calendar. Took their shirts off. For Little League, some damn thing. Everyone bought one. Even my Mom. Dad pretended he was pissed.

Barnie finishes dressing.

BARNIE
 Sorry 'bout the money, man. Real
 sorry.

Tolani nods. Barnie leaves.

INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

JUAN LOPEZ (Latino, 24), studies, menu nearby. Barnie enters,
 they fist bump.

BARNIE
 How's school?

JUAN
 A real bitch. 'Securities
 Regulation.' Final next week. You?

BARNIE
 New check downs, man. Grades and
 football ain't the problem.

JUAN
 Bettina?

BARNIE
 We're good. The usual -- money.

JUAN
 I get paid Friday.

BARNIE
 Ain't askin, jus sayin.

A sedan stops curbside. Bettina gets out. The Man, driving,
 waves through the window. Barnie waves back. Bettina rushes
 into the restaurant, all smiles. Barnie and Juan stand.
 She hugs them both, jumps up and down.

BETTINA (Excited)
 We sent a track to Empire Records.
 They scanned an agreement back. 90-
 day option. Check tomorrow for five
 grand. My treat tonight.

Barnie hugs her. They sit down.

JUAN
 So she's on full ride -- music. She
 can have an agent. You can't. She
 can make money off her talent and
 keep it. You can't. Seem fair?

BARNIE
 NCAA Rules, man.

A beat. Barnie slouches, sighs.