

Scene 2/3

WINSTON

If Eddie's right, no amount of intel is gonna get him through that next fight.

GUERRERO

What are you saying?

WINSTON

I'm saying until this "yips" issue gets resolved, I'm not taking any chances. To hell with what's fair. We're gonna fix his next fight.

(off Guerrero's smile)

What?

GUERRERO

You call yourself a role model.

START → INT. HOTEL DIETRICH - POOL AREA - NIGHT

Ripples on cool aqua. A body glides through it, swimming gracefully to the edge. WIDEN ON the elegant pool room, empty, as EVA emerges from the water in a sleek one-piece.

CHANCE (O.S.)

Towel?

She looks up at Chance, sitting nearby. He tosses her a white TOWEL, which she catches. As she dries off--

EVA

Leaning into another fighter's punch? You're lucky you're not eating out of a straw.

(off Chance's smile)

You shouldn't be here.

CHANCE

Why, 'cause of your boss? What's the story between you two, anyway?

EVA

Hugh was a close friend of my father's. I was nine when he died. Hugh took me in, raised me as his own.

CHANCE

What happened to your father?

EVA

(beat)

He was sick. Doctors told him to

(MORE)

"EVA"

4 pages

EVA (CONT'D)
stay out of the ring. So did I.
But you know fighters...

She catches herself, quickly changes the subject.

EVA (CONT'D)
Point is, I'd do anything for Hugh.
And I think you know that. Which
is why you're here...
(then)
Cut the crap and ask me what you
want to ask me.

On Chance. He likes this girl. A beat, then--

CHANCE
Eddie doesn't deserve to die
because your boss can't play fair.
Prentiss listens to you. Help me
get him to cut Eddie loose.

EVA
(beat)
What makes you think I would help
you or Eddie?

On Chance. A look that suggests he knows more than he's
putting on.

CHANCE
Just a hunch, I guess.
(then)
Am I wrong?

Eva absorbs that, skeptical.

EVA
Prentiss listens to me about
betting on fighters. Not about
forgiving million dollar debts.

CHANCE
Then we make it a bet. I win this
tournament, he lets Eddie go. I
lose, Prentiss gets his money.
Tonight.

EVA
(beat; incredulous)
You're not serious.

CHANCE
\$1.8 million. In cash. It's
upstairs if you want to see it.

Eva considers Chance for a beat. Is she on board? Then--

EVA

I can't help Eddie Dunn. And
neither can you.

Eva turns to walk away--

CHANCE

Hey, where are you going--?

He reaches out to grab her arm and -- Eva swings at Chance with a right hook. Chance manages to duck it, but then -- BAM -- she follows up quickly with a body blow and a left hook, knocking the wind out of Chance and dropping him to a knee. Chance shakes out the cobwebs, looks up at her.

EVA

I told you earlier you would lose.
Do you want to know how I knew?

(then)

I could see it in your eyes. You
had that look. Like there was
nobody at the wheel... I've seen
that look before.

CHANCE

...the yips.

EVA

Call it what you want to call it.
But it's real. Some guys never
fight again because of it.

CHANCE

(beat)

Why's it happen?

EVA

In my experience? Fear.

On Chance, as that lands.

CHANCE

I'm not afraid.

EVA

You are. Until you figure out of
what, or who, you're problem's not
going away.

On Chance, as that lands.

EVA (CONT'D)

You step in the ring again, you're gonna get hurt.

She exits. As Chance watches her go, we hear in PRELAP--

WINSTON (O.S.) (PRELAP)

Foster LaRouche.

→ END
~~INT. HOTEL DIETRICH - CHANCE'S SUITE - DAY~~

~~CLOSE ON a photo of a FIGHTER (FOSTER LaROUCHE, 30s).
Massive, scowling.~~

~~WINSTON~~

~~Your next opponent.~~

~~Pull back to REVEAL Chance and Winston, standing over a table in the green room.~~

~~CHANCE~~

~~Pretty.~~

~~WINSTON~~

~~He was named boxing's "Most Avoided Fighter" five years in a row.~~

~~CHANCE~~

~~Until someone beat him?~~

~~WINSTON~~

~~(shakes his head)~~

~~Banned from the sport. After he lost the crown in a draw, he put a contract out on one of the judges.~~

~~CHANCE~~

~~So maybe irritating him's not the best strategy...~~

~~WINSTON~~

~~You couldn't if you tried. Inside the ring, LaRouche is an ice man. Methodical. Just waits for you to make a mistake, and then makes you pay for it.~~

~~(then)~~

~~And right now, you're one giant walking mistake.~~

~~CHANCE~~

~~So what then?~~

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