

Struck

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5th Draft

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1 OVER BLACK

1

Heard is a symphony of urgent whispers, the rhythmic beeping of medical monitors, and the distant hum of machinery. Nurses shuffle with purpose, and the occasional creak of a rolling cart punctuates the atmosphere. The room echoes with the steady cadence of a mother's labor pains.

Suddenly, a triumphant cry pierces the room. A newborn's first breath. The cries of the baby, a melody of life, envelop the space.

FADE IN:

2 INT. DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

2

The baby's cry is still heard. Constantly ringing in the background.

KELLIE (F, late 20's-early 30's), who is laying in a hospital bed, dripping with sweat. Clearly has just gone through an intense labor. Standing next to the bed is VINNIE (M, late 20's-early 30's) and KAREN (F, 40's).

VINNIE, even though he hasn't just been through labor, looks completely distraught and sweaty. KAREN is calm and collected, smiling ear to ear.

After a moment, a NURSE brings over a crying baby, swaddled in white towels. She places the baby in KELLIE's arms.

KELLIE looks down to her new child and tears begins to fall from her face.

KAREN, still smiling ear to ear, looks down at the child. A single tear falls from her face.

VINNIE looks down lovingly at the child, eyes welled up with tears. He then leans down and kisses the baby on the forehead.

MATCH CUT TO:

3 INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY

3

CU OF KELLIE KISSING THE FOREHEAD OF VINNIE'S BODY IN THE CASKET.

VINNIE's funeral is taking place.

WIDE SHOT OF THE CHURCH HALL, PEWS FILLED WITH PEOPLE, THE OPEN CASKET IS AT THE FRONT OF THE STAGE. PEOPLE ARE LINED UP BEFORE THE CASKET SAYING THEIR GOODBYES.

KELLIE and YOUNG KAYLIE are still standing before the casket, holding hands.

CU YOUNG KAYLIE LEANS TO THE CASKET AND KISSES VINNIE'S FOREHEAD.

MATCH CUT TO:

4 EXT. SOFTBALL DIAMOND - DAY 4

CU KAYLIE, KISSES A SOFTBALL AND THEN THROWS IT BACK TO THE PITCHER.

TITLE CARD: STRUCK

WIDESHOT OF THE FIELD AND STANDS AS PLAYERS ARE WARMING UP AND FANS ARE MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE SEATS.

KAYLIE (F, 21) is dressed in her catching gear and is warming up with pitcher behind home plate.

CU OF BALL HITTING KAYLIE'S GLOVE.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. SOFTBALL DIAMOND - SAME 5

MONTAGE OF THE GAME:

KAYLIE CATCHING AND BATING

RUNS BEING SCORED

FANS CHEERING

KAREN AND KELLIE CHEERING

KELLIE WRITING IN THE SCORE BOOK

THE GAME WINNING RUN IS SCORED

STANDS ERUPT WITH CHEERS...ETC.

CU OF BALL HITTING KAYLIE'S GLOVE.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

6

Fans and players exit the stadium, KAREN and KELLIE stand in the middle of the lot, waiting for KAYLIE.

As KAYLIE exits the stadium, she spots them and jogs toward them, nearly dropping her bags.

KAYLIE runs right into KELLIE's arms, into a big bear hug.

KELLIE

(mid hug)

Good job, babe! I'm so proud of you!

They untangle themselves.

KAYLIE

Thanks... I did miss that foul ball, though.

KELLIE

Yea, what the hell wa-

KAREN, cutting off KELLIE and going in for a hug.

KAREN

Oh, don't worry about that, now. You did amazing!

As they let go of each other. Karen looks at her watch.

KAREN (cont'd)

Okay, it's past my bedtime. Let's go home.

They all turn to leave, KELLIE begins to give KAYLIE notes, as they make their way to the car.

KELLIE

So, at the top of the third...

CUT TO:

7 EXT. SOFTBALL DIAMOND - SAME

7

MONTAGE OF THE GAME.

KAYLIE CATCHING AND BATING

RUNS BEING SCORED

FANS CHEERING

KAREN AND KELLIE CHEERING

KELLIE WRITING IN THE SCORE BOOK

THE GAME WINNING RUN IS SCORED

STANDS ERUPT WITH CHEERS...ETC.

CU OF BALL HITTING KAYLIE'S GLOVE.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

8

Fans and players exit the stadium, KAREN and KELLIE stand in the middle of the lot, waiting for KAYLIE.

As KAYLIE exits the stadium, she spots them and jogs toward them, nearly dropping her bags. KAYLIE runs right into KELLIE's arms, into a big bear hug.

KELLIE

(mid hug)

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They untangle themselves.

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KAREN, cutting off KELLIE and going in for a hug.

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As they let go of each other. Karen looks at her watch.

KAREN (cont'd)
 Okay, it's past my bedtime. Let's go home.

They all turn to leave, KELLIE begins to give KAYLIE notes, as they make their way to the car.

KELLIE
 So, at the top of the third...

CUT TO:

9 EXT. SOFTBALL DIAMOND - MORNING

9

MONTAGE:

KAYLIE ALONE ON THE FIELD TRAINING

STRETCHING

RUNNING DRILLS...ETC.

KELLIE is on the side of the field, bat in hand, coaching KAYLIE.

KAYLIE is fielding ground balls and pop ups from KELLIE. She is breathing heavily, face, sweat covered. The sun is beaming down.

KAYLIE goes to field a ground ball and misses, she runs after the ball.

KELLIE
 REALLY?! C'mon Kay, that should not have gotten past you!

KAYLIE
 (yelling back)
 I know, my bad! I got the timing wrong, but I got it this time!

KELLIE
 You sure as hell better! You think the majors want a catcher who can't even field a grounder?! You can do better than this.

KAYLIE gets back into position.

KAYLIE
 Okay! I'm ready!

KELLIE hits a fast hard grounder, and KAYLIE fields it perfectly.

KELLIE

Yes! That's more like it!
(wipes sweat from her
brow)

Okay, take a 15 and then we'll work
on batting before the team gets here
in an hour.

KAYLIE

Okay.

CUT TO:

10 INT./EXT. DUGOUT - SAME

10

KAYLIE runs in and grabs a water and sunflower seeds and
sits on the bench, catching her breath.

SHOTS OF KELLIE AS SHE SITS IN A FOLD OUT CHAIR BY HOME
PLATE, WITH HER SCORE BOOK, TAKING NOTES, LOOKING OVER
PLAYS.

KAYLIE sits leaning her elbows on her knees in thought.

FADE TO:

11 EXT. BACKYARD - 15 YEARS BEFORE

11

FLASHBACK

The house is the average middle class home with a porch and
a good sized backyard.

YOUNG KAYLIE (6 yrs.) and VINNIE are playing ball in the
yard.

YOUNG KAYLIE is holding a wooden baseball bat, that is
bigger than she is, over her shoulder in position to swing.

VINNIE holds the ball up to YOUNG KAYLIE.

VINNIE

Okay, what do we have to do before we
take a swing?

YOUNG KAYLIE

KISS IT!

VINNIE
EXACTLY! Say it with me.

VINNIE/YOUNG KAYLIE
KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID!

She gives the ball a peck kiss.

VINNIE
Ready?

YOUNG KAYLIE
Yep!

VINNIE then backs up and lobbs the baseball to YOUNG KAYLIE.

She swings and misses and the weight of the bat causes her to fall on her butt.

They both laugh as VINNIE helps her back up.

KELLIE comes out of the back door with a glove in her hand and runs toward them. They all start playing together.

FADE TO:

12 INT./EXT. DUGOUT - PRESENT DAY (AN HOUR LATER)

12

KAYLIE snaps back to reality as her teammates enter the dugout and begin getting ready for practice.

KAYLIE takes a swig of her water as EMMA (F, 21), comes over and pats her on the back as she sits next to KAYLIE.

EMMA
Morning Kay!

KAYLIE
Morning.

EMMA
Sweating already?

KAYLIE
I got here early. My mom thinks my catching has been rough lately.

EMMA
(slightly confused)
Hmm.

KAYLIE
What?

EMMA

Oh, nothing, It's just I haven't noticed your catching being off. Actually, I think it's been damn near perfect.

KAYLIE is genuinely flattered.

KAYLIE

Thanks, Emma.

KAYLIE looks out at KELLIE, who is now talking with the coach behind home plate.

KAYLIE (cont'd)

My mom feels differently.

Emma turns to look at KAYLIE.

They sit in silence for a moment.

EMMA

(getting up)

Well, hey, you killed it at the game and I'm sure you'll be even better this week.

EMMA begins to walk to the diamond. She stops and turns back to KAYLIE.

EMMA (cont'd)

And don't be so hard on yourself. Playing ball is great and all... just... don't let it become everything.

KAYLIE is a little startled at this.

KAYLIE

Yea... of course.

She smiles at EMMA. EMMA, with slight concern on her face, smiles back.

EMMA jogs out to the pitchers mound. Leaving KAYLIE in the dugout.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. DUGOUT - HOURS LATER

13

The teams is packing up there bags at the end of the practice.

KAYLIE is taking all her catching gear off and putting it into her bag. We see the rest of the teams leaving the dugout, chatting with each other...etc.

KAYLIE is the only one left in the Dugout. After she finishes packing her things up, Emma runs in.

EMMA

Hey! You coming to (restaurant name)?

KAYLIE

Where?

EMMA

(restaurant name). We're all going,
You should come! We eat, gossip...
It's good team bonding.

KAYLIE

Oh... um...yea, that sounds fun!

KAYLIE takes a moment, she looks out toward her mom in the stands.

KAYLIE (cont'd)

Oh, shit.

EMMA

What?

KAYLIE

My mom wanted to go over film
today...

KAYLIE looks at EMMA, EMMA has a slightly disappointed look on her face.

KAYLIE (cont'd)

But, I'm sure it'll be fine. We can
do that another day.

EMMA

Okay, well, I hope you come!

Kaylie takes on more glance at her mom, then.

KAYLIE

Yea me too.

EMMA exits. Kaylie is left alone.

KELLIE
 (from the field)
 KAYLIE, I'LL MEET YOU AT THE CAR!

KAYLIE lets out a deep breath, then exits.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. PARKING LOT - MINUTES LATER

14

KELLIE is waiting in the drivers seat writing in her notebook, door open. KAYLIE walks over to her mom.

KAYLIE
 Hey.

KELLIE
 (looks up)
 Hey, hop in, we got a long night ahead of us.

KELLIE goes so shut her door, but is stopped.

KAYLIE
 Actually... I was wanting to go to (resturaunt name). Emma invited me... the whole team is gonna be there.

KELLIE is taken aback.

KELLIE
 And why would you want to do that?

KAYLIE
 Oh, well... I dunno... Emma said it's super fun and-

KELLIE
 Fun?

KAYLIE
 Yea... And it's supposedly really good team bonding... that's important, right?

KELLIE takes a beat, she thinks.

KELLIE
 What about watching film? That's important, too. We planned this we-