

TRACK GIRLS

"WHO IS TONI FIELDS?"

Episode 101 (Pilot)

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CONFIDENTIAL

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FADE IN:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

INT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - DORM ROOM - DUSK (1)

Fading rays of sunlight shine through the window. A box, suitcase on the bed. Scattered gold medals.

TONI FIELDS (18), female, athletic, African-American, pretty, slim, athletic, rumbles through her suitcase.

Finally, pulls out her RUNNING GEAR. Gets dressed and laces up her SHOES. Sighs heavily. Storms out the door.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - NIGHT (2)

Dark. Mysterious. Light posts illuminate.

Toni jogs aggressively through campus in and out of the mysterious ambiance of the dark shadows.

She continues running.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - TRACK - NIGHT (3)

Toni eases up as she reaches the track stadium entrance. Stops. Bends over. High adrenaline. Breathes.

Enters.

Exterior lights shine bright over the track.

She closes her eyes and takes in a long, deep, satisfying breath. Slowly breathes out.

TONI (V.O.)

God. My life. Track. My destiny. -- I've been running since the day I was born. God coded it in my DNA. I've never lost a race. Olympics. On my way. I'm destined

to be a champion. College? This is a new level for me. God knows I wasn't expecting all of this. I have to change. I need to work harder than I ever have before. I'm not afraid of a challenge. Whatever it takes to get to my dream. I cannot let anyone stand in my way.

Walks to the inside of the track. Sits on the ground.

TONI (V.O.)

I know. Your girl is a little flawed. My temper got the best of me today. I'm not proud. Sometimes, people get what they deserve. What can I say, they were asking for it. That's the only way I've known to fight for myself. But God is still working on me. I promise, I'll get better. I mean, I have to --or else my dream may fade away.

Stretches.

TONI (V.O.)

I'll admit, I'm feeling a lot better now. Relaxed. The track has a great way of relaxing my soul. I have to get focused. Time to get back.

Toni runs off. Exits.

EXT. UNIVSERITY CAMPUS - DORM BUILDING - NIGHT (4)

Dark. Empty sidewalks. Mysterious presence fades into the background.

Toni arrives in full stride. Slows down. Stops. High adrenaline. Holds her arms above her head. Breathes.

Squats down to the ground. *Unexpectedly...*

ALICIA BRADLEY (20), female, pretty, tall, athletic, fully dressed in dark sweats. Hoody. Hands in front pockets. Sneaks up behind Toni.

ALICIA

Hey (bitch).

Toni frowns. Stands up.

TONI

What?

Turns around with both eyebrows raised.

Alicia pulls out a SMALL GUN (22) and points it at Toni's face.

TONI (CONT'D)

Oh?

ALICIA

Yeah. You didn't think we would be here, did you? You're not getting away with that (shit) you did today.

Blank stares from both sides.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

You're finished.

BLACK.

BANG! (gun from a track race)

TITLE CARD:

"Track Girls"

EX. TRACK STADIUM - STATE TRACK MEET - DAY (5)

SUPER: 3 Months Earlier

Large crowd. Cheering.

An ANNOUNCER (30s), male, voice resonates through the stadium.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we are off to the five A girls one-hundred meter final race.

Multiple GIRLS walks across the field.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Lane two is off to a fast start. Lane four might have something to say as she begins to edge her way to the finish.

It's a pretty close race.

That was close!

That was the class five A girls one-hundred meter dash.

GIRLS walk in line towards the start.

Toni, fourth, walks confidently. Eyes focused. Head nods to the music.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Up next ladies and gentlemen. The moment you've all been waiting for. We have a special treat for you.

GIRLS set their BLOCKS. Toni removes SWEATS, laces up her SPIKES.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

In the class six A, girls, one-hundred meter dash, we have a state phenom. Rated top three in the nation in a total of six different events. A highly recruited individual, Toni Fields.

GIRLS stand behind their BLOCKS.

Ready.

The STARTER (adult male) holds the starter GUN.

STARTER (O.S.)

Runners take your mark.

GIRLS work their way into their BLOCKS. They remain in the down position. The STARTER points the GUN to the sky.

STARTER (O.S.)

Set!

GIRLS lift hips into the set position. Toni inhales...

BANG!

The GIRLS explode out of the BLOCKS, sprinting for their life.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And we're off. The final heat of the girls' class six A one-hundred meter dash. This is going to be a good one.

Toni builds up speed. She pulls away from the GIRLS with a commanding lead.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Whoa! Here she is folk. The next Flo-Jo. Toni Fields. Showing us all why she is so special. She has just kicked into full gear and is not letting up.

Toni crosses the finish line all alone and raises her hands with a bright smile.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

That was an amazingly impressive win. Keep your eyes on her throughout this meet. This will not be the last time we see her at her best. -- Wait a minute, you have just witnessed greatness. This is a new personal best! Eleven twenty-four. A new meet record.

Toni jumps up and down excitedly. Screams.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Well, there's certainly going to be more out of Miss Fields today. She has a few more events.

Let's see what's next.

DISSOLVE TO:

BANG!

Multiple GIRLS run for their life at full speed; sprinting around the curve. Toni, in lane four.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

There she is again folk. That is Toni Fields looking to collect her second gold medal today. The girls class six A two-hundred meter dash finals.

Center lane, Toni's legs turnover like an engine. Eyes focused on the finish line.

Toni increases speed, leaving the GIRLS far behind.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Toni Fields is dominating. She is on a mission for greatness. Pulling away from the field in dazzling fashion.

TONI run across the finish line. Smiles. Lifts her hands in the air.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

There is your two hundred meter champion, Toni Fields. With an excellent time! An astounding twenty-two point seven five seconds! Can you believe it!

TONI squats down to the track. Catches her breath.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

I'm excited to see more from this young lady. Let's see what's next.

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER: 6A GIRLS LONG JUMP

TONI, in the squat position, slowly stands up. Closes her eyes. Takes a deep breath in.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

We're back again to see the great Toni Fields collect another gold. Now, she has already won the event by jumping a little over twenty feet, but she is looking to extend her jump even further.

TONI bends over slightly. Ready.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Final jump. Here we go.

TONI builds up to a full sprint on the runway.

At full speed, Toni takes off from the board. She soars high into the air. Lifts up her legs and hold. Toni's body splashes in the sand.

The jump is measured.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Clean. The white flag goes up. We're all waiting to see the length of this awesome jump.

Toni stares from the outside of the pit.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

There it is. A new personal best. A jump of twenty feet ten inches! She did it!

Toni clinches her fists and yells with excitement. Smiles. Raises her hands in happiness.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

This is truly amazing. She has collected three gold medals. Quite frankly, I don't think she's finished yet. Let's see what's next.

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER: 6A GIRLS TRIPLE JUMP

Vacant runway. Toni sits Indian-style with her head down, taking slow deep breaths.

She approaches the runway.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And we're back. We are in the final round of the girls class six A triple jump. It's been the Miss Fields show all day. She has a total of three golds and looking to finish her day with a fourth. She's on the runway with her final jump.

Toni, stands on her mark. Starts a few slow claps over her head.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, it looks like she wants some participation from you. Let's give her a clap.

The crowd claps in sync. Toni puts her hands down. Crowd continues, faster claps as she approaches board.

She strides down the runway. Builds up tremendous speed.

Toni hits the board.

JUMP ONE...

JUMP TWO...

JUMP THREE...

Holds. Soars high into the air. Reaches forward and FLOPS into the sand.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

What a jump! I think she's hoping it's over the forty-four foot barrier. Let's wait and see what she's done.

Toni crouches to the ground, head down. Awaiting the result.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

She did it! A forty-four and a half inch jump.

Toni raises her fists in the air in celebratory fashion. Multiple GIRLS walk over to give her a congratulatory hug.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

That is a new meet record for the great Toni Fields ladies and gentlemen. I'm glad I was here to witness it. Four golds. It doesn't get any better than that.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TONI'S HOME - NIGHT (6)

A GRADUATION PHOTO sits on a table in the living room. Toni enters through the front door. Track clothes, track bag over her shoulder, four MEDALS dangle from her neck. Lifts her hands into the air.

TONI

Yes! I'm finished!

Followed by her mother, DEBBIE FIELDS (48), female, black, older but young-looking. A smile radiates on her face.

DEBBIE

Woot-woot! I'm so proud of you!

Come here baby girl.

She wraps her arms around Toni. Toni giggles, subtly tries to escape. Embraces the hug.

TONI

Okay mama. Come on.

Thanks.

Toni drops her bag. Moves to the refrigerator, yanks it open.

DEBBIE

You were great out there today.

Debbie continues to the living room.

TONI

Hey mama, what are we going to eat? I'm starving. I've been eating only vitamins and multigrain bars all day.

DEBBIE

Today, you reminded me of your sister.

TONI

Mama? Can you hear me? I'm hungry.

Toni, grabs a SPORTS DRINK BOTTLE, pokes her head out of the fridge.

TONI

What? Wait a minute, she never got three records...

Smirks. Pops the TOP off the SPORTS DRINK BOTTLE. Gulps.

DEBBIE

I'm proud of both of you.

Toni moves towards the living room. Stands at the entry way.

TONI

What about "four" gold medals?

DEBBIE

You don't need to compare yourself to her.

TONI

I'm just saying. She can't jump like I can. And four is greater than two. Okay.

Takes another gulp. Moves closer to the couch.

DEBBIE

Don't get cocky now. You know the bible says, "God resists the proud, but give grace to the humble."

Toni (slightly) rolls her eyes.

TONI

I know mama. I just want to be one step ahead of her, then I'll know I'm on the right track.

Flops on the couch.

TONI (CONT'D)

I want to be the greatest to ever live. I know I have what it takes. No one can stop me from being the best.

DEBBIE

Toni, "You can do all things through Christ.."

TONI

(over talks at Christ)

"...Christ who strengthens me." I got it.

DEBBIE

Don't forget it.

TONI

Here's what I'm going to do. First, I'll go to college, *Williams University*, and I will break all of their records. But I'm going to do it with fashion and style.

DEBBIE

There's nothing wrong with doing that. But your time is ticking. School is out now, and you haven't official signed to a college yet. You need to make a final decision. Which school gives you the best opportunity?

TONI

I really don't have time for all of that. I already told you what I'm going to do and where I'm going to go.

DEBBIE

What about your major?

TONI

I'm hungry mama.

Sad face. Silently laughs.

DEBBIE

What kind of job do you plan to have if you're not able to run? What about life after track?

TONI

I think I can eat a whole cow right now.

Laughs. Pulls out her CELL PHONE.

DEBBIE

Toni? You have to take this seriously. I care about your future, but you have to have some kind of back-up plan too, right? You can't run track forever.

TONI

Mama, I'm good enough to make lots of money to take care of our family. So, I don't need a backup plan.

DEBBIE

You always need a back-up plan. I mean Alison Felix has had a very good career, but she went pro right out of high school.

TONI

That, she did.

DEBBIE

You have a lot more work ahead of you to get on the pro level.

TONI

Oh, I'm going to get there.. for sure.
Please don't doubt me.

DEBBIE

The only "female" athlete that I remember
making lots of money, and I mean millions,
was Marion Jones--

Toni straightens up.

TONI

(annoyed)

Marion Jones? Please. I'm not going to
end up like her. She destroyed track for
me, so please don't bring her up.

Toni leans back, looks at a PHOTO of a delicious PIZZA on
the PHONE SCREEN. Smiles, then displays the screen in
Debbie's face.

TONI

Look.

DEBBIE

Focus girl. Track should be your tool to
get you to that next level.

TONI

I can probably eat this whole thing by
myself. Hm-hm.

DEBBIE

You need to invest in your future. Hey,
listen, find your top three schools and
make a decision.

TONI

I will mama. Don't worry. -- Now can we
get something to eat please. I'm about to
pass out.

Debbie laughs. Toni smiles. Debbie playfully grabs the phone out of Toni's hand.

DEBBIE

Alright. Let's order something good.

They converse.

INT. TONI'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT (7)

Toni walks in through the door. Flops on the bed. Grabs her stomach.

TONI

I ate way too much.

Pulls out phone. *Four missed calls.* A large number of text messages. She sends a message to her best friend Michelle.

MICHELLE 8:06 PM (V.O)

Hey girl, sorry I missed your track meet today. I had to work. You know I got bills. Lol. Anyways, congrats on your four golds! You killed it!

Toni writes a response.

TONI 10:55 PM (V.O)

{Smiley face} Thanks. You could have taken a day off. Lol. What time you get off?

MICHELLE 10:56 PM (V.O)

Soon.

TONI 10:56 PM (V.O)

What time is that?

MICHELLE 10:57 PM (V.O)

I'll hit you up in a few mins.

TONI 10:57 PM (V.O)

Aight' cool.

Toni switches to another message thread.

POOKIE 7:38 PM (V.O)

Yo, u did yo thing today on da track. I'm proud of you. Holla at me if you need anything.

TONI 10:59 PM (V.O)

Thanks cuz. Appreciate it.

She writes a status on SOCIAL MEDIA:

TONI (V.O)

Thank you so much for all the love and support. I appreciate the messages. It's been a long road and a lot of hard work over the years. My blood, sweat and tears. I have new journey ahead as I make this next big decision for college. Until next time. Love you all!

INCOMING CALL from MICHELLE. Toni answers.

TONI

It's about time girl. I thought you would never get off work.

MICHELLE PARKER (18), black, pretty, wearing a FAST FOOD work uniform.

MICHELLE

Oh, girl stop tripp'n. I told you I was gonna' call in a few minutes. Anyways, nice job at your track meet. You big time now.

TONI

Thanks girl.

MICHELLE

What you doing anyways?

TONI

Not much. Just finished eating. Feels like I just ate a cow. Bout to go to sleep. I was like "super hungry" after that track meet today.

MICHELLE

Yeah girl. I saw your post on social media. You trying to sound all presidential and stuff. They got your name posted everywhere. You're like really trending. The next track superstar or something. You famous girl. Just saying, don't forget about us little people when you start making all that money.

TONI

You know you my girl. I got you.

They laugh. Toni sits up.

MICHELLE

But why you ain't call me though? You could have swung through and I would have hooked you up with some food.

TONI

Yeah, but you ruined that for me with those stories. Like for real.

MICHELLE

(laughs)

My bad.

(serious)

But guess who did come thru today?

TONI

Who?

MICHELLE

Shonda and her cousin Lexi.

TONI

Wait a minute "Chelle." I'm getting ready to go to college; I don't have time getting involved in some petty B.S.

MICHELLE

I hear ya girl, but they really running they mouths. They talkin' trash about us.

Toni abruptly stands up.

TONI

(angry)

Like, for real, don't say nothing to them. I would hate to have to give them the business. You know I'll drag both of them.

MICHELLE

Alright. Alright. I got you. I won't say anything. Sorry to get you all worked up girl.

TONI

Yeah, you done got my blood pressure boiling now. You know I go zero to a hundred real quick.

MICHELLE

I know. I know. My bad. -- Well I'm headed home to take a shower and shut it down for the night. What are you going to be up to over next couple of weeks?

TONI

College. I have to make a final decision pretty soon. Mama's on me about that one.

MICHELLE

Ok cool. Just holla at me. You know where to find me. Cause I ain't going nowhere.

TONI

Aight girl, Bye.

MICHELLE

Bye.

Toni flops back down on the bed. Closes her eyes.

INT. TONI'S ROOM - DAWN (8)

Morning. The sun breaks through the openings of the window.

SUPER: Recruitment

Phone alarm goes off, 6:30 AM. Toni opens her eyes. She turns off the alarm and gets out of bed. Gears up with RUNNING GEAR, laces up her RUNNING SHOES. Exits.

EXT. TONI'S HOME - MORNING (9)

Toni puts EARPHONES in her ears. She stretches on the sidewalk. Takes off running.

EXT. TONI'S NEIGHBORHOOD AREA - MORNING (10)

Toni jogs through her neighborhood.

Arrives back in the front yard of her home. High adrenaline. Hands on her hips, gasping for air.

INT. TONI'S HOME - MORNING (11)

Toni enter through the front door. Sweaty. Breathing a little heavy. Walks to the kitchen, aims for the fridge.

Opens the door, grabs a SPORTS DRINK. Gulps. Goes into the living room.

Debbie sits in the living room on the couch.

DEBBIE

Hey baby girl. How was your run?

TONI

It was good. Always feels good running through the neighborhood.

You know I have to ask. What's for breakfast?

Debbie engages a long stare with a smirk. Toni laughs.

DEBBIE

You should be cooking for me now anyway. There's some cereal in the kitchen if you're hungry.

TONI

I need something hot. Scrambled eggs, sausages, biscuits, cheese grits...

DEBBIE

That's too much. I'm off today and I'm going to relax. So, if you want any of that, you'll have to make it yourself.

Don't scramble my eggs too hard and add just a little bit of pepper.

TONI

Mama?

You know I work too hard to cook.

DEBBIE

You've been cooking since you were nine. You need to get back into the kitchen.

TONI

Yeah, you're probably right mama. But I've just been busy lately. Training. Studying. It's tough being me.

DEBBIE

You're going to have to cook for yourself when you go to college.

Speaking of college, have you narrowed down your list of schools?

TONI

Yes ma'am. Down to six. A new coach from "my" school wants to pay us a visit. I have some virtual meetings setup with the other--

DEBBIE

(interrupts)

Wait, coming to the house?

TONI

(surprised)

Is that the only thing you heard?

DEBBIE

Well, I'm glad you stepped up and setup these meetings, but I can't have anyone coming to the house looking like this.

TONI

It looks fine mama. Don't worry.

DEBBIE

This house is a reflection of me. I will not have us looking like no fool. We better make this place spotless.

TONI

Wait a minute mama, we?

DEBBIE

Oh, yes baby. There no "i" in clean. Ok.

Smirks. Toni raises an eyebrow.

TONI

(laughs)

There's no "we" in Toni either. We don't make any sense.

The crack up laughing.

TONI

You so crazy. Alright. We have plenty of time. I mean days. It'll be later this week. I'll take care of the virtual meetings first. Do you want to join me?

DEBBIE

Nope.

TONI

No? Com'on mama. It could be fun. I'm just going to listen to their offers, and if it's not right, I'm going to hang up. I will not waste my time.

DEBBIE

Really? Just remember that first impressions are everything. Although you may not go to their school, it's possible you may run into them again. But, I might join you if I get some time.

Toni gets up and heads towards her room.

TONI

Ok mama. We'll see.

INT. TONI'S HOME - ROOM - DAY (12)

Bright sunlight shines through the window. Chair. Desk. A warm LAPTOP COMPUTER.

She opens the computer. Signs into an ONLINE MEETING. Relaxes.

CONNECTING...

A man appears, COACH JIMMY NEWTON (40s), male, Caucasian, country, farm-raised, bright smile on his face.

JIMMY

Hello? -- Can you hear me?

TONI

Hello, good morning.

JIMMY

Howdy. Are you miss Toni Fields?

TONI

Yes, I am.

JIMMY

It's great to finally meet you. You look different.

TONI

I do? How?

JIMMY

Well, I've only seen you whooping on people at track meets. Ye-haw!

Jimmy bursts into a long, weird, maniacal laugh. Toni's eyes look over to the side, then back.

TONI

O-kay.

JIMMY

Well, anyhow. Thank you for meeting with me. My name is Coach Jimmy Newton from Farmville college. We'd love to have you as part of our track team.

TONI

What are you offering?

JIMMY

We are offering you a full ride scholarship. But I'll be honest. We can only give you food and living quarters your first year. Then after the harvest, we should be able to pay for your agricultural degree and everything else. And one day, we'll be able to get ourselves a track.

TONI

You guys don't have a track? Seriously?

JIMMY

Uh no. Not yet.

TONI

Well, how does your team train?

JIMMY

Well, we send the kids out to work on speed with the chickens, they warm-up with the geese and try not to run over the pigs. Ye-haw!

TONI

Excuse me?

JIMMY

(bright smile)

You know what I mean? Am I right?

TONI

Um. No. Not happening. I'm looking for a real scholarship. A real school. Not a farm.

JIMMY

We'll take good care of you. We just need the first year to prepare for the harvest. You can sleep in the barn, we got hay, and

we'll eat those chickens come supper time.
Ye-haw! --to a two piece and a biscuit.

TONI

That doesn't sound right. You're not going to pay me with chicken.

JIMMY

Well, we'll grill it for you if that sounds better.

TONI

It doesn't sound better. I deserve way more than that. I looked at your brochure and website, it shows you have a nice facility with a track and everything. I don't see anyone chasing a chicken.

JIMMY

Are you sure?

TONI

I'm very sure. I would remember something like that. My notes say "University of Farmville."

JIMMY

Oh. No, no, no, no. We are Farm Village College. We're not officially a college yet (don't tell anyone), but we will be one day. I hope that you will be a part of our--

CLICK. Toni ends the call.

TONI

Is he serious? I mean chicken? Um. Yeah. No.

Toni laughs.

TONI (CONT'D)

Moving right along.

Toni initiates the next meeting.

CONNECTING...

A woman appears, COACH KATE NICHOLS (mid 40s), female, Caucasian, pleasant appearance, wearing a collar shirt.

KATE

Hello. Good morning.

TONI

Hey. Good morning.

KATE

Miss Toni Fields, right?

TONI

That's correct. And you're from Stonebriar University? A real school, right? No chasing chickens or anything like that?

KATE

We are a real school. Chickens? I'm not sure what you mean. We serve chicken: Grilled, fried, baked, or sauteed even.

TONI

(relieved)

Ok. So, you serve the chicken to eat.

KATE

Yes, that's correct.

The mood turns gloomy.

Coach Kate leans in super close to the camera with a creepy, eerie face.

KATE (CONT'D)

We'll even throw in a side of watermelon for ya.

Kate burst into a weird, maniacal laugh. The ambiance surrounding Toni's face glow bright red. Her eyebrows curl fiercely.

WATERMELON MASH UP SONG.

TONI

Oh hell no!

Toni sits up in the chair, opens her eyes. A gasping deep breath. The gloomy mood dissipates.

KATE

Miss Toni? Can you hear me.

TONI

Hey, yes I can. Sorry. Did you just--?
Never mind.

KATE

Great, no problem. Allow me to formally introduce myself. My name is Coach Kate Nichols. I am the full time head coach here at Stonebriar University. This is my first year and I plan to make it the best in the country. We have new facilities, new training equipment, new housing for our student athlete and we intend to maximize its use and produce the world's best in track and field.

TONI

Ok great. What's your offer?

KATE

We would like to offer you a full athletic scholarship. That will cover books, tuition, food and housing.

TONI

Alright. That sounds really good. --Can you tell me about the girls on your team?

Coach Kate looks around with confusion.

KATE

What girls?

TONI

Ugh, your team? Colleges usually have a team. --You do have a team, right?

KATE

Well. Um. Actually. That's why I'm here. You see, you are the team. We want YOU to be the center of what we are building. You're so good that I figured you would be it.

Toni raises her right eyebrow.

TONI

Say what now? Me? The Team? What about a relay team?

KATE

A relay what...?

TONI

You know? A relay. Four by four? Four by one? Hence the use of the number "four." That's four athletes. I can't pass a baton to myself.

KATE

You're a great athlete. I sure you can. --We have some of the best equipment at our...

TONI

Have you ever been a track coach before?

KATE

We have the best facilities...

TONI

Listen lady, you need to buy a book called *Track and Field Coaching for Dummies*, cause you plum dumb. I'm out.

Toni grabs the mouse.

KATE

(squeezing last words in)

Wait a minute. What if I get you some extra watermelon on the side?

TONI

Say what now?

KATE

...watermelon on the side?

TONI

(holds syllables)

B--i--t--c--h.

CLICK. Call ends. Toni shakes her head.

TONI

I cannot believe this.

The phone buzzes on the desk.

INCOMING CALL... (Michelle) Toni picks up.

TONI

Hey.

MICHELLE

What's up girl? What you up to?

TONI

Girl, I done entered the Twilight Zone or something. Are you pranking me?

MICHELLE

Um, no I'm not.

TONI

Well, I'm trying to meet with these college coaches and you will not believe what I've been through. You know a coach offered me a chicken scholarship?

(sarcasm, attitude)

He could have added watermelon for Christ's sake.

MICHELLE

(laughs)

Girl. Stop playing. Ain't nobody offer you no chicken. But watermelon? They need to be shot. Like for real. Go ahead and call up Pookie and them...

TONI

I'm dead serious. They said we would have to train on a farm chasing chickens. And some trick tried to be funny. Lord, I was about to jump through that screen. They were trippin' so I had to end that real quick.

MICHELLE

(jokingly)

Oh no they didn't. --But I like chicken. You know, two piece and a biscuit.

TONI

Yeah, you love you some chicken.

They both laugh.

MICHELLE

So, what are you going to do? Are you just wasting time? You know there's only one school you want to go to?

TONI

Yeah, but my mama said I should give these schools a chance. Find out which one gives me the best option. So, I'm going to meet with them and see what they have to offer. I'm looking for a full scholarship and then some. I've worked too hard not to get it.

MICHELLE

You sho' deserve it girl. --Alright then, good luck. I have to get back to my life that ain't going nowhere. Just holla at me later on.

TONI

You need anything girl?

MICHELLE

Nah, I'm good. Just checking in with you. Don't worry about me complaining. You keep doing your thing. I'll holla.

TONI

Ok girl. I got you.

MICHELLE

Alright then. Bye.

TONI

Bye.

Toni sets her PHONE down on the desk.

TONI (CONT'D)

Let's see who's next on the list from the twilight zone.

Got it.

CONNECTING...

A man appears on screen, COACH LONNIE GREEN, black, male, short hair, nice blue and white collar shirt.

COACH GREEN

Hello Toni, this is Coach Green from University of Kentucky. We want to offer you a full track and field scholarship. We need your talent and abilities to help us become a national championship powerhouse.

CLICK. Toni ends the call.

CONNECTING...

A woman appears on screen, COACH SHELIA BURRELL, black, female, muscular, school collar shirt.

COACH BURRELL

Hello Toni, this is Coach Shelia Burrell from San Diego State University. We want to offer you a full track and field scholarship. We need your talent and abilities to help us become a national championship powerhouse.

CLICK. Toni ends the call.

CONNECTING...

A man appears, COACH RON GRIGG, Caucasian, male, beard, nice collar shirt.

COACH GRIGG

Hello Toni, this is Coach Ron Grigg from Jacksonville University. We want to offer you a full track and field scholarship. We need your talent and abilities to help us continue being a national championship powerhouse.

CLICK (end meeting button).

INT. TONI'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING (13)

Toni strolls into the living room. Flops down on the couch. Lays back and sighs. Takes a deep breath. Debbie sitting, eyes Toni.

DEBBIE

Are you ok?

TONI

I'm exhausted. I've been talking to college coaches all day. They all say the same thing. Well, the good ones at least.

DEBBIE

I'm glad that you decided to take my advice.

TONI

Mama, how come every time I see you, you're sitting in the same place.

DEBBIE

You know I have to watch my stories. This is my comfy spot.

TONI

Yeah, I see. But you should have heard some of these crazy offers.

DEBBIE

An offer is still an offer. I'm proud of you for putting in the effort.

TONI

Thanks mama.

By the way, Coach Johnson will be here tomorrow from Williams University.

DEBBIE

Ok, that's nice. Are you worried, excited?

TONI

Not worried. I'm not sure what to expect. I do want to make a good impression though. I'm looking forward to it.

DEBBIE

Me too, baby. --Make sure you clean up
real good.

Toni stares back with a frown.

EXT. TONI'S HOME - FRONT YARD - DAY (14)

Neighborhood. Clear street. Nice early morning sun casts
shadows on trees and houses.

Footsteps travel through the driveway, all the way to the
FRONT DOOR.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

A beat. Toni opens the front door. Standing there, COACH
BARBRA JOHNSON (40s), Black, female, pretty, strong, light
collar shirt (Williams University emblem), tucked into her
jeans. Smiles.

BARBRA

Good morning. Toni Fields?

TONI

Yes ma'am, the one and only. Good
morning.

BARBRA

Ok great. I'm head Coach Barbra Johnson
from the Williams University Track and
Field program. I'm here to discuss your
future. Are your parent's home?

TONI

Yes. Please, come on in. My mom is in
the living room.

INT. TONI'S HOME - DAY (15)

Toni closes the door. She walks with Coach Barbra into
their living room. Coach extends her hand to Debbie. They
shake.

BARBRA

Hello, Mrs. Fields. I'm Coach Johnson from Williams University, here to discuss Toni's future with our Track & Field team.

DEBBIE

Well, yes. Come right on in and have a seat please. Would you like something to drink or eat?

BARBRA

Oh, no thank you. I'm fine. I don't want to take up too much of your time. I'll be straight forward with you guys and I'll answer any questions you have for me.

DEBBIE

Ok, thank you. That sounds good.

(to Toni)

Come on baby. Have a seat and let's listen to what Coach Johnson has to say.

TONI

Ok mama.

They sit. Relax.

BARBRA

So, this is my first year as head coach of the track and field team at Williams University. I've been hired to turn the team around quickly. The last couple of years have not been successful. The school is very serious about this upcoming season. They expect championship status. I expect it as well. I know we can do it. With your help, Toni, we should be able to solidify a win. So, to cut to the chase, we would like to offer you a full athletic scholarship which includes books, tuition and room and board. There will also be an additional stipend to offset the costs of food and clothes each semester.

TONI

A stipend? What's that?

BARBRA

A stipend is a check. Money allocated to you for those extra expenses. It will be a total of seven-hundred and fifty dollars.

DEBBIE

Would she have to pay it back?

BARBRA

No ma'am. As long as she remains eligible to compete and maintains her grades with at least a two point seven GPA, she will continue to receive the stipend.

DEBBIE

That's amazing. She will be able to eat, and buy the clothes she needs. Sounds great.

BARBRA

(to Toni)

I also tell all of my scholarship athletes, if you ever run into any issues that could potentially jeopardize your scholarship, please, bring it to me. Preferably before it gets worst. I will help as best I can.

TONI

What kind of issues?

BARBRA

Well, I've been coaching for a long time. What I've noticed is that there is usually a clash between personalities on the team. Drama can surface pretty quickly. Most athletes are competitive, which could lead to envy and jealousy.

TONI

Truth. But I don't have time for the drama. I don't play that coach.

BARBRA

To reiterate, if you run into any issue, please come to me first. I like to put an end to drama early. I will take away scholarships if I have to.

TONI

That's cool. Where would I live? Can I pick my roommate?

BARBRA

You would sleep in a pre-assigned dorm room. Your roommate has already been assigned. We have a "Big Sister" program to help freshman get acclimated to college life. You will be with a second year vet. -- I want to make sure all my athletes stay on the right track.

TONI

Like a babysitter?

BARBRA

No, far from it. Anytime you arrive somewhere new, it's good to have someone there to quickly answer any questions you might have. As a team, we need to be able to count on each other to help whenever needed. This is how we become stronger as individuals and an even better championship team.

TONI

So, when I show up. I'm probably going to be the best athlete there.

BARBRA

No.

TONI

I just won four golds. I set new sprint and jump records. That doesn't mean anything?

BARBRA

It does mean something. That's the only reason I'm here. But once you join my team, it all goes away. What you've accomplished now, will not matter at the next level. College is a completely different monster than high school. You still have a long way to go.

DEBBIE

Oh I like her.

TONI

Really mama?

BARBRA

Just to be real, there's a ton of hard work ahead of you. Once you join my team, we are going to work hard on and off the track. We will eat, train and study together. I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure you're successful.

DEBBIE

Hope you're ready Toni.

TONI

Oh I'm ready. Olympics here I come. --
Where do I sign?

BARBRA

We'll send you all the information you need to your email address to get you started. After you sign, we'll send you your move-in information with the correct dates. --Any more questions?

TONI

Nope, I'm good.

DEBBIE

No, thank you. That was some really good information.

Coach Barbra stands up. Followed by Toni and Debbie. They begin walking towards the front door.

DEBBIE

Are you by any chance related to Michael Johnson?

TONI

Mama, seriously?

BARBRA

(laughs)

Well, I usually don't tell anyone this, but he is my uncle.

DEBBIE

I knew it!

BARBRA

(laughs)

It was a pleasure meeting you two. I look forward to our championship in this coming season. Toni, be sure to work on your core and do some cardio. Get some rest as well.

TONI

Ok coach. Thanks.

DEBBIE

Thank you.

Coach exits, Debbie closes door behind.

DEBBIE

Oh I like that coach. You are going to do great training for her.

TONI

How do you know? She's acting like I'm not great or something. I know those girls can't hold a candle to me.

DEBBIE

Cause she didn't kiss your butt. She told you there will be hard work. She seems like a very honest person. I like that.

TONI

Welp. Great. Let me go pack up my stuff.

Toni, with a bright smile, runs off to her room.

DEBBIE

(loudly)

Toni? You have weeks before you move.

TONI

(from the room)

If you stay ready...

DEBBIE

I know. *...then you don't have to get ready.* That's my baby.

Debbie smiles, walks into living room.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - DRONE VIEW - DAY (16)

Sunny, beautiful bright blue sky. Sun shines over campus buildings, courtyard, sidewalks. Clean grass, squirrels, and trees.

Students walking across campus.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - DORMITORY - DAY (17)

Toni, wearing sweats, a t-shirt, slides with socks, carries a BOX, pulling a SUITCASE towards the entrance into the building.

INT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - DORM ROOM - DAY (18)

Toni enters her new dorm room. Spacious. Small furniture. Approaching, TASHA WHITE (20), African-American, dark skin, pretty, bright smile, a wealth of positive energy.

TONI

(under breath)

This is my dorm room?

TASHA

(distance)

Hey girl!

(approaches)

I'm Tasha White. Your track teammate and your *Big Sister*.

Toni eyes open wide as Tasha forces a hug.

TONI

Hey.

TASHA

You my new roomy, Toni Fields right?

TONI

That's right.

TASHA

(overly happy)

Oh my God, I'm so glad that you made it.

TONI

(weird)

Thanks.

TASHA

Well, come on in. Let me show you to your room. This is the kitchen, that's the living room, and this is your room.

Tasha, points to the areas and walks Toni inside the room. Toni puts her things down.

TONI

What are you so happy about?

TASHA

I don't know girl. This is how I usually am. It's just great to be alive. I don't take that for granted, because some people didn't wake up today. You know what I'm saying?

TONI

That's true. I feel you on that.

TASHA

Besides, this is my second year and I look forward to things being better. We weren't that great of a track team last year. This is a new year, new opportunity.

TONI

What do you mean by, weren't great?

TASHA

Well, we had talent, but we were nowhere near winning a championship. But this year, we are expected to win. Anything less than that, is considered a failure.

And I heard you're like going to be the next Flo-Jo so...

TONI

I am the one and only, Toni Fields.

TASHA

(eyebrow raised)

That was just a figure of speech.

(comedically)

We both know you ain't no Flo-Jo. Okurrr.

TASHA (CONT'D)

An-ti-ways, go ahead and get your room situated and I'll give you some of the ground rules and expectations for incoming freshman. Meet me in living room in two minutes?

TONI

Ok cool.

Tasha exits. A beat.

Toni enters the living room, sits, relaxes. Tasha holds a DOCUMENT.

TASHA

First, that's your room. Whatever you do in there is your business. But, what you do can affect the rest of this place. So please be aware of that. I will do the same.

TONI

Ok. Got it.

TASHA

Also, we may have to share certain things. Same rules apply. If you need anything of mine, please just ask. Respect my things and I will respect yours.

If you have a guest and you need some privacy, just hang your track spikes on the door.

TONI

I'm not hanging my spikes on the door. They might get snatched.

TASHA

Oh, you really must be from the hood.

TONI

Ain't nobody got time for that.

TASHA

Ok, let's just send a text to give the heads up. No drugs. No alcohol. And you must wash your clothes and your behind.

TONI

(laughs)

What? Who don't wash they butt?

TASHA

(agreement)

Okay. You'd be surprised. An-ti-ways, if I see a dirty used pad lying around, I WILL fight you. Cause, that's just nasty.

TONI

(laughs)

Eew? You crazy girl.

TASHA

If you eat, please clean up after yourself. I don't want ants, roaches or rats. No bums off the street and keep our door locked at all times. Any questions?

Toni eyes become wide. Shakes her head.

TONI

Nope.

TASHA

Ok cool. So, since you're a freshman, we'll be tied together at the hip most of time. We have weightlifting at six A-M, then class. We can walk together if you like. We have practice. We can meet in the food court for lunch. Most of the track girls are usually there. Drama. We'll eat dinner after practice. Then, we'll go to the library to study. That's mandatory.

TONI

Dang. You got the whole day covered.

TASHA

Yeah girl. That's good because it helps us stay focused. We're not just athletes, we're student-athletes. If we fail school or end up with a low G.P.A, we could lose our scholarships. They'll even deduct a piece of your scholarship if you're not living up to expectations. Any questions?

TONI

Nope. That's a lot to take in, but I get it. Can you show me around campus sometime? Where we train, practice, the school campus, where we eat?

TASHA

Yeah girl, I got you. But first we need to go to this "Meet and Greet". It's like a potluck for all athletes. You might even see the men's track team. Okurrr. You'll get to meet the rest of our team. But, let me warn you. Some of our team thrives on drama. And you're new and probably the next "Flo-Jo," so you might be a target.

Toni gets up and begins to slam her fist into her hand.

TONI

No, no, no. Listen, I don't have time for no mess. If anyone comes at me sideways, they might get the business. I got no problem dragging a hoe. So tell your girls I ain't the one.

TASHA

Dang girl. You're acting like you ready to beat me down. Look, I'm just a messenger. Please know that I want everyone to succeed. Ok.

TONI

My bad. But I don't discriminate. You're either with me or against me. If YOU side with them, I'll drag you too.

TASHA

Listen, as your "big sister," I'm team Toni. We good?

TONI

Yeah we good.

Tasha smiles and wraps her arms around Toni.

TASHA

Then relax girl dang.

TONI

Ok. Ok.

(breaths)

Woo-sah.

TASHA

Good. Now change your clothes. Put on something cute. Cause you're not going anywhere with me looking like you homeless. Okurrr.

Toni laughs.

TONI

You got jokes? Yeah, I'm not going anywhere looking like this.

Tasha walks into kitchen, Toni goes into her room.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - AERIAL VIEW - DAY (19)

Beautiful sky. Overview of campus, courtyard, sidewalks and class buildings.

INT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS BUILDING - DAY (20)

Food. Low music. A plethora of student athletes. Sitting. Standing. Talking. Smiling. Laughing.

Tasha and Toni enter. They look around.

TASHA

Alright girl, let's see what's happening up in here.

Tasha slowly eyes left and right of the room. She waves at someone in the distance.

TONI

Where's the food? Cause I'm hungry.

TASHA

Ok girl. Hold on, let me see.

Toni glances over towards the food area.

Two attractive males appear, JAMES LINN (20) and DERRICK PITTS (18), both African American, athletic, strong, handsome and well-dressed.

TASHA (O.S.)

Oh, I see what you're looking at. That's my boy James over there. But not sure who he is. He must be new.

TONI

Don't know about your boy cause I'm
looking for food. I'm still hungry.

TASHA

Right. --Come on, let's go meet them.

Tasha grabs Toni's arm and pulls her. They walk towards the
food and run into the two gentlemen. They approach.

JAMES

(to Tasha)

Tash, what's up girl? Long time no see.
How you been doing over the summer?

They hug.

TASHA

It was good. How you've been?

JAMES

It's all good. Can't complain. Ready to
get this new year started.

TASHA

Me too. --So, who's your friend?

JAMES

Oh, my bad. This is our new track star,
my training partner, Derrick Pitts. He's
going to help us kill it this year.
Derrick, this is Tasha.

DERRICK

Hello Tasha. Nice to meet you.

TASHA

Hello Derrick. It's nice to meet you too.

They shake hands.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. You have to meet our new-

JAMES

(interrupts)

Hold up a sec. Let me guess. You're Toni Fields.

TONI

Seriously? How do you know me?

James laughs.

DERRICK

I think the question you should be asking is, who doesn't know you? Your name is kind of floating around here.

JAMES

Yeah, people are saying you're going to be the next Flo-Jo. A sprint superstar.

DERRICK

(to James)

I doubt Flo-Jo can jump like she can.

JAMES

That one hundred meter world record though -- may *never* be broken.

TONI

(confidently, one eyebrow raised)

We'll see about that.

JAMES

Oh lord, yes. T, your girl is fierce. I like that.

DERRICK

(looks Toni up and down)

There's nothing wrong with a little confidence.

TASHA

That's right. --And records are made to be broken.

TONI

If you "don't believe me, just watch."

They all laugh.

TONI (CONT'D)

I don't know about you guys, but I'm hungry. Tasha, you ready?

TASHA

Yeah girl. Let's grab some food.

Derrick pulls James back to make room for the girls.

DERRICK

Ok. No problem. Ladies first. Go right on ahead.

TASHA

You guys are such gentlemen. Thank you.

TONI

Thank you.

The girls walk past.

JAMES

Alright then. Y'all go ahead and eat. We'll holla at you another time aight. See ya.

TASHA

Ok. Talk to you later.

DERRICK

See you around. Nice meeting you two.

TONI

You too, bye.

The two guys leave the food area. Tasha and Toni proceed to grab food. They find a table and sit.

TASHA

James with his fine self. Derrick seems nice. Cute too. He was feeling you girl. You see how he looked at you?

TONI

Maybe. But I'm too hungry to really notice.

TASHA

Don't you worry. You will see your *beau* again.

TONI

He is not my *beau*. Cool it girl.

They laugh and continue to eat.

A beat.

TASHA

Uh oh. Here comes trouble.

Alicia enters, walking the fashion runway, and roommate, GINA GOMEZ (20), Hispanic, short, curly hair, and crew, strolls in, gliding on water. Alicia eyes the room.

Alicia stops, folds arms. ...the crew halts.

GINA

What you think Alicia?

ALICIA

I don't know. I'm not really feeling it right now.

GINA

Yeah, looks like we got some newbies up in here.

ALICIA

It just gets worst every year. Where do these people come from?

GINA

Girl, you ain't lying. This must be a joke. --But wait a minute. I think I see your girl over there.

ALICIA

My girl?

Gina looks over to Toni and Tasha. Alicia takes a look.

GINA

Yeah, over there eating with Tasha. She supposed to be the next Flo-Jo or something.

ALICIA

(doubt)

Oh really? She's the next Flo-Jo?

GINA

Yep. --Hey, that's just what I heard.

Alicia stares profusely across the room.

ALICIA

Ha. Flo-Jo. I got something for that ass.

Alicia turns around to the crew.

Toni and Tasha leaves their table, walks over.

TASHA

Hey girls. I have someone you all need to meet.

Alicia turns around. They eye Toni.

ALICIA

What's up Tasha? We see you hanging tough over here. Is she the one?

TONI

Excuse me?

TASHA

(to Toni)

Hold on a sec.

(to Alicia)

Alicia, please don't start trippin. You don't know who you're talking to. -- Please, just don't.

ALICIA

I know exactly who this is. I don't know what all the talk is about. She don't look nothing like Flo-Jo. Not even close.

Alicia laughs with her girls. Alicia gets closer to Toni.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

You see, my girl Flo-Jo, was beautiful. Like me. You wouldn't know anything about that. Looking like a broke, *Raggedy Ann* doll.

Alicia's crew laughs. Tasha's eye's open wide.

TONI

(to Tasha)

You better get your girl. She bout to get it.

Tasha turns to Alicia.

TASHA

Alicia. Stop! Like, right now.

ALICIA

Nah, I'm on to something here. You want me to buy you and your mama some new clothes?

Ha, Flo-Jo. You know what, she looks more like a... Flo-Hoe!

Crowd surrounds, laughs.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Stupid freshman. This floosy thinks she's going to come up in here and wreck shop on us? Nah, I don't think so.

Toni looks into Tasha's eyes, then focuses on Alicia's face. Clinches right hand into a fist. Frowns.

Tasha quickly pulls out her phone. Pushes the record video button... Alicia moves into Toni's personal space.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Go back to wherever you came from. You ugly-ass bi(tch)--

Toni slaps her across her face with her right hand. The surrounding crowd erupts.

Alicia's head bounces to the right. Looks back at Toni in astonishment. Toni grabs the top of her head. Yanks her body down to the floor. Without letting go, drags her twenty feet. Alicia kicks and screams along the way.

TONI

I'm a hoe, right!?

The crowd gasps. Tasha and others point their phones to the action, smiles.

Toni stops dragging. Still holding a tight grip. Looks around fiercely... Takes one step forward and yanks. Crowd gasps loudly.

Toni looks at her fist. Hair cliche'd tight inside as it dangles. She exits. Tasha follows.

Alicia grabs the top of her head.

ALICIA

(loud scream)

AAhhhhhh!

Laughter from the crowd encircles her. She gets up and embarrassingly runs out. Multiple videos begin uploading to social media.

Memes and hashtags are born:

#DraggedTrackHoe, #MuffinCapPeeledBack, #BaldyLocks

#WigSnatchedOff, #HoeGonnaLearnToday

#UnBeweavable

INT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - DORM ROOM - EVENING (21)

Toni pushes the door open. Walks in briskly. Tasha follows.

TASHA

I cannot believe you did that.

TONI

Didn't I tell you I don't have time for that B.S. I told you.

Toni paces back and forth. Breathing heavily.

TASHA

You did. I tried to stop her. But she does what she always does. She thinks she can talk to anyone that way because of who she is. A rich girl. Heffa going to learn today.

Looks at her phone and laughs. Toni stops. Stares.

TONI

That's not funny.

TASHA

You are trending right now. Come see?

Tasha shows Toni her phone.

TONI

What? You uploaded a video of me? Oh no!

TASHA

I couldn't help myself. I figured someone was going to do it. Why not me...?

TONI

Aw man. This is not a good look. What am I going to do now?

TASHA

Calm down Toni. We'll figure this out.

TONI

Any chance coach will find out about this?

TASHA

Um, yeah. There's actually a great chance. Sometimes she--

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

TONI

(whispers)

Who's that?

TASHA

(whispers)

How am I supposed to know?

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

COACH BARBRA (O.S.)

Open up. I know you two are in there.
Open now!

TASHA

(loudly to the door)

Just a second coach.

TONI

(whisper)

Oh no. She must have saw the video.

TASHA

(whisper, positively)

Maybe she didn't. It's possible.

Tasha walks over to open the door. Coach walks in while it was opening.

TASHA

Hey coach.

COACH BARBRA

Close the door.

Tasha closes, Coach continues walking.

COACH BARBRA

(to Tasha)

Why, in God's name, would you upload a video of your teammate? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HER BIG SISTER. What kind of nonsense is that?

Tasha holds her head down.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

(to Toni)

And you. WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING? ON YOUR FIRST DAY? With your teammate? If you have a problem, what did I tell you? BRING IT TO ME.

TONI

Coach. I really didn't want to do that, but she was asking for it. She got all up in my face like she was big and bad. Talking down on me. She just met me. I had to stand up for myself or else she would try me again.

TASHA

I hoped she learned too coach. She always does that to people and it's not right.

COACH BARBRA

Miss Tasha, this is not about Alicia. This is about Toni. --You know what? Let us talk in the room for a moment. I'll speak to you a little later.

TASHA

Ok coach.

Toni and Coach Barbira walk into the room.

COACH BARBRA

Come on Toni. Sit down.

Coach and Toni sit on the bed.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

Listen, I think you have great potential. You are destined for greatness on the track. But you can throw it all away if you continue to make bad decisions.

TONI

I was defending myself.

COACH BARBRA

I disagree. You let her get under your skin instead of walking away. -- Did she put her hands on you first?

TONI

She got in my face--

COACH BARBRA

No, no, no. Did she?

TONI

No.

COACH BARBRA

No. So, legally, you weren't defending yourself; you assaulted her. Don't let other people get the best of you. People will test you just to throw you off your game. They know you're great. The haters are out there. The ones who are threatened by you. That's their insecurities getting the best of you. By reacting that way you allowed them to win.

TONI

Yeah, I get it.

COACH BARBRA

Do not let anything like this happen again or I'm going to take your entire scholarship and give it to someone who deserves it. We have a championship to win. I need you to be all in. We need you on the track, not in jail. You have to ask yourself, who is Toni Fields? Are you a menace, or a champion? You have the power to choose. Understand?

TONI

Yes, I do.

COACH BARBRA

One more thing, I'm also going need you to apologize to Alicia.

TONI

Oh no. I can't do that.

COACH BARBRA

Oh yes you can, and you will. I don't want to see you again until you get that done. I don't care what she said. You need to apologize for what you did. You'll understand later. I will talk to her as well. Alright?

TONI

(fake smile)

Sure.

COACH BARBRA

Don't give me that. I wasn't born yesterday. Do what I ask. Please.

Coach stands up.

TONI

Okay. I'll do it, but if she's comes for me again...

COACH BARBRA

I know how you feel. Just try to compose yourself and get it done. Walk away if you have to. Got it?

Toni nods, sits. Coach exits. Tasha peeks through the door.

TASHA

Hey girl. You good?

TONI

(frustrated)

Nah. I have to find my gear.

Toni rumbles through her suitcase, pulls out her RUNNING GEAR. Gets dressed. Sighs heavily. Quickly moves towards the door.

TONI

I need to clear my head.

Yanks the door open. Exits.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - NIGHT (22)

Dark. Mysterious. Light posts illuminate.

Toni jogs aggressively through campus in and out of the mysterious ambiance of the dark shadows.

TONI (V.O.)

Who is Toni Fields? God knows. I'm definitely a work in progress. I'm not perfect. Coach says I shouldn't let people get the best of me. That's tuff if some skank-- I'm sorry. When someone pushes my buttons. I never know how I might react. Sometimes, I drag. But. If I'm going to be a champion, an Olympian, I must change. I'll apologize to that mean girl. For Coach. Then, I'll work on keeping my hands to myself. --Baby steps.

EXT. UNIVSERITY CAMPUS - DORM BUILDING - NIGHT (23)

Dark. Empty sidewalks. Mysterious presence fades into the background.

Toni arrives in full stride. Slows, squats down. *Unexpectedly...* Alicia walks up stands behind Toni.

ALICIA

Hey (bitch).

TONI

What?

Toni frowns, slowly stand up. Turns around. Blank stares from both sides.

Alicia pulls out a small GUN (22), points it in Toni's face.

ALICIA

Yeah. You didn't think we would be here, did you? You're not getting away with that (shit) you did today.

You're finished.

Toni, eyes the gun.

TONI

(playful, mock song)

"Hold up. Wait a minute. It's a twenty-two. Pew, pew, pew."

ALICIA

(frustrated, intense)

Girl, ain't nobody playing with you. I'm not going to let you embarrass me and get away with it.

I have an image to uphold. This is my life! ...and you ain't (shit).

TONI

(unafraid)

What you going to do? You going to shoot me with that little baby gun because you got dragged today?

ALICIA

You damn right.

TONI

That was YOUR fault! You mad because I'm going to wreck shop on yo' ass?

ALICIA

You ain't wrecking shit.

Alicia, dazed, grabs her head.

TONI

Then why are you trippin'? Beat me on the track!

Alicia's eyes begin to gradually blink slower, breathing slows. Looks down, face disgruntled.

ALICIA

(forces firmly)

You will *NEVER* beat me!

TONI

Well, I'm sorry. I just don't lose.

ALICIA

(Bitch,) you already lost.

Blood slowly drips from Alicia's nose. Toni frowns.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

(slowly, disoriented)

Your life is over, you stupid, broke-ass--

Alicia collapses to the ground.

TONI

Hey-- Alicia?

Toni hovers. Alicia lies there, unconscious.

Toni glances around.

TONI

(worried)

Oh (shit).

FADE OUT

THE END