

TRACK GIRLS

"WAR GROUNDS"

*Episode 104*

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FADE IN:

*"He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction."*

Proverbs 13:3

INT. WILLIAMS UNIV - BRIAN'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT (1)

Sasha walks down the hallway towards the room door. She enters. Slams the door behind.

BRIAN O'CONNOR (21), African-American, male, handsome, muscular build, boxers, stands with a gazing eye.

BRIAN

(firmly)

Hey, don't be slamming my damn door. Have you lost your mind?

Sasha approaches. Brian walks to his closet.

SASHA

Who was that?!

BRIAN

Nobody. --Now back up off me.

SASHA

Hell nah. Who was that dirty-ass hoe?!

Brian, folds his lips, grabs a pair of JEANS.

BRIAN

I just told you. Nobody.

SASHA

Is she sick?!

BRIAN

Keep your voice down.

Brian puts on some JEAN PANTS.

SASHA

Why the hell didn't you come see me? You know what happened to my damn cousin.

BRIAN

I was busy. We had a uh...  
--football meeting.

SASHA

I'm not important enough for you to miss one "football" meeting?

BRIAN

No, you're not.

SASHA

Why is that?

BRIAN

Listen, I told you, my future as a quarterback is the most important thing in my life. Everything else is second. That includes you... and all your drama.

SASHA

(crying)

I know your nasty, cheating-ass need to quit messing with those hoes.

BRIAN

Who the hell do you think you're talking to? I do whatever I want, when I want.

SASHA

You can't keep doing me like this.

BRIAN

What? Girl everybody knows you're my number one. So stop tripp'n. You knew what this was about. I boost your cred around here and you --just, be you.

SASHA

(emotional, cries)

I'm dealing with a lot here Brian. I need your support.

BRIAN

(softly)

Okay, okay. --Come here.

Brian calmly wraps his arms around her. Walks her slowly to the door.

BRIAN

(softly)

I'm sorry, baby. You know I have love for you. Come on. Here's what you should do, call your rich, wealthy family --and see if they can get help for you. Someone you can talk to about it. Ok?

(into her ear)

Because, I just don't have time for your drama.

Brian shoves Sasha out the door. Slams it shut. Sasha holds her head down, looks up.

SASHA

Urghh!!

TITLE CARD:

"Track Girls"

INT. WILLIAMS UNIV - KENDRA'S ROOM - MORNING (2)

Alarm clock SOUNDS OFF.

Kendra turns over in her bed, reaches for the CLOCK and flips the alarm switch off. She turns to her back and lies there, staring profusely at the ceiling.

KENDRA (V.O.)

It's been a long night. I've had a lot to think about. I'm not sure what I'm going to do about Sasha. I know what I want to do, but that's not going to help me reach my goals. Jesus says I should turn the other cheek. Thing is, I'm running out of cheeks.

What do you do when someone sets out to tarnish your reputation? Your brand? This goes beyond pushing my buttons. When the enemy wants you to give up, they tend to employ strategies for your defeat.

This is a battle where I won't back down. I'll have to come up with a strategy of my own.

Kendra, in pajamas, sits up and walks into the bathroom. Shuts the door.

INT. WILLIAMS UNIV - TASHA/KENDRA DORM - DAY (3)

Tasha, sits quietly in the kitchen. Kendra enters.

TASHA

Hey girl. How you doing?

KENDRA

Still a little tired. I don't think I slept that well. I was up all night trying to figure this thing out.

TASHA

What are you trying to figure out?

Kendra raises an eyebrow.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Oh.

I thought you weren't going to let that bother you.

KENDRA

For some reason, it's not that simple. I haven't been able to stop thinking about it.

TASHA

Well, girl. As your *Big Sister*, I would say that you should only focus on school and track.

KENDRA

That's the hard part. She's on our track team.

TASHA

You're right. Good point.

KENDRA

I'm sorry Tasha, I can't ignore this. This is evil. Spreading rumors comes off almost as bullying. --I don't like bullies.

TASHA

Do you want to just talk to her or do you want to do something else?

KENDRA

I don't think talking would work.

TASHA

Did you want to try?

KENDRA

I want to beat her face in.

TASHA

No, no, no, Kendra. I feel the energy level starting to change. We have to stay on the right side of this one. It could be costly if we don't handle this correctly.

KENDRA

We? If I beat her face in, I would be the one getting locked up.

TASHA

But, as your new *Big Sister*, I take responsibility for you staying out of trouble. Coach holds me responsible too. If we don't win a championship because you're not on the team, she might come looking for me.

They share a laugh.

TASHA (CONT'D)

I'm serious girl. Coach is all about that win. I believe she thinks we can't do it without you.

KENDRA

(laughs)

That's probably true.

TASHA

So, please keep your head up and try not to fight.

KENDRA

A rumor like that is fighting words where I come from.

TASHA

I know, it's bad. But positive energy going forward, please.

KENDRA

Whatever.

TASHA

(sadly facetious)

You don't want to be my she-ro anymore?

KENDRA

If your she-ro throws a beatdown on some villains --then I'm your girl.

They crack up laughing.

TASHA

Ok, I guess there's justice in that. Just remember, championships --then Olympics. Not fighting, then jail. Okurrr.

KENDRA

Got it. Olympics. Yes.

TASHA

Alright, alright. Time to get ready for class.

KENDRA

Oh, we don't have weights this morning?

TASHA

No, not today. This is pretty much our only day off. We still have practice later on this afternoon.

KENDRA

Ok cool. I'll go get dressed and we can head out.

TASHA

Sounds good, see you in fifteen.



KENDRA

Bet.

Kendra heads to her room, closes door. Tasha cleans up her mess in the kitchen area.

EXT. WILLIAM UNIVERSITY - AERIAL VIEW - DAY (4)

Birds-eye view of campus. Horizon in the deep distance.

Sun shines bright. Students walking along the sidewalk, sitting in the grass reading.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIV - CAMPUS SIDEWALK - DAY (5)

Tasha and Kendra appear, walking, casually dressed, wearing BACKPACKS holding CLASS MATERIALS.

KENDRA

I cannot stand this college algebra class. Nothing makes sense to me.

TASHA

What are you talking about girl? You have to keep up with the information before it gets away from you.

KENDRA

I tried, but I kept dozing off. I'm just too tired. Too much on my mind.

TASHA

You need to let it go girl. It's not worth getting bad grades over.

They stop walking.

KENDRA

I need to clear my mind.

TASHA

I know exactly what you need. You have to shift focus. Olympics, remember?

KENDRA

Yes. You're right.

TASHA

Now close your eyes.

Kendra takes a deep breath. Closes her eyes.

KENDRA

Woo-sah.

TASHA

(soft peaceful voice)

Yes. I like this.

Think about sitting at the edge of the ocean.

The cool waves are slowly flowing in to message the top of your feet.

The muddy sand squeezes its way through your toes. Yes, can you feel it?

After a moment, Kendra opens her eyes. She laughs.

TASHA (CONT'D)

So, how do you feel?

KENDRA

Wow. I actually feel a whole lot better. Thank you for that.

TASHA

You see. Positive thoughts, give you positive energy. I love it.

Tasha and Kendra turn around, Sasha immediately appears.

SASHA

Surprise.

They surround Kendra and Tasha, blocking their walk way.

SASHA (CONT'D)

Look who it is y'all, the Halloween duo.

Treat.

Sasha points at Tasha.

SASHA (CONT'D)

...and Trick.

Sasha points to Kendra. The CREW burst into laughter.

TASHA

(under breath to Kendra)

There goes our positive energy.

KENDRA

(to Sasha)

You've got some nerve.

Sasha starts to slowly walk around the two.

SASHA

Oh, I do. Right.

It's just that, I don't think you belong here.

KENDRA

Why? You scared I'll steal your shine?

Well, we both know it's too late for that.

Kendra laughs.

TASHA

(whispers)

Take it easy Kendra.

KENDRA

Nah. She started this.

SASHA

Yeah, I started it. You're right, but whose going to finish it?

KENDRA

That depends on you.

SASHA

Me?

KENDRA

Yes.

Look, can we squash all this? I think we would be better off working as a team, so we can win the championship together.

SASHA

We don't need you to win.

KENDRA

How you figure that?

SASHA

I can score most of the points in the multis and the sprints.

KENDRA

I can win the sprints and you can win the multis. Sounds like an easier plan to me. It's a win-win for both of us, right?

Sasha stops in front.

SASHA

Nah. You no good for this team. You're like a bad apple. We don't need you here.

KENDRA

So you want me to quit? Is that why you started a rumor about me?

SASHA

(facetiously)

Oh my, what ever do you mean?

The CREW laughs.

KENDRA

You know exactly what I'm talking about.

SASHA

Any rumor going around about you, is probably true, but I didn't do it.

KENDRA

Play dumb if you want to, but it will always come back to haunt you.

SASHA

I'm so scared, I'm shaking in my boots.

I didn't start no stupid rumor, I don't need to. You look *stupid* all by yourself. Anything I say would help your social status.

KENDRA

You need to keep my name out of your mouth, but you'll get what's coming to you.

SASHA

What are you, some kind of witch or something?

Kendra approaches Sasha's personal space.

KENDRA

For all you know, I might be.

SASHA

Eew!

Kendra lifts her hands over Sasha's head. Imitates a voodoo curse.

KENDRA

Shaka-zooloo! Zam!

Sasha reacts, frowns.

SASHA

What the hell? Get away from me, demon witch!

Kendra walks past.

KENDRA

Come on Tasha, let's roll. I don't have time for this lying heffa.

SASHA

Yeah. You better go.

Tasha follows. Sasha and CREW stare at the back of their heads in disbelief.

KENDRA (V.O.)

Okay. Things are crystal clear now. I'm out of cheeks to turn. Sorry Jesus. I gave Sasha the last opportunity to come clean, hoping we could make peace. She's not going to let up.

My grandma once told me, when someone shows you who they are, ...believe them. That girl is rotten to the core. I may have to give her a taste of her own medicine.

BACK TO:

GINA

Dang Sasha, you are really putting a number on that girl.

SASHA

So. Why y'all looking scary?

GINA

(laughs)

I'm not scared.

CREW GIRL#1

She just put a curse on you.

SASHA

Are you serious right now? Or are you just plain stupid?

GINA

Take it easy Sasha.

CREW GIRL#1

Call me stupid, but Voodoo is real.

SASHA

Yeah, you stupid.

CREW GIRL#1

You better take a bath in some rue, salt and herbs.

Sasha frowns. Gina laughs.

SASHA

She is not a REAL witch. So, there is NO curse.

GINA

You hope not.

CREW GIRL #1

What if she is though? What you going to do then?

You better watch your back.

SASHA

Whatever.

Sasha looks on. She and the CREW walk away.

BACK TO:

Tasha and Kendra continue walking. Cory and Katy appear.

CORA

Hey Tasha.

TASHA

Hey Cora.

KATY

Hi Kendra!

KENDRA

Hey you guys.

KATY

It's great to see you two again.

CORA

Everything ok? You two look *emoji* face sad.

KENDRA

Not really.

TASHA

We are trying to restore our positive energy back. Sasha has really killed the mood.

CORA

We saw you two talking to her. It did not look good. She needs to buy herself a better attitude. I'm sorry she's been such a pain, Kendra. Hopefully it will blow over soon.



KENDRA

I really appreciate that. I've been dealing with her since my first day. It's really frustrating.

CORA

Yeah, she needs a new hobby or something. I'm starting to get concerned for our team.

KATY

Have you tried to make peace with her?

KENDRA

I did. But that didn't work. I think I'm at the end of the road.

TASHA

I don't know you guys. Sasha seems to have it out for her.

CORA

She's just jealous of you coming in here and stealing her shine. Don't let that bother you.

KATY

Yeah, we all know how great you are.

KENDRA

I'm not worried about just her. I still have a lot of work to do. College is no joke. These classes are starting to work on my nerves too.

CORA

I bet, but wait until travel season; it gets worse. There's like no time for anything. Just make sure you have your grades in order before the season starts.

--Oh God...

Cora grabs her stomach, covers her mouth.

TASHA

Are you ok girl? You're acting kind of sick.

Cora's mouth swells up. Tasha and Kendra eyes open wide.

KENDRA

Are you okay?

KATY

Cora?

CORA

Sorry ladies, I have to run. --Bye.

Cora, slightly bends over holding her stomach, runs off.

TASHA

What wrong with your *Big Sis*?

KATY

I don't know. I'll go check on her. I sure wish I could hang out longer though.

TASHA

Go ahead. We'll see you later. No worries.

Katy slowly walks away.

KATY

See you two later.

KENDRA

Okay, bye.

TASHA

Bye girl.

Tasha and Kendra waves her off.

TASHA

Oh girl. I hope that's not morning sickness.

KENDRA

Wow. You jump to conclusions mighty fast.

TASHA

I'm just saying. The guys are all over her. It's like she's a rare breed or something. It's wrong of me to assume, yes, but I do hope it's not that.

Tasha and Kendra continues walking.

TASHA (CONT'D)

But, anti-ways, seems like you got yourself a new fan, she-ro.

KENDRA

Maybe.

TASHA

But I really want to get our Zen energy back.

KENDRA

Sasha WAS lying about starting that rumor. I know it was her.

TASHA

Did you hear me say "Zen" energy? Then you bring up Sasha?

(comedically)

You know that's the opposite of Zen...right?

Kendra giggles, Tasha tries to hold a straight face.

TASHA (CONT'D)

She was acting guilty, but I don't have any proof. So, I can't say for sure that she did... or didn't.

KENDRA

I can.

TASHA

Well, you still need to let it go so you can function.

Can we now, shift our energy back?

KENDRA

She is just a bad person. I mean who would date someone like that?

TASHA

I guess not. ...But she does have a man.

Kendra stops walking, looks at Tasha. Eyes open wide.

KENDRA

She has a man?

(very interested)

What's his name?

EXT. WILLIAM UNIV - CAMPUS AERIAL VIEW - DAY (6)

Campus buildings, trees, sidewalks. Plethora of students walking across campus.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIV - CAMPUS TRACK - DAY (7)

A plethora of TRACK GIRLS, in running workout clothes, stand around the track stadium, talking, sitting and conversing.

Tasha and Kendra sit on the field stretching. Natalie approach and begin stretching.

NATALIE

How y'all doing?

TASHA

Hey girl. We're doing alright. Trying to make it through the day.

KENDRA

Yeah, still dealing with the same old drama.

NATALIE

Oh, right. I'm sorry about that. We heard what happened today with your girl Sasha.

KENDRA

It's all good.

NATALIE

What about that nasty rumor going around?

TASHA

She asked her about it, but she denied it.

KENDRA

I know she lying, too.

NATALIE

I'm glad you didn't get physical.

I don't know what I would do. That's just not right.

(to Tasha)

You think we need an intervention Tasha?

TASHA

I don't know if that would help. She pretty much has her own agenda.

KENDRA

Don't worry. I appreciate all the support, but she'll get what's coming to her.

Natalie's eyes get big.

NATALIE

Does that statement make anyone else nervous?

What does it mean Kendra?

TASHA

Yeah, girl. What are you talking about?

KENDRA

Have you never heard, "What goes around, comes around?"

NATALIE

Yes, but I'm interested to know how it comes around.

Natalie laughs.

TASHA

Me too girl. Okurrr.

(to Kendra)

Is there something I need to know about?

KENDRA

Nope. Like I said, it's all good. It's out of my hands.

NATALIE

Oh, I get it. You're going to let God fight your battles.

Kendra hesitates.

KENDRA

Something like that.

Natalie walks over to give Kendra a big hug.

NATALIE

It takes a big person to do that. You're going to be alright Kendra.

Coach Barbra walks out onto the field.

WHISTLE BLOWS!

COACH BARBRA

Alright ladies, come on over and take a seat!

The TRACK GIRLS make their way over to surround Coach Johnson. They sit on the field.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

How is everyone today? I hope you all are living in a state of excellence.

Small positive responses. Sasha looks over at Kendra, they make eye contact. Kendra smirks.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

First order of business. We have our first track meet in a couple of months. What need to focus on training. It will get harder this off-season. As you grow stronger, it will become more challenging.

Balancing school with training is important. Keep your grades up, get help before you need it. Continue to hit the weight room and push yourselves at every workout. To win a championship, as a team, takes a deeper level of comradery. Are you gals ready to commit to doing what it takes to win!?

TEAM (UNISON)

Yes, coach!

COACH BARBRA

Alright. Excellent. Let's get started. Warm-up laps! Go!

Coach puts the whistle to her mouth.

WHISTLE BLOWS!!

The GIRLS take off jogging two laps.

A beat.

Running warm-up complete. They line up on the track.

COACH BARBRA

High knees! Go!

The TRACK GIRLS perform high knees for thirty meters.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

Going back, go!

They continue to do seven more track drills down and back for thirty meters.

BUTT KICKS...

STRAIGHT LEG BOUNDS...

STRAIGHT LEG KICKS...

A-SKIP... B-SKIP...C-SKIP...

WHISTLE BLOWS!

COACH BARBRA

Alright ladies! Line up please. Time for your one hundred meter accelerations.

The TRACK GIRLS gather around, toes on the line in the standing set position. Sasha glances over at Kendra.

WHISTLE BLOWS! TRACK GIRLS take off.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

Not too fast! Build up with your pushes.  
Focus!

Kendra and Sasha sprint neck and neck all the way to the end, leaving the others behind. They tie across the line.

The other TRACK GIRLS continue running and finish.



KENDRA

(to Sasha)

You seem to struggle a little there.

SASHA

No, I wasn't.

KENDRA

You were.

Kendra laughs as they walk back towards the starting line.

SASHA

Whatever, trick.

They get closer to start. Coach Barbrea points at Kendra and Sasha.

COACH BARBRA

Hey! You two. Come here!

They approach.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

What was that? This is practice, not a track meet. You two have something to prove?

SASHA

Coach, I was just showing this freshman how to do it properly.

COACH BARBRA

Did I ask you to do that?

SASHA

No.

COACH BARBRA

Do it the right way. You two understand?

KENDRA/SASHA

Yes, coach.

COACH BARBRA

Okay, get back on the line.

Sasha and Kendra walk back.

SASHA

(under breath, to Kendra)

You still can't beat me, bitch.

KENDRA

I just did.

Sasha, Kendra and TRACK GIRLS gather at the starting line. Coach grabs the whistle.

WHISTLE BLOWS!

They take off sprinting, hard. Kendra and Sasha pull out to the front, again, leaving others behind.

COACH BARBRA

Build up ladies!

Coach Barbrea shakes her head. Kendra and Sasha push to the finish. Kendra edges across the finish line first.

Kendra smiles as she walks back. Sasha walks up behind Kendra, pushes her down on the field. Kendra tumbles.

COACH BARBRA

Hey!

(under breath)

Damn it.

TRACK GIRLS run over. Sasha walks past Kendra.

Kendra looks up, runs and jumps on Sasha. They fall to the ground. Kendra on top slap boxing. TRACK GIRLS approach.

KENDRA

Nah bitch, you about to get it!

SASHA

Get the hell off of me!

KENDRA

Hell nah! You wanted an ass whooping.

Tasha quickly runs over and pulls Kendra off of Sasha.  
Kendra forces herself back to Sasha.

TASHA

No, Kendra! It's not worth it.

KENDRA

No, I'm sick of her ass! Urgh!!!

Coach runs over, breaks them up. Stands between them. TRACK  
GIRLS look on.

COACH BARBRA

What the hell has gotten into you two?

KENDRA

It's her fault! She pushed me down after I  
beat her!

SASHA

You did not beat me. You cheated.

KENDRA

You wish.

COACH BARBRA

Alright, enough!

(to Sasha)

I saw you push her down after the run. You  
need to apologize to Kendra. Right now!

Sasha smacks her lips. Raises an eyebrow.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

I'm not going to say it again.

Sasha takes a deep breath.

SASHA

Sorry.

Coach turns to Kendra.

COACH BARBRA

Kendra, are you ok?

Sasha mouths the word BITCH to Kendra.

KENDRA

I'm good, as long as she keeps her hands to herself.

Kendra eyes Sasha.

COACH BARBRA

Everyone keep your hands to yourselves. Respect one another. That's the most important thing here.

We practice to get better. That's why you're here. But you have to listen.

Everyone understand?

TRACK GIRLS (ALL)

Yes coach.

COACH BARBRA

Put your egos aside and let's win this championship. Kendra and Sasha, you two hug each other like best friends.

Kendra and Sasha sighs and look on.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

Come on!

Kendra and Sasha hug.

Cora covers her mouth and runs off. Coach stares at Cora.

COACH BARBRA

Alright everybody, playtime is over. Back on the line.

WHISTLE BLOWS!

Track Girls run another warm-up acceleration.

Coach blows the whistle.

WHISTLE BLOWS!

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

Take ten minutes! Then meet me back on the field.

JUMP TO:

Coach Barbrea walks off the field across the track. She stands off to the side. Waiting...

Cora quickly makes her way, but Coach intercepts her.

COACH BARBRA

Miss Cora.

Cora, stops, startled to see coach standing there.

CORA

Yes, coach.

COACH BARBRA

Come here, please.

CORA

I'm sorry coach, I'm just not feeling well today.

COACH BARBRA

Do you have a fever?

Coach places the back side of her hand on Cora's forehead.

CORA

I don't think so coach.

COACH BARBRA

Interesting. It doesn't feel like you have a fever. Which is a good thing. Have you eaten anything that could have gotten you sick?

CORA

No, coach. I only eat what I know.

COACH BARBRA

That's good. You pregnant?

CORA

Whoa coach. I think you might be taking this a little too far.

COACH BARBRA

I don't think so. It's a simple question.

CORA

Well, no.

COACH BARBRA

Are you sure?

CORA

Of course I'm sure.

COACH BARBRA

It looked like you ran off to go to the bathroom twice already. I hope you're sure. You get no second chances.

CORA

I hear you coach.

COACH BARBRA

Okay. Go on.

Cora takes off. Coach looks onward.

JUMP TO:

Kendra and Tasha stand in the shade, drinking water from their SPORTS BOTTLES.

TASHA

Oh my God. Why is this water so good right now?

KENDRA

Girl, you are tripp'n. Water has no taste.

TASHA

Well it's tasty right now. So I'm going to enjoy it.

Natalie and TRACK GIRLS approach.

NATALIE

Hey y'all.

TASHA

Hey girls.

KENDRA

Hey.

NATALIE

Tasha you look a mess girl.

TASHA

Okay, hold up, why is everyone picking on me today. I'm in shape just as much as you are.

NATALIE

You were just chugging that water down like you were dying of thirst.

They laugh.

TASHA

Whatever girl.

NATALIE

You know it's all out of love sweetie.

TASHA

I know girl.

NATALIE

But, did you guys see coach talking to Cora?

TASHA

We sure did. She's been acting kind of funny lately.

TRACK GIRL #1

Funny, how?

KENDRA

We saw her earlier today and she just ran off like she needed to puke. She's done the same thing twice at practice today.

TASHA

I saw.

NATALIE

My guess is... food poisoning.

TRACK GIRL #1

Oh no. You serious?

TASHA

I was thinking the same thing.

NATALIE

I bet that's what coach was talking to her about. It's either an illness or morning sickness.



TASHA

We probably shouldn't be talking about her since we don't know the truth.

NATALIE

I agree. We all need to be careful. Coach will have our heads.

KENDRA

We can talk to her later.

TASHA

That's a good idea.

They all nod in agreement.

NATALIE

But Kendra, what is going on with you and Sasha? Are you guys ever going to work things out?

KENDRA

For some reason she thinks she can beat me, so I had to let her know what's up.

TASHA

You two were going hard. You know it was just a warm up run, right?

KENDRA

Yes, I do.

NATALIE

So why were you going so hard doing a warm-up? You could just prove yourself at a track meet or during testing day.

KENDRA

Well, she can't beat me in a warm-up, on test day, nor at a track meet. Plain and simple, she cannot beat me.

(serious)

Ever.

TRACK GIRL #1

Oh, she cold.

They laugh.

TASHA

Dang girl.

KENDRA

Look y'all, track is my life. I worked too hard to let anyone feel they can walk over me.

TRACK GIRL #1

I feel you on that.

NATALIE

I see what you mean.

(sounding deep)

It's all mental though.

TASHA

Uh oh. Girls, buckle your seat belts.

TRACK GIRL #1

Okay... Click!

NATALIE

*"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."*

Kendra's eyes open wide. The girls look around at each other in amazement.

TASHA

(excited)

Okay, my girl is on another level right now.

TRACK GIRL #1

That was... beautiful.

KENDRA

I'm not sure what it means, but I'm impressed.

TRACK GIRL #1

Definitely sounded like a quote.

KENDRA

Yeah, but I don't think that was in the bible.

NATALIE

That was from Sun Tzu's, *The Art of War*.

TASHA

Oh right, that's a pretty popular book.

TRACK GIRL #1

I've heard about that one.

NATALIE

So, Kendra. To say that track is your life, it means every single day you practice, you are entering *war grounds*.

KENDRA

Certainly feels that way.

NATALIE

The question is, do you know who your enemy is?

TASHA

I know.

TRACK GIRL #1

It's pretty clear to me.

KENDRA

Yea, I know who she is.

Natalie approaches Kendra, points to her chest as she stares into her eyes.

NATALIE

You. --Think about it.

TASHA

(comedically)

Boom!

TRACK GIRLS laughs. Kendra head tilts dumbfoundedly. Natalie walks off.

WHISTLE BLOWS!

TASHA (CONT'D)

Time to go.

KENDRA

Alright, let's go.

The girls grab their things and head back to the field to meet with coach and the rest of the TEAM.

JUMP TO:

Coach walks to the middle of the field. The TRACK GIRLS wrap around in a circle.

COACH BABRA

Okay ladies, listen up!

It's time to run. We're going to do one of the easy workouts. I call it, *Twenty*

Curve. You'll be sprinting twenty curves and jogging the straight-aways. Got it?

The TRACK GIRLS look around at each other.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

Okay. Any questions?

Silence.

COACH BARBRA (CONT'D)

Start on my whistle on each lap. Let's get to the line.

The TRACK GIRLS quickly walk over to the starting line, bent over ready to start.

WHISTLE BLOWS!

The TRACK GIRLS begin sprinting the curve. Kendra, comfortably relaxed. Others faces are disgruntled.

A beat.

The TRACK GIRLS continue to run the curves and jog the straights. Running starts to fatigue and the pace gradually gets slower.

Coach Barbora stands in the middle of the field, holding her whistle.

COACH BARBRA

Push yourself ladies!

The girls struggle to cross the line. Sasha crosses the finish line first, Kendra crosses, then the rest.

COACH BARBRA

You got sixty seconds, then the final lap. Get a little bit of water and then meet back on the line.

Sasha looks on, drinking.

Kendra, with hands on her knees, catches her breath. Tasha and the TRACK GIRLS fall to the ground. Everyone incapable of speaking.

A beat.

COACH BARBRA

Alright, twenty seconds! Make your way back to the line.

The TRACK GIRLS, lying on the ground, slowly get up. Kendra, stands up, slowly breathes out. Sasha walks by and shoulder bumps her.

KENDRA

(frustrated)

Watch it.

SASHA

Get out my way then.

Sasha continues walking with attitude. Tasha approaches Kendra.

TASHA

Let it go Kendra.

KENDRA

Easy for you to say.

But it's all good. Like I said, she'll get what's coming.

TASHA

What?

KENDRA

Let's go.

COACH BARBRA

Ready!

WHISTLE BLOWS!

The TRACK GIRLS take off running around the curve. A little sluggish from the start, Kendra slowly works her way towards the front of the pack. Sasha holds the front steady.

After completing the first curve, the TRACK GIRLS begin jogging on the straight. Sasha continues to maintain the lead, Kendra makes her way past her with a much faster jog.

They finish the straight away. Sasha and Kendra are side by side. Each take off running on the curve. Kendra bursts into the lead. Sasha looks over at coach on the field, her head is buried into the clipboard.

Sasha kicks Kendra's right leg over the back of her left. Kendra collapses to the ground. Sasha continues on. Kendra is down. Tasha stops, helps her up.

The other girls run past.

TASHA

Hey girl, you okay?

KENDRA

Hell nah! I'm not okay. That bitch just tripped me.

TASHA

She did? I didn't see it happen.

KENDRA

(fed-up)

That's it...

Kendra takes off running towards the center of the field. Face angry like the *Hulk*. Tasha yells from behind.

TASHA

Kendra! You have to finish!

Kendra continues running.

Coach starts walking towards the finish line. Kendra steps in front to stop her.

KENDRA

Coach! --Did you see what Sasha did?

COACH BARBRA

No, I didn't see anything. Is that why you didn't finish my work out?

KENDRA

Well, she knocked me down to the ground. She's a big problem Coach.

TRACK GIRLS approach from a distance.

COACH BARBRA

Only problem I have, is you not finishing my workout.

KENDRA

What about Sasha?

Coach steps closer to Kendra.

COACH BARBRA

What about you?

KENDRA

(confused, pissed)

Me?!

COACH BARBRA

Yes. You.

KENDRA

I'm trying my best Coach, but I need your help here.

COACH BARBRA

Kendra, the track is a battle ground. What happens on the track after that gun goes off is up to you. No one is going to help you. Champions win no matter what.

KENDRA

So, she's going to get away with it?!



Sasha closes in behind Coach with the rest of the girls.

COACH BARBRA

You run to win. When we run the four by four relay, what do you think will happen if someone trips you?

Kendra frowns.

COACH BARBRA

You might get pushed, you may even fall, but it's what you do after that matters the most.

You must finish.

Sasha and TRACK GIRLS make noise in agreement. Tasha eyes open wide as she looks at Kendra.

Kendra rolls her eyes, turns around and walks away.

COACH BARBRA

Kendra!

(to Tasha)

Tasha, please go talk some sense into her. Help her understand.

TASHA

Yes coach.

Tasha runs off to catch up with Kendra.

Coach Barbra addresses the team.

COACH BARBRA

Alright everyone, that's it for today. Get your cool down and finish up.

Sasha, come talk to me.

Coach and Sasha walk off to the side. The rest of the TEAM run cool down laps.

COACH BARBRA

(to Sasha)

Are you trying to get on my bad side?

SASHA

What are you talking about coach?

COACH BARBRA

Listen to me carefully. If you cause Kendra an opportunity to compete at the championships, I will kick your ass.

SASHA

I didn't do anything to your golden child.

COACH BARBRA

She said you tripped her and I saw her fall. Do you want to see my bad side?

SASHA

It's like that Coach?

COACH BARBRA

That's up to you. I tried to reason with you so we can work better together. But if you decide otherwise, you need to at least know the consequences of your actions. Understand?

SASHA

Yes, coach.

COACH BARBRA

Good. Now go cool down.

Sasha walks off. Coach looks on.

CUT TO:

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS PARKING LOT - DAY (8)

Kendra struts at a fast pace away from the track stadium.  
Tasha runs behind from a distance, closing in.

TASHA

Hey, Kendra! Wait a second!

Tasha grabs Kendra's right shoulder. Kendra slows, stops.

TASHA (CONT'D)

Dang girl. Hold up, please.

Tasha puts her hands on her knees. Catches her breath.

KENDRA

What!

TASHA

Girl. You need to relax for a minute.

(gasping for air)

I need to talk to you.

KENDRA

About what? No one seems to care what happened to me out there.

Tasha slowly stands up.

TASHA

I care Kendra. I'm sorry that happened, but you have to understand what coach was saying.

KENDRA

She was saying Sasha can do whatever she wants.

TASHA

That's not true Kendra.

KENDRA

Then, what?

TASHA

Okay. Listen carefully. When it's time for us to run as a team, we are running to

a championship. Once the race starts, there is no turning back. You have to finish first. When we run relays, all kinds of things happen. Some teams drop the stick, go out of the zone, get DQ'ed, or whatever. We have to avoid all of that. I've seen fast teams loose because someone fell and tripped over themselves. Stuff like that happens all the time. Our team cannot be subjected to that. If you get the stick, Coach expects us to finish first no matter what. If someone trips you...

Kendra calmly nods.

KENDRA

...get up and finish.

TASHA

You got it. I know Sasha wants to get rid of you, but you can't let her win. Okay?

Tasha goes in for a quick hug.

KENDRA

I agree. She won't.

Kendra looks back at the track (stadium). Slowly turns around and walks off into the distance with Tasha.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIV - BIRDS EYE VIEW - DAY (9)

The sun sits high over the horizon as the clouds pan through the sky. Campus buildings scattered.

EXT. WILLIAMS UNIV - CORA/KATY DORM - DAY (10)

Cora and Katy, walk in through the door. Cora holds a PLASTIC GROCERY BAG with a couple of items in it. Katy follows.

KATY

Are you going to be okay?

CORA

Yes. Yes. I'm going to be fine. You don't have to keep asking.

Cora sets the BAG down on the counter.

KATY

I'm sorry. You seemed to be really sick today.

Did you get some medicine to take care of that?

CORA

Something like that.

KATY

What do you mean?

CORA

You're asking a lot questions.

KATY

We're roomies. Shouldn't we know what's going on with each other?

CORA

I mean... it makes sense. But I might be dealing with something I don't want to share at the moment.

KATY

You can trust me.

CORA

Can I?

KATY

(slightly hurt)

Of course.

CORA

Look, I know I can be a silly-billy sometimes, but I was just giving you a hard time. Don't worry, you're on a need to know basis.

Cora picks up the BAG.

CORA (CONT'D)

But listen, I need to run to the bathroom.  
B.R.B.

She walks towards her room.

KATY (CONT'D)

Hey Cora, do you think Kendra is really going to give me her autograph?

Cora rolls her eyes, continues on. Katy looks down.

INT. WILLIAMS UNIV - CORA'S BATHROOM - DAY (11)

Cora paces back and forth. PREGNANCY TEST sits on the sink. Cora takes a seat. Stares at the TEST. Her face frowns. She launches the TEST across the bathroom. Mouth screams opens wide.

CORA

Ahhhhhhh!

FADE OUT

THE END