

# ROCKY

By

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RING PRODUCTIONS, INC.

MASTER SCRIPT: INCLUDES ALL REVISIONS AS OF 1/7/76

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INT. BLUE DOOR FIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE OVER ACTION... "NOVEMBER 12, 1975 - PHILADELPHIA"

... The club itself resembles a large unemptied trash-can. The boxing ring is extra small to insure constant battle. The lights overhead have barely enough wattage to see who is fighting.

In the ring are two heavyweights, one white the other black. The white fighter is ROCKY BALBOA. He is thirty years old.

His face is scarred and thick around the nose... His black hair shines and hangs in his eyes. Rocky fights in a plodding, machine-like style. The BLACK FIGHTER dances and bangs combinations into Rocky's face with great accuracy. But the punches do not even cause Rocky to blink... He grins at his opponent and keeps grinding ahead.

The people at ringside sit on folding chairs and clamor for blood... They lean out of their seats and heckle the fighters. In the thick smoke they resemble spectres. Everyone is hustling bets... The action is even heavier in the balcony. A housewife yells for somebody to cover a two dollar bet.

The BELL RINGS and the fighters return to their corner... Somebody heaves a beer can into the ring.

The Black Fighter spits something red in a bucket and sneers across the ring at Rocky.

BLACK FIGHTER

(to cornerman)

... I'm gonna bust his head wide open!

In Rocky's corner he is being assisted by a shriveled, balding CORNERMAN, who is an employee of the club... He works on Rocky without any enthusiasm.

CORNERMAN

(lackluster)

... Ya waltzin' -- Give the suckers some action.

ROCKY

Hey --

CORNERMAN

(overriding)

Ya movin' like a bum -- Want some advice --

ROCKY

... Just gimme the water.

A FIGHT FAN rushes up to Rocky... He is sixty-five, with yellow teeth and wearing sunglasses.

FAN

Should I bet the fight don't go the distance -- Ya feel strong?

ROCKY

Absolutely.

CORNERMAN

... Ya want some good advice?

ROCKY

... I just want the mouthpiece.

The BELL RINGS... Rocky makes the sign of the cross. The fighters engage in battle. The other fighter grabs Rocky in a clinch and purposely butts him... The butt opens a bleeding cut on the corner of Rocky's eye.

Rocky becomes furious over the foul and drives a flurry into the man's body... Rocky slams the man on the jaw and the fighter is out for the night. The fans throw rubbish into the ring. Rocky ignores it.

The fans loudly go about collecting bets. The referee does not bother to even count the fighter out and drags him under the ropes where he is placed on a stretcher. Two new fighters enter the ring. Rocky slips on a tattered robe. Embroidered clumsily on the back is, "The Italian Stallion."

ANNOUNCER

Winner, Rocky Balboa -- Next a six rounder between local lightweights.

Without pomp Rocky climbs out of the ring and bums a cigarette from a spectator... The fighter on the stretcher passes behind him. He watches for a moment and continues up the aisle... Before he even reaches the rear of the club the BELL RINGS and the next fight has already begun... Rocky fades into the darkness of the rear of the club.

THE TITLE CREDITS END:

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Rocky has nearly completed dressing and reaches into his locker for his hat... Also in the dingy room are ten other fighters... Two taped fighters talk shop in the corner.

FIGHTER #1

... Tomorrow me an' my woman are gonna tip on down to Atlantic City, man.

FIGHTER #2

... It's cold, Bro'.

FIGHTER #1

... That's right, I got the city to myself...

Another paces nervously... Two other fighters shadowbox and spit nervously on the floor.

A young pug combs his hair and listens to a portable RADIO that is BLASTING MUSIC.

The fighter that Rocky has just defeated is drinking a beer and joking with three other fighters... Some of the fighters are smoking. The room is cloudy.

A short man of fifty enters. He is dressed in a sweater buttoned over a t-shirt.

PROMOTER

...Balboa!?

Rocky raises his head. The promoter steps over.

PROMOTER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

... Twenty bucks for the locker an' cornerman -- Two bucks for the towel an' shower, seven for tax -- The house owes ya, sixty-one dollars.

The man peels off the money and departs... Rocky closes his locker, nods to the defeated fighter, and leaves.

INT. TROLLEY - NIGHT

Rocky is on the trolley heading to South Philly... The trolley is empty except for a thin old black WOMAN... The black Woman studies Rocky's bruised face... Rocky becomes self-conscious.

ROCKY

(almost apologetic)  
I'm a fighter.

WOMAN

(tired)  
... Yo' iz an accident.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Rocky exits the trolley and walks down the block... He waves at a pair of high-heeled hookers and they wave back.

Rocky passes a sleeping wino curled in front of a dirty bookstore. Rocky drags the man into a protective passageway.

Further down the street, Rocky pauses in front of the "ANIMAL TOWN PET SHOP"... He peers into the dark store and sees a sad, huge dog sitting in the window. He mumbles to the dog and continues to the corner.

EXT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A short while later, Rocky approaches his apartment located in the most deprived section of South Philly. He kicks away the litter that has gathered against the apartment steps and enters.

INT. ROCKY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

The narrow hallway is painted olive brown. A single light bulb illuminates the gloomy corridor.

INT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rocky enters. The one-room apartment is drab, with a curling boxing poster of Rocky Marciano tacked on the wall...

Nailed against the far wall is a mattress. The mattress is used as a punching bag. Stuffing spills out of the center.

Rocky drops his coat on the floor. He puts on a pair of glasses. He crosses to a small turtle bowl... He lifts the creatures.

ROCKY

... Look who's home.

Rocky starts to boil a pan of water on his hot plate, then places an old 45 RPM record on a battered phonograph. The record is a tune, "ALL IN THE GAME."

... As the CRACKLING MUSIC BEGINS, Rocky picks up his hairbrush. Using it like a microphone, he mimes to the record. He assumes the posture of a famous singer crooning to thousands of adoring fans... He then switches into a bullish fighting stance and throws several punches.

The water boils. Rocky soaks his badly-swollen hands.

EXT. SUNRISE OF PHILADELPHIA SKYLINE - DAWN

We SEE the jagged skyline, highlighted by the towering figure of William Penn that rises above the dawn haze as it sits majestically above City Hall...

EXT. DOCKS - EARLY MORNING

Rocky is walking along the waterfront... He has a bandaid over one eye. He looks at the rugged stevedores going about their business... He stuffs his hands in his cheap wool jacket and approaches a ship being unloaded.

Rocky passes two thick Mafia types leaning against a parked car. These men look like blood drinkers.

MAFIA #1

Yo, Rock -- How's your Boss?

ROCKY

Real good.

MAFIA #2

Fightin' again?

ROCKY

Yeah, here an' there.

MAFIA #1

Mebbe we make sum money together  
soon... Give ya boss my best.

Rocky shrugs and moves away... He nears a heavy man working the crane. The heavy man looks frightened... He stops the crane and hurries into the ship's hole. Rocky dashes up the gangplank.

INT. SHIP - DAY

The man enters the ship's hole and runs past tons of stacked crates and coffee beans.

Rocky sprints after him... He lunges and flings the man by the neck against the wall of stacked cargo.

FATS

(terror-filled)

Don't hit the face! Not the face!!

ROCKY

Mr. Gazzo wants the two hundred now!

FATS

Honest to God I'm broke -- Gimme a  
break.

ROCKY

Mr. Gazzo says I should get two  
hundred or break the thumb.

FATS

Please, I need my hands to work --  
Christ, don't bust my thumbs.

At wits' end the man picks up a large metal hook used by stevedores. Rocky remains cool.

ROCKY

Goin' fishin'?

The man drops the hook.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

What's ya name again?

FATS

Bob.

ROCKY

Look, Bob, if ya wanna dance, ya gotta pay the band -- If ya borrow, ya gotta pay the man... Me, I ain't emotionally involved.

Rocky's determined expression strikes home. The fat man quickly fumbles through his pockets and hands over a small wad of bills.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing; counting)

A hundred an' thirty.

FATS

That's it, I'm broke.

ROCKY

That's it? -- Completely?

FATS

That's it.

ROCKY

What about for food an' stuff?

FATS

You have my food in ya hand.

Rocky looks almost sympathetically into the fat man's flushed expression.

ROCKY

... The juice is climbin' every week.

FATS

I know the juice is climbin' -- I been workin' six months just to pay the damn interest.

ROCKY

Ya still light seventy.

FATS

Waits! -- Be smart. Ya don't have to break nothin' -- Here, take my coat, it's worth fifty-sixty dollars. It's yours.

The man quickly removes his coat and extends it...

FATS (CONT'D)

(continuing)

See, ya a smart guy, Gazzo's don't have to know nuthin'. I'll go tape up the hand like ya broke my thumb.

(MORE)

FATS (CONT'D)

Gazzo won't be wise to nothin' -- Be  
a smart guy, keep the coat, we'll  
fake like ya broke the hand.

The man extends his coat again... Rocky suddenly grabs the  
man's thumb and bends him to his knees.

FATS (CONT'D)

(almost a whisper)

No - no - no - Please - Please -  
Please don't...

Rocky releases the man who remains almost in shock. The  
thumb is fine.

ROCKY

...That's what coulda happened.  
(walks off.)

EXT. STREET - DAY

Later that morning Rocky passes "Animal Town Pet Shop" in  
South Philly... The shop is not very prosperous looking. In  
the window hangs a sign reading "Today's special -- Mixed  
Kittens -- \$1.50"... Rocky stops at this shop every morning.  
He stares at a litter of Lhasa Apsa puppies. He taps the  
window and whistles. He SEES a girl behind the counter and  
presses his face against the window and does his impression  
of the Hunchback of Notre Dame. The girl nervously looks  
away.

The girl behind the counter is ADRIAN KLEIN. She is not  
very attractive, but pleasant-looking. Thirty years old.  
Brown hair pulled back. Light skinned. She wears glasses.

Rocky really stops by to flirt with Adrian, but she is so  
painfully shy nothing ever gets started... Rocky enters.

INT. PET SHOP - DAY

ADRIAN

... Could you take the puppy out --

CUSTOMER

It can breathe.

ADRIAN

Please -

CUSTOMER

Please, nothin' - I paid for this  
dog and can do whatever I want with  
it - I can throw it through the window  
if I want - Now give me my two dollars  
back before I throw it through the  
window.

Rocky walks over to her, stares hard in her face and snatches the bag out of her hand. He removes the puppy and hands it to Adrian.

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

Get away from me - Give me that!

Rocky takes a couple dollars out of his pocket and hands it to the lady... She nervously exits.

ROCKY

... How's the turtle food this week?

ADRIAN

... Fine.

ROCKY

Me, I'm kinda aggravated.

ADRIAN

... I'm sorry.

ROCKY

Ain't your fault - Here's the problem.

Adrian nods... Though charmed, she is slightly intimidated.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

The last food I got here had more moths than flies -- An' the moths get caught in my turtle's throat -- That makes them cough --

The OWNER, a squat woman of forty, steps out of the back and waves at Rocky.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Yo, Gloria -- I was talkin' about the turtle food -- Like I was sayin', the moths get caught in the turtle's throat an' makes 'em cough...

(coughs)

A little cough an' I gotta smack 'em on the shell -- An' whatta think they get?

Adrian shrugs.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I smack 'em hard on the shell an' they get... What?

ADRIAN

... I don't know.

ROCKY  
Shell-shocked!

Both the Owner and Adrian smile.

OWNER  
Startin' with the bad jokes early  
today, huh.

ROCKY  
Inventin' jokes ain't easy.

Rocky steps over to a large cage at the rear of the shop...

Inside is a huge dog.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
How's Butkus this mornin'?

OWNER  
Ain't had time to check 'em.

Rocky opens the cage and the large dog jumps out and looks very happy.

ROCKY  
Yo, Butkus -- Dead. Play dead.

The dog plays dead.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
...What kinda dog is this again?

OWNER  
Bullmastiff.

ROCKY  
The owner was suppose to pick him up  
three weeks ago.

OWNER  
We're not responsible for animals  
left over thirty days - We board it  
ain't a animal shelter, Y'know.  
...Adrian, I want you to clean all  
those cat cages downstairs, they're  
a mess.  
(Adrian nods.)

Rocky waves goodbye to Adrian and exits the shop.

EXT. LEHIGH ST. TRAIN TRESTLE - DAY

Gazzo picks up Rocky.

INT. GAZZO'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

MR. GAZZO and his YOUNG BODY GUARD sit in the front seat...

Rocky is in the back seat.

ROCKY

He only had a hundred an' thirty. --  
I think he's good for the rest next  
week, Mr. Gazzo.

GAZZO

(patiently)  
Sure, Rocky, Bob's good for it...

Gazzo hands Rocky a twenty.

GAZZO (CONT'D)

Tomorrow collect from Del Rio --  
He's late three weeks. How'd you do  
last night?

ROCKY

... Fine.

Gazzo's Bodyguard looks at Rocky's bruised face in the mirror  
and smiles.

BODYGUARD

Did ya get the license number?

ROCKY

Of wa?

BODYGUARD

... Of the truck that run over your  
face.

Gazzo steps out of the car and beckons to Rocky.

GAZZO

Yo Rock. Did I give you a job this  
mornin? How come ya didn't break  
this guy's thumb like I asked ya?  
When ya don't do what ya are told,  
it makes me look bad, kid.

ROCKY

I figure if I break the thumb this  
guy gets thrown outta his job and  
can't pay nothin no more.

GAZZO

It don't matter. It's my reputation.  
These guys think they can get off  
light. It's bad for my reputation --  
It's bad for business. See ya killer.

Gazzo gets into his car.

GAZZO (CONT'D)  
 (to Bodyguard)  
 ... The Rock's a good kid.

BODYGUARD  
 (emotionless)  
 ... A meatbag.

They pull away.

EXT. GYM - DAY

Gazzo drives off and Rocky strolls across the street to Goldmill's Gym. On the way he passes several familiar people and exchanges waves... Out front is a young Irishman who runs a soft pretzel stand... His name is RUDY. It is apparent from his face he was a prize fighter... He is blind and mentally defective.

RUDY  
 ...See the fight last night?

ROCKY  
 Nah, I was fightin' myself.

RUDY  
 Apollo Creed beat the bum to pieces.

EXT./INT. GYM - DAY

Mickey's Gym is surrounded by bars and a couple of greasy spoons. Out front a crowd of young Blacks talk and jive among themselves. Two winos lean against the entrance.

Rocky enters the gym... The place is nearly full. The MEASURED BEAT of SKIP ROPES and THROBBING SPEED BAGS makes the room come alive, like it was a mindless piece of machinery. Over the loudspeaker MUSIC by the Isley Brothers BLARES out... The music adds a background to the CLANG of the AUTOMATIC TIMERS, SNORTING SPARRING PARTNERS and the THUDDING of HEAVY BAGS.

The room is divided -- Fifty percent Black -- thirty-five percent Latin -- ten percent white -- five percent other.

As Rocky walks through the gym many of the FIGHTERS pause to wave and yell greetings.

FIGHTER #1  
 Hey, hear ya knocked Spider Rice out  
 in the sixth?

ROCKY  
 The third -- Shoulda seen it.

Rocky passes another FIGHTER punching the heavy bag.

FIGHTER #2  
 (removes glove)  
 Hey, Rock, touch my hand.

ROCKY  
 How come?

FIGHTER #2  
 C'mon, it's important.

Rocky touches the Fighter's bare hand.

FIGHTER #2 (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 Can ya tell I just whacked-off?

Rocky smiles and moves away.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

The dressing room is lined with dented lockers. Wooden benches stretch across the room. On the wall is a sign that reads, "NO KISSING."

Rocky goes to his locker. He tries to open it but fails. He leans his ear against the lock and rolls the tumblers. Still it does not open. He shakes the lock forcefully, no luck... Rocky is flustered and sits on a bench to ponder the situation.

After a moment of deep thought, Rocky stands, seizes the bench and smashes open the lock. Opening the door Rocky is taken aback when he sees a set of very flashy clothes.

ROCKY  
 (mumbling)  
 ... These ain't my clothes.

He sees a picture of several black girls taped on the inside of the door.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 ... These ain't my pictures.

A short powerful man of thirty-five enters. His hair looks like it has been shaped with hedge clippers. His name is MIKE.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 Yo, Mike -- What's happenin' here?

MIKE  
 It ain't your locker no more.

ROCKY  
 Whatta ya talkin' about it ain't my locker no more?

MIKE

Listen, I'm with you -- But ya gotta talk to Mickey -- I put ya stuff in the bag over there.

Rocky looks at his belongings crammed in a wilted shopping bag and follows Mike across the room... Mike leans his head into the shower room. Two Latin fighters are lathering up.

FIGHTER

...Hey, Peanut, gimme some soap, Man.

MIKE

(irate)  
Hey, Nobody -- Yeah, you, Nobody -- You don't call me Peanut.

FIGHTER

Peanut, gimme some soap.

The fighters laugh. Inflamed, Mike removes a bar of soap from his pocket and hurls it at the insulting fighter. It hits just above the man's head. The fighters are shocked into silence.

Mike turns and exits with Rocky... The fighters curse them loudly in Spanish.

INT. GYM - DAY

Rocky and Mike move past fighters going through their training routines.

ROCKY

You were ready to bite that guy's face.

MIKE

Yeah -- See the fight last night? Apollo Creed beat that English guy bad.

ROCKY

Creed's great.

Mike fakes a friendly punch at Rocky and hurries off to another chore...

INT. GYM - DAY

The Owner, MICKEY, sits on a stool near the entrance. He wears a baggy suit... He is in his late seventies.

Rocky approaches... Mickey is conversing with another fighter.

MICKEY

I don't care what nobody says, this  
bum Creed woulda never made it in  
the Thirties --

ROCKY

Hey, how ya feelin', Mickey?

MICKEY

(monotoned)  
... What?

ROCKY

I said, how ya feelin'?

MICKEY

(dryly)  
Do you see me talkin'? Huh?

ROCKY

(low)  
Yeah.

MICKEY

(spitting)  
Then stand there an' wait till I'm  
done -- Creed's good, yeah, he's  
real fine but I gotta boy, y'know  
Big Dipper, who's got the stuff it  
takes to be a champ -- He's mean,  
quick, an' big -- What more d'ya  
need? Okay, go to work...  
(to Rocky)  
Hey -- Yeah -- Whatta ya want?

ROCKY

I was talkin' with ya man, Mike. --  
Hey, how come I been put outta my  
locker?

MICKEY

Dipper needed it.

Rocky turns and looks at DIPPER sparring... Dipper is a young,  
muscular heavyweight with a mean expression.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
Dipper's a climber -- You're a tomato.

ROCKY

... Tomato?

MICKEY

Facts is facts. I run a business  
here -- I'm cleanin' house --

Mickey pauses to watch a young middleweight time-skip as his trainer sings "FASCINATIN' RHYTHM."

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

How old are ya?

ROCKY

...What?

MICKEY

How old?

ROCKY

Come July, twenty-five.

MICKEY

More like thirty.

ROCKY

Twenty-five, thirty -- What's the difference? -- It took me two months to learn the combination of that locker.

MICKEY

The legs must be goin'.

ROCKY

Yeah, they're goin', -- that's nature... That was my locker for six years.

MICKEY

... Did ya fight last night?

ROCKY

Yeah --

MICKEY

Did ya win?

ROCKY

Yeah, Kayo.

MICKEY

... Who'd ya fight?

ROCKY

Spider Rice.

MICKEY

Rice is a bum.

ROCKY

You think everybody I fight is a bum.

MICKEY

Ain't they?

Mickey shoots Rocky a quick, indifferent look and removes a rosary from his pocket and idly rolls it around his fingers.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ya want the truth -- Ya got heart,  
but ya fight like an ape -- The only  
thing special about you is ya never  
got ya nose broke -- keep ya nose  
pretty -- what's left of ya brain  
an' retire.

ROCKY

Listen, I'm gonna take a steam --  
Did good last night -- Shoulda seen  
it.

MICKEY

Hey, ever think about retirin'?

ROCKY

...No.

MICKEY

Think about it.

ROCKY

Yeah, sure.

Shrugging, Rocky moves away.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

...I think I'm gonna take a steam --  
Shoulda seen me fight -- Did good,  
y'know.

Mickey leans over to Mike who approaches with a mop and pail.

MICKEY

(gesturing towards  
Rocky)

Known him since he was fifteen -- A  
waste of life.

Dejected, Rocky travels to the locker room. He passes Big Dipper sparring in a ring... Dipper spits a mouthful of water in a bucket and looks smugly at Rocky.

DIPPER

(to Rocky)

... I dig yo' locker, Man.

TRAINER

Time, Dipper.

Dipper smiles cruelly and begins sparring... Scene FADES on Rocky's crestfallen expression. He moves off.

EXT. PET SHOP - DUSK

At sunset Rocky comes down the street and pauses at the pet shop... He is eating Colonel Sanders' fried chicken out of a bag... He taps on the window with a chicken bone.

INT. PET SHOP - DUSK

Inside Adrian is arranging pet toys on the counter... She hears the tapping, sees Rocky, and tenses. Rocky enters.

ROCKY  
... Wow -- cold! Good night to catch  
pneumonia.

Adrian smiles slightly and moves behind the counter. Rocky fumbles idly among the pet toys.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Ah -- I came in here for somethin'...  
Oh, yeah, would ya like somebody to  
walk ya home?

The girl wants to say yes but a tremendous inferiority complex will not permit it... Rocky understands.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Hey, how's my buddy doin'?  
(looks into Butkus'  
cage)  
-- Nice dog -- Well, I'll see ya  
later.

ADRIAN  
... Goodnight, Rocky.

Rocky exits. Adrian watches his departure with mixed emotions.

EXT. ANDY'S BAR - NIGHT

A short while later Rocky arrives at Andy's Bar... He throws the Colonel Sanders bag and bones in a large public litter can. The trash can has a bicentennial picture of George Washington pointing at a pile of garbage. The caption reads, "There was no litter at Valley Forge!"

INT. ANDY'S BAR - NIGHT

Rocky enters the bar. He sits the Drunk in a booth... Several drinkers wave at him. OLD ANDY sets a mug of beer in front of him... Rocky seems to be looking for someone.

ROCKY

Catch pneumonia out there -- Seen  
Paulie?

Andy casually nods towards the men's room.

Rocky traverses the room and passes TWO DRUNKS leaning on  
the bar.

INT. ANDY'S RESTROOM - NIGHT

Rocky enters the restroom... It is a vile stench hole with  
years of the remnants of many sick drunks caked on the wall.

PAULIE is presently trying to comb his hair in the only  
remaining piece of mirror in the room... Paulie is in his  
early thirties. He is medium height. Brown hair. Square  
shouldered. He has a foul personality... A classic  
misanthrope.

ROCKY

Yo, Paulie.

PAULIE

(very drunk)

Yo, Rocky -- Look at this mirror.  
I'd like to kill the friggin' moron  
who broke this mirror.

ROCKY

Yo, Paulie.

PAULIE

What?

ROCKY

Your sister's givin' me the shoulder.

PAULIE

Forget her. You could do better  
than my sister.

ROCKY

Every mornin', every night I pass by --  
I smile. I say jokes. Nothin'.  
She looks at me.

PAULIE

(annoyed)

Looks, huh?

ROCKY

Yeah, like I was a plate of leftovers --  
Somethin' wrong with my face -- Whatta  
I need, a Caddy to connect with ya  
sister?

PAULIE

My sister's a friggin' loser.

ROCKY

Hey --

PAULIE

Sometimes she gets me so crazy, I'd like to split her head with a razor.

ROCKY

Don't get mental, man.

PAULIE

Ya caught me in a bad mood.

ROCKY

Ya always in a bad mood --

PAULIE

... Adrian ain't sharp.

The restroom stench is overwhelming... Rocky covers his nose with the neckline of his t-shirt.

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

She's a loser -- She don't enjoy life -- She reads -- Brainy -- Pushin' thirty friggin' years old! She's gonna die alone if she don't wise up.

ROCKY

I'm thirty myself.

PAULIE

An' you're dyin' alone, too.

ROCKY

I don't see no crowd around you, neither.

PAULIE

(pointing at the wall)

I wanna kill the friggin' moron who broke the mirror.

ROCKY

Let's get outta this stink.

INT. ANDY'S BAR - NIGHT

The restroom door opens. Rocky guides Paulie out. Though stumbling, Paulie talks as he walks.

PAULIE

The girl's dryin' up! She's gotta live a little before her body dries up!! You're a pal, Rock -- How 'bout yo' talk to her? Y'know, it's Thanksgivin' tomorrow.

ROCKY

... Sure.

PAULIE

Tomorrow you come for some bird, right?

ROCKY

Absolutely...

Paulie smiles and Rocky guides him to a booth... Rocky steps to the bar. Andy leans over to him.

ANDY

That was alotta crap to go through for a dinner invite.

Rocky shakes his head no and raises his eyes towards a suspended television... the nightly sports broadcast is on. The SPORTS COMMENTATOR is at the airport and about to interview the heavyweight champion of the world, APOLLO CREED. Creed is twenty-eight years old. He is a tall, smooth-muscled Black with barely a scar on his light coffee-colored face... He is followed by an entourage of mixed trainers and cornermen. Also tagging along is a small group of hangers-on.

The Commentator interviews Creed as he and his followers disembark a private jet.

COMMENTATOR

How was the flight, Champ?

APOLLO

Very high an' very fast.

Apollo's crowd smiles almost automatically at everything he says.

COMMENTATOR

Apollo, how would you rate this last British challenger, Henry Wilcoxson?

APOLLO

He was big, an' very nasty so I destroyed him in a hurry -- Now I'm gettin' ready for Mca Lee Green next month.

COMMENTATOR

You're referring to the much publicized bicentennial fight?

APOLLO

That's right -- It's gonna be the greatest sportin' event in this country's history -- A gala occurrence!

COMMENTATOR

Still to be held in Philadelphia?

APOLLO

The Bicentennial Heavyweight Championship of the World is gonna be held in the only place it can be held -- Philadelphia! -- the nations cradle -- January First -- the first major event of our two hundredth year.

COMMENTATOR

Where're you off to now?

Apollo draws his wife close.

APOLLO

Me an' my wife are goin' home 'cause we miss our children an' can't go no more time without seein' them.

COMMENTATOR

Any quick advice for young boxing hopefuls?

APOLLO

(looks straight into the camera)

... Stay in school an' use your brains, dig -- Be a lawyer, be a doctor, carry a leather briefcase an' forget about sports!! Sports can only make ya grunt an' smell -- Be a thinker not a stinker!!

Apollo's entourage laughs and they move on... The Commentator faces the camera.

COMMENTATOR

Jerry Simpson at Kennedy Airport with the Champion, Apollo Creed.

The sports show cuts away, but Rocky continues to look at the television with a pensive stare... Andy has been speaking the following dialogue over Apollo's broadcast.

ANDY

Nobody cares what's happenin' in the world of sports nomore -- Downhill. Baseball, downhill -- Basketball, downhill. Football's goin', too. Bank on it. Baseball use to be America's best sport... Sure -- Nuttin' like squattin' through a great double header, but now baseball's all business.

The news report with Apollo ends. Andy drinks.

ANDY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Where are the real fighters? The pros. Today we jig clowns.

ROCKY

Clown.

ANDY

Yeah.

ROCKY

He took his best shot an' became champ -- What shot did you ever take?

ANDY

Yo, Rock, you ain't happy with yourself? Fine. But me, I gotta business here -- I don't need to take no shot.

Becoming despondent, Rocky rises and crosses to Paulie slumped unconscious in the booth.

Rocky exits the bar... Andy turns to his customers.

ANDY (CONT'D)

(continuing; boldly)

Take a shot, he says! -- Sure, I'll take a shot!

Laughing, Andy pours himself a shot.

EXT. ATOMIC HOAGIE SHOP - NIGHT

Rocky passes an all-night sandwich shop... In the window hangs the sign "ATOMIC HOAGIE SHOP, INC." Out front are several YOUNG MEN and WOMEN. They are much too young to be out so late... A boy with a badly-chipped tooth beckons to Rocky.

CHIPPED TOOTH

(aggressively)

Yo, Rocks, buy us sum wine, man.

ROCKY  
... No wine -- Bad for ya' brain.

CHIPPED TOOTH  
C'mon, man, it's cold, man.

ROCKY  
No wine.

CHIPPED TOOTH  
Yo, Rock, gimme a dollar.

ROCKY  
Why?

CHIPPED TOOTH  
(sarcastically)  
'Cause we dig ya, man -- Gimme a dollar.

ROCKY  
No dollar.

CHIPPED TOOTH  
Hey, give Rocky a dime.

YOUNG MAN #2  
... How come?

CHIPPED TOOTH  
So he can call all his friends.

ROCKY  
(mildly embarrassed)  
... That's an old one.

CHIPPED TOOTH  
Buy us some Thunderbird, man.

Rocky ignores the statement and faces a very young girl who is smoking and leaning whore-like against the wall.

ROCKY  
Is that Marie? -- Marie, ya brother know you're hangin' out so late?

The girl, MARIE, assumes an indifferent attitude, attempting to impress her friends.

MARIE  
... Screw you.

ROCKY  
(awed)  
What'd you say?

MARIE  
... Screw you, yoyo.

The gang laughs. Angered and shocked, Rocky grabs her arm.

ROCKY  
Did these guys teach you to talk  
dirty? Huh?

MARIE  
Hey --

ROCKY  
What?

MARIE  
Stuff it, man!

ROCKY  
(shakes her)  
Don't you never say that --  
(to the gang)  
-- You guys talk like that in front  
of a little girl -- You guys are  
scum.

CHIPPED TOOTH  
This is our place, dig!

The gang reluctantly backs up a step.

ROCKY  
Don't ya never come round this girl --  
Go home.

YOUNG MAN #2  
This is our corner, man! You go,  
chump!

Rocky moves forward and they scatter... They quickly move  
off.

CHIPPED TOOTH  
(backpedaling)  
We'll kill you, man -- We gotta gun.

ROCKY  
Pull heat on me? -- I'll dent ya  
face!

Rocky leads the girl away.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Rocky is walking the young girl home... They are presently  
cutting through a dark public school yard. They pass through  
the beams of light cast off by weak flood lights located at  
the top of the school building. The atmosphere is somewhat  
eerie.

ROCKY

How come ya wanna hang out with those guys? They teach ya bad things.

MARIE

I like 'em. If you don't you can f--

ROCKY

Hey! When I was your age, there was only one girl who talked like that in the whole neighborhood.

MARIE

(bored)  
... Yeah.

She attempts to light a cigarette... Rocky nonchalantly tosses it to the ground.

ROCKY

Make your teeth yella --

MARIE

I like yella teeth.

ROCKY

Makes your breath like garbage.

MARIE

Maybe I like garbage.

Rocky and Marie take a shortcut through a dark school yard.

ROCKY

Nobody likes garbage -- Anyway, this girl with the dirty mouth wasn't bad lookin', but the guys wouldn't take her out for any serious datin'.

MARIE

Why?

ROCKY

'Cause that's the way guys are -- They laugh when ya talk dirty. They think ya cute for a while, but then ya getta reputation an' watch out. Nobody's ever gonna take ya serious. Ya get no respect... I gotta use a bad word -- Whore. You'll end up maybe becomin' a whore.

MARIE

C'mon, Rocky. I'm twelve.

ROCKY

That doesn't matter -- You don't really have to be a whore, just act like one an' that's it.

MARIE

What?

ROCKY

Yo, a bad reputation -- Twenty years from now people will say 'D'you remember Marie?' 'No, who was she?' 'She was that little whore who hung out at the Atomic Hoagie Shop.' 'Oh, now I remember!'... See, they don't remember you, they remember the rep.

Rocky and Marie exit the dark school yard... Standing in the shadows of the building are three young muggers. The light from their cigarettes flares red in their faces.

The muggers pace Rocky across the street and follow them down the block... Rocky sees them and stops and faces the three. The muggers pause and study Rocky from a distance of twenty yards. Rocky gives a loud boxer's snort, wipes his nose with the side of his thumb and rolls his shoulders... The muggers are intimidated and slowly peel off the meander away.

Rocky turns to Marie who has been standing behind him.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(points down the block)

... That's your house, ain't it?

Marie nods.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Listen, I hope ya don't --

MARIE

I won't.

ROCKY

What was I gonna say?

MARIE

Ya hope I don't keep acting like a whore or I'll turn into one, right?

ROCKY

Ya, somethin' like that.

They exchange smiles and Marie moves away. Rocky has made an impact on her life.

MARIE  
Goodnight, Rocky.

ROCKY  
'Night, Marie.

She takes a few more steps and pauses again.

MARIE  
... Fuck you, Creepo!!!

The girl runs to her house as Rocky looks on in dismay.

ROCKY  
(walks off)  
... Yeah, who're you to give advice,  
Creepo.

INT. JERGENS' OFFICE - DAY

APOLLO CREED and his LAWYER and TRAINER are seated in the offices of MILES JERGENS. Jergens, a successful promoter looks unhappy as he looks into the scowling face of Apollo Creed.

LAWYER  
Are the doctor's reports confirmed?

JERGENS  
Definitely --  
(reading)  
-- It says here, Mac Lee Green has  
suffered a seriously cracked third  
metacarpal in his left hand.

APOLLO  
Damn.

JERGENS  
I suppose we could cancel the fight  
indefinitely if you are set on  
fighting Green.

TRAINER  
It ain't just Green, what about the  
time Apollo's invested --

JERGENS  
I believe we can find a solution.

APOLLO  
Solution, nothin' -- What about the  
Bicentennial fight.

LAWYER  
Jergens, don't play games with my  
client!

(MORE)

LAWYER (CONT'D)

Apollo has already done nearly a million dollars worth of publicity --

TRAINER

Ten million's worth!

LAWYER

-- And has made contractual obligations with over twenty different organizations -- He doesn't want to be embarrassed.

APOLLO

You best find me another ranked contender an' I mean in a flash, man!

JERGENS

(holding up some notes)

I contacted Ernie Roman's manager, he's fighting in France the same week.

APOLLO

Then gimme Buddy Shaw -- He's ranked fifth.

JERGENS

Shaw's fighting in South America -- Why not postpone the bout until July Fourth?

LAWYER

Hell with Fourth of July, man! Ten thousand things'll be goin' down on the Fourth of July! -- Apollo wants to be first!

JERGENS

That may not be possible, Jimmy.

TRAINER

This man here is the Star, dig -- Don't cause him to breathe heavy -- Now what 'bout that sucker, Billy Dukes?

JERGENS

Went to California and gained fifty pounds -- and I called every worthwhile contender, but they say five weeks isn't enough time to get in shape.

Apollo stands beneath a new fight poster and points to it.

APOLLO

Shape, nothin' -- They're afraid.  
They know everybody in the world's  
gonna see this fight an' none of  
them gotta prayer of beating me so  
they're makin' excuses so they don't  
have to be the chump that's gonna be  
whipped in front of the whole  
civilized world!!

JERGENS

Apollo, I'm sure there's a way to  
salvage this.

TRAINER

Nobody wants to be dissected on the  
country's birthday.

JERGENS

All I can counter with is that I'm a  
goddamn good promoter -- I've promoted  
in every country in the world -- and  
I've tried to the best of my  
abilities. Perhaps you're right,  
and no one wants to beat on the  
country's birthday... I don't know  
what else to say --

APOLLO

I do -- Maybe what this fight needs  
is something new -- a novelty.

TRAINER

You's the novelty, Champ!

APOLLO

Give my main man a raise!!

Everyone laughs.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Now here's what's goin' down. Listen,  
'cause I'm gonna say this but one  
time. On January first, the first  
day of the Bicentennial I'm gonna  
fight me a local poor underdog, dig?  
Snow-white underdog. An' I'm gonna  
put his face on this poster with me,  
hear? An' I'll tell you why, 'cause  
I'm sentimental -- An' all the people  
in the country are sentimental, man,  
an' they'd like nothin' better than  
me, Apollo Creed, to let some unknown  
get a shot at the greatest title in  
the world on this country's biggest  
birthday. Now that's the way I see  
it an' that's the way I want it!!

JERGENS

... It's very American.

APOLLO

No, man, it's very smart.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Late that afternoon Mr. Gazzo's white 1970 Cadillac pulls up to Rocky's apartment... Rocky is in the back seat with the loan shark. Gazzo's bodyguard is driving.

Gazzo flips through a small black notepad.

ROCKY

Next Wednesday I grab a grand from Snyder. An' Thursday two yards from Cappoli, okay?

GAZZO

No, two yards from Snyder, an' a grand from Cappoli.

ROCKY

Ya sure?

GAZZO

Hey, screw ya brain on right. Now, who's this girl you're going out with tonight?

ROCKY

How'd you know?

GAZZO

(smiles)

You think I don't hear things?

ROCKY

Paulie's sister.

BODYGUARD

(abrasively)

Hear she's retarded.

ROCKY

(dryly)

She ain't retarded, she's shy.

BODYGUARD

Take 'er to the zoo -- Retards like the zoo.

ROCKY

Does that bum have to say that?

The Bodyguard reddens... Gazzo motions to his Bodyguard to relax.

GAZZO

Buddy's in a bad mood -- prostate problems.

ROCKY

He's always in a bad mood.  
 (laughs)  
 Count ya blessin's. Ya a healthy person -- ya legs work -- ya hands work --

The Bodyguard has been looking at Rocky with murderous eyes.

BODYGUARD

I don't like ya face.

ROCKY

Don't like yours neither.

BODYGUARD

Kiss my ass.

ROCKY

Move your shoulders down.

Mr. Gazzo is amused. He steps out of the car, followed by Rocky.

GAZZO

(smiles)  
 Buddy's got a thing against ya, Rock. Some people just hate for no reason, y'know.

ROCKY

Yeah.

GAZZO

Here's fifty bucks -- You an' the girl have a nice time.

ROCKY

Thanks, Mr. Gazzo.

Rocky enters his apartment and Gazzo drives off.

INT. JERGENS' OFFICE - DAY

The SCENE REVERTS BACK TO Miles Jergens' office. Apollo pores over a large record book.

APOLLO

How 'bout this Billy Snow?

JERGENS

Fouls.

APOLLO  
How 'bout this Big Chuck Smith?

TRAINER  
Too old, dull fighter.  
(points at a name)  
Bobby Judge is a good boy.

APOLLO  
... I don't feel heat from the name.

JERGENS  
Joe Zack is a good prospect --  
Exciting boy.

APOLLO  
... Still don't feel no heat.

JERGENS  
(sighs)  
Exactly what are you looking for,  
Apollo?

APOLLO  
... This man.

Everybody leans forward.

APOLLO (CONT'D)  
(continuing; much  
amused)  
'The Italian Stallion' -- He's my  
man.

JERGENS  
Rocky Balboa -- His record's poor --

APOLLO  
Don't matter -- That name. 'The  
Italian Stallion,' it's right on.  
(laughs)  
Who discovered America? An Italian,  
right? So, man, what could be better  
than to get it on with one of his  
ancestors --

TRAINER  
He won't last one round.

APOLLO  
Listen, I gonna carry this boy three  
rounds, then drop 'im like a bad  
habit.

TRAINER  
I don't like you messin' with  
southpaws -- They do everything wrong.

APOLLO

Southpaw, nuthin' -- I'll drop 'im  
in three -- 'Apollo Creed meets the  
Italian Stallion.' Shhiii -- Sounds  
like a damn monster movie!!

Everyone laughs.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DUSK

Rocky and Paulie walk towards his house... Even though it is  
cold and dark, a group of kids conduct an energetic game of  
half-ball. (Half-ball is a variation of stick-ball.)

ROCKY

(mimes throwing)

I usta be deadly at half-ball.

PAULIE

I hate the friggin' game... I'd  
like to talk some business.

ROCKY

What kinda business?

PAULIE

Look at my hands -- See how the joints  
are swollen.

Paulie extends his thick hands and tries to make a fist.

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Inflamed joints -- Walkin' in an'  
out of a freezer carryin' meat plays  
hell on the joints.

ROCKY

Maybe ya should see a doctor.

PAULIE

I don't need a doctor, I need a  
different job.

ROCKY

Maybe another job is the best thing.

PAULIE

Do me a favor -- Talk to Gazzo.  
Tell him I'm a friend an' would do a  
good job... Tell him I ain't bothered  
by nothin' an' would be a great  
collector... Bustin' bones don't

(MORE)

PAULIE (CONT'D)

bother me -- Tell him I'm a good worker.

ROCKY

Gazzo's gotta come to you.

PAULIE

I'm askin' ya to go to him -- As a favor.

ROCKY

Gazzo's gotta come to you -- Hey, Paulie, it's a bad job -- Do what you do now.

EXT. ATOMIC HOAGIE SHOP - DUSK

They continue past the Atomic Hoagie Shoppe, Inc... A group of young men pitch quarters on the sidewalk out front.

Rocky pauses... He sees Marie, the little girl from the night before, hanging around with the guys. She sees Rocky.

Marie takes a deep drag on her cigarette and faces the opposite direction... The gang smiles and continues to pitch quarters.

Anger and disappointment register across Rocky's face.

PAULIE

You know her?

Rocky shrugs and the two men move off... Filling the night air is the METALLIC SOUND of pitching QUARTERS.

EXT. PAULIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The men arrive at Paulie's home. It is at the top of a dimly-lit four story walk-up.

ROCKY

Ya sister knows I'm comin'?

PAULIE

Yeah, sure -- She's very excited.

INT. PAULIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Paulie unlocks the apartment door and enters... Rocky stiffly follows. Paulie's sister steps out of the kitchen. A large serving spoon is in her hand... The TV is on.

She stops short and eyes Rocky... She is visibly unsettled by Rocky's unexpected presence.

ADRIAN  
 (weakly)  
 Paulie, you're late.

She looks at Rocky again.

PAULIE  
 Did you call the hospital?  
 (to Rocky)  
 If I'm ten minutes late, she calls  
 the hospital.

Adrian enters the bedroom and slams the door... Paulie follows. An argument ensues and Rocky overhears.

OVER the argument is HEARD a SPORTS BROADCAST rising from the TELEVISION.

COMMENTATOR (V.O.)  
 ... Unfortunate luck for fifth-ranked  
 heavyweight, Mac Lee Green. The  
 slugging fighter acquired a serious  
 fracture in his left hand after an  
 aggressive day of sparring -- Champion  
 Apollo Creed says he'll be 'shopping  
 for another victim,' to fill Green's  
 vacancy for the Bicentennial  
 Championship Fight to be held in  
 Philly next month... By the way,  
 rumor has it that this will be the  
 most widely-viewed sporting event in  
 the entire world -- and that includes  
 the Super Bowl, folks... Today U.S.  
 swimmers set a new...

Meanwhile, the argument between brother and sister continues in the bedroom.

ADRIAN  
 ... Paulie, why didn't you tell me  
 you were bringing him home?! Look  
 at me, I'm not ready for this.

PAULIE  
 Like it would make a difference if  
 you were, right? This guy's a friend  
 and now he's takin' ya out.

ADRIAN  
 No... I can't!

PAULIE  
 Ya, ya goin' outta the bedroom an' I  
 don't wanna know from nothin'.

ADRIAN  
 Paulie, please --

PAULIE

Hey, I want ya out instamaticly. --  
I'm sicka lookin' at ya hangin' around  
like a friggin' spider -- Go out --  
Live! Do, enjoy life.

ADRIAN

... Like you?

PAULIE

Don't get wise with me. I want ya  
to stop bein' a loser.

ADRIAN

I can't go out.

PAULIE

Why?

ADRIAN

Paulie, it's Thanksgiving. I've  
gotta turkey in the oven.

Paulie turns and leaves the bedroom... He enters the kitchen.  
Grabbing a large fork, he opens the oven and spears the  
turkey... With the turkey suspended on the end of the fork,  
Paulie heaves the dripping bird out the window.

Adrian has seen this and is shattered. She runs back into  
the bedroom and locks the door.

PAULIE

!! Ya want the bird, go out in the  
alley an' eat the bird -- I want ya  
outta the house -- Enjoy ya friggin'  
life... Ya hungry, Rock?

ROCKY

Maybe ya better forget it.

PAULIE

Forget nothin' -- Here, talk to my  
sister, tell 'er somethin' nice.

Rocky walks over to Adrian's bedroom door and begins speaking  
to the enclosed girl.

ROCKY

... Yo, Adrian, it's me, Rocky...  
Ah, ah -- Ah, it's kinda hard for me  
to think of somethin' to say, y'know --  
'Cause I never talked to a door  
before, I mean whatta ya say to a  
door.

Rocky turns away and begins to walk off.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 ... Maybe I better forget it.

PAULIE  
 Try again, c'mon, try again.

Rocky goes over to the door and begins speaking again.

ROCKY  
 Ah, Adrian, I know ya ain't too happy  
 at this moment, but would ya do me a  
 favor -- I ain't got nobody to spend  
 Thanksgivin' with -- How 'bout you  
 an' me goin' out -- Get somethin' to  
 eat, maybe laugh a little, who  
 knows... Would ya like, I dunno, go  
 out together?

Adrian opens the door... She already has her winter coat on.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 We'll have a good time.

Paulie opens the front door and gives Rocky an encouraging  
 smile...

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 What's ya sister like to do?

PAULIE  
 Ice skate.

ROCKY  
 I didn't want no turkey anyway.

ADRIAN  
 It's Thanksgiving.

ROCKY  
 To you, to me it's Thursday.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - NIGHT

Rocky and Adrian enter a deserted skating rink.

ROCKY  
 Looks quiet, y'know.

ADRIAN  
 I think it's closed.

ROCKY  
 I think mebbe we're early or somethin' --

From across the rink a CLEANING MAN yells at them.

CLEANER

Hey, whatta ya doin' here -- we're closed... Yo, we're closed!

ROCKY

(yells back)

Are ya closed to the General Public or to just everybody.

CLEANER

(starts to walk over)

Hey, the rink is empty 'cause we're closed -- ya ain't allowed in here so do me a favor an' not stay here.

ROCKY

Wait here, gotta smooth this guy out.

ADRIAN

(softly)

We could go somewhere else an' --

Rocky approaches the Cleaner.

CLEANER

Yo, pal, what's with you -- The place ain't operatin'.

ROCKY

Listen, I gotta problem. This girl ain't feelin' well, y'know -- The doctor says she should exercise, y'know once in awhile an' ice skatin' is the best thing --

CLEANER

This a con?

ROCKY

Look at her, ya can see she ain't feelin' good -- needs a few minutes exercise --

CLEANER

Few minutes?

ROCKY

... Ten minutes.

CLEANER

Ten minutes for ten dollars.

ROCKY

... Yeah, give 'er the Blades.

INT. ICE SKATING RINK - NIGHT

Adrian has on skates. Rocky follows her onto the ice. He wears street shoes.

ADRIAN

... Aren't you skating?

ROCKY

Ain't skated since I was fifteen -- That's when I started fightin' -- gotta watch the ankles. Yeah, fightin' use to be tops with me, but no more. All I wanted to prove was I weren't no bum -- That I had the stuff to make a good pro.

ADRIAN

And you never got the chance?

The Cleaner yells from the sideline.

CLEANER

Nine minutes!

ROCKY

Hey, I ain't cryin'... I still fight. Kinda do it like a hobby. See I'm a natural southpaw an' most pugs won't fight a southpaw 'cause we mess up their timin' an' look awkward -- Southpaw means lefthanded... But I guess in the long run things probably worked out for the best, right?

ADRIAN

But you never had a chance to prove yourself.

ROCKY

Absolutely.

CLEANER

Eight minutes!

Adrian slips and Rocky breaks her fall.

ROCKY

I just dislocated my finger.

ADRIAN

Ohh!

CLEANER

Seven minutes!

ROCKY

It ain't your fault -- I originally  
done it in the Baby Crenshaw fight.

(opens his wallet)

That's me fightin' Big Baby Crenshaw --  
Big Baby was the size of an airplane  
an' I broke my hands on his head --  
I lost, but it's a nice picture,  
don't ya think?

CLEANER

Six!

ROCKY

How 'bout some Cokes?

CLEANER

Cost ya a buck.

ROCKY

This guy is beautiful -- get the  
Cokes.

Adrian does a slight turn and Rocky has to speed up and nearly  
falls.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

See, I ain't graceful, y'know -- I  
don't move good -- Stink as a dancer  
too -- But I can really swat, I hit  
hard, real hard, but I'm a southpaw  
an' nobody wants to fight a southpaw! --  
Havin' a good time?

Adrian nods and is very nervous... The Cleaner moves carefully  
across the ice.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Y'know how I got started in the fight  
racket?

ADRIAN

By accident?

CLEANER

Here -- Three minutes.

ROCKY

Yeah -- My ol' man who was never the  
sharpest told me -- I weren't born  
with much brain so I better use my  
body.

For the first time, Adrian laughs.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 What's funny?

ADRIAN  
 My mother told me just the opposite.  
 She said, 'You weren't born with  
 much of a body so you'd better develop  
 your brain.'

CLEANER  
 Time!

The Cleaner walks over as Rocky and Adrian get off the ice.

CLEANER (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 That's ten bucks.

ROCKY  
 I must be goin' deaf 'cause I thought  
 ya said, 'ten cents.'

Rocky hands him a dime.

CLEANER  
 (weakly)  
 ... How 'bout for the Cokes?

ROCKY  
 Charge it.

Rocky and Adrian start to leave. Rocky pauses at the door  
 and fishes into his pocket and hands over eleven dollars.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 Had ya goin', didn't I, huh?

He grins and leaves.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

ROCKY  
 Some people are very shy by nature.

ADRIAN  
 ... I suppose.

ROCKY  
 I would say you're very shy bu nature.

ADRIAN  
 ... I suppose.

ROCKY  
 Some people think bein' shy is a  
 disease, but it don't bother me.

ADRIAN

It doesn't bother me either.

ROCKY

Then why did I bother bringin' it up? 'Cause I'm dumb, that's why... Y'know, I think we make a real sharp coupla coconuts -- I'm dumb an' you're shy.

ADRIAN

... It is just hard for me to understand why anybody wants to be a fighter.

ROCKY

Ya gotta be a little soft to wanna be a pug... It's a racket where ya' almost guaranteed to end up a bum.

ADRIAN

I don't think you're a bum.

ROCKY

... I'm at least half a bum. Yeah, fightin' is a crazy racket. The roughest part is the mornin' after.

ADRIAN

Morning after?

ROCKY

After a rough fight, ya' nothin' but a large wound. Sometimes I feel like callin' a taxi to drive me from my bed to the bathroom... Ay' eyes hurt, ay' ears hurt, ya' hair even hurts... But the thing I'm proud of is I been in over sixty fights an' never had a busted nose -- Bent an' twisted an' bitten but never broke... That's rare.

ADRIAN

Why do you do it if it hurts so bad?

ROCKY

... Guess.

ADRIAN

(pause)

'Cause you can't sing or dance?

Rocky smiles.

INT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rocky and Adrian enter his one-room apartment... She is nervous and taken aback by the bleakness of the room... Rocky goes to the icebox.

ROCKY  
Would ya like a glass of water?

ADRIAN  
... No thanks.

Adrian looks at the mirror above Rocky's dresser. She sees a high school photo of Rocky. He once was handsome and smooth-faced... Rocky steps up behind her and his face is reflected in the mirror.

He turns on his cheap RECORD PLAYER... He reaches into the turtle bowl.

ROCKY  
Here's the guys I was tellin' ya about -- This is Cuff an' Link.

ADRIAN  
I sold them to you.

ROCKY  
(very embarrassed)  
... Oh, yeah, I bought the whole kit -- Yeah, ya sold me the turtles, the bowl, an' the mountain -- I had to get rid of the mountain 'cause they kept fallin' off.

ADRIAN  
Do you have a phone?

ROCKY  
I had it pulled. People callin' all the time. Who needs it -- Who'd you wanna call?

ADRIAN  
I wanna let my brother know where I am.

ROCKY  
D'you really wanna call?

ADRIAN  
Yes, I do.

ROCKY  
You sure?

ADRIAN  
Yes.

ROCKY

Why?

ADRIAN

I think he might be worried.

ROCKY

I'll call your brother.

Rocky flings open the window and bellows like a foghorn.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

!!Yo, Paulie -- Ya sister's with me!  
I'll call ya later.

Rocky closes the window and faces the woman... She is not smiling. She looks frightened.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

What's the matter? Ya don't like  
the room?

ADRIAN

It's fine.

ROCKY

It's only temporary.

ADRIAN

It's not that --

ROCKY

What's the problem? You don't like  
me -- Don't like the turtles -- What  
is it?

ADRIAN

I don't think I belong here.

ROCKY

It's okay.

ADRIAN

No, I don't belong here.

ROCKY

It's all right -- You're my guest.

ADRIAN

... I've never been in a man's  
apartment before.

ROCKY

(gesturing)

They're all the same.

ADRIAN

I'm not sure I know you well enough --  
I don't think I'm comfortable.

ROCKY

Yo, I'm not comfortable either.

ADRIAN

(standing)  
I should leave.

ROCKY

But I'm willin' to make the best of  
this uncomfortable situation.

Adrian moves to the door... Rocky intercepts her.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing; softly)  
Would ya take off your glasses?

ADRIAN

(dumbstruck)  
What?

ROCKY

The glasses... Please.

Rocky removes her glasses and looks deeply into her eyes.

ADRIAN

(timidly)  
... T-thank you.

ROCKY

Do me another favor?

ADRIAN

... What?

ROCKY

Could ya take off that hat.

After a moment, Adrian removes the hat... She is becoming  
rather pretty.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)  
I always knew you was pretty.

ADRIAN

Don't tease me.

The woman melts into the corner and begins lightly sobbing...  
Rocky steps forward and fences her with his arms and body.

ROCKY

I wanna kiss ya -- Ya don't have to  
kiss me back if ya don't feel like  
it.

Rocky softly kisses the woman... Her arms hang limp. He puts more passion into the kiss and she starts to respond. Her hand glides like smoke up his back. She embraces his neck. The dam of passion erupts. She gives herself freely for the first time in thirty years.

EXT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - DAY

The following day, Rocky strolls down the street to Goldmill's Gym... Out front a group of young blacks stop talking and study Rocky as he passes. Rocky's eyebrows knit in confusion.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - DAY

Rocky climbs the stairs and enters the gym...

... In a matter of seconds, his presence is known and the athletes stare in wonderment... The big black heavyweight contender, Dipper, throws down his towel in disgust and turns away.

Mike quietly approaches Rocky.

MIKE

Hey, Rock -- What happened?

ROCKY

'Bout what?

Mickey Goldmill steps out of his office...

MICKEY

Did ya get the message, kid?

ROCKY

Message -- What message?

Mickey pulls out a card from his breast pocket... He hands it to Rocky.

MICKEY

A Rep from Miles Jergens' Promotions  
was lookin' for ya -- They need  
sparrin' partners for Creed.

ROCKY

Ya puttin' me on?

MICKEY

Here's the card?

ROCKY

When was they here?

MICKEY  
'Bout an hour ago.

ROCKY  
Probably lookin' for sparrin'  
partners.

MICKEY  
... I said that before.

Rocky turns from Mickey and jogs out of the gym. Mickey fumbles with his rosary beads.

MICKEY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
... Waste of life.

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - DAY

Rocky steps off a bus in mid-town Philadelphia. He hurries down Broad Street. Every few steps he breaks into a trot... He enters a skyscraper.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - HALL - DAY

Rocky exits the elevator and enters the office of Miles Jergens' Productions.

INT. JERGENS' PRODUCTIONS - DAY

The SECRETARY is slightly startled by Rocky's excited expression.

SECRETARY  
May I help you?

Rocky hands her the business card.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Your name, please?

ROCKY  
Balboa, Rocky Balboa.

The Secretary rises and enters Jergens' office... Rocky eyes the multitude of sporting pictures hanging on all four walls.

The Secretary returns.

SECRETARY  
You may go in.

Rocky collects himself and enters...

INT. JERGENS' OFFICE - DAY

Miles Jergens warmly greets him.

JERGENS

Hello, Mr. Balboa -- I'm Miles Jergens --  
Please, have a seat.

ROCKY

... Thanks.

JERGENS

Mr. Balboa --

ROCKY

(overriding)

Rocky.

JERGENS

Rocky, do you have any representation?  
A manager?

ROCKY

No -- Just me.

JERGENS

Rocky, would you be interested in --

ROCKY

Sparrin'?

JERGENS

Excuse me.

ROCKY

I know ya need sparrin' partners --  
I'm very available.

JERGENS

I'm sure you are.

ROCKY

Absolutely -- Sparrin' with the Champ  
would be an honor -- y'know what?

JERGENS

What?

ROCKY

I wouldn't take no cheap shots. I'd  
be a good sparrin' partner.

Jergens seems very amused. He lights a cigar.

JERGENS

Rocky, would you be interested in  
fighting Apollo Creed for the  
Championship?

ROCKY

... Like I said, I'd make a boss  
sparrin' mate.

JERGENS

Did you hear what I said?

ROCKY

Sure, an' I'm smart enough to know that no sparrin' partner should take cheap shots at the Champ. He's just there to help condition the man.

JERGENS

Not spar, I'm asking whether you would be interested in fighting Creed for the championship.

The weight of the statement comes crashing down in Rocky. For a long moment he becomes nothing more than a basket case as he ponders the statement... He half regains his senses.

ROCKY

... Ah... Absolutely.

The SCENE FADES and becomes a black and white television.

INT. PAULIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rocky and Adrian are at her home watching an old black and white television... Rocky smiles... The film now cuts to Apollo being interviewed.

REPORTER #1

How'd you like the 'City of Brotherly Love?'

APOLLO

I like my Philadelphia Brothers.  
An' I'm patriotic!

Apollo has to move to the side to avoid a thrusting microphone.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(continuing; mock  
seriousness)

If yo' don't back up I'm gonna send yo' home with a microphone in yo' nose!

The Reporters laugh.

REPORTER #2

Why did you agree to fight a man who has virtually no chance of winning?

APOLLO

If history proves one thing, everybody gotta chance -- Didn't yo' all ever hear of David an' Goliath? -- 'Course I woulda knocked out Goliath.

REPORTER #3

It is a coincidence that you're fighting a white man on the most celebrated day in the country's history?

APOLLO

The same coincidence that he's fightin' a black man.

REPORTER #1

What're your feelings about the challenger?

APOLLO

He's Italian.

REPORTER #1

What does that mean?

APOLLO

It means if he can't fight, I bet he can cook!

Rocky and Adrian laugh at the interview... Paulie, her brother, takes offense.

PAULIE

Do me a favor -- His lungs, punch 'em out.

ADRIAN

Paul.

Rocky's interview now fills the screen. Rocky squints and looks nervous under the hot lights.

REPORTER #2

This is your largest payday ever -- How do you feel about it?

ROCKY

Feel? I dunno... Happy.

REPORTER #2

How will you fight Apollo Creed?

ROCKY

(mind elsewhere)  
Creed's great, ain't he... I'll do what I can.

REPORTER #1

Where did you get the name, 'Italian Stallion?'

ROCKY

I thought of it 'bout eight years ago, when I was eatin' dinner.

REPORTER #2

Is it true the most you've ever made in a prizefight is five hundred dollars?

ROCKY

Four hundred -- But that was a long time ago.

REPORTER #2

And now your payday will be one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Any comment?

ROCKY

Listen, I wanna say hi to my girlfriend -- Yo, Adrian!

Adrian blushes and laughs.

ADRIAN

Oh, Rocky!

PAULIE

(dry)  
Christ.

ADRIAN

You didn't!

ROCKY

Sure I did. You heard.

They continue to watch the remainder of the interview... The head COMMENTATOR is looking directly into the camera.

COMMENTATOR

A Bicentennial Fight -- January first. It will be the first sporting event on our two hundredth birthday and is already being called by many the greatest farce in sports history. If this man lasts more than a minute I would say he's on borrowed time.

(sarcastically)

It's matches like this with their exorbitant prices that give sports a bad name -- Not only is this match bad, people, it's sad! Why Rocky Balboa? At the State Athletic Commission, Larry Duggan reporting.

PAULIE

(irate)

The guy's a friggin' moron.

ROCKY

Why?

PAULIE

Don't it matter none he's makin' ya out a fool? -- I'd break his lips.

ROCKY

It don't matter.

PAULIE

He's takin' cheap shots.

ROCKY

It don't bother me none.

PAULIE

Yo, Rock -- now ya'll be lookin' for people to help, right?

ROCKY

Help what?

PAULIE

Y'know, to help keep ya livin' clean.

ROCKY

I'll do okay.

PAULIE

Ya gotta have a guy help ya exercise, mebbe somebody to be standin' by with a towel or run errands, y'know.

ROCKY

Hey, who cared about me yesterday, huh? Nobody -- I think I'm gonna train myself.

PAULIE

Without havin' good people around, ya won't have such a good chance.

Adrian is not happy with her brother's overbearing attitude. She faces him.

ADRIAN

Einstein flunked out of school... twice.

PAULIE

That so.

ADRIAN

Roosevelt finished last in his class --  
Beethoven was deaf, an' Helen Keller  
was blind -- I think Rocky has a  
good chance.

INT. HALLWAY OF PAULIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rocky stands in Adrian's doorway. He kisses her.

ROCKY

See ya tomorrow.

Rocky moves down the stairway and continues to do so as he  
converses with Adrian who remains upstairs. His VOICE ECHOES  
up the stairwell.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

How'd ya like hearin' ya name on TV?

ADRIAN

I don't know -- I was shocked. Why  
did you do that?

ROCKY

Ya puttin' me on, right?

ADRIAN

(smiles)

Absolutely -- What time should I  
expect you?

ROCKY

'Bout seven.

ADRIAN

I'll be waiting.

Rocky is now on the ground floor yelling up to Adrian on the  
top floor landing.

ROCKY

Y'know how I said that stuff on  
television didn't bother me?

ADRIAN

Yes.

ROCKY

It did.

As Rocky completes the last word, he exits the building and  
slams the door which RESOUNDS throughout the apartment house.

EXT. ATOMIC HOAGIE SHOP - NIGHT

Gazzo, the bodyguard, and Rocky are standing out front.

They are eating hot sandwiches.

ROCKY

Y'know I won't be able to work for  
ya no more.

GAZZO

Hey -- if a good man can make a better  
life, let him make it.

ROCKY

I feel bad about walkin'.

GAZZO

Take your shot, kid -- You got money  
for trainin' expenses?

ROCKY

A few bucks.

Gazzo takes out a wad and peels off several bills.

GAZZO

Here's five hundred -- Put it in  
your glove.

ROCKY

Do I have to pay juice?

Gazzo looks at the Bodyguard and shakes his head as if to  
imply, "Why's this guy asking such a foolish question?"

Gazzo and the bodyguard step to the white Caddy parked at  
the curb. They enter the cab. Rocky watches.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

GAZZO

(smiles)

Does Santa Claus charge juice? Merry  
Christmas -- Now, how's about my  
present, ya gonna win?

ROCKY

Gonna try.

GAZZO

Listen, kid, I'm with ya. Ya know,  
I'm with ya -- Italian, we're blood.  
You kill this rug -- We Guinneas  
gotta show these Afro-Americans where  
it's at. Give it your best shot  
cause I want ya to prove to these  
bums on the corner that my man can't  
be beat by this rug... Ya got any  
action on the side.

ROCKY

No action.

GAZZO

Ya gettin 150 grand killer. Ya got any plans for it? Whatta ya think? Ya like to put it on the street, make it work for ya?

ROCKY

I'm gonna do somethin with it.

GAZZO

Sure, you do what ya want. Stay away from the stock market.

ROCKY

Black market?

GAZZO

Same thing. Ya know, Rock, remember when we was kids, we fought together. An' I wasn't well an' ya had to beat up that Irish kid -- what's his name? -- Gallager -- I bought a suit and became a businessman. Ya put on gloves. An' I remember Mama almost cried, may she rest in peace -- an' our ol' man who said ya had no brains -- I'd like to lay hands on that bastard. You ain't never had any luck. Even when I owned you in '66 you never had luck. But now I think you might be gettin' some luck kid. Whatta you think?

Rocky smiles and Gazzo gets into his car. Rocky follows him across the street.

ROCKY

Yo, you gonna show, Tony?

GAZZO

Where else am I gonna go.  
(to Bodyguard)  
Bet three grand on Rocky.

BODYGUARD

He's a bum -- are you kiddin'?

GAZZO

(slaps Bodyguard)  
No! I'm not kiddin'!

Rocky walks away.

INT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rocky returns home and enters his apartment. After turning on the light, he flips on his RECORD PLAYER. He now feeds the turtles.

ROCKY  
Look who's home!

Rocky notices two telegrams laying inside the threshold. He approaches them with a sense of awe. He opens and reads one. Settling on the bed, he reads the other.

A KNOCK is HEARD. Rocky opens the door. Mickey Goldmill, the gym owner, stands framed in the doorway.

MICKEY  
(stiffly)  
I seen the light. I figure somebody was home.

ROCKY  
Hey, Mickey -- Whatta ya doin' here?  
Here, sit down.

Rocky tosses soiled clothing off a mangled armchair.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Best seat in the house -- Hey, Mick, this is too much.

MICKEY  
How do you mean?

ROCKY  
I'm usta seein' ya at the gym, but seein' ya here, in my house, it's kinda outta joint.

By the manner in which Goldmill listens, it is obvious something important is preying on his mind.

Rocky is slightly uncomfortable, almost embarrassed at having outsiders see how he lives.

MICKEY  
Listen, Rock, you're a very lucky guy.

ROCKY  
Yeah.

MICKEY  
What's happened is freak luck.

ROCKY  
Freak luck for sure.

MICKEY

Look at all them other fighters.  
Real good boys. Good records.  
Colorful. Fight their hearts out  
for peanuts -- But who cared? Nobody.  
They got it shoved in their back  
door. Nobody ever give them a shot  
at the title...

ROCKY

(uneasy)

Freak luck is a strange thing.

Mickey does not hear. His attention is drawn to the turtles.

MICKEY

Whatta' those?

ROCKY

Turtles -- domestic turtles.

MICKEY

(businesslike)

I'm here tellin' ya to be very smart  
with this shot. Like the Bible sez,  
ya don't get no second chance.

Mickey looks hard into Rocky's eyes.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ya need a manager. An advisor. I  
been in the racket fifty years. I  
done it all, there ain't nothin'  
about the world of pugilism that  
ain't livin' up here.

He lights a half-smoked cigar.

ROCKY

(at a loss)

Fifty years, huh.

MICKEY

(stronger)

Fifty years. The rep is known around  
Philly, an' a good rep can't be  
bought, but I don't have to tell you  
that.

ROCKY

How 'bout a glass of water?

MICKEY

Rocky, d'ya know what I done?

ROCKY

(uneasy)  
... What?

MICKEY

(driving each word  
hard)

I done it all. I've done an' seen everything'. Believe what I'm tellin' ya -- Ya shoulda seen the night in Brooklyn, I smacked 'Ginny' Russo outta the ring, September 14, 1923 -- same night Firpo knocked Dempsey outta the ring. But who got the Press? He did. He had a manager -- September 14, 1923.

ROCKY

(softly)  
Ya got a good mind for dates.

Mickey deafly continues, becoming more engrossed every second.

MICKEY

Look at this face -- twenty-one stitches over the left eye, thirty-four over the right -- my nose was busted seventeen times, the last being the Sailor Mike fight New Year's Eve, 1940, in Camden, New Jersey -- What a professional pastin' I give him. Here, read about it.

(shows a tiny press  
clipping; points to  
cauliflower ear)

An' he give me the vegetable on the ear. I got pain an' experience... an' you got heart -- kinda remind me of Marciano, you do.

Rocky points to his most prized possession.

ROCKY

Nobody ever said that -- There's his picture.

MICKEY

Yeah, ya kinda remind me of the Rock.  
Ya move like 'im.

Mickey has rung the bell. Nothing could please Rocky more than being compared to his idol.

ROCKY

Really think so?

MICKEY

Ya got heart.

ROCKY

Heart, but I ain't got no Tocker.

Rocky shifts against the wall and lowers himself into a crouch.

MICKEY

Christ, I know this business. Rocky, when I was fightin' it was the dirtiest racket goin', see. Pugs like me was treated like fightin' dogs -- throw ya in the pit an' for ten bucks ya try to kill each other. We had no management... fought in boxcars, in whorehouse basements, any joint with a floor -- October 1931 I fought a bum who put a tack in the thumb of his glove an' punched so many holes in my face I had spit shootin' outta my cheeks -- I never had no manager watchin' out for me -- See that picture outside the gym -- 'Mighty Mick,' that's me in my prime. I had all the tools. I coulda starched any lightweight husky on the East Coast -- But I had no management. Nobody ever got to know how slick I was, but I had a head for business an' stashed a few bucks an' opened the gym -- It's a dirt hole, I know it, but that an' a lotta scars is what I got to show for fifty years in the business, kid -- now you come along with this shot an' I feel like it's me gettin' the shot I never got... Yeah, we was treated like dogs -- like them Dago's, no offense, in the Colosseum in Rome there -- An' now I got all this knowledge, I wanna give it to ya so I can protect ya an' make sure ya get the best deal ya can!

Rocky rises and opens a window.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Respect, I always dished ya respect.

ROCKY

... Ya gave Dipper my locker.

MICKEY

(almost begging)

I'm sorry, I -- I made a mistake. Kid, I'm askin' man to man. I wanna be ya manager.

ROCKY

The fight's set -- I don't need a manager.

MICKEY

Look, you can't buy what I know. Ya can't. I've seen it all! I got pain an' I got experience.

ROCKY

I got pain an' experience too.

MICKEY

Please, kid.

ROCKY

(tightly)

Whatever I got, I always got on the slide. This shot's no different. I didn't earn nothin' -- I got it on the slide... I needed ya help about ten years ago when I was startin', but ya never helped me none.

Mickey drops the ashtray and kneels to pick it up... He remains on one knee.

MICKEY

If ya was wantin' my help, why didn't ya ask? Just ask.

ROCKY

I asked, but ya never helped nothin'! -- Like the Bible sez, ya don't get no second chance.

MICKEY

(yells)

Rocky, I'm seventy-six years old. Maybe you can be the winner I never was -- your shot is my last shot!

Rocky is choked and goes into the bathroom and closes the door.

Mickey struggles to his feet and, like a beaten man, leaves.

Several moments later Rocky steps out and lowers himself into bed. Springing up a second later, he runs outside.

EXT. STREET OF ROCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rocky races up the block toward the shadowy and hunched form of Mickey. Way in the distance, we SEE Rocky stop the old man beneath a street lamp. He places an arm around his shoulder.

## INT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

The following morning, Rocky's ALARM CLOCK GOES OFF at exactly four A.M. Not accustomed to rising this early, with great difficulty Rocky staggers to his feet and wavers to the bathroom. He turns the light on and roaches scatter.

At the top of the mirror hang the telegrams. Rocky fills the basin and submerges his face in cold water.

Rocky sways to the icebox and removes a dozen eggs. He cracks five raw eggs into a glass and downs it in one swill... his body quivers.

## EXT. STREET OF ROCKY'S APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

Rocky steps outside. He is dressed in a well-worn sweat suit with a hood, gloves and sneakers. It is pitch dark and his steaming breath attests to the cold.

He begins running down the center of the deserted street. He can only be clearly SEEN as his form passes beneath the street lamps.

Two garbage men stop hoisting cans to watch him pass.

## EXT. ART MUSEUM STAIRS - DAWN

Rocky stands at the base of an overwhelmingly steep flight of stairs. He stares up at the stairs that nearly disappear into the morning gray. Taking a deep breath, he starts up. From the start, he looks out of shape and halfway up his legs give way. Standing, he brushes off and descends the stairs.

## EXT. CITY HALL - DAWN

Rocky passes City Hall and veers to the river. He pauses, heaving great gusts of exhausted breaths. He throws several lazy jabs in the air and walks awhile with hands on his aching sides. Men delivering the morning papers observe with amusement.

Rocky forces himself to begin running again.

## EXT. ELEVATED TRAIN STATION - DAWN

Heading along Spring Garden Street, Rocky passes beneath an elevated train station. The ROARING TRAIN overhead seems to blend perfectly with his muscular running style.

## EXT. DOCKS - DAWN

The sky is beginning to lighten. The fighter now runs along the piers and past anchored freighters.

EXT. EASTERN PACKING COMPANY - DAWN

It is five-thirty and Rocky approaches the loading platform belonging to Eastern Packing Company. Alongside the loading platform come several boxcars.

Rocky mounts the ramp and knocks on the metal door. It soon opens and Paulie guides him inside. Paulie is drunk.

INT. SHIPPING OFFICE - DAY

PAULIE  
How ya feelin'?

ROCKY  
(panting)  
... Tight.

PAULIE  
I got whiskey here.

ROCKY  
... No.

Rocky notices TWO PUERTO RICANS lounging alongside the shipping office.

PAULIE  
This is the guy who's fightin' Apollo Creed.

JOSE  
(heavy accent)  
Good luck -- Kill him, man.

PAULIE  
(as though rehearsed  
badly)  
Hip -- Hip -- Hooray! C'mon -- Hip --  
Hip --

JOSE  
(walks away)  
Hooray, man.

PAULIE  
Rock'll be comin' by every mornin'  
to pick up some Prime -- can't train  
on that store crap.

Rocky smiles and Paulie leads him out of the office and to the large metal door of a walk-in refrigerator.

INT. FREEZER - DAY

They enter. The freezer resembles a modern torture chamber... row after row of hanging slabs of beef stretch into the darkness to the far end of the refrigerator.

The blower overhead causes the men to speak loudly.

PAULIE

(teasing)

If ya don't pay Gazzo, ya end up  
hangin' on the hook, right?

ROCKY

Gazzo's a good man.

PAULIE

How 'bout you talk to 'em about me?

(tightly)

Please do me that favor.

ROCKY

Keep this job, ya eat better.

Paulie opens a jackknife and idly jabs the hanging meat. He swills whiskey from a pint bottle.

PAULIE

Y'know, d'ya think you an' my sister --  
Ah, doin' good together?

ROCKY

Whatta you think?

PAULIE

Ain't sure, what's the story?

ROCKY

What?

PAULIE

The story -- what's happenin'?

Paulie speaks like a man who has been mulling this over for quite a while.

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ya really like her?

ROCKY

Sure I like her.

PAULIE

(nervous laughter)

What's the attraction? I don't see  
it?

ROCKY

I dunno -- she fills gaps.

PAULIE

What gaps?

ROCKY

(shrugs and takes  
meat)

She got gaps. I got gaps -- together  
we fill the gaps.

PAULIE

(sharply)

You ballin' her?

ROCKY

(turns around)

Don't talk dirty 'bout ya sister.

PAULIE

(tersely)

C'mon, ya screwin' her?

From across the room Rocky looks him hard in the eyes.

ROCKY

That's why I can't put ya together  
with Gazzo, cause ya talk too much --  
big mouth.

Paulie reddens. He steps forward and slams his fists in a  
hanging beef.

The punching of the beef is a muted challenge and Rocky  
responds.

Rocky walks up to a beef and slams his fist into the ribs.

The grotesque object swings in a wide arc like a hanging  
corpse. Rocky moves to the next one and hooks.

Rocky's face reveals a never before seen concentration, as  
though he were locked in total battle.

PAULIE

Hit the rump. The rump! Ya'll break  
the ribs!

Rocky speeds up and continues pounding on the second row of  
beef. Paulie's eyes widen and his face grimaces with every  
punch, like he were receiving it. Rocky moves into the dark  
recess of the refrigerator. Only the dull SOUNDS of his  
POUNDING FISTS can be HEARD.

Rocky works his way to Paulie again. Every hanging beef  
swings and appears surrealistically alive.

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

We do that to Creed an' they'll take  
us to jail for murder.

Rocky looks at his hands. They are drenched in red up to the elbows with beef blood.

Paulie hands him a package of beef.

ROCKY

Don't talk dirty 'bout ya sister.

Rocky takes the package and runs out. Paulie's bleary eyes reveal a fearful respect and slight resentment.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - DAY

The gym is filled to capacity. The NOISE is DEAFENING. Rocky pounds a heavy bag.

Mickey steps forward and removes a piece of string from his pocket.

MICKEY

(passionate)

Stop! Stop! I can't stand it!  
It's clumsy. You're off balance.

He motions to his bullish helper, Mike. He hands him the string.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Tie it to both ankles -- Leave two feet slack.

ROCKY

I never had good footwork.

Mike completes the task.

MICKEY

Forget the footwork -- You're off balance. The legs are sticking everywhere. Marciano had the same problem, an' the string cured it. When you can hit and move without breakin' the string you'll have balance.

MIKE

You'll be a very dangerous person.

Two young boys in street clothes interrupt Mickey.

BOY

Rocky, could we have your autograph?

ROCKY

... Sure.

MICKEY

(irate)

Don't you boys ever interrupt when I'm conductin' business, or I'll kill you both -- Go away.

The boys depart.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Autographs! Ya wanna be a writer or a fighter? Let's work.

Mike looks off across the gym.

MIKE

... we got visitors.

Mickey strains his eyes to see a group of REPORTERS and NEWS CAMERAMEN entering his gym.

MICKEY

(approaching)

Can I help you guys?

REPORTER

(to Cameraman)

Set the camera up over there.

(to Mickey)

We're from Channel Seven -- Covering the pre-fight training.

MICKEY

I own the place.

The Reporter has a hundred things on his mind... he turns from Mickey and nods to his crew... the other television crews rush to set up.

CAMERAMAN

Rolling here.

SOUND MAN

Speed here.

REPORTER

(to the camera)

We're here at Goldmill's Gym -- A Philadelphia landmark of sorts since 1929 -- The stench of toil permeates every corner. The sweat a trademark of a unique profession... Yet, the most unique fixture is an unprecedented 50 to 1 underdog heavyweight named, Rocky Balboa.

The camera turns to Rocky.

ROCKY  
 (to Mickey)  
 Should I do this?

Mickey nods and Rocky faces the glaring lights.

REPORTER  
 So much has happened lately -- Has  
 it changed your life style much?

ROCKY  
 ... People talk to me more.

REPORTER  
 How're you preparing for this  
 Bicentennial bout?

A young punchy fighter yells out:

FIGHTER  
 Readin' fuckin' history books, man!

The gym explodes with laughter.

REPORTER  
 (flushed)  
 We can cut that out later. Apollo  
 Creed says he'll let you stay three  
 rounds before he puts you away.

ROCKY  
 (honestly)  
 Apollo's a great fighter.

REPORTER  
 Do you feel you have a chance?

ROCKY  
 Maybe --

He faces Mickey. Mickey whispers in his ear.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 I'll tear his head off.

REPORTER  
 Do you have anything derogatory to  
 say about the Champion?

ROCKY  
 Derogatory? Yeah, he's great.

Apollo Creed and his entourage enter the gym.

APOLLO

(bellowing)

I am the Champion of the whole  
world!!!

The gym freezes... everyone turns and stares in wonderment... Mickey Goldmill shakes his head in disbelief. He now realizes it is a publicity stunt.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(continuing approaching  
Rocky)

Italian Stallion, I come over to  
tell you to be very smart an' after  
this fight donate what's gonna be  
left of your body to science, cause  
after this fight what's left won't  
fill a tuna fish can!... So beware,  
Mon Cher!!!

Apollo turns to the cameras... Rocky is speechless.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(continuing)

This classic fight -- Tha's right,  
this bicentennial fight's goin' down  
in the history books 'cause January  
first I'm gonna be the first man to  
bounce another man offa the planet  
Pluto!

Dipper stands in the far ring... the attention Rocky is  
receiving makes him a killer.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Now I gots a special announcement,  
y'hear. For the first time in alotta  
years this championship fight is  
gonna be on your home T.V.! Free --  
'Course that's just for Philly -- My  
present to the city... Now some  
ya'll ain't much on likin' me, but  
ya gotta admit Apollo Creed is one  
DAMN generous, 100% pure, government  
inspected, Afro-American Folk Hero!!!

Everyone laughs... Dipper moves across the room like a large  
snake. He brushes people aside and steps behind Rocky. He  
nudges him... Rocky thinks it is an accident and ignores it.

Dipper pushes harder and Rocky looks questioningly at him.

DIPPER

(loud)

Ya nothin', Boy!

Apollo stops his sales pitch in mid-sentence... The television crew faces Dipper.

DIPPER (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 I say ya nothin'!

MICKEY  
 What's happenin' here?

DIPPER  
 I'm happenin'! This pig is takin' my shot -- I iz a contender. He's nothin'.

ROCKY  
 (dumbstruck)  
 Yo', Dipper, why're ya --

DIPPER  
 (shaking his fist)  
 Spar me in front of these here TV dudes -- I knock ya ass to Jersey!

Dipper's fat black trainer holds out his hands and Dipper slaps them soul style.

MICKEY  
 (to Dipper)  
 You can forget about sparring, kid.

DIPPER  
 Yo' know I iz the best man here!  
 Yo' said so yoself!

MICKEY  
 (almost apologetically to the crew)  
 Why let Rocky here take a chance on cuttin' or breakin' a hand? -- Take a shower, Dipper.

DIPPER  
 Don't mouth me, old man, I'll knock yo' out too. C'mon, wop, spar me, let everybody see who's got the heat around here.

Silence looms over the gym... Apollo is apprehensive. The scene is becoming too real. The frightened television crew slyly begins putting away their expensive equipment.

DIPPER (CONT'D)  
 (continuing; insanely)  
 Man, yo' best keep them cameras out! Fight me, boy! Let Creed here see the kind of punk he's fightin'!

Mike forces his way through the crowd and stands behind Rocky.

MIKE

Don't chance it, man -- He's sick.

MICKEY

This is gettin' outta hand -- Rocky will fight in the ring January first, not here!

DIPPER

Yo' yellow, old man.

MICKEY

Not yellow, cautious.  
(to the crew)

See, it's very easy for a fighter to accidentally hurt --

Dipper suddenly steps forward and slaps Rocky very hard across the side of the head... The gym becomes stone cold. Dipper is in total command and enjoying every moment of it.

DIPPER

If yo're afraid to fight me, then get down an' kiss my feet, boy.

Mickey looks nervously around and knows it's only seconds before the blood will run... Rocky stands motionless.

MICKEY

(softly)

Let's take a walk, Rock. Please, don't take a chance. He wants to hurt you so you can't fight.

Rocky swallows his pride. He still has the string around his ankles. He starts to shuffle away with Mickey... Dipper steps forward and viciously slaps Rocky again.

Mike jumps forward.

MIKE

Why you tryin' to cut 'im, man!  
Back off, scumbag, or I'll bite your face!

Dipper cuts loose with a hook and knocks Mike flat. The room reeks of fear... Apollo's eyes flick back and forth between Rocky and Dipper. Apollo taps his bodyguards and they begin to ease away.

DIPPER

... Now, boy, kiss my feet.

Rocky eyes his friend lying on the floor. He shuffles forward and stands before Dipper.

DIPPER (CONT'D)  
 (continuing; almost  
 in a whisper)  
 ... Kiss 'em.

Rocky looks at Mickey, then lowers his eyes to Dipper's feet... Dipper smiles. Rocky starts to bend towards the shoes. Without warning, he explodes with a pair of combinations into Dipper's exposed ribs. A CRACK is HEARD and Dipper sinks to the floor writhing in pain... The room is silent except for Dipper's moaning.

Apollo is stunned by the scene. The gym has become a very gloomy place. He eyes Rocky with admiration and a hint of apprehension... He leaves.

Mickey is the first one to shake off the chill... He shakes his fists at the Reporters, and puts his arm around Rocky.

MICKEY  
 The kid's got cannons -- Print that.

The crowd disperses, leaving Dipper a pathetic and broken figure lying on a dirty gym floor.

INT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

They enter the dismal apartment... On the floor are at least ten telegrams. Rocky scoops them up and tosses them aside. Next to the door is a pile of over a hundred telegrams.

ADRIAN  
 Don't you open them anymore?

ROCKY  
 They either say, 'Kill the nigger'  
 or 'Hope you die, Honky.' -- What ya  
 got in the bag?

Adrian steps to the window. She pulls a pair of short but lovely curtains from a shopping bag... The colorful curtains glare in the dark room.

ADRIAN  
 Like?

ROCKY  
 Sharp -- Real nice.

ADRIAN  
 Really -- You don't think they're  
 overly feminine?

ROCKY  
 No... Sharp -- You look great.

Adrian smiles and pulls out a small Christmas wreath...

Rocky smiles. His eyes show what he feels for this woman.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

Adrian, you really look great, y'know --  
But I can't fool around durin'  
trainin' -- makes the legs weak.

ADRIAN

Don't want weak legs.

ROCKY

Can't fool around -- You look very  
great.

ADRIAN

-- The legs.

ROCKY

Yeah... But I think weak legs ain't  
bad sometimes, y'know.

Rocky approaches in a seductive manner. Adrian uncharacteristically removes her sweater. Underneath is a T-shirt that reads "Win, Rocky, Win."

ADRIAN

I thought it might be cute.

ROCKY

Ya right --  
(laughs)  
Mebbe we best just hold hands -- the  
shirt made me feel guilty, y'know.

SCENE FADES.

EXT. STREET - PRE-DAWN

Rocky is running... for extra weight he carries his huge dog, Butkus. After a half a block he sags under the weight, and laughing, begins to wrestle with the dog on the pavement... Rocky tries to sneak away from the dog, but after a few steps the beast sees him and chases him down the street.

EXT. EASTERN PACKING COMPANY - DAWN

It is early morning and as usual Rocky jogs to the meathouse. He is followed by his new dog, Butkus. He is stopped short when he notices several television news vans parked out front.

INT. EASTERN PACKING COMPANY - DAWN

He and the dog enter the freezer area and see several reporters and men with mini-cameras milling around... Paulie is waiting for him -- Rocky is upset and goes outside. Paulie follows.

EXT. EASTERN PACKING COMPANY - DAWN

PAULIE

Yo, Rock. I made a few phone calls  
an' thanks to me ya goin' to be a  
big man -- Thatta dog?

ROCKY

Whatta these guys want?

PAULIE

To see ya train.

ROCKY

Yo, what's with you? -- It was suppose  
to be private.

PAULIE

I thought I was doin' ya a favor --  
C'mon inside -- Y'know, my sister  
really likes ya.

Rocky follows Paulie inside.

INT. EASTERN PACKING COMPANY - DAY

A REPORTER points in Rocky's direction and suddenly he is  
surrounded and led into the freezer area and positioned beside  
a slab of hanging beef. The camera lights go on.

COMMENTATOR

Just relax, Mr. Balboa --  
(to the camera)

Today we're here with heavyweight  
challenger, Rocky Balboa. The reason  
we are standing in a refrigerated  
box is that Mr. Balboa has an unusual  
method of training and in a moment  
he is going to demonstrate it for  
our viewing audience -- But first,  
Rocky, how did you ever come to train  
in an icebox?

ROCKY

Ah -- My buddy Paulie let me in one  
day an' I hit the beef here an' liked  
it -- An' since I become a challenger,  
the owner don't mind neither.

COMMENTATOR

Is this a common training method --  
I mean do other fighters pound raw  
meat?

ROCKY

I think me and Paulie invented it.

COMMENTATOR

Would you give us a demonstration?

Rocky steps over to a hanging beef and begins pounding with incredible intensity... Everyone present is taken aback. Rocky completes hitting the meat and stands there with his hands dripping beef blood.

The Commentator is unnerved and Rocky looks straight into the camera lens and holds up his bloody fists.

COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

... Diane Lewis in the meathouse  
with the Southpaw, Rocky Balboa.

INT. JERGENS' OFFICE - DAY

Apollo sits behind Jergens' desk. Jergens is not present. Four middle-aged and younger types and Creed's lawyer sit around the desk. The desk is flowing with forms and charts.

APOLLO

How much is being channeled into  
West Coast closed-circuit advertising?

LAWYER

Three hundred thousand.

APOLLO

Make it four hundred an' fifty.  
(to younger man)  
Send two hundred roses to the mayor's  
wife from me, get a picture an' make  
sure it gets all the papers.

BUSINESSMAN #3

Do ya want to run the fifteen radio  
spots in the mid-west? I think you  
could spend the money better in  
Canadian publicity.

APOLLO

Yeah, I'd like to get Canada -- see,  
if we can get a tax break -- Gimme  
the figures on the Program Concession.

Meanwhile, the trainer sits across the room in a darkened corner looking at a small television. He is watching Rocky's bloody exhibition on the news...

He waves at Apollo.

TRAINER

(worried)

Apollo, you oughta come see this boy  
you're gonna fight on TV -- looks  
like he means business.

Apollo is still engrossed in his paperwork.

APOLLO

I mean business, too --

(to men)

The gross rental of the arena is gonna include the four hundred ushers, right? -- Gimme some coffee.

EXT. PAULIE'S STREET - NIGHT

It is a moonless night and Paulie staggers across the street and enters his building... He staggers up the stairs.

INT. PAULIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Paulie removes his coat and tosses it listlessly in a chair... He rubs his red eyes and sways into the kitchen.

He takes a bottle of wine out of the icebox. As he swills the wine he hears the SOUND of Rocky's and Adrian's VOICES traveling from his sister's room. Paulie's face tightens and he staggers towards the bedroom.

He stands outside the bedroom door and peers through a crack... Rocky, Adrian, and the dog are watching TV in the otherwise darkened room.

ADRIAN

... And he called the reporters --

ROCKY

Yeah... Threw my whole day off.

ADRIAN

Don't be mad at him -- He just wants to help.

ROCKY

Yo -- I ain't mad. I'm just outta joint when reporters are around -- They take cheap shots an' Paulie knows it.

ADRIAN

... Are you going to say anything to him?

ROCKY

... What's to say? I dunno what he wants from me --

Filled with uncontrollable anger, Paulie smashes into the room.

PAULIE

Nothin'! I want nothin' from you!!!

ADRIAN

Paulie!

PAULIE

Shutup! I want nothin' -- I ain't  
no charity case! Get outta my house!

ADRIAN

It's not your house --

PAULIE

You ain't no friend no more -- Go  
home! Outta my house I want ya!

ADRIAN

Don't talk like that to him!

PAULIE

Get outta my life both of ya's.

Paulie kicks the door out of frustration and appears to be  
bordering on a nervous breakdown.

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Outta my house I want ya!!

ROCKY

... It's cold outside, Paulie.

Paulie goes to the living room closet and removes a baseball  
bat... Rocky and Adrian quickly follow.

PAULIE

I don't want ya messin' up my sister  
no more -- He's scum from the corner,  
I don't raise ya to hang with no  
bum!

Adrian is speechless... Rocky moves towards Paulie.

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(continuing; raising  
the bat)

... Wanna hit on me? C'mon -- C'mon,  
I'll break both ya arms so's they  
never work...

Rocky freezes...

ADRIAN

... Paulie. Stop now!

PAULIE

I want 'im outta here --

(MORE)

PAULIE (CONT'D)

(to Rocky)

Don't think I'm good enough to work  
for Gazzo?

(spits)

That's what I think of bums like you  
an' Gazzo!

(spits again)

You're goin' up an' don't care enough  
to throw Paulie some crumbs!

(spits)

I give ya meat, an' I give ya my  
sister, too!

ADRIAN

Only a pig would say that!

Paulie smashes a small table with the bat.

PAULIE

(to Adrian)

You forget what I went through to  
give ya the best.

ADRIAN

You gave me what?! Knots! You gave  
me knots in here every day -- you  
made me scared of everything!

PAULIE

I always seen ya had the best, but  
did ya ever think of puttin' in a  
good word for me with this scumbag!

Paulie smashes a large lamp with the bat.

ADRIAN

Don't do that again!

PAULIE

Get away from me -- I could never  
even get married 'cause you couldn't  
live by yaself -- ya'd die by yaself!  
So instead I put you two together --  
Did ya think of puttin' in a good  
word for me? -- You owe me!

ADRIAN

Owe you what?

PAULIE

You owe me an' are supposed to treat  
me good!

ADRIAN

Good? Good, Paulie?! I've been  
treatin' you like a baby.

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Since I can't remember it's so long --  
I'm the only one who feeds you an'  
puts you in bed when ya can't stand  
up -- and it's you that made me feel  
like a loser -- That's what ya use  
to call me 'Loser' -- What kind of  
name is that? So can ya blame me  
for not remembering to talk about  
you when I'm with Rocky -- I don't  
owe you, Paulie, you owe me.

The brother flares up and threatens Adrian with the bat.

PAULIE

You busted?!

ADRIAN

What?!

PAULIE

You a virgin? -- Ya let 'im in ya  
pants, didn't ya! Ya pulled down ya  
pants an' let him have it, didn't  
ya!!

Mortified, Adrian runs to her room... Rocky steps to Paulie.

ROCKY

(fuming)

Hey --

Paulie cocks the bat back and tenses... Rocky remains still.

PAULIE

(softly)

... I can't haul meat no more.

ROCKY

What can I do about it?

PAULIE

Christ, I been beggin' ya for a break  
until I'm sick inside.

ROCKY

What break? Huh? What break! Who  
am I to give breaks! I'm a fighter,  
you haul meat. You do what you do  
an' I do what I do best -- that's it --  
that's life, man.

Paulie looks ashamed... Rocky walks, then returns.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

... An' what ya said to my girlfriend  
ain't right -- Do it again, I'll  
kill ya.

Rocky goes into the bedroom... Adrian has buried her face in  
a pillow... She is rocking slightly. Rocky cradles her and  
kisses her cheek.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Wanna hear a dirty joke?

ADRIAN

(smiles)

... Yes --

INT. MICKEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Mickey is in his cluttered office above the gym... the room  
is dark. Blankets are tacked over the windows. Rocky is  
watching 8 mm movies of Apollo Creed in action... Rocky  
watches with intense concentration as the fighter moves like  
a huge dancer around the ring.

MICKEY

His defense is great, can't lie 'bout  
that -- You have a rollin' style.  
Can't retreat as fast -- But your  
style ain't retreatin'.

They both watch the flickering images.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

See how he plays sometimes -- Drives  
his cornermen nuts. Nobody knows  
his next move -- Him included.

They watch more action... Creed has a fighter helpless against  
the ropes.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Killer instinct -- Ya both got the  
killer touch. Interestin'. See  
that! -- Right-cross combination.  
Beautiful. But you got the power to  
rip the body.

They watch more action.

MICKEY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Rocky, when ya climb into the square,  
an' know ya' meetin' the best fighter

(MORE)

MICKEY (CONT'D)

in the world, ya' gonna be ready,  
ya' gonna be ready 'cause I been  
waitin' for fifty years -- Fifty  
years. When I'm done with you, you'll  
gonna be able to spit nails. You'll  
gonna be able to eat lightin' and  
crap thunder -- You'll be a very,  
very dangerous person...

The SCENE FADES on Mickey's voice and Rocky staring transfixed at the images projecting on the wall...

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - DAY

Rocky is pounding the heavy bag with intense concentration. As he strikes from all angles, Mickey instructs.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - LATER

Rocky now works on the incline situp board... While doing situps, he pounds himself in the stomach with a dumbbell. The pain is evident on his face.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - STILL LATER

Pushups between two chairs as Mike sits on his shoulders... Mickey coaching drives him on.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - STILL LATER

Mike has on a pair of target gloves and Rocky moves around the ring swinging at them.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - STILL LATER

Drenched in sweat, Rocky hums the speed bag. His expression is hard and flushed. Mickey clicks a stopwatch and pats Rocky's shoulder... He is very happy.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - STILL LATER

Rocky has just completed exercising with the medicine ball... Dino hands him a towel... Paulie crosses the gym as Rocky heads to the steam room... A thin man crosses the gym and Mickey nods.

MICKEY

What cha say, Benny -- Meet 'The Rock.' This is our cutman, Benny Stein.

ROCKY

Yo, Benny.

MICKEY

Check the eyes, Ben.

Benny checks the skin around Rocky's eyes.

BENNY

Ain't bad. Seen worse -- Cover up  
an' things should be okay.

MICKEY

Take a shower.

Heading towards the shower, Rocky is intercepted by Paulie who traverses the gym. He stops Rocky at the shower room entrance.

PAULIE

Yo, Rock, I think I found an angle  
to make some bread usin' ya name, ya  
mind?

Exhausted, Rocky studies Paulie's face a moment and nods 'yes.'... Rocky sways into the shower room and Paulie strides off.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Running... Rocky's crowd of trailing boys has tripled. Dashing through the streets, he resembles the Pied Piper.

EXT. ART MUSEUM STAIRS - DAY

It is twilight and Rocky is alone at the very bottom of a huge flight of steps that seem to stretch into the heavens... Rocky takes a deep breath and sprints up the never-ending stairs... Halfway up, his body shows the strain. Nearing the top, Rocky pumps with all his strength and arrives at the very top... He looks down the steep stairs and swells with pride... He is ready.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Rocky is led into Mayor Rizzo's office by an aide... Rocky is very nervous as he approaches the mayor, who is seated behind his wide desk.

MAYOR

Sit down, Rocky.

Flips open a thick file that lays in front of him.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I've been going over your record --  
You've been the busy type --  
(reading)

Nineteen arrests -- probation three  
times -- expelled from seven public  
schools in 1964 and '65.

Rocky tries to sink into the chair.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I'm a very busy man, but I just wanted to remind you that you'll be setting an example for thousands of guys like yourself and maybe start them off in a new direction and give our police force a break -- I also hope you try your very best and bring pride to Philadelphia.

ROCKY

... I'll try.

The mayor presses a button and a photographer enters.

MAYOR

Would you stand up, please.

Rocky rises and the mayor shakes his hand... Their picture is taken three times... The photographer exits.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Thank you for coming by, Rocky -- good luck.

ROCKY

(turns)

Any time.

MAYOR

(sitting)

Wait... After the fight you'll have nearly a hundred and fifty thousand dollars -- What do you plan to do with it?

ROCKY

(smiles)

... Run for mayor.

The mayor is shocked at first but then breaks into a big, friendly laugh, and Rocky exits.

INT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Adrian and Rocky are at his apartment. They are looking at new scrapbooks. Newsweek Magazine: Headline: "The Italian Stallion or Donkey?" -- Philadelphia Magazine -- Rocky stands with the mayor.

ADRIAN

Rocky, do you realize everybody in this country knows your face, and after the fight everybody in the world is going to.

ROCKY

Yeah...

She flips through Sports Illustrated, The American Sportsman, Ring Magazine, World Boxing, True, and a multitude of other clippings.

The TELEPHONE RINGS... Rocky rises and walks to the new white object hanging on the wall.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

My first call... Hello? Yeah, speakin' -- Who is this? Bruce? Bruce who? -- Yo, Bruce! How ya been? I ain't seen ya for nine or eight years -- Yeah, things is great, how's things with you upstate -- Ya sellin' real estate, hey, that's a good job... Yeah, I gotta advance, but I bought ringside seats for the guys at the gym. I get the hundred an' fifty grand after the fight...

Adrian overhears the statement.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

... Yeah, I know it's a lotta money -- Condominiums? Nobody uses them anybody. Listen, I think a pet shop is a good investment, y'know -- I don't care 'bout long hours -- there's no depreciation -- that don't matter none to me -- Yeah, I like animals. Why don't ya give me ya number an' I'll call ya back? Lemme getta pencil --

Rocky makes no motion to get a pencil.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Okay, what is it -- four-twelve 659-2424. Yeah, yeah, thanks for callin' -- Sure I'll get back to ya, Bruce -- see ya.

Rocky hangs up.

ADRIAN

What was that you said about a pet shop?

ROCKY

(distant)

... What?

ADRIAN

What did you say about a pet shop?

ROCKY

I don't want ya cleanin' nobody else's cages no more.

ADRIAN

Is everything all right?

ROCKY

I gotta go out for a while.

Rocky grabs his coat and moves to the front door.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing; to dog)

... Come.

INT. GOLDMILL'S GYM - NIGHT

Rocky arrives at Goldmill's Gym... He unlocks the gym's door. Rocky and the dog move through the eerie shadows of the gym.

Rocky moves across the gym with his dog and moves up the steps to Mickey's office... At the top of the stairs he looks down at the ring, reflects for a moment, then enters the office.

INT. MICKEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

After turning on the lights, he quickly cleans the cluttered desk and sets up the projector... He goes to the cabinet and removes a stack of 16 mm films.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MICKEY'S OFFICE - SEVERAL HOURS LATER

The office clock indicates it is several hours later. Rocky is engrossed in watching another Apollo Creed film. He sits motionless.

Rocky sits upright. Something catches his eyes... He springs at the projector. He reruns the scene several times.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MICKEY'S OFFICE - SEVERAL HOURS LATER

Several hours later Rocky is engrossed in watching another Apollo Creed film... He sits motionless. Something catches his eye. Rocky stops the projector as Apollo is delivering a knockout blow to an unfortunate opponent.

Rocky moves right up to freeze frame and inspects it like it was a priceless painting... He backs off and begins writing on a note pad.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MICKEY'S OFFICE - DAWN

The first light of dawn streams through Mickey's filthy windows... Rocky is slumped in a chair and it is apparent he has lost interest in watching the movies.

The film has completed its run through the projector and lazily flops around on the top reel... Listlessly Rocky rubs his reddened eyes.

The door opens and Mickey flips on the light... The two men stare at each other for a long moment. Mickey studies Rocky's despondent expression and knows what is on the fighter's mind.

MICKEY

... I know what you're thinkin'm kid --  
At least ya gotta shot -- All ya can  
do is try ya' best.

Rocky stands and, with his dog, inches past Mickey and exits the room. Mickey walks over and turns off the projector. He idly pushes the machine with a lazy motion until it slides off the desk and crashes to the floor.

EXT. STREET - DAWN

After leaving Mickey's gym, Rocky and his dog listlessly move down the street and head for home.

INT. ROCKY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rocky arrives at his apartment... Adrian is asleep on the couch. He lowers himself beside her. Her eyes open.

ROCKY

... Can't do it.

ADRIAN

... What?

ROCKY

... I can't beat him.

ADRIAN

Apollo?

ROCKY

Yeah, I can't beat him.

Adrian touches his face.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

I been watchin' the movies -- studyin' --  
He ain't weak nowhere.

ADRIAN

What're we going to do?

ROCKY

... I dunno.

ADRIAN

Oh, Rocky -- you worked so hard.

ROCKY

It ain't so bad, 'cause I was a  
nothin' before --

ADRIAN

Don't say that.

ROCKY

C'mon, it's true -- But that don't  
bother me -- I just wanna prove  
somethin' -- I ain't no bum... It  
don't matter if I lose... Don't matter  
if he opens my head... The only  
thing I wanna do is go the distance --  
That's all. Nobody's ever gone  
fifteen rounds with Creed. If I go  
them fifteen rounds, an' that bell  
rings an' I'm still standin', I'm  
gonna know then I weren't just another  
bum from the neighborhood...

Adrian touches Rocky's face... The fighter gently lowers  
himself beside his woman.

ROCKY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

... No foolin' around.

INT. ARENA - NIGHT

It is the night of the Bicentennial fight... The location is  
the Philadelphia Spectrum.

The Spectrum is filling to capacity... Grandly dressed  
celebrities and wealthy fight fans lower themselves into  
their ringside seat. Nearly everyone is holding a red, white,  
and blue sweater...

The arena is decorated in tons of patriotic red, white and  
blue. High above the ring are huge posters of GEORGE  
WASHINGTON - ABE LINCOLN - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - BEN  
FRANKLIN - and APOLLO CREED.

INT. APOLLO'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Apollo Creed sits in his dressing room... It is dead silent except for some NOISE that filters under the door from the arena.

It is a CLOSE-UP of Apollo's hand being taped... The RASPING SOUND of the adhesive tape is very pronounced.

INT. ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

The atmosphere is identical to Apollo's dressing room. Adrian watches in silence as Mike wraps Rocky's hand.

Again, the most pronounced SOUND is the RASPING of the adhesive tape.

INT. APOLLO'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Apollo's other hand is being wrapped. Dead silence except for the TAPE and APOLLO'S BREATHING.

INT. ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Rocky's other hand is being wrapped in a CLOSE-UP. The only SOUND is the TAPE and ROCKY'S mounting BREATHING PATTERN.

INT. APOLLO'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP of drops being placed in his nose to help increase his intake of oxygen. The tremendously magnified SOUND of APOLLO TAKING IN AIR.

INT. ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP of the drops being placed in Rocky's nose.

INT. APOLLO'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

A heavy coating of vaseline is applied around the Champion's eyes... In an EXTREME CLOSE-UP, the eyes shine brightly with the grease.

INT. ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Grease is smeared around Rocky's eyes... In the EXTREME CLOSE-UP several deep scars are SEEN.

INT. APOLLO'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP of Apollo's trainer digging his fingers deeply into the thick neck muscles of Apollo's upper back and neck.

INT. ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP OF Mike's arms wrapped around Rocky's waist and lifting his diaphragm up... Magnified BREATHING ROARS from the screen.

INT. APOLLO'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Apollo's trainer slips a mouthpiece into Apollo's mouth. Apollo shakes his head and the trainer removes it and places another one in the champ's mouth... Creed nods yes.

INT. ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone present is motionless as Rocky is in the bathroom. Alone, Rocky is on his knee praying. Completing his silent prayer, he stands and looks at himself in the mirror. Suddenly a wave of emotion sweeps over him as he thinks that in a few moments he will face the most overwhelming challenge of his life.

Out in the dressing room, the door opens and a guard leans in and nods that it is time. He leaves... Rocky steps out.

MICKEY

... It's time, kid.

Rocky nods and moves toward Adrian.

ADRIAN

... I'll wait for you here.

Rocky nods and she kisses him. The fighter leaves with his trainers... Adrian is on the verge of tears.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rocky, Mickey and Mike start down the long hallway... Up ahead are three security guards... Rocky rubs his bare shoulders.

ROCKY

Yo, Mick, can I have my rob?

Rocky puts on the robe... Embroidered across the back in flaming letters is:

"THE ITALIAN STALLION"

\*Pennzoil\*

Mike helps him into the robe... Mickey is not amused.

MICKEY

Don't you care what the people will say?

ROCKY

... I'm doin' it for a friend.

MICKEY

Whatta you get outta this?

ROCKY

I get the robe an' Paulie gets three  
grand.

MICKEY

... Shrewd.

INT. ARENA - NIGHT

TWO RINGSIDE COMMENTATORS sit in front of a panel of closed  
circuit televisions.

COMMENTATOR #1

We would like to welcome our viewing  
audience to the Grand World  
Championship Bicentennial Heavyweight  
Fight -- the first major event of  
the Bicentennial Year... A point of  
interest is that the fight is being  
beamed to more than seven hundred  
and fifty million fans in theatres  
in nearly every corner of the world.  
I would like to welcome an old friend,  
and co-commentator for this evening's  
event -- Jimmy Michaels.

COMMENTATOR #2

Thank you, Bob. The electricity is  
everywhere tonight. Rocky Balboa, a  
fifty-to-one underdog, is living a  
Cinderella story which has captured  
peoples' imaginations all over the  
world -- to quote a popular sports  
magazine, 'The fighting style should  
be 'The Caveman Against the Cavalier.'  
From the increase in sound it appears  
the challenger is now approaching  
the ring... His record is forty-four  
wins, twenty losses and thirty-eight  
knockouts.

COMMENTATOR #1

I only wonder if this man has the  
skill to go past three rounds --  
Vegas odds say, 'no.'

ANOTHER ANGLE

A wedge of uniformed guards knife down the aisle to the ring.  
Many people wish Rocky well as he passes... people also hurl  
insults. From the expression on Mickey's face it is also  
the greatest night of his life. In the audience are familiar  
faces from the gym. From the back of the arena a ROAR goes  
up... Apollo Creed is in a mock boat dressed like George  
Washington. He throws silver dollars. The NOISE builds to  
DEAFENING proportions. Creed's trainer holds the rope and  
Creed bounds into the ring.

He tears off the Washington outfit and it is clearly SEEN that Apollo Creed is garbed in an outrageous Uncle Sam outfit... On his head is a red, white and blue sequined top hat. The robe is sequined red, white and blue. His boxing trunks are red, white and blue silk with stars around the waistband. The boxing shoes match the trunks. On his chin is a pointed white Uncle Sam beard.

COMMENTATOR #2

You could go deaf with the noise --  
it undoubtedly means Champion Apollo  
Creed is heading towards the ring --

COMMENTATOR #1

Am I seeing right? Creed is  
approaching the ring in a boat. Is  
he supposed to be George Washington?  
Obviously so.

COMMENTATOR #2

It's been confirmed that it is  
definitely an impersonation of George  
Washington -- a great way to start  
1976 off.

COMMENTATOR #1

I agree.

Immediately Creed begins gracefully dancing in a wide circle. He passes within inches of Rocky in his Uncle Sam outfit.

APOLLO

I want you! I want you!

The crowd loves the taunting. Apollo Creed floats back to his corner.

MICKEY

Don't let 'im get you tight.

ROCKY

Whatta ya think that outfit cost?

ANOTHER ANGLE

The ANNOUNCER steps to the center of the ring... Several men in suits stand against the ropes... Paulie is dressed nicely and sits at ringside with a pretty blonde escort. Rocky waves at him. Paulie waves back and secretly gestures at his date... Rocky smiles and gestures back.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen -- Welcome to  
the Bicentennial Heavyweight  
Championship Fight... We are very  
proud to have with us four former  
Great Champions... Ladies an' gents,  
(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 'The one and only 'Manassa Mauler' --  
 Jack Dempsey!'

The CROWD ROARS and JACK DEMPSEY waves and goes to Creed's corner, then Rocky's.

DEMPSEY  
 Good luck, kid.

He moves off.

ROCKY  
 (to Mickey)  
 Christ, Jack Dempsey.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Announcer points and the timekeeper RINGS the BELL.

ANNOUNCER  
 Former Middleweight Champion -- 'The  
 Bronx Bull' -- Jack LaMotta!

JAKE LA MOTTA raises his fist and gives best wishes to both contenders... Timekeeper RINGS the BELL.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 (continuing)  
 The man with the big punch --  
 Everybody's favorite, 'The Brown  
 Bomber' -- Joe Louis!

JOE LOUIS bows and steps to Creed's corner. Creed strikes a boxing pose and Louis tosses a playful punch.

ROCKY  
 They must be friends.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ANNOUNCER  
 Now, last but certainly not least --  
 the former Heavyweight Champion, a  
 son of Philly, Smoking Joe Frazier!

FRAZIER rumbles to the center of the ring. The CROWD CHEERS. Apollo puts on a show... He grimaces and gestures like he's going to attack Frazier. His cornermen hold him back. They laugh. Frazier goes to Rocky's corner.

FRAZIER  
 Save some of him for me.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Commentators beckon to Frazier as he exits the ring.

COMMENTATOR #1

The former champ looks great -- Can  
we get Joe over here -- here he comes.

Joe Frazier stands in front of the Commentators.

COMMENTATOR #1 (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Joe, what are your feelings about  
tonight's fight?

FRAZIER

Well, I think any man who works an'  
trains hard always gotta chance.

COMMENTATOR #2

You look in great shape, Joe.

FRAZIER

I'm always in shape.

Joe laughs and exits. The timekeeper RINGS the BELL.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ANNOUNCER

... Now for the evening's main event --  
In the corner to my right, The  
Challenger, wearing white trunks --  
At one hundred an' ninety-one pounds,  
one of Philly's own sons -- 'The  
Italian Stallion,' Rocky Balboa!

A good CROWD RESPONSE.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

In the far corner, wearing red, white  
an' blue -- Weighing in at two hundred  
and ten pounds -- undefeated in forty-  
six fights -- the Heavyweight Champion  
of the World -- 'The Master of  
Disaster' -- Apollo Creed!

The arena EXPLODES and Creed puts on a display of hand speed.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The REFEREE motions to both fighters... They step to the  
center of the ring. As the Referee explains the rules Apollo  
and Rocky stare hard into each other's eyes... The Referee's  
voice fades and the fighters' expressions fill the screen...  
Something soulful and frightening is being communicated.

REFEREE

... Now come out fighting.

The fighters return to their corners.

MICKEY

God bless ya, Rock.

ROCKY

Thanks, Mick -- I'm gonna try.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The BELL RINGS... Creed dances forward and boxes Rocky as though he considers the man an amateur.

ANOTHER ANGLE

COMMENTATOR #1

The Champ stings the slower challenger with jabs at will -- Balboa blocks eighty percent of the blows with his face -- Creed doesn't look the best he's ever been but is moving smoothly -- Creed snaps out a triple combination that backs Balboa into a corner -- oh, a solid hook by Creed, a master of fist-men.

COMMENTATOR #2

The Champion is smiling and toying with the man -- trying to give the fans their money's worth and make a show of it with the badly out-classes challenger -- Another left to right combination. I feel sorry for --

COMMENTATOR #1

Creed is down!!!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky suddenly explodes with an upswing hook to the jaw. Creed is dropped. The arena EXPLODES. Creed's eyes show disbelief. So do Rocky's.

Rocky backs into his corner... Mickey and Mike yell at him.

MICKEY

You can do it! Goddamnit, you got the power! The body, get the body!!!  
Ya got him goin'!

REFEREE

Six!... Seven!... Eight!...

Creed is up... His playful attitude is gone... he is now all business. His lightning jab stings Rocky's face repeatedly.

APOLLO  
... Come at me, sucker!

Rocky charges and a terrific right crashes against Apollo's chin, followed by an uppercut to the liver that causes Creed to cringe...

Apollo counters with jabs and Rocky whips brutal combinations to the body.

The BELL RINGS.

ROCKY'S CORNER

ROCKY  
How am I doin'?

MICKEY  
Real good.

ROCKY  
See how fast he is -- damn!

MICKEY  
Breathe deep -- Keep ya chin down!!  
Use the legs and drive through 'im.  
Attack -- Attack -- Attack!

APOLLO'S CORNER

Apollo does not sit. He stands and clowns with the spectators to prove he is not hurt.

APOLLO  
(to Trainer)  
... That boy damn near broke my arm.

TRAINER  
Sure -- He can hit -- Don't play no  
more -- Stick an' move, hear?

APOLLO  
I'll carry him 'till the third.

TRAINER  
Don't play with this man, he's  
fightin' hard -- Let 'em feel some  
real heat!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The BELL for the second round RINGS... Rocky rushes out fast and furious. Apollo melts out a left hook that raises a goose egg over Rocky's eye... Apollo employs footwork that dazzles Rocky. He has class. He studies Rocky and employs his lightning jab with cutting accuracy. Still Rocky shuffles ahead, bombarding Creed's midsection with hooks.

## ANOTHER ANGLE

The round ends with Apollo assaulting Rocky with blinding combinations and delivering a stupendous right cross that flings Rocky into the ropes and shatters his nose... The round ends.

## ANOTHER ANGLE

Apollo stands in his corner and jokes with the fans, but he is beginning to show the strain from the body punches.

## APOLLO

Man, I rearranged his face with that right -- The people love what's happenin' tonight.

## TRAINER

People nothin', you in a fight, my man, -- ya best believe what you hear... Knock that boy out soon an' let's go home.

## ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky sits as Mickey and Benny try to reduce the swelling around his eyes... The nose is shattered.

## MICKEY

Ya nose is broke.

## ROCKY

Damn! How's it look?

## MICKEY

Can't hardly tell. Don't swallow the blood -- Go for his ribs. Don't let 'im breathe.

## ROCKY

... The guy's great.

## MICKEY

Why don't ya tell 'im you're a fan!

## ANOTHER ANGLE

The Commentators are caught up in the action. The speak rapidly into their microphones.

## COMMENTATOR #2

If you had asked anyone who knows boxing, they never would've predicted a first round knockdown and the second round punishment to the body of the Champion... Most fighters will tell you, receiving a good body punch is the next worst thing to dying.

## COMMENTATOR #1

Round three ready to start and should be interesting to see if Creed can put the challenger away -- there goes the bell.

## ANOTHER ANGLE

Round three... Apollo comes out dancing. He skips and side-steps Rocky's sledgehammer hooks. An expert ring general, Apollo uses the ring fully. Rocky keeps tearing in and Creed meets the bombing attack that cause thick swelling... Near the end of the round Rocky fires a penetrating punch to the heart.

## COMMENTATOR #1 (CONT'D)

Apollo almost sprints out of his corner -- feints and throws a pair of left-right combinations. Balboa drops beneath a left upper cut and lands a very solid shot on Creed's temple -- not much movement from Balboa, duck a left, a right, another left and explodes with a right hook to the temple -- I mean explodes. The Champ backs off.

## COMMENTATOR #2

There's no way Apollo expected this kind of hitting power.

## COMMENTATOR #1

No way -- but the brilliant ability of the Champion to master situations like this is one of his most outstanding traits -- Creed tosses a perfect right hand that rocks Rocky. Creed on the offensive -- Balboa takes the punishment and counters with a left flush over the heart... that hurt.

The wallop knocks Apollo off balance... The CAMERA GOES TO A STEEP ANGLE SHOT from the floor, VERTICALLY UP Apollo's body. The SCENE GOES INTO SLOW MOTION... Rocky releases a terrifying uppercut that opens a gash under Creed's eye. Creed's face contorts with excruciation.

## TRAINER

(yelling)

Cover your face! Cover up!

(to Assistant)

My man's cut, my man's bleedin' --  
Get ready!

## ANOTHER ANGLE

The BELL SOUNDS. Apollo's corner works frantically to close the wound... The ring DOCTOR inspects the cut.

TRAINER (CONT'D)

Bad? Talk to me, man!

DOCTOR

Deep, but passable.

APOLLO

(staring at Rocky)

... That man's takin' his job too serious.

TRAINER

He's movin' to your left -- don't let him no more -- dance and stick, hear? Don't play -- I know what ya feelin', but don't play.

APOLLO

He got lucky.

TRAINER

Luck! You fightin' a crazy man -- but you got him hurt bad.

(to Assistant)

More ice, now!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky's face is in very bad shape, not cut, but wretchedly swollen around the eyes.

MICKEY

How you holdin' up, kid?

ROCKY

Fine... That guy's great.

MICKEY

Gimme the water! Ya gettin' tagged with his right. I think you should feint left and high hook 'im -- Benny, check the eyes! Can ya see?

ROCKY

(standing)

See what?

MIKE

Ya sappin' his strength -- He's losin' steam.

ROCKY

He ain't losin' nothin'.

MICKEY

Keep on him -- You're doin' great.

SERIES OF SHOTS

In the next ten rounds, Apollo cuts and slashes Rocky to ribbons, but pays dearly... Both his eyes and lips are cut. Welts across his midsection attest to Rocky's body-battering.

INT. ROCKY'S DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Adrian is unable to remain alone... She is lured by the GROWING ROAR OF THE FANS... She exits the dressing room.

INT. ARENA HALL - NIGHT

Stepping out of the dressing room she walks down the corridor. The MOUNTING CHEERS make her speed up. She opens the door at the end of the corridor and is hit by a THUNDEROUS WAVE OF SOUND. The guard at the door inspects her and goes back to watching the fight.

INT. ARENA - NIGHT

Adrian stands at the rear of the arena and watches the battle. She is entranced by the power of it all.

Back in the ring, Rocky keeps grinding ahead. He plants a thumping left over the Champion's heart and Creed winces... Rocky is game but losing.

At ringside Paulie is frantic... He is living the fight from his seat.

Mr. Gazzo and his Bodyguard watch from the second row. Gazzo looks proud. The Bodyguard, impassive.

INT. ANDY'S BAR - NIGHT

A huge and lively crowd look up at the television over the bar... They see Rocky driving Creed against the ropes and cheer loudly.

ANDY

... The Rock's got real stones.

INT. ARENA - NIGHT

The men are fighting with appalling tenacity. Rocky rips and tears into the body... Apollo counters with a ceaseless stream of rapier-like lefts... The Challenger is seriously outclassed.

APOLLO

C'mon -- Lemme cut yo'!

Rocky wades in and Creed employs incredible footwork. He sets himself and cuts loose with a thunderbolt right cross

to Rocky's already broken nose. Blood sprays from the wound and red droplets drip from his chin...

Rocky takes a merciless beating and is staggered by a torrent of combinations. Rocky's eyes are closed. But Creed cannot drop him... The BELL RINGS.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Commentators shift in their seats.

COMMENTATOR #1

Without a doubt this is the most punishing brawl I have ever seen -- The ringside audience is spotted with blood. This fight should have been stopped rounds ago but Rocky Balboa refuses to fall --

COMMENTATOR #2

Not only has he refused to fall, but he has beaten the Champion's body without mercy and the bout has become a vicious slugfest.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Apollo's corner is in turmoil... The Champion is definitely hurt.

APOLLO

My side.

TRAINER

(to Assistant)  
Get that doctor.

APOLLO

No doctor!

TRAINER

You're hurtin', man!

APOLLO

No doctor!... I'm feelin' good, bro!

ANOTHER ANGLE

In Rocky's corner, things are frantic. His eyes are swollen shut.

MICKEY

Wanna keep goin'?

ROCKY

Would you keep goin'?

MICKEY

... Yeah.

MIKE

No more, ya wanna lose an eye? No more.

ROCKY

Open my eyes -- Please, open my eyes!

Mickey nods to Benny. He secretly places a small ring knife between his index and middle finger. In one smooth movement he drags the razor over the blood welts and quickly covers the draining wounds with gauze... It is done so quickly no one is ever aware of the operation.

ANOTHER ANGLE

At the rear of the arena Adrian looks transfixed at the ring. She is caught up in the heat of the battle.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The BELL RINGS for round fourteen. Rockys bores in close, but Apollo still has spring in his legs. He seems determined to end it this round... Apollo catches Rocky flush on the jaw. Rocky is staggered. Like a wolf, Apollo cuts loose with pure savagery. Rocky is driven against the ropes and receives a devastating beating from the Champion... Rocky is dropped.

Rocky sits stunned in the middle of the ring... Everything is a distortion. He looks for familiar faces as though to ask for help... Mickey and Mike scream frantically for him to stay down.

REFEREE

Six -- Seven -- Eight --

Rocky gets to his feet and tenses with renewed energy. He is like a wounded wild animal. The tide suddenly turns. Rocky drops low and catches Apollo with a pair of terrific body punches that seem to drive Apollo's diaphragm up to his throat... A CRACK is HEARD. A glaze of pain covers Apollo's eyes. It is only a supreme effort that keeps the Champion upright... Apollo is badly hurt. He is bent over.

Rocky moves towards Apollo. Apollo flicks dread jabs into Rocky's eyes... The Italian wades in with punches that seem to bulge out Apollo's back. Creed takes the punishment like a stoic.

Blood is running from Apollo's mouth. In the clinch he leans over Rocky and it drips down the Italian's neck and shoulders. Apollo shields his wound from the ringside judges and continues to fight.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The BELL RINGS. Apollo's men rush out and guide him to his corner.

APOLLO  
... Ribs broke --

Blood trickles from the corner of Apollo's mouth. The Trainer feels the ribs.

TRAINER  
Yo' bleedin' inside, man -- Get that doctor.

APOLLO  
One more round.

TRAINER  
Don't kill yourself, man -- Let the doctor stop the fight.

APOLLO  
... Stop jivin'!

TRAINER  
Cover the ribs -- Look here, elbow down, tight -- Tight -- stand straight -- you're the best, you're the best!

APOLLO  
... Thanks.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky no longer resembles himself... His face has completely been beaten to jelly, but his mood is buoyant.

ROCKY  
How I look out there, Mick?

MICKEY  
(truly worried)  
Great, kid, great.

The ring Doctor leans over Rocky and checks the eyes.

DOCTOR  
One more round -- How do you feel?

Rocky is approaching the supreme moment of his life. He cannot be bothered with pain or doctors.

ROCKY  
Fine -- Go away, I'm gonna make it --  
I'm gonna make it!

Everyone is distraught over Rocky's dangerous condition.

MICKEY

We gotta stop it, kid.

MIKE

Ya gave it ya best shot!

MICKEY

Nobody's gonna say ya didn't give ya all. I can't let ya go out.

Rocky stands and eyes them all.

ROCKY

(impassioned and  
quietly)

I'll kill ya all... Don't stop nothin' --

ANOTHER ANGLE

The BELL RINGS... Apollo moves cautiously out of his corner and circles to Rocky's right.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Commentators stare unansweringly at the fighters.

COMMENTATOR #1

The fight has slowed down to a near stand-still -- Creed circles to Rocky's right... The spectrum is nearly silent -- Neither fighter has made a motion to throw... I've never seen anything like it in the last round of a championship fight... Apollo spits blood on the canvas. It appears he is protecting his right side. His ribs were probably injured at the end of round fourteen. It's confirmed, unofficially, Creed's ribs may be broken -- Apollo fakes a left and throws a big tired right -- Balboa's mouthpiece is out! Creed attacks with one hand!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Apollo feints and Rocky falls for it. The Champion unleashes a lethal blow to the side of the head that jolts Rocky's mouthpiece into the second row... Rocky sags against the ropes in a crucified position... The insane crowd leaps to their feet.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky's bloody teeth snarl at Apollo and he waves him to come ahead and fight toe to toe... Apollo obliges with a weary but effective burst of rights and lefts that have K.O. written on every punch.

Rocky counters the assault blow for blow.

ROCKY  
Gimme ya best!!!!

Mickey looks at the clock... TEN SECONDS TO GO.

ROCKY (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Gimme ya best!!!

Blood sprays over the ropes and onto the ringside photographers... They are horrified and wipe away the blood.

The fighters stand toe to toe and drag every remaining bit of strength from their souls and beat each other without mercy. They look hypnotized and have entered a dimension far beyond blood and pain.

SIX  
FIVE  
FOUR  
THREE  
TWO  
ONE!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The BELL RINGS... The arena EXPLODES with thunderous approval.

Their cornermen rush to their collapsed fighters... In the midst of all the confusion both fighters look at each other with unabashed respect -- They stand like blood-drenched gladiators on the most dramatic night of their lives.

As though reacting to some unspoken command, they both step towards each other and embrace... Apollo whispers in Rocky's ear.

APOLLO  
... Ain't gonna be no rematch.

ROCKY  
... Don't want one.

Mickey comes over and separates them and leads him back to his corner... Mickey embraces him.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Announcer enters the ring with a microphone.

ANNOUNCER  
Attention, please!! Attention!!  
Ladies and gentlemen, tonight we  
have had the rare privilege to have  
witnessed the greatest exhibitions  
(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
of stamina and guts ever in the  
history of sports.

The CROWD ROARS.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
(continuing)  
Ladies and gentlemen -- We have a  
split decision!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Apollo did not expect this and tenses. His corner nervously  
tries to reassure him. It does no good.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky did not expect this either and looks in confusion at  
Mickey, but Mickey is frozen with anticipation.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
Judge Walker scores it eight-seven  
Creed... Judge Roseman scores it  
eight-seven Balboa.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Apollo is rigid. Fear radiates from his eyes. To lose the  
crown on this night after the fight he fought would kill  
him... A silence has blanketed the arena.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
Judge Connors scores it nine-six  
Creed... Winner and still Heavyweight  
Champion of the World, Apollo Creed!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky sorely smiles and looks at the waves of CHEERING fans  
that circle the ring and reach out towards him... Mickey  
grabs Rocky's hand and raises it. The CROWD ROARS.

MICKEY  
I don't care what they say, you're a  
winner.

ROCKY  
Yo, can I have my locker back?

Mickey and Rocky look at each other and grin. Mickey hugs  
Rocky like a son. Mickey raises Rocky's hand again. Rocky  
turns away from Mickey and pats Benny the cut-man's  
shoulder... Benny smiles wearily.

Rocky stares across the ring at Apollo Creed, who stands victorious, but his face and body are badly distorted... The two men lock stares that reflect admiration.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Apollo climbs out of the ring and the fans crush forward screaming his name and waving red, white and blue banners.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky also climbs out of the ring and waves of frantic well-wishing fans rumble forward... Mickey's eyes show mounting apprehension as the fans become abnormally active.

ANOTHER ANGLE

They shove the police aside and clutch wildly at Creed. Creed's army of bodyguards swing angrily at the crowd but they are soon engulfed by screaming waves of humanity. Apollo is suddenly hoisted into the air and is being carried along by a legion of fans.

ANOTHER ANGLE

On the opposite aisle Rocky is experiencing the same overwhelming adulation by his fans but does not seem to be frightened by it, like Apollo. Mickey tries his best to control things but his voice is drowned out in the growing clamor. The fans shove the guards aside and hoist Rocky to their shoulders.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rocky's and Apollo's fans are aggressively competing against each other... chanting, 'Creed, Creed, Creed.' Rocky's fans counter by bellowing, 'Rocky, Rocky, Rocky.'

ANOTHER ANGLE

Paulie tries to get to Rocky but is shoved aside and he starts swinging.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Both Rocky and Apollo are completely at the mercy of the crowd. They are being passed overhead and remain helpless as their bodies float up the aisle on the sea of hands... The CHANTING IS DEAFENING.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Fearful that Rocky is in danger, Adrian tries to move forward. Running headlong into the crowd, she angles through the mass to get to Rocky.

ANOTHER ANGLE

She is manhandled and shoved in a multitude of directions, but she keeps her feet... She sees him. In the distance, Rocky floats INTO VIEW and Adrian flattens against the wall and waits for the procession to pass.

The procession approaches and she clearly sees Rocky's unbelievably battered but smiling face. He appears to be king of the world.

The procession approaches and passes Adrian. She jumps on her toes and waves frantically but is not seen. She screams Rocky's name... Somehow the delicate voice knifes through the racket and reaches Rocky.

Rocky frantically looks in all directions and barely manages to see Adrian jumping up and down waving. The crowd is carrying him away. He attempts to lower himself but the crowd won't permit it.

Rocky instead turns and begins climbing across people's heads and shoulders. He resembles a man trying to go up a down escalator. People are jammed so tightly together Rocky manages to crawl across them to Adrian.

Still suspended in air, Rocky leans down and Adrian jumps up and they lock in an embrace.

ADRIAN

I love you -- I love you -- I love  
you...

The two are swept along into the greatest night anyone can remember...

THE END