

"A PAYROLL TO MEET"

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Based on the book "A Payroll to Meet," written by David Whitford

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FADE IN:

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BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE.

EXT. OWNBY FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Before a packed **CROWD**, **MUSTANG HORSES** and **dozens of SMU FOOTBALL PLAYERS** stampede toward us in slow motion.

WALTON PORTER JR., our story's anti-hero, begins --

WALTON (V.O.)
'Money can't buy happiness.' Fuck you. Money buys wins, and winning makes you happy. I would know. Look at my boys. Best years of my life they gave me. Now, those years didn't come cheap. But see me now and you'd see me grinnin' ear-to-fuckin'-ear. And you know what that means? I'm happy.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

*

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

A half-built, skeletal office building.

*

A **team of five, black-uniformed ARSONISTS**, snake upward from floor-to-floor, coating the building in gasoline.

*

As the Arsonists near the top of the building, **LEAD ARSONIST** sets fire to his team's gasoline trail.

The building ignites.

*

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

As the Arsonists emerge onto the roof, a Little Bird Helicopter lands on the roof and picks them up.

As they ascend, we see the office building ablaze.

IN THE DISTANCE

Highways flowing vein-like across North Texas flatland.

EXT. HELIPAD - LATER

WALTON PORTER JR. (40's) leans against his Cadillac.

*

Walton carries a linebacker's burliness and a cobra's temper; *
wears an Italian bespoke suit and the grin of an over- *
confident prick.

The Little Bird Helicopter emerges from the near-distance and lands on the helipad.

The Arsonists exit the helicopter and bypass Walton, one-by- *
one.

Walton hands each Arsonist a fat, cash-filled envelope.

As Walton hands Lead Arsonist his envelope --

WALTON
Who pays better: me, or Ross Perot?

LEAD ARSONIST
(Opening envelope)
Mr. Porter, we burnt you a
building. Mr. Perot had us invade
Iran. *

Lead Arsonist looks in the envelope and looks back up at Walton.

LEAD ARSONIST (CONT'D)
(Confused)
Sir, this is more than -- *

WALTON
You didn't just burn me a building. *

Walton heads to the driver's door of the Cadillac.

LEAD ARSONIST
Sir?

WALTON
Take care, Colonel.

Walton enters his car; Lead Arsonist walks away. *

INT. WALTON'S CADILLAC - CONTINUOUS

Walton sits in the driver's seat and stares out the window.

IN THE DISTANCE

Downtown Dallas' glittering skyline.

ON WALTON

His face serious; meditative.

WALTON (V.O.)
My father was a good man.

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

INT. PORTER HOME - BATHROOM - DAWN

SUPER: Dallas. 1961.

CLOSE ON WALTON PORTER SENIOR, (late-30's), Walton's abusive-alcoholic-father.

We hear Walt Sr. pissing into a pot and singing Hank Williams "A Home in Heaven."

WALT SR.
(Singing)
*Around me many are building/homes
of beauty and wealth...*

Walt Sr. finishes peeing, reaches down and grabs the pitcher of piss; with his other hand he lifts and drinks from an Old Granddad bottle.

WALTON (V.O.)
He taught me how to live.

We **FOLLOW** Walt as he leaves the bathroom --

WALT SR.
(Singing)
But what of a home in heaven...

INT. PORTER HOME - WALTON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- And enters Walton's bedroom.

WALTON (V.O.)
He taught me how to work.

WALT SR. (O.C)
(Singing)
Where will you live after death...

ON YOUNG WALTON (12)

Asleep on a crummy mattress.

The room resembles the bedroom of an itinerant farmer.

Walt Sr. dumps fresh piss onto his sleeping son.

WALT SR. (CONT'D)
Up.

Young Walton awakes shocked; terrified.

WALT SR. (CONT'D)
Move, or the niggers'll beat us.

INT. PORTER HOME - KITCHEN - LATER

Walt Sr. and Walton, dressed in farming clothes, leaving.

NELLE PORTER (30), Walton's mother, cooks at the stove.

WALT SR.
Grab another Old Granddad before
we're back.

NELLE
Got hominy and links on the table.

Walt Sr. and Walton leave.

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - DAWN

Sunrise over Texas cottonland.

Walt Sr. drives with his knees as he pours whisky into a tin coffee mug.

EXT. COTTON FIELD - MORNING

Walt Sr. and Walton and **FARMERS, all black**, picking cotton.

ON WALTON

Struggling; his hands, bleeding.

LATER

Walton and Walt Sr. take their cash payments.

Walton spots Cadillacs and Buicks passing on the highway.

Each car carries **white, affluent FAMILIES**.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

*

Walton at his desk, so burly he barely fits in it.

*

Walton inspects his cotton-scabbed hands.

WALTON (V.O.)

Now, some kids're made for school.

A **TEACHER (30's)** gives the class a lesson on English grammar.

Classmates throw wadded up paper at Walton and tease him.

TEACHER

Walton Porter --

Walton looks up at the teacher.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Read back the sentence.

WALTON (V.O.)

I wasn't one of those kids.

Walton stands. His eyes squint.

ON THE BLACKBOARD (WALTON'S POV)

The words twisting and bending, revealing Walton's dyslexia.

WALTON (O.C.)

(Struggling)

Because Johnny had three eggs --

TEACHER

Friends, Walton -- not eggs.

CLASSMATE

Walton doesn't have *friends*!

*

ON WALTON

The class laughs while Walton grows embarrassed and angry.

*

WALTON (V.O.)

Laugh at a kid, you break his heart.

INT. PORTER HOME - TV ROOM - NIGHT

Walt Sr., drinks beside Nelle; they watch TV.

*

Walton passes by --

*

WALTON
What's for dinner?

WALT SR.
Dinner you gotta earn, son.

WALTON (V.O.)
Do worse, you seed a monster.

INT. SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Walton's Classmates, playing.

Walton sits alone on a bench, looking out onto a highway.

CLASSMATE #1
Hey, Walton -- you fucking retard.
How 'bout you pick me some cotton
like your nigger friends?

WALTON (V.O.)
Keep laughing, you make him a
monster.

Walton stands and approaches his Classmate.

In one smooth, violent punch he breaks Classmate #1's nose.

INT. SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Walton sitting across from **MRS. HANOVER** (50's), the school
principal.

Walton is flanked by his mother and father.

MRS. HANOVER
You don't throw punches, Walton.
It's not Christian.

NELLE
We don't need a lecture on what's
Christian --

WALT SR.
Nelle --

WALTON
(V.O.)
Now, some folks find fortune --

MRS. HANOVER
You'd be on the bus to juvy,
weren't for Mr. Hanover's charity --

WALTON
Charity?
(V.O.)
Others fortune finds.

MRS. HANOVER
He's putting you on the football
team, giving that anger a home.

WALT SR.
Football won't pay our bills.

MRS. HANOVER
I've seen Walton's kind.

NELLE
(Controlled, but irate)
And what's my son's kind?

Walt Sr. flashes Nelle a look; she stops.

Walt Sr. gathers himself and turns to Walton.

WALT SR.
Well done, son.

WALTON (V.O.)
And with my father's approval --

We hear the sound of football pads crashing as we move to --

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

In quick succession, Walton crushes **TEAMMATE**-after-**TEAMMATE**.

WALTON (V.O.)
-- It began.

Walton delivers one hit on a **TEAMMATE**.

WALTON (V.O.)
No drug on God's green earth can
free and feed the spirit like a
proper hit.

Walton looks down at the injury.

WALTON
(Mouthguard in mouth)
Whoa.

We see the Teammate's ankle twisted in the wrong direction. *

Teammate howls in agony.

WALTON (V.O.)
I mean, you take an animal like
yours truly, have him do what on
the streets would get him locked up
and cheer him for it? *

COACH HANOVER (50's) rushes over.

COACH HANOVER
Fellas, pick him up and take him
in.

PLAYERS pick up the injured Teammate and haul him away.

WALTON (V.O.)
That's not football -- that's
fuckin' warfare.

Coach Hanover approaches Walton.

COACH HANOVER
Damn, Walton --

WALTON (V.O.)
And I loved it.

Coach Hanover hawks up some phlegm and spits.

COACH HANOVER
We found you a calling.

EXT. WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM - NIGHT

High school WALTON (18) runs wild from sideline-to-sideline,
delivering gravity-bending hit-after-hit.

With every tackle, Walton looks to the bleachers.

IN THE BLEACHERS

We see Walt Sr., drinking as he sits next to Nelle. *

ON WALTON

Swelling with rage and insecurity.

WALTON (V.O.)
 Folks think high school's for
 chuggin' beer and chasin' tail. I
 preferred breaking bones. It took
 me further.

Walton nearly decapitates the **opposing QUARTERBACK.**

*

INT. PORTER HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Walton, Walt Sr. and Nelle sitting on the couch.

The Porters sit across from an **SMU ASSISTANT COACH (40's)** and an **SMU BOOSTER (50's)**.

The Booster is dressed to the nines in a bespoke suit and shined, ostrich-skin cowboy boots.

SMU ASSISTANT
 Walton, SMU wants to make you a
 Mustang.

WALTON (V.O.)
 Like any Southern boy, raging
 beneath the *yes sirs* and *God bless*
you, ma'ams was a hunger for
 something else --

WALT SR.
 Ya'll gonna race him?

WALTON (V.O.)
 Something big --

SMU ASSISTANT
 Oh, we're gonna give your boy room
 to gallop, Mr. Porter.

WALTON (V.O.)
 Something I couldn't put my finger
 on --

NELLE
 I want him educated.

WALT SR.
 Excuse my wife, fellas -- she has a
 talking problem.

Laughter; men.

WALTON (V.O.)
 An empire of my own --

SMU BOOSTER

Son, I've seen you lay hits like
God's thunder. But if you come to
SMU, we won't just develop your
ball skills. We'll develop you as a
man and as a Christian.

WALT SR.

Maybe he'll learn work.

Walt Sr. crosses himself; Walton thinks.

WALTON (V.O.)
For most, recruiting is the
pinnacle of love and affection. For
me, recruiting was a lesson.

WALT SR.

Lord knows he doesn't know honest
labor.

Walton stands, extends his hands to the Booster.

WALTON (V.O.)
'Cause right then and there, I
learned how empires are built --

SMU Booster and Walton shake hands.

We **FOCUS** on --

Their handshake: the Booster hands Walton a neatly folded
\$100 bill.

We **FREEZE** on the bill --

WALTON (V.O.)
-- You fuckin' pay for them.

And then **UN-FREEZE** as Walton's eyes widen and alight.

EXT. OWNBY STADIUM - NIGHT

SMU in a bloody game against **TCU**.

Walton (now 20) delivers hit-after-hit.

WALTON (V.O.)
Shit, I said football's like
warfare? Fuck that. You can't fuck
a cheerleader in a foxhole.

Walton delivers a massive hit that leaves a **TCU PLAYER** unconscious.

TRAINERS tend to the fallen player.

Walton removes his helmet and looks to the bleachers. *

WALTON (V.O.)
And you don't get to line your
pockets neither. Well...

IN THE BLEACHERS

We focus on **BOOSTERS**, standing out like sore thumbs, dressed to the nine and sporting golf tans. *

ON WALTON SR.

Drinking from a flask, looking totally unimpressed. *

EXT. OWNBY STADIUM - LOCKER ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

SMU PLAYERS celebrate their win, but Walton looks subdued. *

WALTON (V.O.)
Shit, I loved the game. But I was a
kid without a nickel to my name. *

Suddenly, Boosters flow into the locker room. *

WHIT HAYES (50's), a **Highland Park banker**, approaches Walton. *

HAYES
Son, I'm White Hayes. Class of '59.
I've been watching you all year. *

ON THE HANDSHAKE

A \$100 bill exchanged from Hayes to Walton. *

ON HAYES & WALTON

HAYES (CONT'D)
I want you to come work for me this
summer. If you can handle oil like
you can handle a pullin' guard -- *

Walton beams. *

INT. HAYES OIL - DAY

Walton, in an awkward-fitting suit, sits in a corner cubicle. *

Hayes approaches Walton's cubicle.

HAYES
Lunch. Petroleum Club.

WALTON
Mr. Hayes, I gotta crunch these
numbers for the Bakersfield buy.

HAYES
That oil's going nowhere, and I'm
too hungry and too sober. *

INT. WHITE HAYES' CADILLAC (MOVING) - DAY

Hayes at the wheel; Walton in the passenger seat.

They drive through Highland Park: cradle of Dallas' oldest,
most extreme wealth.

Walton marvels at the homes' sizes and luxury.

HAYES
What do you think, son? *

WALTON (V.O.)
What do I think?
(To Hayes)
Sir?

HAYES
The homes.

WALTON (V.O.)
I grew up in an East Dallas shack
gettin' drenched in my dad's piss --
(To Hayes)
They're beautiful, Mr. Hayes.

HAYES
A man needs a home. Women, sure;
cars -- but a home?

WALTON (V.O.)
What do I think? I was a cotton-
pickin' nobody riding a Cadillac to
the Petroleum Club for a steak
lunch --

HAYES
Man needs a home.

WALTON

I agree, sir.

WALTON (V.O.)

What do I think? Fuck you. That's what I think.

INT. PETROLEUM CLUB - DAY

Old school, highfalutin club on the top floor of a skyscraper * overlooking downtown Dallas.

BUSINESSMEN power-lunch over steaks and martinis. *

Hayes escorts Walton through the club; Walton looks star-struck. *

Hayes shakes hand and back-slaps with **BUSINESSMAN-after-BUSINESSMAN**. *

LATER

Walton devours a Porterhouse.

Accompanying Walton and Hayes is **VINCE KERRY (40's)**, Hayes' lawyer. Vince will prove to become an important player in our story.

HAYES

-- 'Cause no one can negotiate like you, Vince.

VINCE

So the NFL's your next stop, Walton?

At the adjacent table, two **BUSINESSMEN (30's)**, have a heated conversation that catches Walton's ear.

BUSINESSMAN #1

-- Real estate is the new oil, Pete. With a 6% broker's fee you become --

BUSINESSMAN #2

Yeah, an overnight millionaire. Bullshit.

Walton's ears perk up.

BUSINESSMAN #1

My two houses and two Cadillacs say otherwise.

VINCE
Walton?

Hayes downs a martini.

HAYES
Shit, son -- come up for air.

WALTON
(Embarrassed)
Yes, sir --

HAYES
Now, I know I said a man needs a
home. But a man also needs a
lawyer; so Walton, I want you and
Vince here --

*
*

A **WAITER** bypasses the table; Hayes nearly grabs him.

*

HAYES (CONT'D)
(Re. Walton)
He'll do that again.

WAITER
Yes, sir.

WALTON
(Embarrassed)
Mr. Hayes, you don't --

HAYES
-- And get the kid a Gibson.

*

WAITER
Yes, sir.

Waiter leaves.

WALTON
Mr. Hayes, I don't drink.

HAYES
You do when you celebrate.

WALTON
Sir?

HAYES
Your new job, assuming you wanna be
an oil man.

*
*

WALTON
Yes, sir --

*
*

HAYES

Get your degree and we'll get to
work -- 'long as you beat Texas'
ass next year.

*
*
*
*

EXT. OWNBY STADIUM - NIGHT

SMU taking on **TCU**. Walton's last game as a Mustang.

*

ON THE SCORBOARD

TCU: 24 - SMU: 21.

TCU QUARTERBACK drops back to pass.

Walton intercepts the pass and returns it for a touchdown.

*

WALTON (V.O.)

Now, most would dread the end of
their playing days. But I saw no
point grinding my body to dust.

*
*

SMU wins; bedlam; Walton, joyous, looks to the bleachers.

*

ON THE BOOSTERS

Thrilled; high-fiving.

EXT. OWNBY STADIUM - TUNNEL - LATER

Walton, congratulated by **FANS** and **BOOSTERS**, is approached by
HAYDEN FRY (50's), **SMU's Head Coach**.

*
*

MARK GREGRORY (50's), **scout for the Dallas Cowboys** walks with
Coach Fry.

*

HAYDEN

Walton, this is Mark Gregory --
scout with the Dallas Cowboys.

*

Gregory and Walton shake hands.

GREGORY

Tex Schramm and Coach Landry are
big fans of yours, Walton.

*
*

WALTON

Thank you, sir.
(V.O.)
Like I gave a shit.

*
*
*
*

GREGORY
How'd you like to be a Cowboy?

WE FOCUS ON

EX-SMU FOOTBALL PLAYERS (40's; 50'; 60's) limping about the stadium, congratulating players. *

WALTON (V.O.)
(Laughing)
Be a Cowboy. I'd rather be able to walk in my forties. *

INT. WALTON'S CAR OLDSMOBILE (MOVING) - THAT NIGHT

Walton driving home.

INT. PORTER HOME - TV ROOM - LATER

Walton enters to find his mother, cigarette-in-hand, on the floor beside Walton Sr.

Walton Sr. is collapsed face-down on the floor.

Walton stops in his tracks. *

NELLE
You know what his last words were?
"Fuck." Thirty years I knew him.
Twenty nine married. "Fuck." His will and testimony. *

Nelle shakes her head.

Walton kneels down besides his dead father.

NELLE (CONT'D)
Shoot, even dead he's an asshole:
I'm gonna have to drag his ass off the carpet myself. *

EXT. CEMETARY - MORNING

Walton and Nelle standing beside Walt Sr.'s fresh grave; they're the only mourners. *

NELLE
I wish I had some pearl to offer you, love; something to set you and your heart right. I can't. He was a son of a bitch. *

WALTON

Let's go.

*
*

Walton and Nelle turn to walk away.

*

INT. HAYES PROPERTIES - WHITE HAYES' OFFICE - LATER

*

Walton enters Hayes' office in his mourning clothes.

*

Hayes sits behind his desk.

*

WALTON

Mr. Hayes --

HAYES

You dressed for the prom, son?

*
*

WALTON

Sir, I was hoping to discuss my
start date here.

*

HAYES

Walton, I hate to do this, but your
job's been filled.*
*

WALTON

Filled?

*

HAYES

Mr. Hunt rec'd someone just a bit
more qualified.

*

Walton looks over to the SMU Grad at his desk; looks back at
Hayes.

*

THROUGH HAYES' OFFICE WINDOW

*

A **blonde SMU GRAD** sitting at Walton's old cubicle.

*

WALTON

Qualified.

*

(V.O.)

*

Out of a father, out of a job --

*

INT. WALTON'S CAR (MOVING) - DUSKWalton driving down Dallas' 'Magic Corridor,' which leads us
north from the city to farmland.*
*

Walton stops his car in front of a tract of ugly farmland.

*

Walton exits his car and surveys the farmland.

WALTON (V.O.)
A man needs a home. *

He sees a **CONSTRUCTION CREW** building a highway.

Walton approaches the Construction Crew.

WALTON
What're ya'll working on?
(V.O.)
Women, sure; cars, maybe. *

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
They're expanding north.

WALTON (V.O.)
But a home?
(End V.O.)
Who's they? *

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
Dallas.

Walton looks out again into the farmland.

WALTON (V.O.)
A man needs a home.

Walton has an idea.

WALTON
Hey, whose land is that? *

INT. JERRY DON STILES' OFFICE - DAY

Walton sits across from **JERRY DON STILES (50's), a burly Texan home builder.**

WALTON (V.O.)
Now, I knew dick about real estate-- *

STILES
Son, do you have *any* experience
selling real estate? *

WALTON
Mr. Stiles, with a simple broker's
fee, I can help you build on the
Ballinger land --

STILES
Assuming they're fine with *building*
on their land.

WALTON

Well, sir, you know what 'assume'
stands for --

STILES

Yeah, means you're yankin' my nuts.

*

INT. BALLINGER MANSION - DAY

Walton pitching **MR. and MRS. BALLINGER (60's)**, a **Highland Park blue-blood couple** who owns the land that inspired Walton.

*

*

WALTON (V.O.)

Now, Mr. and Mrs. Ballinger, with
Mr. Stiles signing on --

*

MR. BALLINGER

He's signed on?

WALTON

Shoot, he'll start digging
yesterday he's so eager. Dallas is
primed for the largest suburban
expansion in the lower forty-eight,
and with your land --

MR. BALLINGER

Son, what the fuck --

Mrs. Ballinger slaps Mr. Ballinger's knee in disgust.

MR. BALLINGER (CONT'D)

Son, what the heck do you know
about suburban expansion?

*

WALTON

(Stumbling)

Uh -- well, sir --

INT. JERRY DON STILES' OFFICE - DAY

Walton spots a black and white photo of a younger Stiles in
an SMU football uniform.

*

WALTON (V.O.)

Some have smarts --

*

(End V.O.)

*

See, Mr. Stiles, when I played ball
at SMU, I figured --

*

Stiles' ears perk up; he smiles --

STILES

I thought that was a linebacker's
neck on ya' --

*

WALTON (V.O.)

But I'm as dumb as they get.

*

*

INT. BALLINGER MANSION - DAY

Walton continuing his pitch to the Ballingers.

WALTON

See, when I was playing football
for SMU --

MR. BALLINGER

A Mustang!

WALTON (V.O.)

Doesn't take a genius to get
leverage.

*

*

*

MRS. BALLINGER

(Re. Walton's hand)

An unmarried Mustang.

*

MR. BALLINGER

What's that gotta -- ?

*

*

MRS. BALLINGER

Young man like this: unattached and
working too hard --

WALTON

Well, ma'am, between work and
church --

*

Mrs. Ballinger smiles.

EXT. BALLINGER LAND - DAY**CONSTRUCTION CREWS** building fresh real estate on empty land.
Walton overlooks the entire operation.

WALTON (V.O.)

I had no fucking clue what I was doing, but I had a \$6 million piece of property plus a standard brokerage fee of 6%, which got the Ballingers enough cash for a second house in Aspen, Stiles enough cache to make him North Texas' hottest home builder, and myself enough dough to turn me from broke to wealthy overnight. I'd call that a win.

INT. HOME BUILDER'S OFFICE - DAY

Walton sitting across from another **HOME BUILDER #1 (50's)**. Walton holds a map of North Texas up for the Home Builder.

WALTON (V.O.)

And you know what feels better than your first win? Your second.
(To Home Builder #1)
These tracts of land --

Walton points to green on the map --

WALTON

-- Used to sprout corn. Now,
they'll sprout houses.

EXT. FARM - DAY

BUILDING CREWS turning a farm into a real estate development. *

INT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Walton sitting across from a **FARMER (60's)**, negotiating for new land to build on.

WALTON

My broker's fee aside, you stand to make --

Farmer laughs.

FARMER

Son, my daddy chased the Red Man off this land, and I'm fixin' to do the same to you.

WALTON

Yes, sir.

Walton stands, buttons his jacket and turns to leave.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - ROADSIDE - DAY

Walton waiting inside his new Cadillac.

WALTON (V.O.)

I was a step away sittin' in that
farmer's shoes. Difference between
me and him was I woulda done
anything to stay out of 'em.

Farmer drives off of his land in a pickup truck.

Walton turns on his car and drives towards the Farmer's home.

INT. FARM HOUSE - LATER

Walton stands outside the farmhouse holding two canisters of
gasoline, watching it burn.

WALTON (V.O.)

Understand: I didn't care who owned
the land, where it was --

Walton turns and walks away.

EXT. HIGH RISE OFFICE - DAY

Walton shaking hands with **REALTOR #2 (50's)**.

WALTON (V.O.)

I wanted it --

REALTOR

This your first high-rise, Mr.
Porter?

WALTON (V.O.)

And I wanted to build on it.

Walton gestures over Realtor #2's shoulder.

ACROSS THE HIGHWAY

A trio of high rises.

ON REALTOR #2 & WALTON

WALTON
(Gesturing)
My fourth.

*
*
*

INT. NEIMAN MARCUS - SUIT SECTION - DAY

Walton wears a slightly ill-fitting suit. He leafs through a rack of Italian-made suits.

A **SALESWOMAN (30's)** approaches Walton.

*

SALESWOMAN
These're hand sewn in Naples.

WALTON
I'll take the rack.

*
*

SALESWOMAN
The rack?

WALTON
And your phone number.

INT. NEIMAN MARCUS - DRESSING ROOM - LATER

*

Walton fucking the Saleswoman.

EXT. CADILLAC DEALERSHIP - DAY

Walton sitting across from a **CAR SALESMAN (40's)**.

*

WALTON
I want two of your most expensive
model.

*

CAR SALESMAN
Two?

*

WALTON
One for the week, one for the
weekend.

*

CAR SALESMAN
(Taken aback)
And the, uh, color?

*

WALTON
Night-black.

*

CAR SALESMAN
Night-black?

WALTON
No --
(Beat)
Pre-dawn black.

CAR SALESMAN
Pre-dawn black.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - DAY

Walton being shown around an empty mansion on Strait Lane, Dallas' most prestigious street to live on, by a **female REALTOR (30's)**.

REALTOR
Now, you understand, Mr. Porter --

WALTON
Walton.

Walton smirks; his gaze says they're already fucking.

REALTOR
You understand, *sir*, that with this sorta home comes a sorta -- *

WALTON
Status? *

REALTOR
That's putting it one way.

WALTON
Putting it another way -- this place got a bedroom fit for a king? *

REALTOR
Depends -- who's the king? *

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - BEDROOM - DAY

Walton aggressively fucking the Realtor. *

THROUGH THE WINDOWS/ONTO THE STREET *

A Cadillac carrying a **FAMILY of four** stops before the house. *

CHILDREN in the backseat spot Walton and Realtor fucking through the window.

Walton flashes a cocky smile and flashes a thumbs-up. *

The kids' eyes bug. *

EXT. HAYES OIL - NIGHT

Walton, angry and determined, approaches the front door of the company that rejected him. *

WALTON (V.O.)
I'm told anger's poison. Shit, I
like anger. Keeps me alive. *

The streets are dead. *

WALTON (V.O.)
Not yet, Walton --

We then hear cheering in the distance.

Walton turns his head towards the cheering.

EXT. OWNBY STADIUM - NIGHT

SMU taking on NORTH TEXAS STATE.

IN THE STANDS

Walton, alone; he looks over at the cluster of Boosters. *

WALTON (V.O.)
-- Not yet, but soon enough.

Walton smirks at the Boosters, and then returns his attention to the game. *

INT. PETROLEUM CLUB - DAY

Walton enters the club and spots among the crowd --

THE ROUNDTABLE, at which is seated major PLAYERS in our story: **SMU BOOSTERS** and **MEMBERS of THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**.

WALTON (V.O.)
The Roundtable. Every pound of power and influence in the State of Texas confined to one table of empty martini glasses and half-eaten New York Strips.

At The Roundtable are:

KENNY YATES (60's, portly, leathery skin), Walton's mentor-to-be;

the once-and-future TEXAS GOVERNOR BILL CLEMENTS (60's);

MARTY SCHULTZ (50's), an SMU Booster and political insider in Texas and national politics;

BOB HITCH (50's), SMU Athletic Director;

HENRY LEE PARKER (50's), SMU's Recruiting Coordinator;

and BOBBY STEWART (40), Chairman of the SMU Board of Governors.

Seated conspicuously beside Kenny Yates, we see Vince Kerry -- Whit Hayes' lawyer.

Kenny Yates missile-locks on Walton.

Kenny leans to Vince and asks --

KENNY

That him?

Vince nods, Yes.

Walton walking among the **Petroleum Club ARISTOCRACY** with
unmistakable swagger. He looks down at a newspaper.

*
*

ON THE NEWSPAPER

*

Ron Meyer: UNLV Football's Magician

*

ON WALTON

*

Pursing his brow.

*

*

Walton spots Whit Hayes at a table.

*

WALTON

*

Whit --

*

Walton slaps Whit on the shoulder. Like a man.

*

HAYES

*

Walton, I was just singing your
praises --

*

*

WALTON

*

Were you.

*

HAYES

Well, not just singing. I was
thinkin' you and I --*
*
*

Kenny whistles through his teeth.

Walton turns to Kenny.

Kenny waves Walton over; Walton approaches.

*
*
*

WALTON (V.O.)

When that fat fuck called me over
like a dog --

KENNY

(Gesturing to Vince)
Little birdie told me you was
Walton Porter.

WALTON (V.O.)

-- I was in.
(To Kenny)
Still am.

*

VINCE

I was telling Mr. Yates here --

Kenny snaps his finger.

A **WAITER** rushes to the table.

VINCE (CONT'D)

-- You're about my hungriest
client.

*

KENNY

(To Waiter)
Grab Mr. Porter a chair, will ya'?

WALTON

Oh, I don't wanna interrupt --

KENNY

You wanna offend?

Waiter returns with a chair and pushes it behind Walton.

*

Kenny extends his hand; Walton shakes.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Kenny Yates.

WALTON (V.O.)
Think I didn't know?
(Sitting)
Didn't you and H.L. Hunt -- ?

*
*
*

KENNY
Hit oil a couple times?

*

SCHULTZ
We were discussing --

KENNY
Walton, this gang of fuck-ups is
the backbone of SMU and its
football program. Russ Potts, our
AD; Bobby Stewart, Chairman of the
Board of Governors --

*

STEWART
You that boy buying up all that
office space off 635?

WALTON
I got a couple buildings.

KENNY
-- Henry Lee Parker, our Recruiting
Coordinator; 'course you know
Governor Clements.

*
*

Walton shakes hands with Clements.

CLEMENTS
Heard you played some ball for us.

*

L. DONALD SHIELDS (30's, boyish), President of SMU,
approaches the table.

SHIELDS
Excuse my tardiness --

KENNY
The Honorable L. Donald Shields,
University President --

*

SHIELDS
(To Walton)
I think you're in my chair.

KENNY
He's not, Donny.

*

SHIELDS
Well, I'll -- uh --

*

Shields signals for a Waiter to bring him a chair.

KENNY

Walton, we've been batting around
names for a new football coach, but-

CLEMENTS

(To Walton)

You confuse me, son.

WALTON

Sir?

CLEMENTS

You're parta that hippie
generation, but word is you can
outwork anyone. What's your
generation want in a head coach?

*
*

COLLINS

He means: what's your generation
want in a Governor?

*

KENNY

Or a President.

*
*

A **WAITER** brings Shields a chair.

WALTON

Well, recruiting beats scheme --

Shields sits, squeezed between Schultz and Governor Clements.

COLLINS

That mean I gotta fork over *more*
cash for this program, Walton?

WALTON

I'm just saying' --

KENNY

That we need USC money, Notre Dame
prestige --

STEWART

Which we got in spades.

CLEMENTS

That right, Bobby?

HENRY LEE PARKER

If ya'll wanna best the Hebes and
Catholics --

*

Chortles.

*

PRESIDENT SHIELDS

Gentlemen, I don't think we have
the money to hire that kinda coach.

Everyone looks annoyed with Shields.

*

KENNY

(Eating)

Chicken shit duhn't make chicken
salad --

(belches)

-- scyooze me -- and shit coaches
make shit programs.

SCHULTZ

Woody Hayes.

STEWART

He ain't leavin' Ohio State.

SCHULTZ

Barry Switzer.

Chortles.

*

SCHULTZ (CONT'D)

All right -- Bear Bryant.

CLEMENTS

Now you're fuckin' with us.

Kenny turns to Walton and flashes a look that says, *See?*

WALTON (V.O.)

They had money and ambition. Any

asshole can have that. But rage?

Now it was Jack Krause's turn to

help in 3, 2, 1 --

*

In steps **JACK KRAUSE (50's), a portly Texas A&M Booster.**

KRAUSE

Fellas --

The Roundtable looks up at Krause.

KENNY

Jack, either you're ignoring my
calls, or you're tired of me
kickin' your ass by the 12th hole.

KRAUSE

I'll take a golf loss to the ass-
whoopin' my Aggies served your
Ponies last Saturday.

The Roundtables' faces turn from polite to murderous.

*

KRAUSE (CONT'D)

Do us a favor and sport a team that
can hang with us, hm?

*

Krause walks away.

WALTON (V.O.)

And like that --

Clements, looking down at his afternoon martini, begins --

*

CLEMENTS

We're gonna find ourselves a new
coach.

*

HENRY LEE PARKER

And a new program.

*

The Round Table begins to break off and kibbitz in small
groups.

Kenny leans in to Walton.

KENNY

My wife's throwin' a little some'n'
tonight at our home. Stop by. Got
some folks in the Mustang community
who'd love to shake your hand.

Walton smiles. He can hardly contain himself.

EXT. KENNY'S MANSION - NIGHT

A home befitting a plantation owner's.

WALTON (V.O.)

All his house lacked was a cannon
pointed north --

*

*

*

Walton exits his Cadillac; he's dressed to the nines.

Walton hands his keys to a **VALET PARKER** and enters --

*

INT. KENNY'S MANSION - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Southern grandiosity. Kenny approaches Walton. *

KENNY

You lost? *

Walton smiles and shakes Kenny's hand. *

A **WAITER** with a tray of whiskeys passes them by.

Kenny picks up a whiskey and hands one to Walton.

WALTON (V.O.) *

You sure about that, Walton? *

Walton eyes the whiskey nervously but sips. *

KENNY

Follow --

With the sip, Walton looks pained, relieved and elated; the drink, for Walton, is dangerous. *

Kenny escorts Walton to **ROBERT FOLSOM (late 50's), Dallas' Mayor.**

KENNY (CONT'D)

Mayor Folsom, I want you to meet Walton Porter --

They shake hands.

MAYOR FOLSOM

I remember when you snapped quarterbacks' necks --

KENNY

Walton just joined the University Board of Governors --

Walton's eyes light up.

MAYOR FOLSOM

Just don't run for Mayor.

Kenny escorts Walton away from Mayor Folsom; they then near President Shields. *

KENNY

Keep walking. *

SHIELDS

Hey, Kenny -- can we -- ?

KENNY
Later.

ALBERT CASEY (40's), CEO of American Airlines, approaches Kenny.

ALBERT CASEY (O.C.)
Kenny --

KENNY
Albert, I've offered you pussy,
houses, and a state without an
income tax. I got nothing left.

*

CASEY
Last request --

KENNY
When's the last time New York acted
like it valued American Airlines?

CASEY
Ten year wait for a Dallas Country
Club membership. If you can cut it--

*

KENNY
That's your line in the sand?

Casey pops a cocktail olive into his mouth; smiles.

CASEY
It's a stunning course.

Kenny walks away; Walton follows.

*

INT. KENNY'S MANSION - DINING ROOM - LATER

GUESTS vulturing about the tables.

Walton finds his name tag at a table near a grand fireplace.

*

Next to Walton's is a name tag that reads: **ANNA WALLACE**.

*

Walton picks up the name tag.

ANNA (O.C.)
You must be Anna Wallace.

Walton turns to find --

ANNA WALLACE, his beautiful wife-to-be.

*

Walton flashes an arrogant grin.

WALTON
I'm Walton Porter Jr.

ANNA
Walton Porter Jr.

WALTON
Yes, ma'am.

ANNA
Someone thought it wise to name a
child Walton Porter not once but
twice. *

WALTON
That's right.

ANNA
Oh, dear.

WALTON
And you are?

ANNA
Stuck with you, apparently. *

LATER

Guests eating; Anna and Walton kibbitzing. *

ANNA (CONT'D)
Moved down in '73 to open my
boutique --

Walton gestures for another whiskey. *

WALTON
Boutique? *

ANNA
You ever had a girlfriend? *

WALTON
A what, now? *

ANNA
Or been laid?

WALTON
My mother kissed me on the cheek
once. *

ON KENNY & BEVERLY

Noticing Anna and Walton hitting it off.

ON ANNA & WALTON

ANNA

Who are you?

A waiter hands Walton another whiskey.

*

WALTON

Sorry?

ANNA

Whiskey and wine?

*

*

WALTON

I've ambition.

*

(Sips)

*

You were asking --

*

ANNA

(Smirks; gestures)

*

Well, those fellas with skin
thicker than Tuscan leather --
those are your reformed roughnecks.

(Gestures)

The white collared's with their
secretaries' perfume on their necks-

*

WALTON

Priests?

ANNA

Bankers. About half the State
Legislature's here. City Council.
John Birchers. Stanley Marcus. The
entire oil and gas industry.

(Gestures)

And those women who smell like
gardenias? All melancholy and done
up like marionettes --

*

WALTON

Lemme guess --

ANNA

Don't. Those're the wives.

*

(Beat; sips wine)

*

Then there's you. Now -- who are
you?

*

Walton smiles, cuts and eats his steak.

*

WALTON
Pennsylvania, you said? *

ANNA
Schuylkill County.

WALTON
Your father was a miner; your
mother a maid. You grew up eating
scraps at the knees of parents who
spoke no English, and now you're
eating filet --

ANNA
I had the salmon --

WALTON
-- Sipping French wine with the
wealthiest families in Texas. Anna
Wallace, I'm here for the same
reason as you. *

ANNA
And what's that?

WALTON
The food.

Anna smiles; she's hooked. *

KENNY
Sorry, Anna, can I grab your date
for a jiff? *

ANNA
God help me. *

Laughter. *

EXT. KENNY'S MANSION - STATUE GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

A statue garden thick with an assortment of statues imported
from the Soviet Union of Lenin, Marx and Stalin. *

Walton clutches his whiskey as he walks with Kenny. *

KENNY
What's the difference between me
and a Comanche? *

WALTON
Smallpox? *

KENNY *
My scalps are made of concrete. *
Walton spots an actual Soviet T-26 tank. *
WALTON *
This a scalp, too? *
KENNY *
Concrete and iron. *
(Beat) *
Walton, this city deserves more *
than fresh high rises and golf *
courses. I wanna give Dallas *
something to root for. *
WALTON *
Ever heard of the Cowboys? *
KENNY *
They own Sundays; I wanna own *
Saturdays. *
(Beat) *
The fellas and I are old farts a *
half-step away from a chestnut box. *
We can't hustle like you. *
WALTON *
I can give last rights, Kenny. *
KENNY *
Gimme a coach. *
(Quick beat) *
Gimme a coach and you'll have *
something that pays greater than *
any tract of land north of Plano. *
WALTON *
What's that? *
KENNY *
My loyalty. *
WALTON (V.O.) *
That's how I found Ron. *

EXT. UNLV - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY *

BEGIN FLASHBACK.
The **UNLV FOOTBALL TEAM** practicing in desert heat. *

RON MEYER (30's), UNLV Head Football Coach -- and a pivotal player in our story -- coaches the team.

WALTON (V.O.)
UNLV was about the sorriest program
in the country. *

PLAYERS hit each other again-and-again.

WALTON (V.O.)
But Ron could give two-shits. He
wanted to be a head coach, didn't
matter where -- *

MEYER
Hit that motherfucker! *

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

UNLV getting its ass kicked by **BOISE STATE**. *

WALTON (V.O.)
But you can only do so much at a
mid-tier program, competing against
mid-tier programs -- *

Meyer, pained by losing, struts the sideline. *

EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

A **PLAYER** collapses with heat-stroke. *

WALTON (V.O.)
-- Not to mention desert heat. *

TEAMMATES and **COACHES** encircle the Player. *

MEYER
Call the ambulance.
(Quick beat)
Again. *

WALTON (V.O.)
Now, you couldn't have paid me to
play in 100+ degree heat, but -- *

INT. MGM GRAND - DININGROOM - EVENING

Coach Meyer eating surf 'n' turf with **UNLV BOOSTERS**, all
decked out in gaudy 70's menswear. *

GLAMOROUS WOMEN with fake breasts; **MEN straight out of a mob flick** chomping down on steaks at surrounding tables. *

UNLV BOOSTER #2
How much?

MEYER
How much what?

UNLV Booster #2 sucks air through his teeth to dislodge a piece of meat.

UNLV BOOSTER #2
To sign better recruits? *

MEYER
How much money? *

UNLV BOOSTER #1
That's criminal. *

UNLV BOOSTER #2
We're in a building built on crime
that houses a business built on
crime in a city built on crime.
Besides, who gives a shit?
(to Meyer)
We'll put something together:
monthly stipends, cars; better gear- *

UNLV BOOSTER #1
Cars?

MEYER
Fellas, don't tell me about the
labor -- just show me the baby. *

INT. RECRUIT'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

An **OFFENSIVE LINE RECRUIT (black)**, sits in a living room across from a **UNLV BOOSTER (50's)**. *

The Offensive Line Recruit is flanked by his **MOTHER** and **FATHER (both 40's)**.

UNLV BOOSTER
'Course Alabama promises a great
future. But UNLV promises you a
great here-and-now.

OFFENSIVE LINE RECRUIT
Here-and-now?

UNLV Booster slides and envelope across the table. *

The Recruit opens the envelope; his eyes widen. *

INT. UNLV FOOTBALL LOCKER ROOM - DAY

A **HORDE OF RECRUITS** follow Coach Meyer into the locker room. New UNLV football jerseys hang in their lockers. *

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

UNLV BEATING one **OPPONENT after the next** into submission.

WALTON (V.O.)

It's not that Ron learned 'bout the payroll at UNLV and brought it to Dallas --

INT. BAR - NIGHT

From **COPS** to **BUSINESSMEN**, everyone excitedly watching grainy TV broadcast of UNLV football. *

WALTON (V.O.)

-- He just knew good as any how to win. *

INT. NCAA HQ - MANKOWITZ'S OFFICE - LATER

MIKE MANKOWITZ (30's, clean-cut), Associate NCAA Director of Infractions, important to our story.

Seated across from Mankowitz: **DOUG (20')**, Mankowitz's subordinate. *

WALTON (V.O.)

And what happens when you start winning, 'cause what happens --
(Sighs)

-- What happens is Mike. *

MANKOWITZ

What's UNLV's record?

WALTON (V.O.)

Mike --

Subordinate looks at his records.

SUBORDINATE DOUG
12-1.

WALTON (V.O.)
Fuckin' --

MANKOWITZ
And their head coach?

Subordinate looks down again; he keeps his head down.

*

WALTON (V.O.)
Mankowitz.

SUBORDINATE DOUG
Ron Meyer.

MANKOWITZ
Year before?

SUBORDINATE DOUG
8-3.

MANKOWITZ
Head coach?

SUBORDINATE DOUG
Ron Meyer.

MANKOWITZ
Year before?

SUBORDINATE DOUG
1-10.

MANKOWITZ
Head Coach: Rick Ireland. Year
before?

SUBORDINATE DOUG
2-9. Head coach --

MANKOWITZ
Rick Ireland.

Mankowitz smirks.

WALTON (V.O.)
Here's a good one: What's the
difference between hemorrhoids and
Mike Mankowitz?

Mankowitz picks up a manilla folder on his desk. He flips it open.

ON THE PHOTOS

Spanking new sports cars in the UNLV student lot. *

SUBORDINATE DOUG (O.C.)
What're these?

WALTON (V.O.)
(Deadpan)
Nothing. Get it.

MANKOWITZ
UNLV football players' parking lot.

SUBORDINATE DOUG
How'd you -- ?

MANKOWITZ
Hired a P.I. *

ON SUBORDINATE DOUG/MANKOWITZ

Subordinate Doug looks impressed.

SUBORDINATE DOUG
Hey, these're nice cars. *

MANKOWITZ
Too nice.

Awkward beat as Doug and Mankowitz lock eyes. *

Doug looks confused. *

MANKOWITZ (CONT'D)
Jesus, Doug, they're cheating.

INT. NCAA HQ - WESTERBY'S OFFICE - DAY

Mankowitz sits across from **his boss, CHUCK WESTERBY (40's)**.

WESTERBY
Look, if you want the NCAA to pay
for your vacation to Vegas --

MANKOWITZ
I want the NCAA to do its job. *

WESTERBY
Seeing as I'm the Head of
Infractions Enforcement at the NCAA-

MANKOWITZ

Chuck, I didn't --

*

WESTERBY

Suppose you oughta investigate me,
Mike.

*

MANKOWTIZ

Chuck, wait --

*

WESTERBY

Let's ready the tribunal. Let's the
get the whole fuckin' --

*

INT. NCAA HQ - HALLWAY - LATER

Mankowitz leaves Westerby's office and intersects with
Subordinate Doug.

*

SUUBORDINATE DOUG

How'd it go?

MANKOWITZ

I'm heading to Vegas.

SUUBORDINATE DOUG

Chuck signed off?

MANKOWITZ

Nope.

SUUBORDINATE DOUG

Then how're you -- ?

MANKOWITZ

You'll handle my receipts.

SUUBORDINATE DOUG

But if Westerby hasn't OK'd --

Mankowitz almost physically flips out, causing Subordinate
Doug to take a step back.

*

INT. UNLV'S PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

JIM COOPER (50's), UNLV President, at his desk.

We see a UNLV crest behind his chair.

Cooper's **SECRETARY (60's)** enters his office, holding a slip
of paper.

SECRETARY

President Cooper? A Mike Mankowitz
is here to see you.

*

COOPER

I don't know a Mike Mankowitz.

*

SECRETARY

He asked that I tell you he knew
you would say that. He also said
he's the, uh --

*

*

Secretary consults her slip of paper.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

-- The NCAA Associate Director of
Infractions Enforcement.

President Cooper's look goes from confused to concerned.

*

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

President Cooper eating steaks along with Meyer and Boosters
#1 and #2 from earlier.

Booster #2 disgustingly eats a whole side of spinach.

MEYER

Shit, Coop, football wins are good
pub.

COOPER

Unlike NCAA sanctions --

*

BOOSTER #2

Ron, if you stick around, we're all
gonna have to walk the plank.

*

MEYER

Fellas, they're bluffing.

INT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT - LAS VEGAS - DAY

Walton strutting through the airport.

EXT. UNLV - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Walton approaches Ron as Ron barks out orders during
practice.

*

*

*

WALTON
Ron Meyer?

Ron turns.

MEYER
Depending. *

INT. UNLV - MEYER'S OFFICE - LATER

Ron seated at his desk across from Walton.

WALTON
Shit, Ron -- we got strip clubs in
Texas, too. *

Ron takes a bottle of whiskey out of his desk.

MEYER
Women I can find anywhere.

Ron takes two to-go cups from his desk and pours the whiskey
into the to-go cups. *

MEYER (CONT'D)
But my own program? *

Meyer hands Walton a cup. *

WALTON
Shit, you think I can't make you a
kingmaker? *

MEYER
Considering as of just now I'd
never heard of you. *

They clink cups; Walton quickly finishes his whiskey. *

WALTON
My dad drank.

MEYER
Mine, too.

Meyer pours Walton another. *

WALTON
I thought the shit poisoned him.
Now I realize it threw his punches
off target, knocked him out better
than I coulda. *

MEYER

I never fought back. You? *

Walton shakes his head; they drink again. *

WALTON

I wanna know.

MEYER

Know what?

WALTON

How you built it. *

MEYER

Built it -- *

WALTON

This powerhouse.

MEYER

Find 'em good, coach 'em good --

Walton chuckles. *

MEYER (CONT'D)

I find the best players around. I promise them more than they want, give them more than I promise, and get rid of them the minute I oughtta. *

WALTON

Come to SMU. Build me a dynasty. We've got resources you'll never enjoy in this desert -- and I'm not talking about water.

MEYER

I'm comfortable here.

WALTON

You're unsatisfied. *

MEYER

You my shrink?

WALTON

My friend, I'm the Alpha and Omega. I'm fate; divine luck; the voice of God Almighty giving you a chance to stamp your fuckin' name into the history books so folks remember who Ron Meyer was and what he did.

(MORE)

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

WALTON (CONT'D)

(Quick laugh)

Satisfied. That you speaking, or
your daddy?

*

MEYER

Walton, I applaud the performance.
I oughtta to slip a twenty down
your blouse. But mention my father
again and --

*

*

*

WALTON

Work with me, Ron.

*

MEYER

Like I said, Walton, I'm --

*

*

WALTON

You're not, Ron. I'm not either.

*

*

MEYER

Thanks for swingin' by, Walton.

*

*

INT. UNLV - HALLWAY - MEYER'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Mankowitz knocks on the door; Ron answers.

*

MANKOWITZ

Ron Meyer?

*

MEYER

Did my Secretary -- ?

Maknowitz extends his hand; they shake.

*

MANKOWITZ

Mike Mankowitz from the NCAA
Infractions Committee. Got a
minute?

MEYER

For the NCAA? I got two.

EXT. WALTON'S OFFICE - DAY

A new four-story office building on the edge of Dallas' city
limits.

To the north, we see new developments popping up amid maize
fields and grazing land dotted with cattle and longhorns.

Walton pulls up to the office in his Cadillac.

INT. WALTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Walton enters the office.

He nears his office, approaching the desk of **his secretary, RHONDA (40's)**.

RHONDA

Mr. Porter, you have a message from a Ron Meyer.

Walton smiles.

*

EXT. DALLAS COUNTRY CLUB - GOLF COURSE - LATER THAT DAY

Kenny golfing with his **SMU BUDDIES**.

Walton walks onto the green in a full suit.

WALTON (V.O.)

Once Ron was in --

*

*

KENNY

You always golf in a suit?

WALTON

You want Bear Bryant coaching SMU?

*

KENNY

You nabbed Bear Bryant?

WALTON

Better: the next one.

*

INT. SMU - PRESS CONFERENCE - MORNING

Ron, dressed to the nines, confident as hell, addressing **LOCAL MEDIA**.

He sits beside L. Donald Shields and Bob Hitch.

Walton and Kenny stand in the back of the room.

*

MEYER

Well, we're gonna be competitive next year. I really feel that, uh, you can be competitive mentally and as well as physically --

WALTON (V.O.)

I was already counting figures in my head.

MEYER

-- And I hope that's where we'll be. I'm not gonna say we're gonna be 11-0. I don't like to get into a numbers game. Just gonna play 'em one at a time.

WALTON (V.O.)

-- Up-fronts for recruits.

MEYER

So, uh, I think the fortunate thing about the SMU job is it's not a complete chaos.

WALTON (V.O.)

-- Moving expenses for their families --

MEYER

We're on very solid ground.

WALTON (V.O.)

-- New cars, women, stipends --

*

MEYER

The team needs a lotta direction, a lotta positive influence --

*

EXT. THE PALM RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Walton entering The Palm with Meyer.

They trail SMU Boosters, Board Members, Donors.

Walton stops Ron.

WALTON

We're in this together, Ron.

*

MEYER

Thick and thin.

*

Walton smiles.

WALTON

Fuck this up and I'll kill you.

*

Kenny approaches Walton.

*

Ron walks away.

*

KENNY

Not bad, kid.

*

A **WAITER** approaches.

*

WAITER

Mr. Porter? Phone call for you, sir-

*

*

WALTON

Phone call?

*

*

KENNY

Tell Anna hello.

*

Kenny winks and walks off.

*

AT THE PHONE

*

ANNA (O.S.)

(Phone)

You gonna ask me to lunch yet?

*

*

*

*

WALTON

(Phone)

As a feminist, I believe the lady
should make the first move.

*

*

*

*

ANNA (O.S.)

(Phone)

Avner's. Tomorrow.

*

*

*

INT. AVNER'S - DAY

*

A power-lunch spot.

Awkward silence between Anna and Walton.

Walton's barely touched his steak.

*

ANNA

You're supposed to slice that thing
-- not tickle it.

Walton puts his silver wear down gently.

WALTON

I don't do this.

ANNA

Eat?

WALTON

Date.

A Waiter nears the table. *

ANNA
Get him a double. *

WAITER
And the spirit, ma'am? *

ANNA
All of 'em. *

Waiter walks away. *

ANNA (CONT'D)
Mansion on Strait Lane -- Kenny
told me -- two Cadillacs -- also
Kenny -- and a soon-to-be real
estate empire -- that was my
research -- but you don't date?
(Beat; raises eyebrows)
Oh...

WALTON
(Defensive)
No --

ANNA
No?

Waiter returns and hands Walton a drink; he drinks. *

ANNA (CONT'D)
Last weekend you had your chest
pumped out and teeth shining. *

WALTON
I'm not nervous.

ANNA
If I were a betting woman, I'd say
your nuts've already retreated up
into your stomach.

Walton sighs, dejectedly; he motions for another drink. *

Anna leans onto your elbows and locks eyes with Walton.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Walton, I just wanna get to know
you. *

Walton smirks -- genuine, intrigued.

WALTON

How'd you get rich?

ANNA

Who said I'm rich?

WALTON

Boutique owner -- I listened -- driving a BMW -- watched you drive off from Kenny's -- wearing Louis Vuitton heels and Floris 89 -- a men's cologne, no less -- which means your shop at Neiman's. Which means your shop where I shop. And I'm rich. So, tell me: how'd you get rich?

ANNA

Just like you.

WALTON

How's that?

ANNA

I found a way.

Waiter brings Anna a double whisky; Walton a martini.

WALTON

Well, I'm all yours now, Anna Wallace. What comes next?

Anna smiles.

INT. WALTON'S CADILLAC - DAY

Anna rides Walton, who looks like he's laboring through the sex. *

Anna stops semi-abruptly and looks downward.

ANNA

Not your day, stud.

Anna caresses Walton's cheek.

ANNA (CONT'D)

How 'bout next time?

WALTON

Next time?

ANNA
Seeing you struggle turns me on.

Anna kisses Walton and playfully slaps him on the cheek. *

INT. SMU FOOTBALL LOCKER ROOM - DAY

First coaching staff meeting, **ten COACHES** in all. *

Among the crowd are **STEVE ENDICOTT** (30's), the offensive coordinator; **LARRY KENNAN** (30's), the defensive coordinator.

Ron enters, dressed in a full suit. *

The Coaches pipe down.

MEYER
Most ya'll think I'm here to use
SMU as a springboard to coachin' at
SC or Notre Dame. *

ENDICOTT
-- Or the NFL. *

Chuckles; Ron goes to the chalkboard. *

MEYER
I'm here to build a dynasty. To do
that, we're gonna out-recruit every
program in America.

ON THE CHALKBOARD

Meyer draws a circle. Inside the circle he writes **DALLAS**.

ENDICOTT
How's that, Ron?

Meyer draws another circle, inside of which he writes **HOUSTON**.

MEYER
Holy shit, Steve -- I thought you'd
never ask.

Meyer then connects the two circles with a line, labeled **I-45**. *

MEYER (CONT'D)
The I-45 Corridor stretches from
Dallas to Houston. We will dominate
the I-45 Corridor.

(MORE)

MEYER (CONT'D)

We will nab recruits UT and A&M
think're theirs, and take athletes
not even on their radar.

ENDICOTT

You know something they don't? *

MEYER

Seeing as we're in a state where
'bout yesterday Martin Luther King
and I couldn't shit in the same
bathroom -- *

COACH #1

We marching on Washington?

MEYER

We're recruiting the best players.
Skin color does not matter. If
they're elite, they're ours. That
means less practice and triple the
usual recruiting time.

ENDICOTT

How's the University gonna pay for
that?

MEYER

They're not.

Meyer motions to the back of the room.

IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM

Walton and Kenny, sitting. *

ON THE COACHES

MEYER (CONT'D)

Folks, this is Walton Porter Jr.
and Kenny Yates. They and their
Board have generously donated to
the University's scholarship funds
to enable your recruiting travel. *

ENDICOTT

Scholarship funds? *

MEYER

Jesus, Steve, I'm speaking
indirectly. *

INT. SMU - HENRY LEE PARKER'S OFFICE - DAY

Parker at his desk. His phone rings.

HENRY LEE PARKER
Parker --

WALTON (V.O.)
We had it down pat --

*

INT. BANK - OFFICE - DAY

Henry Lee Parker with a **BANKER**.

WALTON (V.O.)
Henry Lee set up a slush fund at
Bank of Highland Park --

EXT. PAY PHONE - MOMENTS LATER

Henry Lee Parker dialing a number on a pay phone.

INT. INVESTMENT BANK - DAY

INVESTMENT BANKER (40's) answer his phone.

INVESTMENT BANKER
(Phone)
Yeah --

WALTON (V.O.)
-- Which one of Kenny's I-banking
friends managed --

*

*

INT. SMU FOOTBALL LOCKER ROOM - DAY

SMU's Assistant Coaches taking cash-filled envelopes from
Henry Lee Parker.

WALTON (V.O.)
Then Henry Lee divy'd up the cash
for our Assistants.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Vince, Kenny's lawyer from before, presents a contract to
Walton and Kenny.

WALTON (V.O.)

Vince wrote up four-year contracts
for the recruits to sign; make the
whole shit official --

VINCE

Now, this puts ya'll on the hook
for weekly payments, so long as
they're on the roster --

WALTON (V.O.)

Any program coulda slipped someone
money or bought them a car. We
needed the contracts to show we
meant business. No one else had the
balls to do that.

INT. RECRUIT'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ron and Walton sitting across from a **JACK (18, white)**, a
recruit and **his MOTHER and FATHER**.

WALTON (V.O.)

Then Ron worked his magic.

MEYER

Jack, we're not here to blow smoke--

JACK'S FATHER

Jack doesn't take to flattery.

JACK'S MOTHER

Don't take to much at all.

JACK

SC offered money. UT, Florida --

*

Meyer and Walton are taken aback by Jack's brazenness.

RON

Son, every program in the country
worth its salt'll offer you money.

*

WALTON

I doubt, however --

*

*

Walton slides a contract across the table.

WALTON (CONT'D)

-- They promised a contract 'til
you sign one with Dallas Cowboys.

*

*

JACK
I like The Steelers.

*

RON
'Course you do, son.

*

EXT. DALLAS - APARTMENTS - DAY

Jack's Mother and Father moving into a spanking new apartment.

WALTON (V.O.)
We figured we were starting a family business, so we might as well employ folks' families.

EXT. FARM - DAY

A **FARMER RECRUIT** (18), lifting haybales with **his FATHER**. Ron and Walton standing beside the recruit and his father.

*

*

FARMER RECRUIT
Forget the NFL -- I'm a farmer at heart.

*

*

*

Inspiration strikes Ron.

*

RON
What kinda financial shape this farm in?

*

*

*

EXT. CAR DEALERSHIP - DAY

Walton speaking to a **CAR SALESMAN** (50's, slick) in front of a lot of brand new sports cars.

*

*

WALTON (V.O.)
I worked out a deal with a dealership to give the boys some new cars in exchange for tickets --

*

*

*

*

EXT. SMU - STUDENT PARKING STRUCTURE - DAY

*

RECRUIT after **RECRUIT** shaking hands with **BOOSTER** after **BOOSTER**, each handshake culminating in a new Pontiac or Corvette.

*

*

*

INT. STEAKHOUSE - PRIVATE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

More **RECRUITS** eating dinner with **BOOSTERS**.

WALTON (V.O.)
And I found some lovely ladies to
help sweeten things.

BOOSTER #1
Fellas, who here believes SMU can
make their dreams come true?

A phalanx of **BEAUTIFUL WOMEN** file into the private dining room.

Recruits' eyes bug out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

Walton and Kenny sitting before a **HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH**
(50's, black).

WALTON (V.O.)
Then we fulfilled Ron's dreams of
social justice.

HIGH SCHOOL COACH
-- Ain't ever told my players to go
to Southern Methodist --

WALTON
Southern Methodist ain't ever
called.

KENNY
We guarantee the fine young men at
this high school a chance of a
lifetime. Better'n' what Grambling--

Walton clears his throat.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Better'n' what A&M or anyone else --

EXT. SEALY HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM - DAY

Walton and Ron mosey up to the stadium's fence. They look in
and spot the team practicing.

Among the team, we see a man among boys --

ERIC DICKERSON (18), the top running back recruit in the
country, a future-Hall of Famer. *

Dickerson jukes one defender, trucks another; stunning. *

WALTON
Who is that? *

RON
You mean *what* is that? *

WALTON
The Second Coming? *

RON
That, Walton, is Eric Dickerson. *

IN THE NEAR-DISTANCE *

We see Mike Mankowitz sitting atop a rental car. *

Ron and Walton make eye contact with Mankowitz. *

RON (CONT'D)
Shit. *

WALTON
Friend of yours? *

Mankowitz smiles. *

RON
Let's go. *

EXT. STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM - DAY *

Ron and Walton pull up to another practice field. *

ON THE FIELD *

Much like at Sealy, we see **a man among boys** -- *

CRAIG JAMES (18), star running back recruit -- *

RON
And *that* is Craig James. Him and
Dickerson are the best players in
America. We're gonna sign 'em both. *

James trucks a **DEFENDER**. *

WALTON
We'll need more money. *

RON
Yes, we will.

WALTON (V.O.)
Now, we knew getting Eric and Craig
would be a challenge.

EXT. DICKERSON HOME - DAY

We see Dickerson walk out of his house into a new Pontiac.

WALTON (V.O.)
Programs pulled out all the stops --

EXT. DICKERSON HOME - DAY

A trio of milk cows stand in a nearby pasture; a brand new
Pontiac sits in the driveway.

Walton and Ron pull up to the home.

GRANDMA DICKERSON (70's) exits the home with Eric.

WALTON (V.O.)
Shit, they even bought them fuckin'
livestock.

Walton and Ron exit their car. Kenny is also with them, along
with Clements.

GRANDMA DICKERSON
They bought us fuckin' livestock.

RON
Mornin', Eric; ma'am.

GRANDMA DICKERSON
White boys in suits callin' me
'ma'am'.

WALTON
What're you gonna do with the cows?

GRANDMA DICKERSON
Shoot 'em. Gut 'em. Eat 'em.

INT. CRAIG JAMES' HOME - DAY

The same team of Boosters, only this time they're surrounding
James and his family. **James' girlfriend, MARILYN (18)**, also
is at the meeting.

JAMES
Southern Cal offered me a horse.

RON
If it's a horse you want, Craig --

JAMES
I wan two of 'em. Brown. I like
brown.

WALTON
Marilyn, where're you lookin' to go
to college?

MARILYN
Well, I'll go wherever Craig goes.

JAMES
And I'll go wherever Marilyn goes.

Boosters look at each other.

INT. MARILYN'S HOME - DAY

Marilyn opens a letter from SMU.

MARILYN
Full scholarship, plus stipend?

INT. CRAIG JAMES' HOME - DAY

James puts down the phone.

JAMES
I'm going to SMU?

WALTON (V.O.)
Once James signed, Eric followed --

INT. DICKERSON HOME - DAY

Eric picks up the phone.

DICKERSON
(Phone)
You're offering what per week?

EXT. SMU CAMPUS - DAY

A **horde** of fresh **RECRUITS**, walking tall on campus.

WALTON (V.O.) *
Blink of an eye, we had the top *
recruiting class in the nation. *

INT. BILL CLEMENTS' HOME - DAY *
Clements reading the Dallas Morning News. *
ON THE NEWSPAPER *
SMU SURPRISES WITH IMPRESSIVE RECRUITING HAUL *

EXT. SMU - FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT *
SMU getting beaten badly; Ron, frustratedly coaching. *
WALTON (V.O.) *
Now, we struggled at first on the *
field -- *

ANOTHER GAME *
SMU getting demolished again -- *
WALTON (V.O.) *
Shit, before Craig and Eric showed *
we stunk: three-and-eight; four-and- *
seven; four-six-and-one -- *

ANOTHER GAME *
Again -- *
WALTON (V.O.) *
Even with Craig and Eric on board *
at first we stunk -- *

ANOTHER GAME *
We see **SMU QB MIKE FORD** throwing an interception. *
MEYER *
We gotta find ourselves a QB. *

EXT. PARK - CLEMENTS RALLY - DAY *
Governor Clements declaring his candidacy for Texas Governor. *
He stands atop a stage at a podium, addressing a large **CROWD**. *

CLEMENTS

And that's why I'm announcing my
candidacy for Governor of the great
state of Texas!

*
*
*
*

MOMENTS LATER

*

Walton approaches Kenny.

*

KENNY

Ron said we're stickin' to I-45 --

*

*

*

WALTON

Fuck Ron. We can dominate the
coasts, the Midwest --

*

*

*

KENNY

And I'm not one to say slow down --

*

*

WALTON

Speaking of, I need a beer --

*

*

Clements approaches Kenny and Walton.

*

KENNY

Governor --

*

*

They shake hands.

*

CLEMENTS

I've a hunch as to what you two're
bitchin' about.

*

*

*

WALTON

You wanna win -- don't you,
Governor?

*

*

*

Clements smirks.

*

CLEMENTS

Walton -- there's a kid in Highland
Park. Quarterback. His dad and I go
back. Supposed to have some scrap
to him. Get him a roster spot.

*

*

*

*

*

WALTON

We'll have to talk to Ron --

*

*

CLEMENTS

I thought you had sway.

*

*

EXT. HIGHLAND PARK STADIUM -

LANCE MCILHENY juking and outrunning his opponents. *

WALTON (V.O.)
I don't wanna give Clements credit,
but how else would we've discovered
a 5'8 midget of a quarterback,
right in our backyard?

ON WALTON, RON & KENNY

In the stands -- watching, mightily impressed. *

INT. ANNA WALLACE BOUTIQUE - DAY

Elegant women's clothing store. *

Anna works a clothes rack.

Walton enters with flowers.

WALTON (V.O.)
But hope was coming. Meanwhile -- *

Anna notices Walton approaching.

ANNA
We don't have your dress size.

WALTON
Got plans tonight?

ANNA
Got something in mind?

WALTON
Dinner and a disappointment?

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Walton and Anna, dining and enjoying each other -- *

WALTON (V.O.)
I was heading towards something -- *

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Walton and Anna, making love -- *

WALTON (V.O.)
I figured would never happen --

EXT. DALLAS ARBORETUM - DAY

Walton and Anna, lying on the grass amid flora --

WALTON (V.O.)
Not in God or the Devil's wildest
dreams. Yet --

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - MORNING

Walton and Anna talking over coffee.

ANNA
Walton, I've done fine without your
help.

WALTON
Who said I was helping?

ANNA
When you offered to fund my next
three stores.

Walton tops off Anna's mug.

WALTON
I want to build something together.

ANNA
I'm not a football player.

WALTON
No, you're my wife-to-be.

Anna chortles.

ANNA
That's your pitch?

WALTON
I wanna be partners. I want us to
build something -- wait, did you
not hear me propose?

ANNA
I did.

WALTON
And?

ANNA
I ignored you.

WALTON
Why?

ANNA
Make you sweat. You really want a
life with me, Walton? Marriage? A
family?

Walton looks taken aback by the mention of 'family.' He
recovers with --

WALTON
Honestly, I only proposed to get
into your pants.

INT. BELO MANSION - NIGHT

Anna and Walton's black-tie-wedding.

A scene for the Society Section.

Nelle amid the crowd, watching her son.

Walton saddles up beside his mother at her table.

NELLE
You snagged one, Walt.

WALTON
I got lucky.

Nelle sips her champagne.

WALTON (CONT'D)
I'm glad you're here.

NELLE
You're glad; I'm surprised.
(Smirks; beat)
Treat her good, Walt.

LATER

Walton and Anna take their first dance as a married couple.

WALTON (V.O.)
For all my sins, God gave me that
moment on that dance floor with
Anna. For that alone, well...

Anna leans into Walton's ear. *

ANNA
(Whispering)
I'm pregnant.

The news terrifies Walton -- *fatherhood* terrifies Walton. *

Walton covers up his fear and and looks Anna in the eye. *

They smile and kiss. *

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

A dominantly white high school. **UT RECRUITERS, A&M RECRUITERS** working the cafeteria, speaking to **RECRUITS**. *

WALTON (V.O.)
Now, our record suggested we stop
our little experiment; but farmers
and roughnecks don't know quit --

INT. PETROLEUM CLUB - DAY

Bobby Stewart and Booster #2, aggressive with Walton and Kenny. *

WALTON (V.O.)
'Course not everyone appreciated
the foundation we were pouring.

STEWART
And this slick boy ya'll reeled in
from Vegas --

WALTON
We're laying a foundation --

STEWART
And losing!

WALTON
If you'd just trust me --

Booster #2 interjects --

BOOSTER #2
Shit, son, I've tasted Jap blood
and struck oil. I fucked Marlene
Dietrich. Why the fuck should I
trust you?

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Suddenly some **SMU ASSISTANT COACHES** make their way into the cafeteria; their competitors look shocked and angry.

WALTON (V.O.)
When they saw itty-bitty Southern
Methodist coming outta nowhere,
putting its dick on the table and
saying, *We're here, too,*
motherfuckers -- shit --

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Walton and Anna, smiling and laughing over dinner.

Walton getting drunk,

ANNA
Wanna slow down there, partner?

WALTON
(Winking)
I don't --

WALTON (V.O.)
I coulda slowed my excitement --

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Ron receiving a lap dance. Walton drinks. A nude **STRIPPER** approaches --

WALTON (V.O.)
But --

STRIPPER
Ya'll two look like trouble.

WALTON
Ron brings it; I step in it.

STRIPPER
Compliment my blouse and I'll turn
your beer into champagne.

WALTON
Like Jesus Herself.

INT. USC HEAD COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

USC HEAD FOOTBALL COACH on the phone.

WALTON (V.O.)
It took time --

USC HEAD COACH
You're signing with who?

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

Again, SMU losing; Dickerson and James getting demolished.

INT. NOTRE DAME HEAD COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

NOTRE DAME HEAD FOOTBALL COACH on the phone.

NOTRE DAME HEAD COACH
(Phone)
You gotta be fuckin' --

He interrupts and crosses himself.

NOTRE DAME HEAD COACH (CONT'D)
You gotta be kidding me.

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

SMU getting its ass kicked again --

WALTON (V.O.)
Bit too much time --

INT. FLORIDA HEAD FOOTBALL COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

FLORIDA HEAD FOOTBALL COACH on the phone.

FLORIDA HEAD COACH
(Phone)
SMU has a team?

INT. USC HEAD COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

USC BOOSTER
(Phone)
They're paying how much?

INT. NCAA HQ - MANKOWITZ'S OFFICE - DAY

Mankowitz at his desk, picking up call-after-call; complaint- *
after-complaint. *

INT. FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

SMU finally dominating an opponent; Ron and the Boosters *
gleeful. *

WALTON (V.O.)
But, by the Year of Our Lord 1980,
some magic started to show -- *

INT. KENNY'S MANSION - PRIVATE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kenny at his desk on the phone. *

KENNY
(Phone)
Bill, it's my job to keep you outta
the loop.

CLEMENTS (O.S.)
(Phone)
Which is hard when I'm catchin'
wind of --

KENNY
(Phone)
Bill -- *

INT. CAMPISI'S RESTAURANT - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Walton and Bobby Stewart -- along with other **BOOSTERS** --
gather around a table.

L. Donald Shields and Hitch are at the table, too.

WALTON
We'll have to boost overall
spending by at least 25% --

STEWART
We're not the fuckin' Yankees.

SHIELDS
You know, if we increased academic
scholarship funding --

Boosters roll their eyes and laugh at Shields. *

WALTON

Ya'll wanna quit now? Right when
we're starting to win?

*
*

Boosters look shocked by Walton's chutzpah.

*

WALTON (CONT'D)

Now, let's talk helicopters --

STEWART

Helicopters?

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

Ron flying with a **black RECRUIT (18)**, heading towards Texas Stadium.

WALTON (V.O.)

Ron knew the way to a recruit's heart was to make him believe he's the only one in your heart. Chopper ride over Texas Stadium, a special scholarship in their name --

RON

Son, I don't just want you on the team. I want you to be SMU's honorary Frederick Douglass Scholar-

ANOTHER HELICOPTER RIDE

This one featuring Ron with a **white RECRUIT (18)**.

RON (CONT'D)

Son, I want you to be SMU's honorary Robert E. Lee Scholar --

EXT. OWNBY STADIUM - NIGHT

*

SMU taking on **UTEP**. SMU is actually winning.

WALTON (V.O.)

Soon enough the product on the field was picking up --

*

INT. PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - EXAM ROOM - DAY

*

Anna undergoing an ultrasound via her **OBGYN**.

*

Walton sits beside Anna.

*

OBGYN

And you've got yourself a baby boy.

*

*

Anna looks emotional; Walton withholds his terror.

*

INT. BAR - NIGHT

A group of SMU FOOTBALL PLAYERS drinking.

One PLAYER gets into a scuffle with an OLDER PATRON.

A huge fist fight breaks out.

WALTON (V.O.)

Now, part of my work was nothing
more than babysitting.

*

EXT. BAR - NIGHTWalton pulls up to the bar to find the SMU Football Players
handcuffed.

COPS watch over the players.

Walton approaches a cop -- SERGEANT SILAS.

WALTON

Sergeant Silas?

*

SERGEANT SILAS

Who's asking?

*

WALTON

I just got off the phone with the
Mayor and the Chief of Police --

SERGEANT SILAS

Who the fuck're you?

WALTON

I'm the man who's getting these
kids outta cuffs and back home, and
you're the guy who's gonna gimme
the key.INT. SMU - RON'S OFFICE - DAY

A PLAYER enters the office and sits.

Ron and Walton sit on one side of the desk; the Player on the
other.

WALTON (V.O.)
 I'll admit, too, there were tougher
 parts to the job.

RON
 Son, we're gonna have to let you
 go.

PLAYER
 But I'm scholarship'd.

RON
 So long as you're on the team. *

EXT. SMU - PARKING GARAGE - DAY

SMU PLAYERS all exiting their convertibles, showing off their new sound systems, strutting about with their **GIRLFRIENDS**.

WALTON (V.O.)
 Soon the program near-ran itself -- *

EXT. ANNA WALLACE BOUTIQUE - FT. WORTH - DAY

Grand opening of Anna's second boutique. **PARTYGOERS** kibbitzing over champagne and finger foods.

Walton approaches Anna and kisses her. Walton drinks champagne. *

WALTON
 Watch out, Neiman Marcus.

ANNA
 Thank you.

WALTON
 All I did was write a check.

ANNA
 I'm serious, Walt.
 (Re. champagne)
 Ease up -- *

Walton winks and kisses Anna. *

WALTON (V.O.)
 I wouldn't have admitted it then --
 shit I wouldn't have known it then--
 but I was happy -- *

INT. NCAA HQ - MANKOWITZ'S OFFICE - DAY

Mankowitz sitting across from Westerby.

WESTERBY
I've approved your fishing trip.

MANKOWITZ
(Shocked)
Sir?

WESTERBY
Ron Meyer; SMU.

Mankowitz smiles.

INT. KENNY YATES' MANSION - AFTERNOON

A meeting of **WOMEN OF THE DALLAS REPUBLICAN PARTY**.

Basically the same group of women from Kenny's swanky dinner party, only this time they drink coffee and tea; the pastries, however, remain untouched.

Anna sits among the **GROUP** as they stuff envelopes.

Anna looks miserable.

BEVERLY
Which is why I told Kenny, if I so as caught him with another woman --

GOP LADY #1 holds up a mailer.

GOP LADY #1
Beverly, I thought we weren't sending these to the Hill Country.

BEVERLY
You want some LBJ holdover to bump your taxes?

GOP LADY #2
Dick and I have an understanding: when he's on business, we mind our own business --

GOP LADY #1
Folks down there can hardly read and write as is, much less vote on-

GOP LADY #3
How can you and Dick square that
when -- ?

Beverly holds up a mailer.

ON THE MAILER

VOTE REPUBLICAN. FREEDOM, FAITH, FAMILY.

Beneath the text, we see an illustration depicting Jimmy Carter with Lenin, Marx and Mao.

BEVERLY
Thus the photos, Tiffany.

Anna chortles; it catches Beverly's attention.

BEVERLY (CONT'D)
What about you, Anna?

The room's attention veers towards Anna.

ANNA
Regarding?

BEVERLY
Walton.

ANNA
I don't follow.

BEVERLY
Seeing as we all have *some* kinda
arrangement with our men -- *

ANNA
It's a simple one.

GOP LADY #1
Thank God. I could use one.

ANNA
If he cheats on me, I cut his nuts
off.

Beat.

WALTON (V.O.)
I deserved it, too. *

Anna sips her coffee. *

INT. ANGLETON HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

DAVID STANLEY (18), a physical specimen of a linebacker and a key player to our story, walks the hallway. He's alone. A leper among normal STUDENTS.

WALTON (V.O.)
Suppose I deserved David, too.
(Beat; sighs)
David Stanley -- linebacking
prodigy --

INT. ANGLETON HIGH - CLASSROOM - DAY

David sits in the back of the classroom. He looks dazed.

WALTON (V.O.)
-- Weirdest fuckin' kid I ever met,
and -- well, I'll get there later.
But on the field?

EXT. ANGLETON HIGH - STADIUM - NIGHT

ANGLETON HIGH playing against an OPPONENT.

David, at linebacker, beyond riled up before the play --

WALTON (V.O.)
It's like God breathed into the
boy's nostrils and said, *Thou shalt
destroy* --

David bursts through the offensive line and nearly
decapitates the QUARTERBACK.

INT. STANLEY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Walton sitting across from David and his mother, ERICA (40's).

All about the living room we see photos of David: playing football, wrestling, running track. Trophies adorn bookshelves and coffee tables.

This is a home -- and a mother -- devoted to David.

David's surveys the floor.

He looks as though he's on something; however, he's experiencing the effects of CTE.

WALTON (V.O.)
But, Jesus -- the kid --
(To Erica Stanley)
Well, Mrs. Stanley, while other
programs offer David an
opportunity, we offer David a
guarantee.

ERICA
David doesn't need a guarantee, Mr.
Porter.

WALTON
What do you think, David?

David snaps to attention.

DAVID
I just wanna play football.

ERICA
Mr. Porter, I've done all I can to
give him a chance. Lord knows I'd
like him close by --

WALTON
That what you'd like, David?

David is zoned out.

WALTON (CONT'D)
David?

DAVID
Huh?

Beat as Walton grows perplexed.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - BEDROOM - MORNING

Walton awakes, hung over, with Anna sitting on the bed
looking at him.

WALTON
That's a look.

ANNA
Which I need not explain.

Walton hobbles out of bed but trips over himself.

ANNA (CONT'D)
How much long're you keepin' at
this?

WALTON
Don't --

ANNA
Don't -- ?

WALTON
With the, *You're like all the other
men --*

ANNA
Other men I know don't let folks
like Ron and Kenny yank 'em around
like some kinda piss boy-

WALTON
Sorry?

ANNA
Responding to their every need.
Shit, Walt, you woulda made a
lovely grape feeder to a King,
fanning him with peacock feathers
and all the rest. *No, your majesty;*
yes, your majesty; No, Kenny; Yes,
Ron. Do you even want a life with
me? A family --

WALTON
After hearing this shit come outta
your mouth --

ANNA
You didn't answer me.

WALTON
I'm free to do as I please, Anna.
Marry you, conceive a child with
you are just as much my decisions
as they are --

ANNA
Then why've you somehow lost your
ability to say 'no'? These days by
sundown you're lost inside a
bottle, your ears burning from the
latest recruiting trip --

WALTON
You knew when you married me --

ANNA

I saw what could be. With my very eyes, I saw someone who built something outta nothing and said to myself, "That's someone I can work with."

WALTON

And now?

ANNA

Now, I see a man, free as ever to do as he pleases. So what do you wanna do, Walt?

EXT. SMU - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

The **FIRST TEAM OFFENSE** assembles on the field against the **FIRST TEAM DEFENSE**. Ron blows his whistle and yells --

WALTON (V.O.)

No one else in my life had the balls to call me a pussy. That's why I loved her.

RON

McIlheney!

-- Startling Lance, who then runs to the First Team's huddle.

RON (CONT'D)

Lance is gonna take some reps.
Mike, step aside.

WALTON (V.O.)

Meanwhile, our QB problem --

Ford, shocked, takes his helmet off and walks to the sideline.

RON

Give him the call, Steve!

WALTON (V.O.)

Well --

ENDICOTT

(Hollering)

Rip-6-Sweep-Right --

LANCE

All right: Rip-6-Sweep-Right on --

DICKERSON
Who the fuck're you?

Lance does a double-take.

LANCE
What? Eric, I'm Lance McIlheney --
the backup QB.

DICKERSON
Shit --

Eric leaves the huddle early.

Everyone half-assedly claps to break the huddle and goes to their positions.

LANCE
Down -- set -- hut!

Lance drops back to pass, but a **DEFENSIVE LINEMAN** bursts through the offensive line.

Lance scrambles with ungodly agility, jukes one defender, then another --

Suddenly, Lance has a bunch of hulking **DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** chasing after him.

ON THE SIDELINES

All the COACHES look slack-jawed.

Ron approaches Endicott.

RON
Steve, your playbook --

ENDICOTT
Yeah?

RON
Burn it.

EXT. TEXAS STADIUM - FIELD - DAY

SMU takes on WICHITA STATE.

Tance is behind center.

He hits the ball, and they run the option.

Lance pitches the ball to James.

James sprints for the end zone. *

Touchdown. *

MOMENTS LATER

The same play, only Lance pitches to Dickerson, who jukes and trucks **DEFENDERS**. *

Touchdown. *

MOMENTS LATER

Lance huts the ball, fakes a pitch and then sprints to the house. *

Another touchdown. *

The Pony Express has been born. *

IN THE STANDS

BOOSTERS who once wanted to murder Walton now backslap him. *

EXT. TEXAS STADIUM - FIELD - THE NEXT WEEK

SMU dominating **TEXAS TECH**. *

IN THE STANDS

Celebrities of all stripes. *

The game's more than a game -- it's a bonafide event. *

INT. WALTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Walton holding court with Bob Hitch and **BRAD THOMAS (30's)**, **Athletic Department Promotions Director**.

They display before Walton assorted posters on easels with logos for their new PR campaign.

We see a poster that reads: **PONY UP**. *

WALTON
Sounds like a strip club bouncer.

HITCH
We're about out --

THOMAS

We got one more, although it's
presumptuous.

WALTON

How's that?

Thomas puts a new poster on the easel.

*

THOMAS

We figure with Dickerson and James -
- and now McIlheney -- we'll have
ourselves a serious running attack--

*

*

*

Walton stands; smiles.

WALTON

The Pony Express.

WE THEN SEQUENCE --

All about Dallas, we see billboards with the SMU logo,
sporting the Pony Express logos.

PATRONS are purchasing SMU gear. Although the team does not
have the record to show for it, the hype is real.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - FOYER - AFTERNOON

A knock at the door.

*

WALTON (V.O.)

As for me being free to do as I
pleased --

*

*

*

Anna and Walton answer to find Kenny.

*

KENNY

Plane's waiting. We got a table at
Commander's.

*

*

*

Walton smiles; Anna looks furious.

*

EXT. COMMANDER'S PALACE - NEW ORLEANS - THAT NIGHT

Walton and Kenny eating turtle soup and pounding martinis.

WALTON

-- Now, if we *really* wanna be
smart, we'd have Ron hire some of
Switzer's assistants. That way --

KENNY

Walton, we talked football in the car. We talked football on the tarmac, on the plane and in the cab. Now we're at the fanciest fuckin' spot in New Orleans with martinis and turtle fuckin' soup, and what the fuck are we talkin' about?

*

Walton grows slightly embarrassed.

KENNY (CONT'D)

You've become family to me. You may not figure, but I'm proud to know you. Few've had to eat the piles of shit you and I've eaten to get here.

WALTON

That's an image.

KENNY

Eat your soup. Drink you drink. Our friends're waiting.

WALTON

Friends?

INT. BROTHEL - BAR/LOUNGE - NEW ORLEANS - LATER

Opulence abounds while **PROSTITUTES** and their **PATRONS**, all white and well-heeled, talk and walk to rooms to fuck.

PROSTITUTE #1 (black) services Kenny: sitting on his lap, serving him drinks, flirting with him.

PROSTITUTE #2 sits on Walton's lap.

KENNY

(To Prostitute #1)

Don't make me hog-tie you.

Kenny slaps Prostitute #1's ass.

PROSTITUTE #1

You forget what happened last time?

KENNY

(To Prostitute #2)

Mary Jane, show Mr. Porter your perfume collection. I got a mule to ride.

Kenny stands and spanks Prostitute #1.

Prostitute #1 leads Kenny by the tie to her room; as she does so, Kenny turns back to Walton --

KENNY (CONT'D)
Tonight's on me, son.

Kenny turns back around and walks with the Prostitute.

PROSTITUTE
Your dad's awful generous.

WALTON
My dad's dead. *

PROSTITUTE
Well, lemme soothe your suffering. *

Prostitute stands. *

Walton hesitates; thinks; then follows the Prostitute. *

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - DINING ROOM *

Enormous, empty; Anna standing alone in the dawn light. *

INT. SHIPS LOUNGE - NIGHT *

Dive bar. Kenny and Clements at two bar stools, sipping on two Shiners.

CLEMENTS
I've got people all over Dallas
telling me they know every red
Pontiac or blue Ford belongs to an
SMU football player.

KENNY
They do.

CLEMENTS
Walton's running you -- *

KENNY
I'm handlin' Walton. *

CLEMENTS
If my fuckin' maid is hearing it --
much less sporting the *cojones* to
mention it -- *

Kenny sips his drink.

CLEMENTS (CONT'D)
Don't think this ain't risk for me,
Kenny. Just sitting down with you
to have a beer --

KENNY
I can turn my back, if you'd like.
Talk sideways, like --

Clements shakes his head; sips; Kenny laughs.

CLEMENTS
What?

KENNY
Shit, you tell your crowds how much
you --
(Mocking)
-- Love the American free
enterprise system.
(Ends mockery)
Here it is in full force -- and you
get a return on your investment.

CLEMENTS
How's that?

KENNY
We're having fun, aren't we?

CLEMENTS
You, maybe.

KENNY
Jap shrapnel in my shoulder, twenty
years of roughnecks, three cases
of the clap -- I've earned my fun.

CLEMENTS
I've got a duty, you know. To the
state, to my voters --

Kenny finishes his beer; stands.

KENNY
Tell you what: I'll talk to Walton;
you talk to your voters. Tell them
about freedom, the American Way and
personal responsibility.
(MORE)

KENNY (CONT'D)

Tell them Bill Clements is a carrier of light in a godless sea of faggots, niggers and Commies that'll swallow this country whole. Tell them all of it, Bill. That's what you're about; that's what we're about. And Lord knows we're right -- right?

Kenny leaves, but Clements chortles and remains seated.

*

EXT. TEXAS STADIUM - DAY

SMU lining up against TCU.

WALTON (V.O.)

We convinced the Cowboys to let us start using Texas Stadium. Some at the University thought it was too showy.

(Laughs)

Yeah.

*

LATER

*

James, Dickerson and McIlheney running wild.

*

INT. SMU - AD OFFICE - DAY

Sequence **one PLAYER after another** entering the office and taking cash-filled-envelopes from a **SECRETARY (60's)**.

WALTON (V.O.)

We had our setbacks, but the team was improving --

*

*

EXT. DALLAS SKYLINE - DAY

Billboard after billboard promoting The Pony Express.

WALTON (V.O.)

The hype was growing --

INT. SMU - RON MEYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Ron on the phone with a **RECRUIT**.

RON

(Phone)

Son, if your daddy needs a new job,
we'll get him a new job. Question
is: what kinda Mustang do you wanna
drive?

ANOTHER PHONE CALL

RON (CONT'D)

(Phone)

Well, name your price --

ANOTHER PHONE CALL

RON (CONT'D)

(Phone)

Walton, we're gonna need a boost --

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - BABY'S ROOM - DAY

*

Walton standing alone, holding a drink. He looks about the room -- crib, baby wallpaper -- and looks lost; terrified.

*

*

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - BEDROOM - MORNING

Walton on the phone with Ron.

*

Walton drinks.

*

Anna enters the room. She's showing and looks upset.

*

EXT. DEVELOPMENT - DAY

Walton overseeing the groundbreaking of a new development. A lot as far as the eye can see. He looks like a father holding a newborn.

WALTON (V.O.)

Good-fuckin'-shit the cash was
flowing in --

EXT. SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL - DAY

Walton donating a check for \$100,000 to Scottish Rite. One of those huge ceremonial checks. He shakes hands with **SCOTTISH RITE PERSONNEL** and poses for photos in front of **PRESS**.

WALTON (V.O.)
All the while, I was making a name
for myself around town.

*

EXT. AUSTIN STREET SHELTER - DAY

A similar situation: Walton presenting a ceremonial check to **PERSONNEL** at a shelter devoted to serving homeless women.

INT. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A board meeting at First Baptist Church.

W.A. CRISWELL (60's), lead Pastor at First Baptist, sits at the head of a conference table.

Criswell addresses over two dozen **BOARD MEMBERS**.

Walton sits at the far, opposite end of the table.

WALTON
-- Now, I know I haven't been on
the Board long, but does First
Baptist wanna extend itself beyond
the community it serves?

CRISWELL
Extend itself?

WALTON
Well, Pastor Criswell -- Governor
Connolly may be a friend, but just
about yesterday he was glad-handing
the Kennedys. You really want
someone like that speaking to your
flock about protecting the unborn?

*

INT. MOTEL - DAY

*

Mankowitz at a desk compiling evidence for his case against SMU: photos; spreadsheets with homes and home prices, etc.

INT. STRIP CLUB - DAY

*

Kenny and Walton enjoying themselves at a strip club.

Suddenly a **STRIPPER** approaches --

*

STRIPPER
You Walton Porter Jr.?

*

*

WALTON

My love, I can be anyone you want.

STRIPPER

There's a call for you.

LATER

Walton at a phone in an office.

RON (O.S.)

(Phone)

Walton --

WALTON

(Phone)

Ron, get your ass down here!

RON (O.S.)

(Phone)

Anna called. She didn't figure
where you were, but --

WALTON (O.S.)

(Phone)

Ron, if you told my wife --

RON (O.S.)

(Phone)

Walton, just fuckin' listen --

INT. PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Walton in the waiting room, alone.

A DOCTOR approaches Walton.

DOCTOR

Mr. Porter?

WALTON

That's me.

Doctor sits beside Walton.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry to have to deliver this
news, but --

The Doctor's voice begins to fade.

INT. PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM - LATER

Walton walking into comfort Anna.

ANNA

Hello, Walton. How's your night
been?

WALTON

I don't know what to say.

ANNA

You smell like a good time.

(Beat)

Go home.

WALTON

I won't.

ANNA

Walton, so help me, I'll take
what's left of my body and soul and
tear apart what's left of
yours. Now, leave.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - BABY'S ROOM - DAY

Walton standing in the middle of the room.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

An **SMU PLAYER** getting out of his spanking new car and walking into his family's new apartment.

Mankowitz waits in his car.

Mankowitz gets out of his car.

WALTON (V.O.)

Mankowitz was hot on our trail, but
a shut mouth is a smart mouth.

MANKOWITZ

Excuse me --

SMU Player turns.

SMU PLAYER
You with Mr. Parker?

MANKOWITZ

NCAA.

SMU Player chuckles, turns his back and enters the apartment.
Mankowitz approaches the apartment's front door and knocks.

PLAYER'S FATHER answers.

MANKOWITZ (CONT'D)
Hello, sir, my name's Mike
Mankowitz. I'm with the NCAA --

Recruit's Father slams the door in Mankowitz's face.

WALTON (V.O.)
And considering what we were doing
for folks' families --

*

EXT. SAME APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

Recruit's Father heading out of the apartment and getting in
his car.

Down the block, Mankowitz awaits the Recruit's Father.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Another apartment; another **FAMILY**; soon the same result.

Brand new cars in the driveway.

Mankowitz knocks.

*

RECRUIT'S MOTHER answers.

MANKOWITZ
(Gesturing)
Ma'am, that's a hell of a rose
garden.

We see a cluster of red roses planted beside the front door.

RECRUIT'S MOTHER
They came with.

*

**

MANKOWITZ
My name's Mike Mankowitz --

RECRUIT'S MOTHER
Jewish.

MANKOWITZ
I'm with the NCAA, and --

Recruit's Mother slams the door in Mankowitz.

INT. DINER - DAY

Mankowitz eating burgers with a **JOURNALIST**.

JOURNALIST

You're asking --

*

MANKOWITZ

One source --

JOURNALIST

Ever heard of journalistic ethics?

MANKOWITZ

Ever heard of cheating?

Journalist chuckles.

JOURNALIST

Check out the State House, if
cheating's your concern -- or every
bank in this state, or square inch
of Texas real estate once owned by
the Tonkawa and Caddo.

*

INT. THE MECCA - MORNING

*

Mankowitz eating biscuits and gravy. At the table over, he
spots a headline on the Dallas Morning News' Sports Day
section.

ON THE NEWSPAPER

SMU SIGNS TOP OL RECRUIT FROM PITTSBURGH

WALTON (V.O.)

I'll admit, my love of publicity
might've hurt our cause --

ON MANKOWITZ

Smiling.

WALTON (V.O.)

But you gotta understand, we had a
well-oiled machine that deserved
attention. I deserved attention.

EXT. TEXAS STADIUM - FIELD - DAY

A new season.

SMU taking on **BAYLOR**; The Pony Express in full force. *

WALTON (V.O.)
Shit, by 1981 we damn near grabbed
a national title -- *

We see a **SEQUENCE** of Dickerson, McIlheney and James running
roughshod over the competition. *

EXT. TEXAS STADIUM - FIELD - DAY

SMU facing off against **UT-AUSTIN**.

WALTON (V.O.)
If it weren't for UT --

A **UT KICKER** kicks a field goal.

ON THE SCOREBOARD

We see UT has won the game **9-7**.

WALTON (V.O.)
You know what they say about
runners up? *

ON THE UT SIDELINE

Bedlam.

ON THE SMU SIDELINE

Dismay.

WALTON (V.O.)
Nothing. *

IN THE STANDS

SMU FANS -- the Boosters among them -- downtrodden.

EXT. CAMPAIGN STOP - DAY

Governor Clements giving a stump speech before a large **CROWD**.

CLEMENTS
-- Hell, I'm the product of the
American free enterprise system.
(MORE)

CLEMENTS (CONT'D)
Why shouldn't we give every
American access to it?

Cheers.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Walton enters, drunk.

WALTON
Anna?

INT. SMU - RON MEYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Multiple **PLAYERS** in Ron's office.

RON
Fellas, just ignore him --

PLAYER #1
Ignore the NCAA?

PLAYER #2
He's gonna hog our cash --

RON
No one's hoggin' anyone's --
hoggin'?

INT. SMU - RON MEYER'S OFFICE - LATER

Ron alone in the office, picking up the phone.

INT. WALTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Walton answering his phone.

WALTON
(Phone)
Ron, some Jew from the NCAA isn't
gonna --

RON (O.S.)
(Phone)
I've already been chased outta
Vegas, Walton.

*
*
*

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

*

INT. RON MEYER'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Ron in bed with -- and fucking -- two **WOMEN (20's)**.

We hear the doorbell ring.

WOMAN #1
Ron, the doorbell's ringing. *

RON
Honey, you're just climaxing. *

Another ring of the doorbell -- *

WOMAN #2
Ron!

Ron jumps out of bed. *

INT. RON'S HOME - FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER *

Ron, nude, opens to door to find Mankowitz standing there. *

MANKOWITZ
Morning, Ron --

RON
Mike.

Mankowitz looks down, then back up.

MANKOWITZ
Must be Tuesday.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Manic knocking at the door.

Walton and Anna answer the door.

It's Ron.

WALTON
You smell like --

ANNA
Go away, Ron.

RON
He came to my fuckin' door, Walt.

WALTON

Who?

RON

Mankowitz came to my fuckin' door.
He's gonna --

Moans from Anna.

WALTON

What's wrong?

ANNA

Shit --

*

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

*

Walton, alone watching TV.

*

ON THE TV

*

A **NEWSCASTER** reads the news (muted). The chryon below the Newscaster reads: **SMU FOOTBALL HEAD COACH JUMPS TO NFL.**

ON WALTON

Dumbfounded.

WALTON (V.O.)

I couldn't blame him.

*

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

*

Walton sips a whisky and looks off into the distance.

*

Anna enters the room and sits on the couch beside Walton.

*

WALTON

Doesn't have to be our last try.

ANNA

Please. You're relieved.

*

Walton sips his drink.

ANNA (CONT'D)

If we lost the home --

WALTON

If we lost the home -- ?

ANNA

If it burned down, was swallowed in
a sinkhole -- what would you do?

WALTON

I thought I was the drunk one.
(Beat; sips)

Collect insurance; rebuild; burn it
down again; collect insurance --

*
*

ANNA

I'm asking --

WALTON

Invest in real estate from central
Florida to southern California --

ANNA

Will you answer --

*

WALTON

Jesus, Anna -- what would I do? I'd
get another.

Quick beat.

Anna's gaze remains fixed on Walton.

WALTON (CONT'D)

There's a parable you're trying to
spit out, only I lack the time,
patience or desire --

*
*

ANNA

You built an empire from nothing.
Skyscrapers and homes. Now you've
turned the worst college football
program in the country into the
most dominant. Ron Meyer charmed
and coached 'em, but you pulled the
strings.

WALTON
What's your point?

ANNA

My point is if this house burns,
you burn another house down -- one
bigger and more expensive.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

Shit, you burn the entire fuckin'
block down and in every ash heap of
every home you build a home of your
own while planting that says,
"Mine." That's how you've lived,
hasn't it? "Mine."

*

*

*

WALTON (V.O.)

She wasn't wrong.

*

*

INT. CLEMENTS' HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A meeting of **SMU's TOP BRASS** over drinks and smokes.

Clements stands at the center of the room.

*

CLEMENTS

I'll be quick. This shit ends
tonight. It was fun. We won games.
We beat our buddies, and we let 'em
know. But, effective right-fucking-
now, we're above board.

WALTON

Above board?

KENNY

Walton --

*

CLEMENTS

I stutter, Walton?

WALTON

You're already a walking obituary.
Might as well be tongue-tied.

Clements turns to Walton.

CLEMENTS

Son, if this home weren't God-
fearing, I'd cut and gut you long
after you say mercy.

WALTON

And I'd lend you the knife.

KENNY

Walton --

WALTON

(To the group)

Name a successful team that doesn't
spend the necessary --

Shields, trying to smoke a cigar, begins to cough violently.

SHIELDS
These things hurt!

KENNY
Don, that's because --
(Interrupts himself)
You know what? Keep inhaling.
(To the Group)
Fellas, what if we phase out the
program by --

WALTON
Phase it out?

CLEMENTS
I'm not asking, Kenny. *

WALTON
That's cute, Bill --

CLEMENTS
Governor --

WALTON
Your *majesty*, we have a paper
trail.

CLEMENTS
Get rid of it.

WALTON
Contracts --

CLEMENTS
Burn 'em.

WALTON
(To the group)
I hope he's the only one here who
doesn't get it. We've sat in living
room after living room, promising
the moon to these kids. We've
turned those promises into
contracts. And those contracts have
been signed. For those of ya'll who
thought our biggest problem was
finding a new head coach -- shit,
above board? We have a payroll to
meet.

(MORE)

WALTON (CONT'D)

Now, I know Bill wants to look pristine so that every God-fearing voter in this state'll look at him and see not only a Governor but a future President, but he's in it with us. And we are in this shit together.

(Beat)

The payroll stays, Bill. We don't quit. At least I don't. Now, let's talk head coaches.

EXT. SOUTHERN MISS - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

The **SOUTHERN MISS FOOTBALL TEAM** practices. They are coached by **BOBBY COLLINS (40's)**, **SMU's coach-to-be**.

WALTON (V.O.)

I'm not one to apologize, but if I were, I'd dole one to Bobby Collins.

*
*

Collins blows his whistle.

BOBBY COLLINS

That's some play! What a great play!

WALTON (V.O.)

He built a halfway-decent program at Southern Miss, but Southern Miss to SMU at the time was a paper airplane to an F-8.

*
*
*
*

INT. SOUTHERN MISS - COLLINS' OFFICE - DAY

Collins sitting across from Walton.

*

BOBBY COLLINS

Mr. Porter, I haven't even been to Dallas --

WALTON

You think the spotlight's too big for you, Bobby?

*
*
*

BOBBY COLLINS

Now, I wasn't saying --

*
*

WALTON

We've built a beautiful machine at
SMU. Coaches get paid, players get
paid --

BOBBY COLLINS

Should you be, you know, *sayin'* --

WALTON

Only thing we're lacking is a
national title. And as Head Honcho
of the most powerful program in the
country, I, Bobby Collins, believe
you're the man to bring us one.

BOBBY COLLINS

But, Mr. Porter, paying players --

WALTON

You think we oughtta let those boys
starve, Bobby?

BOBBY COLLINS

Well, no --

WALTON

Certainly you would've appreciated
a little something in your day.

BOBBY COLLINS

(Laughing)

I wouldn't have said no --

WALTON

Nor will you say no to me.

BOBBY COLLINS

(Laughing)

Mr. Porter, you got a way.

INT. SMU - PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY

Collins withering a bit in front of the flashing lights.

He sits next to Bob Hitch.

BOBBY COLLINS

Well, it's uh -- it's great to be
here at SMU --

WALTON (V.O.)

Asshole didn't stand a chance.

*
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*

INT. SMU - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

With **PRESS** leaving the press conference, Walton wraps his arm around Bobby and begins --

WALTON

Like I told you -- lemme handle the business, you coach football --

*

EXT. SMU PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

*

Collins on the sideline, running the team through drills.

David Stanley on the sideline, alone, muttering to himself.

*

WALTON (V.O.)

Shit, we were coming off a 10-1 season, one win short of a national title, and the best offense in the nation --

*

Erick Dickerson walks up to Craig James.

DICKERSON

(Gesturing re. Stanley)

The fuck's up with him?

*

*

JAMES

New linebacker.

DICKERSON

How much he cost?

*

LATER

*

McIlheney running the option offense.

Lance huts the ball and darts left.

David Stanley is in at linebacker.

Stanley slices through a **BLOCKER** and near-decapitates Lance.

*

Players pounce on Stanley --

*

DICKERSON (CONT'D)

The fuck're you doing?!

Dickerson rips David's helmet off.

DAVID

You ain't so big!

DICKERSON
Motherfucker --

*

ASSISTANT COACHES jump into the scrum to break it up.

*

EXT. SMU - PARKING STRUCTURE - DAY

David enters a brand new Mustang.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

David speeding down I-75, seemingly going nowhere.

INT. DAVID STANLEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

David driving with a maniacal look.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - FOYER - NIGHT

*

Walton enters to find Anna standing there, awaiting him.

*

WALTON
I don't want a speech.

*

ANNA
Just papers.

*

Walton walks to a liquor trolley and pours himself a drink.

*

ANNA (CONT'D)
It was fun, Walt.

*

WALTON
Some of it.

*

Walton drinks.

*

ANNA
So, what's next?

*

WALTON
Next?

*

ANNA
Can't be a booster for life.

*

WALTON
Like you said: find something to
burn down, claim as my own.
(MORE)

*

*

*

WALTON (CONT'D)

(Beat)
Where you gonna go?ANNA
I'll be in touch.

Anna leaves.

INT. SMU - DAVID STANLEY'S DORM - NIGHT**HENRY HUNTER** (18), David's teammate and roommate, snorting coke on his desk.

David enters the dorm.

HENRY HUNTER
Crazy Man Stan --DAVID
What's that?HENRY HUNTER
Fuel.

Hunter does another line; he then offers Stanley a bump.

David does a line.

HENRY HUNTER (CONT'D)
Knee pain ain't so bad no more.

Henry laughs.

David does another line.

INT. SMU - BOBBY COLLINS' OFFICE - DAY

Walton in Collins' office.

WALTON (V.O.)
By the time Bobby came 'round, we
had such talent on the field and
such efficiency off it --One **PLAYER** enters --BOBBY COLLINS
Morning, son --PLAYER
Coach --

Walton hands the Player an envelope.

Another **PLAYER** enters; Walton hands him an envelope.

EXT. SMU - DORM - NIGHT

A phalanx of **PROSTITUTES** entering the dorm.

WALTON (V.O.)
While Mankowitz was probing, we
were keeping the program going --

INT. SMU - DORM - HALLWAYS

A shot of the Prostitutes knocking on and entering dorm room after dorm room.

WALTON (V.O.)
But David -- *

INT. DAVID STANLEY'S CAR - NIGHT

David doing line after line of cocaine.

EXT. TEXAS STADIUM - FIELD - DAY

SMU taking on TCU. *

TCU QUARTERBACK hikes the ball and drops back to pass.

David bursts through the offensive line and spears the quarterback.

David, irate, is ejected from the game; **TEAMMATES** and **COACHES** *
restrain him. *

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

SMU versus **ARKANSAS**, tied 17-17. *

WALTON (V.O.)
Shit, if it weren't for that
Arkansas tie in 1982 I'd have a
title ring on my fuckin' finger -- *

We see the clock run down and the **PLAYERS'** dejection. *

WALTON (V.O.)
-- Not fuckin' Joe Paterno. *

BOBBY COLLINS
Heck of an effort, boys!

WALTON (V.O.)
A fuckin' tie.

INT. SMU - SHIELDS' OFFICE - DAY

Shields answering his phone.

SHIELDS
(Phone)
Don Shields --

MANKOWITZ (O.S.)
President Shields, this is Mike
Mankowitz with the NCAA --

MOMENTS LATER

Shields dialing on his phone --

INT. CLEMENTS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

Clements on the phone with Shields.

CLEMENTS
(Phone)
Donny, you stay out of this. Go run
the university.

INT. WALTON'S OFFICE - MORNING

L. Donald Shields sitting across from Walton.

SHIELDS
I'm catching wind of drugs.

WALTON
Drugs.

SHIELDS
Cocaine.

WALTON
Rumors, Don.

SHIELDS
Irregardless.

WALTON

You think because we have a payroll
we've also got a drug operation?

SHIELDS

Do we?
(Beat)
I didn't sign up for this.

*
*

WALTON

Never heard you say that when we
were gifting players whores and
Corvettes.

*

Shields puts the mug down and stands.

WALTON (CONT'D)

Walk, Don. It'll make no
difference.

*

SHIELDS

I wanted to be a teacher.

*

WALTON

You're not one.
(Quick beat)
Anything else?

*

INT. SMU - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

*

David doing cocaine before practice.

Some of his **TEAMMATES** nearby.

One **TEAMMATE** looks down at his crotch --

TEAMMATE

The fuck is -- ?

Another **TEAMMATE** we see doing cocaine, like David.

EXT. SMU - PRACTICE FIELD - LATER

Collins trying to instill discipline on the team, but it's
hopeless.

Everyone seems to be resting on their laurels and doing their
own thing.

WALTON (V.O.)
Ron may've been part of the shit,
but whatever it was about him, the
players played. With Bobby, well --

Collins blows his whistle.

BOBBY COLLINS
Let's go, boy!

DICKERSON
(Offended)
Boy? *

EXT. SMU - LATER THAT DAY

Walton speeding onto the campus.

INT. SMU - BOBBY COLLINS' OFFICE - LATER

Walton entering Collins' office.

WALTON
What now?

INT. SMU - LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David stewing, by himself.

BOBBY COLLINS (O.C.)
David!

David stands and heads towards Collins' office.

INT. SMU - BOBBY COLLINS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

David enters.

WALTON
David, we brought you here to play
football -- not commit felonies and
get hopped up on God-knobs-what.

DAVID
I just wanna play football.

WALTON
Evidence suggests otherwise. *

BOBBY COLLINS
Son, what can I do to help you?

DAVID
I got this dizziness. And my knees--

BOBBY COLLINS
So you're hurt?

DAVID
I just wanna play football.

WALTON
David, you're off the team and
outta the SMU.

DAVID
Outta SMU?

WALTON
You got no GPA, and by day's end
you'll have no scholarship.

EXT. STANLEY HOME - DAY

*

David moving back home, his mother distraught and helping her
brain-damaged son.

As David walks up the driveway, Mankowitz pulls up to the
front.

WALTON (V.O.)
Call it hubris, call it being a
dumb fuckin' dick -- we figured
cutting bait with David would be
the end of David.

INT. DALE HANSEN'S OFFICE - DAY

*

DALE HANSEN (30's), WFAA TV journalist, answers his phone.

HANSEN
(Phone)
This is Dale.

WALTON (V.O.)
Mankowitz had plenty to go off
already, but once he scooped Hansen-

INT. THE MECCA - DAY

Over coffee, Mankowitz sits across from **DALE HANSEN** (late 30's), a TV journalist.

WALTON (V.O.)

Well --

HANSEN

I'm assuming Governor Clements has nothing to do with this?

Mankowitz smiles.

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

Clements' victory party.

Clements ascends the stage and heads to the podium.

A raucous **CROWD** cheers on the once-and-future Governor.

CLEMENTS

Well, it felt good to win before -- but it feels better to win again -- to restore values in the statehouse -- American values -- Christian values-

Applause.

Clements looks into the crowd.

We spot Mankowitz.

EXT. STANLEY HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Hansen knocking on the front door.

David's mother answers.

HANSEN

Mrs. Stanley?

INT. STANLEY HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

NEWS CREW setting up their cameras.

David and his mother looking uncomfortable.

LATER

Dale Hansen interviewing David Stanley.

WALTON (V.O.)
-- It was over.

DAVID
They gave me \$25,000.

DALE HANSEN
Who?

DAVID
Henry Lee Parker, Bob Hitch, Walton
Porter Jr., SMU -- plus \$750-a-
month, atop another \$350-a-month
for car payments --

DALE HANSEN
Car payments?

INT. SMU - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Henry Lee Parker, Bob Hitch and Bobby Collins readying for an interview. They sit shoulder to shoulder.

Dale Hansen looks over his interview notes.

Collins leans into Hitch.

BOBBY COLLINS
Where the fuck is Walton?

HITCH
Hopefully dead.

*

LATER

*

Dale Hansen slides an envelope across the table to Henry Lee Parker.

DALE HANSEN
Is that your handwriting on the
envelope?

Henry Lee Parker starts tripping over himself.

HENRY LEE PARKER
Well, uh --

Awkward beat.

HENRY LEE PARKER (CONT'D)
Lemme get my glasses...

Parker starts fumbling about for his reading glasses.

INT. NCAA HQ - CONFERENCE ROOM

Mankowitz presenting to **NCAA PERSONNEL**, Westerby among them,
his case against SMU.

MANKOWITZ
-- Which is why I recommend we levy
against Southern Methodist the
harshest possible penalty.

MOMENTS LATER

WESTERBY
I think we owe Mike a
congratulations for the
investigative work --

Mankowitz begins to smile.

Westerby's voice fades as we hear --

WALTON (V.O.)
Asshole couldn't help himself.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY

Mankowitz in front of many **REPORTERS**.

Mankowitz looks pale --

MANKOWITZ
I'm here to discuss the infractions
by the SMU football team, and the
penalties that the NCAA will levy
upon the SMU football team --

As Mankowitz talks --

WALTON (V.O.)
Mankowitz could hardly hold it
together. The moment, the weight of
it all -- all that work --

MANKOWITZ
A cancellation of the 1987 football
season; cancellation of all home
games for the 1988 season --

WALTON (V.O.)
Every penalty felt like a shot to
the gut --

Mankowitz looks pale, off-kilter.

MANKOWITZ
A banning from bowl games for the
next three years; the loss of 55
scholarships over the next four
years; a reduction in coaching
staff by half; a banning of off-
campus recruiting for the next two
years --

Mankowitz grows wobbly.

WALTON (V.O.)
And the kicker --

MANKOWITZ
And a two-year ban of all Boosters
who participated the SMU payment
program. The chief violator among
those Boosters, Mr. Walton Porter
Jr. --

Mankowitz faints.

PEOPLE rush to his aid.

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - NIGHT

Walton watching the same interview on TV, drinking a scotch.

A knock at the door.

Walton answers; it's Kenny.

Kenny enters and follows Walton to sit down.

Long beat.

KENNY
You're out, Walton.

WALTON
I saw the press conference. Drink?

KENNY
You hear me?

WALTON

I saw the news conference, Kenny.

Walton pours himself a drink.

KENNY

With us.

WALTON

You dumpin' me, Kenny?

(Beat)

Why'd you come to me, Kenny?

KENNY

We won games, didn't we?

Walton laughs.

WALTON

And now?

KENNY

Now you build your skyscrapers and
suburbs.

WALTON

And you'll be in church and diggin'
yourself outta sand traps.

KENNY

No need to be petty, Walton.

WALTON

You promised me loyalty.

KENNY

And you had it.

WALTON

I thought --

KENNY

What, that we were friends? That
I'd step up, be the daddy you've
lacked? We don't settle for
friends, Walton. You know that
better'n' the rest. Shit, it's what
makes workin' with you so easy:
Walton Porter Jr.: a pure Texan, a
pure American. Not some dumb
Puritan with divine inspiration.

(MORE)

KENNY (CONT'D)

You're the fella whisperin' in that
moron's ear, tellin' him that to
build that city on a hill you gotta
slaughter some Commandch' along the
way; because you know that
winning's a choice; and what comes--

(Beat)

Son, you know this better'n anyone.
I won't see you around the golf
course. Shit, I doubt I'll see you
around town. Far as the Board's
concerned, Walton Porter Jr. was
and will never again be. And that,
my friend, is winning.

WALTON

Sure you don't want a drink, Kenny?

KENNY

You take care, Walton.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

The Boosters -- all the usual suspects -- golfing, laughing
together.

WALTON (V.O.)

They could played nice, Kenny and
the rest. But they had my country
club membership revoked --

INT. PETROLEUM CLUB - ENTRANCE - DAY

Walton entering the Petroleum Club.

Walton approaches the front desk.

A manager, JIM, (40's) stands behind the front desk.

WALTON (V.O.)

-- The Petroleum Club --

(End V.O.)

Just me today, Jim --

MANAGER JIM

There's been a change in your
membership status, Mr. Porter --

INT. STATE HOUSE - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Clements sitting across from a **JOURNALIST** (20's). *

WALTON (V.O.)
Clements of course took full
responsibility -- *

CLEMENTS
No, I wanted no part of the
program; and it's a crying shame
that some would act so selfishly -- *

INT. WALTON'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Walton sitting in front of the TV, drinking. *

ON THE TV

COWBOYS vs. **COLTS**; Ron on the sidelines, coaching. *

WALTON (V.O.)
Some woulda drunk themselves silly.
Some woulda beat their breasts and
screamed at the heavens. Me? I saw
what I always saw: an opportunity. *

ON WALTON

Smiling. *

INT. TEXAS STADIUM - FIELD - DAY

COWBOYS vs. **COLTS**.

The Cowboys are kicking the Colts' ass. *

INT. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS' HQ - OWNER'S OFFICE - DAY

Ron sitting across from the **COLTS' OWNER**. *

WALTON (V.O.)
And old Ron -- *

COLTS' OWNER
Ron, we appreciate all you've done
for the Colts, but we've decided to
go in a different direction. *

EXT. NELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

*

Walton pulls up to his mother's quaint, one-story home.

INT. NELLE'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Walton enters the home.

NELLE (O.C.)
Kitchen.

INT. NELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Nelle smokes a cigarette at the kitchen table.

Walton enters.

NELLE
Lookie here: a ghost.

WALTON
Coffee on?

NELLE
Almost ready -- along with your
bubble bath and steak diner.

Walton walks to the stove and turns on the burner to heat the coffee pot.

NELLE (CONT'D)
Anna called.

Walton walks to the table and sits beside his mother.

WALTON
Since when'd ya'll talk?

NELLE
Since she left you.

WALTON
Suppose you encouraged her.

NELLE
You nailed it, Walton.

Nelle takes a drag of her cigarette.

NELLE (CONT'D)
Still got your throwaways in the
back -- trophies and such.

WALTON
Trash 'em.

Walton takes a cigarette from his mother's pack on the table.

Walton lights up.

Nelle chuckles.

WALTON (CONT'D)
What?

Quick beat.

Nelle takes a drag.

NELLE
You look like your father. Sitting
there, pulling everything your way -
- light and gravity, even.

WALTON
He had a way.

NELLE
More than a way.

Walton stands, goes to the stove and pours a mug of coffee.

NELLE (CONT'D)
You come for coffee and cigarettes?

Walton returns to the table.

WALTON
I came to talk to him.

NELLE
Your dad?

Nelle chuckles.

NELLE (CONT'D)
He came by it honest. Had the
lashes to prove it. *

WALTON
All along his back.

NELLE
You remember.

WALTON
I remember. *

Beat.

They sip coffee.

NELLE
Black coffee.

WALTON
That's right.

NELLE
Nothin' else?

WALTON
You want me to get on my knees,
tell you I gotta problem --

Nelle waves off Walton.

Beat.

WALTON (CONT'D)
Remind me when his father passed.

NELLE
Your granddaddy? Year before I met
your dad. By his own hand.

WALTON
(Taken aback)
That's news to me.

NELLE
I didn't wanna inspire you.
(Beat)
Your daddy was in Lufkin, pouring
drinks at the family bar. Old man
beat your dad every morning just
about, only this day the old man
woke up smiling and walked out the
door. Didn't touch your dad, didn't
say a word. Just drove north to
Natchitoches and walked into the
pines. Couple of hunters found him
the next day. Thought he was a damn
pinata, hanging there. Said he had
a grin frozen to his cheeks. They
tied flowers to his lapel before
they called the coroner. Don't ask
me why.

Quick beat.

WALTON
What'd Anna say?

Beat.

Nelle looks into her son's eyes and looks pained by his pain.

NELLE
You can let go, you know.

WALTON
How's that?

NELLE
'Cause you're alive, and he's dead.

WALTON
Not that simple.

NELLE
It is. You can fix your marriage,
build something worth holding on
to; or you can keep on. More money
to make, more shit to spend money
on. Your call. If there's anything
I've learned from the sidelines,
it's that you get what you hunt.

WALTON
What I want is --

NELLE
What you want you can't get. But
you're alive, and he's dead. Up to
you.

We watch Walton for a beat, then move to --

EXT. COTTON FIELD - DAY

Walton overlooking the same cotton field he once picked as a child.

WALTON (V.O.)
My call.
(Beat)
I get what I hunt.
(Beat)
My call.

*

INT. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS' HQ - RON'S OFFICE - DAY

Ron cleaning out his office.

The phone rings; he answers.

*

RON

Yeah?

INT. WALTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Ron entering Walton's office.

WALTON

You showed.

RON

I'm unemployed.

WALTON

No, you're not. You're an agent and partner at Porter-Meyer.

Ron laughs.

WALTON (CONT'D)

Wanna conquer the sports world, Ron?

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ron and Walton pitching a **COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER (18)** over dinner.

WALTON

Well, we figure a rookie contract is just a stepping stone in the NFL. We're talking endorsements from all sectors --

CUT TO:

ANOTHER DINNER; A NEW RECRUIT

RON

Son, that tackling ability is worth millions, so long as you have the right agent negotiating on your behalf.

*

*

INT. WALTON'S CADILLAC (MOVING) - DAY

Walton driving past the Texas Capitol Building. *

INT. UT CAMPUS - CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Walton sitting across from the **UT-AUSTIN CHANCELLOR (60's)** and **DAVID MCWILLIAMS (50's)**, **UT's Head Football Coach.** *

UT-AUSTIN CHANCELLOR
Come again? *

WALTON
One million. *

Chancellor and Coach McWilliams look at each other, then to Walton. *

UT-AUSTIN CHANCELLOR
Well, that's quite generous -- *

COACH MCWILLIAMS
Aren't you a Mustang? *

WALTON
I'm a man who supports public
education, blessed with the money
to show his support. *

COACH MCWILLIAMS
Then why am I here? *

WALTON
Well, Coach, if you'd like UT to be
back atop the college football
pyramid, I think I can help. *

WALTON (V.O.)
I was out, sure -- but I wasn't
dead. And if I'm not dead, you'll
find me. *

INT. STATE HOUSE - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Kenny enters the Governor's office.

Clements stands to welcome Kenny.

CLEMENTS
I thought I smelled trouble.

KENNY
My ass.

They shake hands.

INT. LIMO (MOVING) - DAY

*

Kenny and Clements riding inside.

WALTON (V.O.)
You'll find me right nearby --

KENNY
I need a drink.

CLEMENTS
After the game.

*

WALTON (V.O.)
Hunting --

*

EXT. UT-AUSTIN FOOTBALL STADIUM -

*

Game day; a packed house.

*

UT BOOSTERS aligned at midfield before the coin toss.

*

IN THE STANDS

*

Kenny and Clements take their seats.

*

PA ANNOUNCER
And introducing the Board of
Governors..

*

*

*

ON THE FIELD

*

We see Walton approach the Boosters.

*

ON CLEMENTS & KENNY

*

Who then spot Walton.

*

WALTON (V.O.)
Finding what's yours --

KENNY
You gotta be fuckin' kidding me.

WALTON (V.O.)
Burning it to the ground.

CLEMENTS

What?

WALTON (V.O.)
-- Taking what's yours. *

WALTON (V.O.)
-- And making it mine. *

PA ANNOUNCER
And the newest Longhorns Board
Member, Walton Porter Jr. -- *

We hear applause. *

WALTON (V.O.)
All fucking mine. *

Walton flashes a Hook 'Em Horns to the delight of the crowd;
to his own delight. *

THE END.

POSTSCRIPT

The sanctions levied against SMU were the most severe in NCAA history. *

The penalties brought upon SMU came to be known as The Death Penalty. *

In the twenty years following The Death Penalty, SMU football experienced only one winning season. *

Since 2019, some college athletes -- depending on the state in which they attend college -- can profit from NIL (Name; Image; Likeness) deals. *

However, college athletics -- in particular their top moneymaker, football -- remain a racket in which nearly all players are unpaid for the more than \$1 billion their labor generates for their universities and the NCAA. *