

UNIFIED

an original screenplay by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Defending state sprint champion, FANTASIA DUPREE, 17, platted hair, bedazzled spikes and long jumper, SIMONE SIMMONS, remove their warmups. Clermont's men and women's TRACK TEAM MEMBERS stretch in the background.

FANTASIA  
Track scholarships here I come!

SIMONE  
Any offers yet?

FANTASIA  
Several schools are looking, but they want my times faster.

SIMONE  
I would love to jump in college.

Across the infield, special needs teacher and UNIFIED Track Coach, PEGGY WELLS, 34, slender, shapely, cradles a clipboard. She blows her whistle.

COACH WELLS  
Everyone! On the line!

A group of special needs students move to the starting line. BRADY HUGHES, 18, autistic, towering, stares, stands motionless. GRETCHEN PAUL, 17, with Down Syndrome waves toward the stands.

GRETCHEN  
(yelling)  
Momma! Look!

TREVOR RUSK, 16, mentally impaired gets into a runner's crouch.

TREVOR  
(speech impediment)  
I faster than every one.

Brady, wildly flaps his hands.

BRADY  
Fun, fun, fun!

Fantasia and Simone snicker.

FANTASIA  
Embarrassing!

SIMONE

Why are they on our track.

Fellow teammate, and hurdler, MARCY GOODWIN, 18, removes her warmup top, she stands.

MARCY

It's not their fault.

FANTASIA

Whatever.

Coach Wells shouts instructions.

COACH WELLS

On your mark...

Trevor takes off. Gretchen throws her hands up.

GRETCHEN

(stuttering)

He's cheatin'.

Brady, points, laughs. ANNA PRUITT, 16, visually impaired and STEPHEN HAYES, 15, deaf, chase after Trevor.

COACH WELLS

Trevor! Come back, now!

ANNA

Slow down!

STEPHEN

(signing)

Come back.

FANTASIA

Ooh! He's so fast. I'm scared.

SIMONE

Just keep them away from me.

Men's All State hurdler, CHARLES DAVIS, 18, and high jumper, T.J. MCLEAN, 17, jog up to Fantasia.

CHARLES

Show some class.

FANTASIA

We got plenty!

T.J.

They're athletes too.

FANTASIA  
You're kidding.

MARCY  
You might need their help one day.

FANTASIA  
Not a chance!

Trevor stops, turns. Yells!

TREVOR  
See, I fast!

Trevor runs across the infield. Coach Wells drops her clipboard in hot pursuit.

COACH WELLS  
Trevor!

Other TRACK TEAM MEMBERS begin to point and chant.

TRACK TEAM MEMBERS  
Run, Trevor, run!

Head men's and women's track coach, MIKE SINCLAIR, 40, trim and handsome walks up.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Knock it off!

Coach Sinclair sprints off, catches up to Trevor.

TREVOR  
Hey, Coach!

COACH SINCLAIR  
You're pretty fast!

TREVOR  
That what I keep sayin'.

Coach Wells jogs up. Out of breath.

COACH WELLS  
Trevor...you can't take off...like that.

TREVOR  
(remorseful)  
Sorry.

COACH WELLS  
Now go join the others.

Trevor runs toward his cheering, Unified teammates.

COACH SINCLAIR

You okay?

COACH WELLS

I wonder if I'm the right person?

COACH SINCLAIR

These kids need you.

COACH WELLS

I don't know.

COACH SINCLAIR

Don't second guess yourself.

Coach Wells starts to jog away. She turns.

COACH WELLS

...Thanks.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK - DAY

Clermont's track and field athletes huddle around Coach Sinclair. Coach Wells conducts drills for the Unified team in the background.

COACH SINCLAIR

We've got three weeks before our first meet.

Fantasia and Simone point, giggle at the Unified runners.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

Got something to say!

FANTASIA

Uh, no, Coach.

COACH SINCLAIR

Workouts have been good, but stay focused.

(beat)

Coach Mays.

Assistant Coach, BRAD MAYS, 34, muscular and tan steps forward.

COACH MAYS

We need some volunteers to run with our Unified athletes at various meets this season.

Long distance runner, CODY MCKAY, 17, wiry, glasses raises his hand.

CODY  
Coach, I will.

MARCY  
Me too.

Multi athlete, ANDREW WHITAKER, 18, volunteers.

ANDREW  
Count me in, Coach.

COACH MAYS  
Thank you. We need a couple more.

Fantasia whispers to Simone.

FANTASIA  
You'll never catch me volunteering.

SIMONE  
Me either.

Coach Mays scans the team. Coach Sinclair points.

COACH SINCLAIR  
How about Fantasia and Simone?

The team begins to clap.

T.J.  
Great idea!

FANTASIA  
But I'm trying to get my times down  
for a scholarship!

COACH MAYS  
You can adjust.

SIMONE  
We're not really trained to help  
those type of people.

COACH MAYS  
Nonsense. I'll let Coach Wells know.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Everyone, take two warmup laps.

The track team takes off around the track. Fantasia and Simone jog together.

FANTASIA  
I can't do this.

SIMONE

Why us!

FANTASIA

Someone is going to regret this!

As the team rounds the first curve, Gretchen and the rest of the Unified athletes wave and cheer.

GRETCHEN

Yeah, team!

FANTASIA

I'm going to barf.

INT. COACH WELLS CLASSROOM - DAY

Coach Wells sits, grading papers at her desk. A slide-show plays in front of her special needs students. Brady stares blankly out the window. Trevor claps at each slide.

Gretchen, raises her hand, clutching a stuffed animal with her other.

COACH WELLS

Yes, Gretchen?

GRETCHEN

Coach Sinclair is hot!

Brady laughs then pounds his desk. Coach Wells rises. Clapping, joyous groans, and laughter erupts among the students.

COACH WELLS

Class! Settle down.

ANNA

He sure is!

TREVOR

How you know? You can't see!

ANNA

I can tell!

GRETCHEN

Coach Wells, ask him out.

A ringing school bell sounds off in the hallway. Coach Wells turns off the projector.

COACH WELLS

You've got five minutes to gather up your things.

TREVOR

I tell Coach you like him.

Brady bounces in his chair.

COACH WELLS

That's enough!

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

A college age, female BARISTA takes Coach Wells order as couples talk, laptop keys clank, and book pages turn.

BARISTA

Our special today is Chai Tea and bagel for six ninety nine.

COACH WELLS

I'll have a tall Carmel Macchiato instead.

BARISTA

Be right up!

Coach Sinclair, in track warmups enters staring at his phone. He approaches the register.

COACH SINCLAIR

Teachers should sleep in on Saturdays.

COACH WELLS

What about you?

COACH SINCLAIR

Just got through with a run.

The Barista approaches the register.

BARISTA

Hey, Coach! The usual?

Coach Sinclair nods.

COACH SINCLAIR

Grab us a table.

Coach Sinclair pays for his drink. He joins Coach Wells at a corner two-top.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

Nice to have some company. My dog loves to sleep and my fish just stare.

COACH WELLS

You don't come across as being lonely.



COACH SINCLAIR  
It's just a disguise.

COACH WELLS  
Coming home to uninterested pets  
actually sounds nice.

COACH SINCLAIR  
You sound a little stressed?

Coach Wells takes a drink.

COACH WELLS  
Emotionally it's tough. Teaching  
special needs students.  
(beat)  
I should have stuck with history.

COACH SINCLAIR  
You're making a huge difference in  
those kids lives.

COACH WELLS  
Yeah, I'd like to believe that.  
(beat)  
How's the team look?

COACH SINCLAIR  
Barring injuries, we should be on  
the podium again at State, unless--

COACH WELLS  
Something wrong?

Coach Sinclair leans back in his chair.

COACH SINCLAIR  
A couple of months ago my doctor  
found a lump on my neck. He ran  
some tests. It was benign.

Coach Wells takes a sip of her coffee.

COACH WELLS  
That's a relief.

COACH SINCLAIR  
He found another lump two weeks ago.  
(beat)  
I'm scheduled for surgery right after  
the State Meet.

COACH WELLS  
Scared?

Coach Sinclair bows his head.

COACH SINCLAIR  
I'm trying to stay positive. The  
team doesn't know.

COACH WELLS  
I won't say a word to anyone.  
(beat)  
Anything I can do?

COACH SINCLAIR  
Pray. It might help?

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Coach Wells leads the Unified team through stretching drills.  
Arms, legs, and bodies flail wildly.

Coach Mays leads the varsity team members through dynamic  
drills.

Coach Sinclair glances over at Coach Wells and the humorous  
stretching display.

COACH WELLS  
Team. Stand up straight, and slowly  
reach down and touch your toes.

Trevor proceeds to touch his knees in a rapid fire sequence.

TREVOR  
Like this?

COACH WELLS  
Slower.

Brady watches a nearby squirrel scamper along the infield.

Gretchen raises both hands above her head, loosing her balance.  
Stephen shuffles over to help her.

Anna performs her stretch without incident.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)  
Very good, Anna!

Coach Sinclair walks over to Coach Wells.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Like some help?

COACH WELLS  
Maybe stretching wasn't such a good  
idea?

COACH SINCLAIR  
Your intent is good. We might need  
to adjust their technique.

Brady waves at Coach Sinclair.

TREVOR  
Hi, Coach Sin...clair!

COACH SINCLAIR  
Hello team! Everyone sit down and  
look at me.

Each Unified member sits. Brady claps his hands. Coach Wells  
stands off to the side, watching.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)  
I want each of you to slowly stretch,  
and see if you can touch your toes.

TREVOR  
This easy.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Stretch five times.

Coach Wells smiles as she writes on her clipboard.

TREVOR  
I all done!

GRETCHEN  
No you not!

Brady and Stephen finish. They fist bump each other. Anna  
waits for further instructions.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Everyone to their feet.

Each Unified athlete high-fives Coach Sinclair.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)  
That was an excellent job!

TREVOR  
More. Show us more!

COACH WELLS  
Coach Sinclair has his athletes too!

COACH SINCLAIR  
I'll show you more at another time.

COACH WELLS

Okay team. Everyone take one lap.

Trevor takes off followed by Stephen. Brady wanders from lane to lane. Gretchen and Anna hold hands as they slowly jog.

COACH SINCLAIR

I could see you were a little frazzled.

COACH WELLS

Coaching is pretty new to me.

COACH SINCLAIR

I'll be glad to help when time allows.

COACH WELLS

Any chance I can practice some hand-offs with the Unified partners this week?

COACH SINCLAIR

Shouldn't be a problem.

Coach Sinclair begins to walk away.

COACH WELLS

Coach!

Coach Sinclair turns around.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

I've been praying for you.

COACH SINCLAIR

Don't stop.

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - LUNCH ROOM - DAY

PRINCIPAL LAURA BAINES, 51, monitors as students enter.

Gretchen sits at a large table eating her sandwich.

Trevor amuses fellow students with comedic faces while Brady lines up his raisins in a perfect row across the table.

Charles and T.J. eat at a nearby table.

Fantasia and Simone walk past Gretchen. They sneer.

There's a loud crash and yelling.

Stephen is sprawled on the floor. Fantasia's food tray items cover him.

STEPHEN  
Sorry. Not hear you come.

FANTASIA  
You ruined my lunch!

GRETCHEN  
Stop it! Not nice!

The lunchroom is silent. Students gather, take videos, pictures.

CHARLES  
It was an accident.

T.J.  
Come on. Ease up!

FANTASIA  
He did it on purpose! Now I can't eat!

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
You're right, no lunch. Both of you, to my office.

FANTASIA  
But--

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
Now!

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Fantasia and Simone are seated. Principal Baines looks at her computer. Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells stand on each side of the large oak desk.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
Ms. Dupree and Ms. Simmons, I'm very disappointed. You both are seniors, and should know better.

FANTASIA  
Yes, Ma'am.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
I've already told Coaches Sinclair and Well's what happened today in the lunch room. After scanning your student files, I could easily suspend both of you.

COACH WELLS

I admit that my students are not the most coordinated.

COACH SINCLAIR

It doesn't give you two or anyone else the right to make fun or try to harm these students in any way!

(beat)

State Championship or not, I've a good mind to kick you both off the team.

FANTASIA

But, Coach!

SIMONE

Please...don't!

Principal Baines moves from behind her desk.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Maybe that won't be necessary.

COACH SINCLAIR

What do you have in mind?

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Coach Sinclair, the three of us need to talk.

(beat)

Young ladies, if I even hear of any more trouble from the two of you, an automatic three day suspension will follow.

FANTASIA

Yes, Principal.

SIMONE

Thank you.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Don't thank me just yet.

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - ACTIVITY ROOM - DAY

Fantasia and Simone sit on the floor surrounded by twenty students with varying disabilities and their BEST BUDDIES partners. Coach Wells moderates.

COACH WELLS

Welcome everyone to this week's Best Buddies meeting.

A riotous response erupts from the students. Fantasia and Simone bow their heads in disgust.

FANTASIA  
I'd rather be suspended.

SIMONE  
Me too!

Coach Wells motions for each student to place their hand on their mouth.

COACH WELLS  
I would also like to introduce two of our newest members. This is Fantasia and Simone.

Shouting and applause fill the room.

Fellow Best Buddies, Charles and T.J. laugh and clap.

Fantasia and Simone grit their teeth and wave back.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)  
Is there anything you girls would like to say?

Both Fantasia and Simone shake their heads, no.

Amused, Principal Baines and Coach Sinclair stand in back unnoticed.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Brilliant idea.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
This should give those two ladies a different perspective and appreciation for others with special needs?

COACH SINCLAIR  
By the look on Fantasia's face, she would rather be off the team.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
Them being in Best Buddies until the end of the school year is the agreement. Let's see how they fair.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Clermont's track athletes hurdle, run sprints and laps in the background. Coaches Sinclair and Mays yell out instructions and encouragement.

Coach Wells enters the infield. Her Unified athletes follow.  
Coach Sinclair walks up.

COACH SINCLAIR  
How was your day?

COACH WELLS  
Not bad. Trevor didn't try to escape  
during recess.

COACH SINCLAIR  
I'll keep an eye on him.

COACH WELLS  
Any chance we can partner up today  
with some of your athletes for baton  
exchanges?

COACH SINCLAIR  
Not a problem. Fantasia and Simone  
have been begging me to let them  
work out with you all.

COACH WELLS  
That is so wrong.

Coach Mays jogs up.

COACH MAYS  
I don't mean to interrupt, but look.

Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells focus on the nearby shot put  
ring.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - SHOT PUT RING - CONTINUOUS

RYKER SANDERS, 18, bearded, massive, instructs Brady how to  
throw the shot put.

RYKER  
You hold the shot put against your  
neck like this.

Ryker helps Brady from the standing position as he faces the  
pit area.

RYKER (CONT'D)  
Keep holding it tight.

Brady follow's Ryker's lead.

RYKER (CONT'D)  
And push the shot towards the pit as  
hard as you can.



Brady lets it fly. Ryker and his fellow throwers clap.

RYKER (CONT'D)

Dude! You just threw it at least thirty feet! That is amazing!

Brady pumps his fist and smiles.

COACH WELLS

He really seems to like throwing!

COACH SINCLAIR

See, you're making a difference.

COACH WELLS

I didn't cause that.

COACH SINCLAIR

Maybe not, but you've given Brady and the other Unified kids a chance to experience moments like this.

COACH WELLS

Handoffs?

Coach Sinclair yells across the track.

COACH SINCLAIR

Charles, Fantasia, and Simone, see Coach Wells.

CHARLES

Yes, sir!

Fantasia and Simone approach Coach Sinclair.

FANTASIA

Coach, I won't have time to finish my own workout.

SIMONE

Maybe another time?

COACH SINCLAIR

Get going! Or would you rather do a long run with our distance team. It's only an hour today.

Fantasia and Simone slowly jog towards Coach Wells.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STARTING LINE - CONTINUOUS

Charles, Fantasia, and Simone get set in their starting blocks in lanes one, two, and three.

Coach Wells positions Trevor, Gretchen, and Stephen in their respective lanes, fifty meters away.

Coach Wells demonstrates how to receive the baton.

COACH WELLS

I want each of you to hold your left hand out like this.

(beat)

Once you receive the baton, run as fast as you can to the finish line.

TREVOR

I beat everyone.

GRETCHEN

No, no! I win today!

Coach Wells stands close to the starting line.

COACH WELLS

On your mark. Set...

Coach Wells' whistle shrieks!

Charles blasts out of his blocks first followed by Fantasia and Simone.

Charles streaks ahead towards Trevor. Fantasia and Simone race towards Gretchen and Stephen.

TREVOR

I ready! I ready.

Charles hands off to Trevor. He heads towards the finish.

Fantasia passes her baton to Gretchen. She drops it. Her glasses slide off.

FANTASIA

Pick it up!

GRETCHEN

I try!

Gretchen retrieves her glasses, picks up the baton and chases after Trevor.

Simone reaches Stephen. He grabs his baton and starts running towards the starting line. Coach Wells runs up beside him and turns him around.

COACH WELLS

This way!

Charles claps as Trevor crosses the finish line first. Gretchen follows. Stephen grunts his way to complete the race.

Coach Wells and Charles high-five, and congratulate each runner. Fantasia and Simone linger in the background.

TREVOR  
I still the fastest!

FANTASIA  
I should drop out of school. This is so stupid!

COACH WELLS  
Great job everyone!

Gretchen approaches Fantasia.

Fantasia, confused looks over at Simone. Simone shrugs her shoulders.

GRETCHEN  
You really fast!

FANTASIA  
So what.

CHARLES  
Apologize. It's called a compliment.

FANTASIA  
I mean...thanks!

GRETCHEN  
Teach me run fast?

SIMONE  
(amused)  
Is she serious?

FANTASIA  
The only way you could run fast is--

Coach Sinclair overhears.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Is if you let me coach you.  
(beat)  
Isn't that what you meant say?

FANTASIA  
Uh...well...yes!

COACH SINCLAIR

I thought so.

Gretchen starts to give Fantasia a hug. She backs away.

FANTASIA

Look, I don't do hugs!

INT. PIZZA PALACE - NIGHT

Coaches Sinclair, Wells, and Mays sit at a four-top. A TATTOOED WAITRESS approaches.

TATTOOED WAITRESS

Know what you want?

COACH SINCLAIR

Any specials?

TATTOOED WAITRESS

How hungry are ya?

COACH MAYS

I could eat a large.

COACH WELLS

Seriously?

TATTOOED WAITRESS

We got a *Mega Monstrosity* for twenty bucks!

Coach Mays gives a thumbs up. Coach Wells nods.

TATTOOED WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Give it about fifteen minutes.

(beat)

Drinks and silverware are over there.  
Help yourself.

Coach Sinclair pulls some paperwork out of his leather satchel.

COACH SINCLAIR

With our first meet in two weeks, I want to go over our current roster, and who you think we should enter?

COACH MAYS

How many entries for each event?

COACH SINCLAIR

Two for the sprints and field events, and the top four in the mile and two mile. No limit for the Unified kids.

COACH MAYS

Charles and T.J. are no-brainers for the hurdles and high jump.

COACH WELLS

Would Charles, Fantasia, and Simone still be able to run with our Unified team?

COACH SINCLAIR

Hmm. We'll also need Charles on our four-by-one and four-by-two relays.

COACH MAYS

What about Andrew Whitaker?

Coach Sinclair scans a document.

COACH SINCLAIR

That can work. I only have him entered in two other events.

COACH WELLS

Fantasia and Simone?

COACH MAYS

They always run the relays in addition to their own events.

COACH SINCLAIR

Not at this meet.

COACH MAYS

Fantasia's the reigning state champion, and Simone should be a finalist.

COACH SINCLAIR

I realize that, but their lack of respect for our Unified athletes is getting out of hand.

COACH WELLS

What are you suggesting?

COACH SINCLAIR

Add them to your Unified roster.

COACH MAYS

You know they'll probably quit.

Coach Sinclair leans back in his chair.

COACH SINCLAIR

Possibly, but nothing else is getting their attention.

COACH MAYS

You know how many points the varsity is giving up if they don't compete?

COACH SINCLAIR

In my book, we're not just coaches, but to some of our kids we're the only parent figure--

COACH WELLS

Who should set boundaries and expectations.

COACH MAYS

Okay, okay! I stand corrected for thinking about points instead of building character.

The waitress arrives with a gigantic pizza.

TATTOOED WAITRESS

Sure you can finish it?

COACH SINCLAIR

We love a challenge. Thanks!

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Spectators, track and field athletes, along with officials fill the stands, infield, and track.

The TRACK ANNOUNCER broadcasts from the stadium press box.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Welcome to the Clermont Track Invitational. Defending champion, your own Clermont Highlanders will be tested today by several teams and individual competitors.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - INFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Fantasia and Simone stretch on the infield. Trevor, Gretchen, and Stephen warmup nearby.

FANTASIA

I might just throw down some school records.

SIMONE

I should win the long jump by at least a foot.

Fantasia looks over her shoulder. She points towards Gretchen warming up.

FANTASIA

I could run backwards and still beat her.

SIMONE

I wonder who their partners are today?

FANTASIA

Who cares!

Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells approach.

COACH SINCLAIR

I care, and you two will be running with Unified today.

FANTASIA

I'm already running in the four event maximum!

SIMONE

Me too!

COACH SINCLAIR

Not today. Get loose. The first event is the two-by-one.

Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells walk away.

FANTASIA

He's trying to teach us a lesson.

SIMONE

I don't understand.

FANTASIA

It won't work!

(beat)

We'll play his little game, but I've got an idea.

SIMONE

I'm listening.

Fantasia whispers into Simone's ear. She smiles.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STARTING LINE - DAY

A female TRACK OFFICIAL instructs a huddled group of Unified competitors and their partners on the race rules.

Fantasia, Simone, and Andrew stand next to Gretchen, Stephen, and Trevor.

TRACK OFFICIAL

Partners will start first. You will then hand the baton off to your Unified teammate. Every runner will stay in their own lane.

(beat)

Let's line up.

Coach Wells guides Gretchen, Stephen, and Trevor to their lane and handoff points.

Fantasia and Simone set their blocks in lanes three and four. Andrew sets his blocks in lane seven.

Coach Sinclair stands near the finish line.

The track official begins her sequence.

TRACK OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

On your mark.

(beat)

Set.

The starting pistol explodes. Andrew leaves his blocks first followed by Fantasia and Simone. The other competitors are at least three yards behind.

COACH WELLS

Go Clermont!

Fifty meters down the track, Andrew reaches Trevor first. He grabs the baton and streaks towards the finish line.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Folks, let's cheer these athletes on!

The crowd roars.

Fantasia stretches the baton towards Gretchen, but purposefully drops then kicks it. Simone attempts to pass the baton to Stephen, and she also drops it.

Gretchen and Stephen both scramble to pick up their batons.

COACH SINCLAIR

What are you doing?



Fantasia pretends it was unintentional.

Trevor crosses the finish line first. The other teams follow. Gretchen and Stephen finish last.

Trevor fist bumps and gives Andrew a hug.

TREVOR

We the fastest of all time!

ANDREW

Yeah!

Coach Wells jogs up to the finish. She hugs Gretchen.

GRETCHEN

(in tears)

I very sorry.

Coach Wells glares at Fantasia.

COACH WELLS

Believe me, it wasn't your fault.

Fantasia and Simone walk back towards the infield.

SIMONE

Perfect execution.

Coach Sinclair meets them.

COACH SINCLAIR

I saw what you did.

FANTASIA

We're not used to running with slow people.

COACH SINCLAIR

You pull a stunt like that on their next relay, and you'll be off the team.

(beat)

Do you understand me?

FANTASIA

Yes, Coach.

SIMONE

What do we do now?

FANTASIA

This ain't over!

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Clermont's athletic director, MATT HORAN, 45, sits across from Coach Sinclair.

MATT HORAN

We got a problem.

COACH SINCLAIR

Budget shortfall or eligibility issues?

MATT HORAN

I wish that's all it was.

COACH SINCLAIR

Sounds serious.

MATT HORAN

Fantasia and Simone's parents are threatening a lawsuit against the school board, Principal Baines, along with you and I.

COACH SINCLAIR

What are their claims?

MATT HORAN

Discrimination and favoritism.

Horan hands a letter to Coach Sinclair.

MATT HORAN (CONT'D)

Principal Baines received this from their lawyer this morning.

Coach Sinclair reads. He hands it back.

COACH SINCLAIR

What should we do?

MATT HORAN

Personally, I don't think they have a case, but it still costs money to fight their claims.

Horan stands. He paces.

MATT HORAN (CONT'D)

I know why you relegated them to Unified.

COACH SINCLAIR

But, what you're saying is?

MATT HORAN

Several of the school board members  
are hoping you will reinstate them.

COACH SINCLAIR

So all of this goes away quietly?

MATT HORAN

The school district doesn't want  
anymore negative publicity.

Coach Sinclair stands.

COACH SINCLAIR

You know I can't do that.

MATT HORAN

I figured you would say that.

COACH SINCLAIR

It appears I have a decision to make.

Horan sits back down at his desk.

MATT HORAN

I would hate to lose you as our  
coach.

COACH SINCLAIR

I'll let Coach May and Coach Wells  
know.

MATT HORAN

Mike...please don't do this.

COACH SINCLAIR

I preach to my kids that unless they  
have integrity and respect for others,  
their performance on the track means  
nothing to me.

Horan's intercom buzzes.

MATT HORAN

Yes!

SCHOOL SECRETARY (O.S.)

The District Superintendent would  
like to speak with you.

MATT HORAN

Please tell him to hold.

Coach Sinclair reaches for the door knob.

MATT HORAN (CONT'D)

Won't you reconsider?

COACH SINCLAIR

Tell the Superintendent not to worry.

Horan picks up his telephone.

MATT HORAN

Hello, Sir.

(beat)

Coach Sinclair just resigned.

INT. NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Coach Sinclair sits across the table from Coach Wells.

COACH WELLS

Why?

COACH SINCLAIR

As I told Coach Mays, it came down to my personal convictions.

COACH WELLS

The team thinks you quit because of something they did.

COACH SINCLAIR

I'm depending on you and Coach Mays to set them straight.

COACH WELLS

If it wasn't for my Unified kids, I would probably quit too.

COACH SINCLAIR

Until they find my replacement, Coach Mays is going to need your help.

Coach Wells takes a drink of water.

COACH WELLS

It doesn't make sense when a talented athlete thinks he or she is entitled to special treatment. They don't understand how blessed they are.

COACH SINCLAIR

The Unified athletes could teach all of us that.

COACH WELLS

I'm really going to miss you.

Coach Sinclair momentarily stares.

COACH SINCLAIR  
I'll miss you too.

BRENT and JENNIFER WHITAKER, Andrew's parents, approach Coach Sinclair's table.

JENNIFER  
Coach. I still can't believe it!

COACH SINCLAIR  
I was going to retire eventually.

BRENT  
The team you had this year could  
have won State!

COACH SINCLAIR  
They still can. Coach Mays and Coach  
Wells will do great!

A MALE WAITER brings two menus.

MALE WAITER  
I'll check back with you in a few  
minutes.

JENNIFER  
Andrew is really concerned about the  
team's focus.

Coach Sinclair looks at Coach Wells.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Giving the seniors more responsibility  
is key.

BRENT  
We'll let you get back to your  
conversation.

JENNIFER  
Andrew loved running for you.

Brent and Jennifer turn to leave.

COACH SINCLAIR  
The team needs his leadership.

BRENT  
Thanks, Coach. We'll let him know.

MALE WAITER

Have you had time to look over the menu?

COACH WELLS

I'm really not that hungry.

COACH SINCLAIR

Thank you, but we've decided to leave.

MALE WAITER

Very well, Sir. Have a good night.

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Coach Sinclair walks with Coach Wells to her car.

COACH WELLS

Sorry for wasting your time. I bet you were hungry?

Coach Sinclair faces Coach Wells.

COACH SINCLAIR

With all that's happened, I'm glad we could talk.

COACH WELLS

I'm really concerned.

COACH SINCLAIR

About the team?

COACH WELLS

I really don't know what I'm doing when it comes to coaching. I read books, watch videos, and--

COACH SINCLAIR

You're wonderful with these kids. Coaching isn't about how much you know, it's about making each athlete feel that he or she can accomplish something they've never done before.

COACH WELLS

Like motivation?

COACH SINCLAIR

Exactly. It's up to us...I mean it's up to you as a coach to figure out how each athlete is wired.

Coach Well's pulls her keys out of her purse. She gives Coach Sinclair a cordial handshake.

COACH WELLS

I'll keep that in mind.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - CITY INVITATIONAL - DAY

Multicolored team tents are seen. Coaches instruct, athletes warm up and fans begin filling the stadium seats.

Coach Mays and Coach Wells gather Clermont's track team for a pre-meet talk.

Fantasia and Simone groove in the background with their headphones on.

COACH MAYS

Turn your music off!

Startled, the two girls obey.

COACH MAYS (CONT'D)

The entries for both the individual and relay events are the same as last week. Coach Wells.

COACH WELLS

This week's United relay partners will be Andrew, Marcy, and Cody.

COACH MAYS

Last year we dominated this meet. Let's make it two years in a row.

(beat)

Our four-by-eight team should be getting ready. Fantasia and Simone, don't leave.

The team disperses. Coach Mays walks up to Fantasia and Simone.

COACH MAYS (CONT'D)

Fantasia, you're entered in the one hundred and two hundred meter dashes. Simone, you're in the long-jump. If I see any attitude today or either of you disrespecting others, your track & field careers at Clermont are through. Understand?

Fantasia nods.

COACH MAYS (CONT'D)

Simone?

SIMONE

I promise to behave.

COACH MAYS

I hope so.

Coach Mays walks away.

FANTASIA

(mocking)

Yes, Coach. I promise not to disrespect anyone. Right.

SIMONE

I think he means business.

Gretchen and Trevor jog up.

GRETCHEN

You running with me today? I promise not to drop baton.

FANTASIA

Thank God, no!

TREVOR

Not nice, Tasia.

FANTASIA

It's Fantasia!

SIMONE

We're competing in other events.

GRETCHEN

Oh. I hope you do well?

SIMONE

That's nice. Thank you! .

Trevor takes Gretchen's hand and leaves.

FANTASIA

Why would you thank her.

SIMONE

I think you should ease up.

Fantasia grabs her spikes.

FANTASIA

I don't have time for this or for you!

Relay runners compete in the background. A scoreboard flashes split times. The crowd cheers.



Coach Mays checks his stopwatch as Clermont's four-by-eight team battles for first place.

COACH MAYS  
Come on Clermont!

Coach Wells, followed by Trevor, Gretchen, Stephen, and their assigned partners check-in for their race.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Ladies and gentleman, here they come  
around the last turn.  
(beat)  
Clermont, Oldham County, and St.  
Xavier are dead even.

The crowd stands to their feet.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
As they approach the finish,  
it's...St. Xavier, followed by  
Clermont and Oldham County.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - INFIELD - DAY

Coach Mays talks with Clermont's four-by-eight relay team.

COACH MAYS  
We almost had them. Great effort  
all around. We'll work on your  
handoffs this week.

Student track team assistant, CHELSEA HOWARD, 17, updates Coach Mays on the team's early meet performance.

CHELSEA  
Ryker and Brady won the Unified shot  
put. T.J. is in a jump off with  
with another jumper, and Simone is  
on her last jump. She fouled on the  
first two.

COACH MAYS  
Thanks, Chelsea. I'll need your  
help more than ever this season.

CHELSEA  
Do you think Coach Sinclair will  
come back?

COACH MAYS  
I hope so. I really hope so.

Unified runners and their partners assemble down on the track.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
 Folks, please draw your attention to  
 the start of the Unified two-by-one  
 hundred meter relay. These young  
 men and women will thrill you with  
 their effort and determination.  
 Let's make them welcome.

Spectators throughout the stadium deliver a loud welcome and  
 thunderous applause.

Trevor blows kisses to the crowd. Gretchen waves and Stephen  
 claps.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STARTING LINE - CONTINUOUS  
 Andrew, Marcy, and Cody adjust their blocks.

TRACK OFFICIAL  
 On your mark... Set...

The starter pistol fires.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Andrew leaves his blocks with a lead over everyone else.
- Cody and Marcy are in second and third place behind Andrew.
- Andrew reaches Trevor first, followed by Cody then Marcy.
- Gretchen clasps her baton as she runs towards the finish.
- Stephen crosses the finish soon after for a Clermont one-  
two-three sweep!

Coach Wells hugs and claps.

The crowd roars with their approval as Trevor performs Usain  
 Bolt's, Thunder Bolt pose.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

ANDREW  
 Awesome job guys!

MARCY  
 Gretchen, you ran good!

GRETCHEN  
 I don't drop baton this time.

Cody uses sign language to congratulate Stephen.

CODY  
 (signing)  
 You did very good!

Stephen signs back, drawing out his words

STEPHEN  
 Thank...you!

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STANDS - CONTINUOUS

A familiar face in a bucket hat and sun glasses sits high up in the stands. Coach Sinclair smiles.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Female sprinters set their blocks for the two hundred meter dash. Fantasia is all business.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
 Our next event is the women's two hundred meter dash. After winning today's earlier one hundred meter event, defending state champion, Fantasia Dupree will be trying for a double. She will be in lane four.

Coach Mays positions himself near the finish line with stop watch in hand.

The official starter raises his gun. Fantasia lowers her head.

OFFICIAL STARTER  
 Set...

GUN BLAST

Eight female sprinters approach the first curve. Fantasia has a commanding lead.

The crowd cheers as Fantasia extends her lead.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
 Fantasia Dupree is making a statement!  
 This could be a new meet record.

Thirty meters from the finish, Fantasia pulls up. The seven other runners run past her to the finish. Fantasia begins to limp.

COACH MAYS  
 Finish the race!

Fantasia pushes a trainer away. She disappears into the infield crowd.

Coach Wells jogs up to Coach Mays.

COACH WELLS

What happened?

COACH MAYS

She pulled up limping.

(beat)

Crossing the finish line would have given us at least one point.

COACH WELLS

I checked the points total. We're tied with St. Xavier and Central High heading into our final two events.

COACH MAYS

I wish Coach was here.

COACH WELLS

He's probably hiding somewhere watching us.

COACH MAYS

And laughing, knowing what we're going through.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Coach Sinclair, jots down information. He smiles, adjusts his hat and sun glasses. He makes his way towards the nearest exit.

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Athletic Trainer, ABBY JOHNSON, 32, hands Coach Mays, Fantasia's medical report.

COACH MAYS

It could have been a lot worse.

ABBY

She has a grade one, slight strain in her left hamstring. Thankfully she pulled up when she did.

COACH MAYS

How much can she do at practice.

ABBY

Light jogging for the next couple of days unless she feels any tightness. After that I would keep her at stride pace. She should be back to full speed in a couple of weeks.

Coach Mays hands the report back to Abby. He stares up at the ceiling. Abby follows his gaze.

ABBY (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

Coach Mays ponders. He looks over at Abby.

COACH MAYS

We've got some Unified kids who would love to help Miss Dupree speed up her recovery.

ABBY

I don't follow.

COACH MAYS

I'll keep you posted.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Coach Wells jogs along manicured lawns and sculptured hedges, listening to an upbeat song. In the distance she sees a familiar figure running in her direction. She slows down.

COACH WELLS

Coach!

COACH SINCLAIR

Getting your miles in?

COACH WELLS

It lets me binge on desert.

Coach Wells checks her running watch.

COACH SINCLAIR

I don't want to interrupt your run.

COACH WELLS

I only have a half mile left.

COACH SINCLAIR

Come on, I'll finish it with you.

Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells jog side-by-side. They pass other joggers, parents pushing strollers, and dogs taken for a walk.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)  
I was at the city wide track meet.

COACH WELLS  
We could have used your help.

COACH SINCLAIR  
From what I saw, you and Coach Mays did a pretty good job.

COACH WELLS  
If Fantasia would have finished her race, we would have won!

COACH SINCLAIR  
I saw that we lost by one point for the team trophy.

COACH WELLS  
Coach Mays was livid!

COACH SINCLAIR  
He had a right to be.

Coach Wells looks at her watch. She and Coach Sinclair stop running.

COACH WELLS  
Three miles equals a cinnamon roll.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Coffee?

COACH WELLS  
How did you guess?

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Coach Sinclair removes his warmup jacket. His well-defined arms capture Coach Wells attention.

COACH SINCLAIR  
I'm still a little hot.

COACH WELLS  
You sure...I mean, I bet you are.

Coach Sinclair grins. They move towards an empty booth.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Coach Mays texted me after the meet. Begged me to come back.

COACH WELLS  
We were both a little overwhelmed.

COACH SINCLAIR

You almost won! Besides, you both need to learn that you can coach.

Coach Sinclair takes a drink. He searches Coach Wells eyes.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

I was a decent athlete. Ran track in college.

(beat)

My coach was hard-nosed, but our team knew he loved us.

COACH WELLS

And you thought you could do the same thing?

Coach Sinclair shifts in his chair. He leans in towards Coach Wells.

COACH SINCLAIR

No! I wanted to be an oceanographer.

Coach Wells takes a drink. Leans back and crosses her arms.

COACH WELLS

I don't follow.

COACH SINCLAIR

My coach would say, "Mike, don't ever think about becoming a coach. You're too nice, besides you would probably lose most of your meets."

COACH WELLS

He didn't hold back did he?

COACH SINCLAIR

He saw something in me that I couldn't see. I was stubborn. Maybe I still am?

Coach Wells rolls her eyes.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

If someone told me I couldn't do something, I would prove them wrong.

COACH WELLS

So his reverse psychology worked.

Coach Sinclair stands.

COACH SINCLAIR

I need a refill. You?

COACH WELLS

I'm good.

Coach Wells studies Coach Sinclair as he chats with an employee behind the counter.

He returns with his coffee.

COACH SINCLAIR

So what about you?

COACH WELLS

I don't follow.

COACH SINCLAIR

You know. Why did you become a teacher?

Coach Wells takes another drink of coffee.

COACH WELLS

It's complicated.

(beat)

In college, I was engaged to Carter Rosenbaum.

COACH SINCLAIR

Sounds like a lawyer.

COACH WELLS

His family made their fortune in the textile industry. Carter was next in line to take over.

COACH SINCLAIR

So you would never have to work another day in your life.

COACH WELLS

That's not why I was going to marry him. Carter was kind and extremely generous with his time. He volunteered at the children's hospital where we met.

Coach Sinclair sits back.

COACH SINCLAIR

So what happened?

COACH WELLS

Parental pressure.

(MORE)



COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

The thought of their son marrying a girl from the country who drove a beater didn't fit their social or financial expectations.

COACH SINCLAIR

So they had the dollars but no sense.

Coach Wells looks away.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

Is there something else?

COACH WELLS

I was told I couldn't have children. Since Carter was an only child, it would have been the end of the Rosenbaum family line.

(beat)

I suppose my students are the children I could never have.

COACH SINCLAIR

Any regrets? I mean with Carter?

COACH WELLS

I don't dwell on the past. I like to keep moving forward.

(beat)

Any more health news?

Coach Wells finishes her coffee.

COACH SINCLAIR

Once I find out, you'll be the first to know.

INT. FANTASIA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fantasia watches television. Her mother, FRANCIS DUPREE, 40s, yells from the kitchen.

MRS. DUPREE (O.S.)

I need you to watch your brother.

FANTASIA

Sorry. I'm going out.

MRS. DUPREE

Excuse me? It's a school night.

FANTASIA

Mom!

MRS. DUPREE  
I didn't ask for an attitude!

Fantasia crosses her arms just as her Mother enters.

MRS. DUPREE (CONT'D)  
I'm cleaning the bank tonight.

FANTASIA  
You cleaned it last night.

MRS. DUPREE  
I'm filling in for someone else.  
(beat)  
I should be home by eleven.

FANTASIA  
Why can't someone else watch him.

MRS. DUPREE  
You know what. You're right. I'll  
pick up a third job so you can relax.

FANTASIA  
Okay! I'll watch him!

MRS. DUPREE  
There was a time I could really count  
on you.

Mrs. Dupree picks up her purse.

MRS. DUPREE (CONT'D)  
Don't forget his medicine.

Fantasia stands. Flips off the television.

FANTASIA  
I won't.

INT. FANTASIA'S HOME - BROTHER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fantasia enters the dimly lit bedroom. There's a wheelchair with the outline of a young man, ISAIAH DUPREE, 14, staring out the window.

Fantasia sets a glass of water and two tablets on a table.

FANTASIA  
I can't wait to graduate and move  
out of here.

Isaiah's bedroom door slams shut. He continues to stare.

INT. SCIENCE MUSEUM - DAY

Coach Wells assembles her CLASS of special needs students. A TEACHER'S ASSISTANT and Simone lend their support.

COACH WELLS

You must be on your best behavior.  
And stay together!

CLASS

(in unison)  
Yes, Ms. Wells.

Trevor holds Gretchen's hand. Anna stands behind them as Brady stares up at suspended science models. Stephen watches a large plasma ball emit light beams. Other classmates ooh and ahh.

Gretchen waves for Simone to come near.

GRETCHEN

Smone. Where's Fantasia?

SIMONE

Not sure. She wasn't at school.

TREVOR

Glad you're here.

Brady begins to clap.

The class walks up to a space capsule. A female GUIDE greets them.

GUIDE

Hey guys!

The entire class waves.

GUIDE (CONT'D)

Want to learn about space?

CLASS

Yeah!

Anna reaches for Simone's hand. Simone starts to pull away then reconsiders.

ANNA

Would you be my friend?

SIMONE

Well...I guess so.

The guide takes the class up to the model of a NASA space capsule.

GUIDE

While our Gemini space capsule never left the ground, it helped astronauts in the nineteen sixties prepare for their space missions.

TREVOR

I want to be a ass-naught

GRETCHEN

You already an ass.

The class begins to laugh. The guide covers her mouth to hide her amusement.

COACH WELLS

Class. Class! One more outburst and we'll have to leave.

Brady fixes his eyes on an adjacent exhibit.

BRADY

Mummy.

TEACHER'S ASSISTANT

Brady, do you miss your mother?

BRADY

(hyper)

Mummy, Mummy, Mummy!

Simone walks over to a large Egyptian Mummy.

SIMONE

He means this.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- The class continues to walk and experience science and historical exhibits throughout the museum.

-- Trevor and Stephen hug the legs of large stuffed polar bear.

-- Gretchen and Anna's hair stand on end while touching a Van de Graaff generator.

-- Simone is seen laughing as she warms up to the class members.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

Coach Wells stands by the driver. She faces her students. Simone sits halfway back next to Anna.

COACH WELLS

Class, I thought today went well.  
How did you like the museum?

Boisterous applause and cheering erupt.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

Simone, thank you for helping us out today.

The class again claps and yells! Simone, smiles as she fist bumps those around her.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Coach Sinclair sits on an examination table. Dr. REED MCGUIRE, 60s, opens his laptop, he stares at the screen.

DR. MCGUIRE

How's the team?

COACH SINCLAIR

I resigned.

DR. MCGUIRE

That's what you live for.

COACH SINCLAIR

Not anymore. At least not for now.

Dr. McGuire closes the laptop.

DR. MCGUIRE

The tumor is growing. I'm pushing up your surgery.

Coach Sinclair lowers his head.

COACH SINCLAIR

What are my chances.

DR. MCGUIRE

Truthfully? Not good.

(beat)

It's easy to get to, but its potential to spread to your brain is great.

COACH SINCLAIR

Any suggestions?

Dr. McGuire stands. He removes his readers.

DR. MCGUIRE  
 My football coach used to tell us.  
 "Men, your greatest opponent is  
 yourself. Defeat doubt, and victory  
 will come."

Coach Sinclair puts on his shirt.

COACH SINCLAIR  
 I'll have to remember that. Thanks,  
 Doc.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Coach Mays directs Clermont's track and field team members.  
 Some stretch, run over hurdles, pole vault, sprint, and throw.

Coach Wells coaches her Unified team members. Fantasia sits  
 alone stretching. Simone approaches.

SIMONE  
 We missed you on the field trip.

FANTASIA  
 (sarcastic)  
 I had to get my nails done.

Trevor runs past. He waves.

TREVOR  
 Hi, Mone!

SIMONE  
 Hey, Trevor!

Fantasia stares at Simone.

FANTASIA  
 What that's about?

SIMONE  
 I've made some new friends.

Gretchen approaches.

GRETCHEN  
 Hi!

SIMONE  
 Looking good!

GRETCHEN  
 Hi, Fantasia!

Fantasia smirks.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)  
Why don't you like me?

FANTASIA  
Let's just say I don't play well  
with others.

GRETCHEN  
I pray for you every night.

FANTASIA  
I don't need anyone's prayers.

Coach Mays walks up. He faces Fantasia.

COACH MAYS  
Part of your rehab is jogging. Lets  
get going!

FANTASIA  
I'm still tight.

COACH MAYS  
Now!

Coach Mays turns away. Fantasia slowly stands and makes a  
face mocking him. She gets in Simone's face.

FANTASIA  
Traitor!

Simone steps back.

SIMONE  
What are you talking about?

FANTASIA  
Making friends with those...

SIMONE  
You really do need prayer.

Simone jogs away. Fantasia fumes.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - CROSSWALK - DAY

A school CROSSING GUARD directs traffic. Students wait to  
cross. Fantasia's ear pods pulsate as other students along  
with Trevor and Gretchen wait.

Trevor waves, yells.

TREVOR

Hi, Tasia!

Fantasia ignores him as the crossing guard blows a whistle to cross. Fantasia moves first into the street.

Gretchen turns to see a car accelerating towards Fantasia.

GRETCHEN

(screaming)

Fantasia!

Gretchen drops her books and lunges towards Fantasia, pushing her to safety. The car screeches to a stop. Gretchen lies motionless.

The DRIVER jumps out. The crossing guard rushes to Gretchen. Fantasia, shaking, sits down and begins to cry.

DRIVER

(frantic)

Oh my, God! My gas pedal got stuck!  
Is she okay?

CROSSING GUARD

Somebody! Call nine-one-one.

Chaos erupts as students and faculty surround the scene.

INT. GRETCHEN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Multi-colored tubes and wires connect Gretchen to beeping monitors and medical apparatus. DOCTOR LAWRENCE RICHARDS, 50s, checks her vital signs. Gretchen slowly lifts her hand as she waves at her mother, SARAH PAUL, 40s.

DR. RICHARDS

You are one lucky girl.

GRETCHEN

I'm blessed.

MRS. PAUL

Will she be okay?

DR. RICHARDS

The x-rays showed a lot of bruising,  
but no broken bones.

(beat)

I'd like to keep her overnight for  
observation. Ice and rest when she  
gets home.

MRS. PAUL

Thank you for taking care of her.



DR. RICHARDS  
And you, young lady. No more saving  
people.

GRETCHEN  
Sorry, Doctor. I can't promise.

A knock at the door. Doctor Richards answers. Principal Baines  
and Coach Wells stand in the doorway.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
Can we see her?

DR. RICHARDS  
I don't see why not.

MRS. PAUL  
Honey, you have guests!

Coach Wells hugs Mrs. Paul.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
We had to see how you were doing?

GRETCHEN  
I'm sore, but I'll be running very  
soon.

MRS. PAUL  
We'll see.

COACH WELLS  
You're a brave young lady.

GRETCHEN  
No I'm not. I did what you taught  
us to do.

COACH WELLS  
What was that?

GRETCHEN  
To help others in need.

Principal Baines wipes a tear.

Another light knock bounces off the door. Mrs. Paul answers.

FANTASIA  
(softly)  
Can...I see Gretchen?

Gretchen tries to see who is at the door.

GRETCHEN

Fantasia!

PRINCIPAL BAINES

We should probably be going.

MRS. PAUL

Thank you so much for stopping by.

(beat)

Sweetheart, I'll just be in the hallway.

GRETCHEN

Okay, Momma.

Fantasia stands motionless.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

Happy to see you.

Fantasia reveals a small bouquet of flowers. She gives them to Gretchen.

FANTASIA

These are for you.

GRETCHEN

They're pretty!

FANTASIA

You saved my life. I'm so grateful and sorry for how I've treated you.

GRETCHEN

I forgive you.

Fantasia begins to cry. She carefully hugs Gretchen.

FANTASIA

I promise to be nice.

GRETCHEN

Do something else for me?

FANTASIA

Anything. What is it?

GRETCHEN

Please teach me to run fast?

Fantasia dries her eyes. She chuckles.

FANTASIA

Of course.

Gretchen and Fantasia hold hands.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells sip on coffee. Walkers, joggers, and bikers pass by.

COACH SINCLAIR  
So Gretchen will be okay?

COACH WELLS  
She's already back at practice.  
(beat)  
Even has her own coach!

COACH SINCLAIR  
I don't follow.

COACH WELLS  
Fantasia is working with her almost every day.

COACH SINCLAIR  
What happened?

COACH WELLS  
Escaping death makes you appreciate life and those around you even more.

Coach Sinclair rises. He throws his coffee cup in a nearby receptacle. Coach Sinclair follows. They walk.

COACH SINCLAIR  
I hope to have that chance.

Coach Wells stops. Coach Sinclair looks into the distance.

COACH WELLS  
What do you mean?

COACH SINCLAIR  
The doctor moved my surgery up.

COACH WELLS  
Is that good?

COACH SINCLAIR  
My tumor is malignant.

Coach Wells grabs Coach Sinclair's hand.

COACH WELLS  
I'm so sorry!  
(MORE)

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Look, I'll take care of anything you need. Just ask.

COACH SINCLAIR

I have a daughter. Her name is Courtney. She's a pharmacist up in Ohio.

COACH WELLS

And your ex?

COACH SINCLAIR

Re-married.

(beat)

Look, in case I don't pull through...

Coach Wells lets go of Coach Sinclair's hand. She turns away, lowers her head.

COACH WELLS

Any other surprises?

COACH SINCLAIR

If I happen to pull through the surgery, would you consider dating an opinionated coach?

Coach Wells raises her head.

COACH WELLS

What did you say?

COACH SINCLAIR

I've always thought you were attractive, but I've learned how caring and compassionate you are.

Coach Wells turns back around.

COACH WELLS

I still drive a beater.

COACH SINCLAIR

Shouldn't be a problem. I'm not in the textile business.

Coach Wells reaches for Coach Sinclair's hand. She searches his eyes.

COACH WELLS

I'm not a very good cook either.

COACH SINCLAIR  
I figured. Thankfully I like pizza.

Coach Wells takes a playful swat at Coach Sinclair.

COACH WELLS  
So now what?

COACH SINCLAIR  
You and Coach Mays need to stay  
focused on the team. I suppose the  
rest is up to God?

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Matt Horan sits at Principal Baines desk. She opens a file folder.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
It looks like the lawsuit by the  
Dupree and Simmons families has been  
dropped.

MATT HORAN  
Great news, but why?

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
It doesn't say.  
(beat)  
Do you think Mike would come back?

MATT HORAN  
At this point...doubtful.

Principal Baines stands. She ponders.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
What if we could show our appreciation  
for what he's done at Clermont High  
School?

Matt leans back in his chair.

MATT HORAN  
He doesn't like attention.

PRINCIPAL BAINES  
You're starting to sound like my  
husband.

Matt reaches for the door handle. Pauses.

MATT HORAN  
Let's hope his surgery is successful.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Clermont's practice looks crisp as athletes jump, sprint, and throw.

Coach Mays watches pole vaulter, LUKE WALLACE, 17, practice his vault. He barely clears the bar.

COACH MAYS  
Move back six inches and raise your  
grip three fingers.

LUKE  
Will do, Coach.

Coach Mays jogs over to the high jump pit. T.J. flies over the bar with ease.

COACH MAYS  
Going after that school record?

T.J.  
Always!

On the adjacent track curve, Fantasia looks smooth and effortless as she sprints past.

COACH MAYS  
Looking good, Ms. Dupree!

Fantasia jogs up.

FANTASIA  
Thanks, Coach.

COACH MAYS  
Leg feel okay?

FANTASIA  
Never better.  
(beat)  
Excuse me. I promised Coach Wells I  
would help out today.

Fantasia runs off. Coach Mays shakes his head in disbelief.

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - ACTIVITY ROOM - DAY

Fantasia and Simone clap and sing along with other special needs students and their buddies.

Coach Wells moves to the microphone. The music stops.

COACH WELLS  
Welcome Best Buddies!

The entire room claps and yells in a joyous response.

Ryker gives Brady a high-five. Andrew fist bumps Trevor. Fantasia, Gretchen, and Simone give a group hug.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

It is wonderful to see so many happy faces.

(beat)

I want you all to give a big welcome to Principal Baines.

An eruption of whooping and hollering surprises Principal Baines. She gestures a clap towards the group.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

I don't think I've ever been welcomed like that before. Thank you!

A SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT yells from the back of the room.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT

Me neither!

Those assembled begin to laugh. Coach Wells motions for them to settle down.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

I am honored that you invited me here today. Each one of you is important. Never forget that.

Gretchen lays her head on Fantasia's shoulder.

PRINCIPAL BAINES (CONT'D)

We need each other.

(beat)

I also want to tell you about a special event I want you to help me with.

TREVOR

A party?

Principal Baines motions to Coach Wells to hold up a large plaque in front of the room.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

I want to present Coach Sinclair, our former track coach this plaque in appreciation of his years working at Clermont High School.

(beat)

Coach Wells.

COACH WELLS

Coach Sinclair was a wonderful teacher  
and coach whom we really miss.

Coach Wells lowers her head in silence. She hesitates.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

(emotional)

Coach Sinclair has been really sick.  
We want him to know how much we care.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Thank you, Coach Wells.

(beat)

I want the Best Buddies to help us  
host a party for Coach Sinclair and  
the track and field team. Can we do  
this?

More cheers erupt from the room.

Gretchen raises her hand.

PRINCIPAL BAINES (CONT'D)

Yes, Gretchen.

GRETCHEN

Can I dance with Coach Sinclair.

Amused, Principal Baines looks over at Coach Wells.

COACH WELLS

As long as you let me dance with him  
too!

GRETCHEN

I'll think about that.

Brady stands and does the floss dance. The other special  
needs students laugh and cheer.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Thank you, Best Buddies!

INT. COACH WELLS CLASSROOM - DAY

Coach Wells stands in front of her class. She directs their  
attention to information on the whiteboard.

COACH WELLS

Today, each of you has an assignment.

Trevor raises his hand.



TREVOR

What's our ass...ignment?

GRETCHEN

Listen and she'll tell you!

Brady claps his hands. Some laugh, stomp their feet, rap on their desks.

COACH WELLS

Class! Shh!

(beat)

Principal Baines asked each of us to make a *Get Well Card* for Coach Sinclair.

STEPHEN

What's wrong with him?

GRETCHEN

Stephen! Not polite!

COACH WELLS

It's okay. Coach Sinclair is having surgery, and your card will make him feel much better. You can write, draw, or color anything you think he might like.

GRETCHEN

(somber)

I hope he gets well.

Coach Wells moves back to her desk.

COACH WELLS

Me too, Gretchen.

INT. FANTASIA'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mrs. Dupree checks the oven as a pot boils and the microwave beeps.

MRS. DUPREE

Fantasia, can you come in and set the table?

FANTASIA (O.S.)

Sure, Mother.

Mrs. Dupree moves between the stove and sink. Fantasia hums as she places silverware and plates on the kitchen table. Mrs. Dupree closes a kitchen cabinet. She glances over at Fantasia.

MRS. DUPREE  
Everything at school okay?

FANTASIA  
Seems to be.

MRS. DUPREE  
Track?

FANTASIA  
Couldn't be better.

Mrs. Dupree crosses her arms and leans against the countertop.

MRS. DUPREE  
Have you had a religious experience?

FANTASIA  
No. Why?

MRS. DUPREE  
You're never this happy, and always  
complain when I need you to do  
something.

Fantasia grabs some napkins. Her brother wheels himself to the kitchen doorway.

FANTASIA  
I'm trying to be more positive.

Isaiah rolls his eyes. Mrs. Dupree hesitates.

MRS. DUPREE  
You haven't taken any drugs have  
you?

FANTASIA  
Of course not! Helping others makes  
me feel good.

Mrs. Dupree dries her hands. Fantasia finishes setting the table.

FANTASIA (CONT'D)  
Was I really that bad?

Mrs. Dupree and Isaiah respond in unison.

MRS. DUPREE & ISAIAH  
Yes!

MRS. DUPREE  
Whatever the reason, I like it.

Fantasia and her family sit down at the table.

FANTASIA

Don't forget our Regional Meet is on Saturday.

MRS. DUPREE

Who wants to say grace?

FANTASIA

I will. Lord, thank you for this meal and for my family. I really don't deserve them.

Mrs. Dupree and Isaiah peek, looking at each other.

FANTASIA (CONT'D)

Help me to be a blessing not only to them, but to everyone else I meet. Amen.

MRS. DUPREE & ISAIAH

Amen.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - REGION FOUR MEET - DAY

Fans clamor, athletes warmup. A kaleidoscope of different school colors fill the stadium.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Dupree and Isaiah watch from the first row.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - POLE VAULT PIT - DAY

Luke Wallace charges down the runway. Coach Mays watches every step. Luke's pole hits the box. He climbs higher, sailing over the bar.

Luke bounces claps, jumps off the pad and faces Coach Mays.

COACH MAYS

Great job! Your mid-point was perfect. You had at least a one foot clearance.

LUKE

My steps felt good.

COACH MAYS

Don't change a thing.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
 We want to thank Clermont High School  
 for hosting this year's Region Four  
 Meet. The Varsity team's top two  
 finishers in each event will  
 automatically move on to State.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STARTING LINE - DAY

Trevor, Gretchen, Andrew, and Marcy huddle. Coach Wells  
 instructs.

COACH WELLS  
 We've got a great day for racing.  
 Make sure your handoffs are clean  
 and have fun!

TREVOR  
 Fun, fun! Win, win!

GRETCHEN  
 Coach Wells, when I run I don't feel  
 crippled. Thank you for coaching us.

Gretchen gives Coach Wells a hug.

COACH WELLS  
 I'll meet you at the finish line.

Trevor hugs Andrew. Marcy holds Gretchen's hand.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - LONG JUMP PIT - DAY

A long jump contestant speeds down the runway. She jumps,  
 the CHIEF OFFICIAL raises a red flag.

CHIEF OFFICIAL  
 Foul!  
 (beat)  
 Simmons is up.

Coach Mays and Chelsea watch Simone prepare for her jump.  
 Chelsea writes on her clipboard.

CHELSEA  
 Simone fouled on her first two jumps.  
 Right now she's in last place.

COACH MAYS  
 Come on, Simone. Hit the board clean.  
 You got this!

Simone closes her eyes. She speeds down the runway. Simone  
 hits the board and lands deep in the pit. The Chief Official  
 raises a white flag.

Simone claps as she watches the other OFFICIALS measure.

CHIEF OFFICIAL  
Nineteen feet, one inch.

Simone jumps up and down. Coach Mays turns to Chelsea.

COACH MAYS  
Isn't that...?

CHELSEA  
A new school record!

Simone runs up to Coach Mays. They hug.

COACH MAYS  
Technique and desire win every time!  
You just punched your ticket to State.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Folks, it's that time. Our fearless  
Unified athletes are getting set for  
the two-by-one hundred meter relay.  
Let's make some noise!

The crowd stands to their feet, cheering and clapping.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STARTING LINE - CONTINUOUS

An assortment of Unified athletes from different schools line up in their assigned lanes.

Unified athlete partners set their blocks. Andrew lines up in lane number four. Marcy is in lane number two.

OFFICIAL STARTER  
Runner's on your mark.  
(beat)  
Set...

The official gun fires.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Andrew and another runner in lane three take off first as they head down the track.

-- Marcy begins to close along with two other runners.

-- Andrew hands the baton to Trevor. He fumbles it. Other Unified runners begin to pass him.

-- Gretchen runs with improved form past Trevor.

-- Trevor regains control of the baton. He catches the other runners and wins.

-- Gretchen crosses the finish line in fourth place.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Ladies and gentleman, what a race!  
Remember, the top four Unified  
finishers make it to State.

The crowd makes a loud and clamorous approval.

Coach Wells, along with Andrew and Marcy congratulate Trevor and Gretchen.

COACH WELLS  
Fantastic job! I think we have a  
good shot in the other races too!

Fantasia and Simone join in the celebration.

SIMONE  
Awesome job!

FANTASIA  
Gretchen, you're going to State!

GRETCHEN  
You helped me really good!

FANTASIA  
Trevor, we might have to race at  
practice.

TREVOR  
Not fair.

FANTASIA  
What do you mean?

TREVOR  
I win. Hurt your feelings.

Fantasia and Simone both laugh.

FANTASIA  
I didn't think about that.  
(beat)  
I better get ready for my race.

GRETCHEN  
Good luck!

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - SHOT PUT RING - DAY

Unified athletes and their partners line up behind the shot put cage. Brady and Ryker wait. The SHOT PUT OFFICIAL checks his entry list.

RYKER

Just how we practiced. Use your legs to get a good throw.

Brady stares straight ahead, emotionless.

SHOT PUT OFFICIAL

Next up, Hughes and Sanders.

Brady enters the ring. He readies the shot put under his chin.

RYKER

Make a statement!

Brady stands with the shot put tucked underneath his chin. He begins his throw, then lets out a shrieking yell as he propels the shot into the pit. Ryker's jaw drops.

Fellow competitors grow silent as Brady's throw is measured.

SHOT PUT OFFICIAL

Forty feet, six inches.

Ryker runs up to Brady. He gives him a bear hug.

RYKER

Where did that come from? Awesome!

Coach Wells rushes to congratulate, Brady.

COACH WELLS

That's ten feet farther than you have ever thrown!

Brady claps and hugs Ryker.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Folks, up next is the women's one hundred meter dash. Clermont's, Fantasia Dupree, last years region four winner and defending state champion will be in lane four.

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - STARTING LINE - CONTINUOUS

Fantasia loads into her blocks. She does a run-out. Gretchen and Trevor stand nearby in the infield.

TREVOR

Go, Tasia!

GRETCHEN

We love you!

Fantasia looks up, smiles and makes a heart sign towards Gretchen and Trevor.

Fantasia stands behind her blocks. She closes her eyes, focused on this moment.

TRACK OFFICIAL

Runners on your mark.

Fantasia and seven other runners load into their blocks.

The track official raises his gun.

TRACK OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

Set...

GUN BLAST

Fantasia's blocks slip. She is behind the other runners.

TREVOR

Run, Tasia!

GRETCHEN

Go, go, go!

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Fantasia accelerates through her drive phase.

-- Fantasia catches up to several sprinters at fifty meters.

-- The crowd stand and cheer.

-- Two runners are still ahead. Fantasia catches one.

-- With twenty meters to go, Fantasia pulls even. Ten meters...five...both runners...lean.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentleman it is too close  
to call!

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - FINISH LINE - CONTINUOUS

Fantasia stands next to Coach Mays. He shrugs. The digital scoreboard is blank.



Several OFFICIALS gather to review the finish line video. They confer. The scoreboard begins to display the results.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
A photo finish! Fantasia Dupree is your winner by two one hundredths of a second.

COACH MAYS  
What happened?

FANTASIA  
My blocks slipped.

COACH MAYS  
Don't let that happen for the two hundred. You earned this one. Congratulations!

Gretchen reaches Fantasia first.

GRETCHEN  
I so happy for you!

TREVOR  
Maybe you beat me.

Fantasia, Gretchen, and Trevor share a hug.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Multiple running events continue to take place around the track.

-- Field event participants continue to compete.

-- Clermont's four-by-one hundred meter relay team practice their handoffs in the infield.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. HOSPITAL - COACH SINCLAIR'S ROOM - DAY

Coach Sinclair tries to focus on a figure standing by his bed.

COACH WELLS  
Can you hear me?

COACH SINCLAIR  
(slurring)  
Nice...to...see you.

An attending NURSE enters. She checks a monitor and adjusts Coach Sinclair's IV drip.

COACH WELLS

Is he okay?

NURSE

He made it through the surgery just fine. He'll start making a little more sense in a couple of minutes.

Coach Wells scans the room.

COACH SINCLAIR

Did you bring me a pizza?

Coach Wells holds up the giant get well card her class made.

COACH WELLS

No, but my class made this for you.

COACH SINCLAIR

That's nice.

COACH WELLS

How are you feeling?

COACH SINCLAIR

A little sore, but I still need to get my run in.

The nurse snickers as she raises his bed.

NURSE

No running today, Coach.

COACH SINCLAIR

I don't like her.

NURSE

You will once the anesthesia wears off.

COACH SINCLAIR

I don't believe her.

COACH WELLS

She looks honest to me.

COACH SINCLAIR

Regionals?

COACH WELLS

We won. Set two school records.

(beat)

Simone in the long jump. Brady and Ryker in the Unified shot put.

COACH SINCLAIR  
See, you all don't need me.

Coach Sinclair reaches for a bottle of water. Coach Wells gets it for him. He takes a sip.

COACH WELLS  
It would be great to see you at State.

COACH SINCLAIR  
We'll see.

Coach Wells sets the card on top of a desk. She kisses Coach Sinclair on the forehead.

COACH WELLS  
I better let you rest.

Coach Wells turns to leave.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Wait!  
(beat)  
Don't forget about our agreement.

COACH WELLS  
Oh, I'm going to hold you to it.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - STADIUM - DAY

A sea of different school colors fill the stadium. Track athletes stretch and warmup. Track officials check in runners for their respective events.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

Coach Sinclair sits high up with a clip board. Matt Horan sits next to him.

MATT HORAN  
I'm glad you came. How's the recovery going?

COACH SINCLAIR  
Emotionally, pretty good.  
Physically...it will take some time.

MATT HORAN  
Principal Baines wants you to come back.

COACH SINCLAIR  
What about you?

MATT HORAN

You shouldn't have to ask.

COACH SINCLAIR

Right now there are too many unknowns  
for me to make a commitment.

MATT HORAN

So your not ruling it out.

Coach Sinclair focuses his attention down on the track.

MATT HORAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to take that as a yes.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - INFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Coach Wells scans the crowd. She spots Coach Sinclair and waves. He smiles and waves back.

Coach Mays gives final instructions to Clermont's four-by-eight RELAY TEAM.

COACH MAYS

This is it! We're the number four  
seed. Clean handoffs, and don't  
back down. Let's surprise some  
people.

Coach Mays and the relay team huddle and yell.

RELAY TEAM

(unison)

Team!

Coach Wells assembles the Unified team members and their running partners.

COACH WELLS

Trevor, Andrew is your partner, and  
Gretchen, you will be running with  
Marcy in the two-by-one.

Trevor high-fives Andrew. Gretchen and Marcy exchange a secret handshake.

TREVOR

This won't take long. I win big  
today!

COACH WELLS

Just make sure of your handoffs.

Fantasia and Simone jog up to the group.

SIMONE

We'll be cheering you on!

Fantasia faces Gretchen. She gives a visual example.

FANTASIA

Remember, to move your arms fast and your feet will follow.

GRETCHEN

Fast arms, fast feet. I remember.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentleman. Welcome to the two thousand twenty four State Track Meet. Should be a great day of competition. Several records are bound to fall today!

(beat)

Our first event is the Unified two-by-one hundred relay. Let's hear it for these amazing athletes!

A roar from the crowd erupts.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - STARTING LINE - DAY

Unified athletes and their partners are organized according to their lane assignments. Andrew leads off in lane four. Marcy runs out of lane seven.

Trevor and Gretchen await at the fifty meter point in their lanes. Coach Wells and Fantasia stand nearby just inside the track.

COACH WELLS

Alright guys. Run hard!

Trevor gives a thumbs up. Gretchen sways back and forth.

FANTASIA

Gretchen, just like we practiced.

Andrew, along with the other runners gets set in their blocks.

TRACK OFFICIAL

Runners on your mark.

(beat)

Set...

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Andrew gets out of the blocks first followed by two other runners then Marcy.

-- Spectators around the track and in the stands cheer loudly.

-- Trevor and Gretchen prepare for their handoff.

-- Andrew reaches Trevor first. The baton is exchanged and Trevor streaks towards the finish.

-- Marcy and Gretchen have a clean handoff. Gretchen, now in third place heads down the track.

-- Coach Wells yells as Fantasia races to the finish line cheering Gretchen on.

-- Trevor crosses the finish line first followed by another team then Gretchen.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - FINISH LINE - CONTINUOUS

Trevor celebrates, Gretchen hugs Fantasia.

FANTASIA

You did great!

GRETCHEN

Fast arms, fast feet!

Andrew and Marcy run up to join in the celebration along with Coach Wells.

COACH WELLS

Tremendous work, both of you!

Trevor fist bumps Andrew.

TREVOR

Best partner.

GRETCHEN

I'm fast?

COACH WELLS

You sure are!

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

Coach Sinclair claps. He types on his phone.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - INFIELD - CONTINUOUS

Coach Wells receives a text alert. She smiles and gives a thumbs up to Coach Sinclair.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - SHOT PUT CIRCLE - DAY

Brady and Ryker await their turn to throw in the Unified shot put competition.

Ryker's first throw sends the shot put flying. Brady follows with an equally impressive effort. A SHOT PUT OFFICIAL records their throws.

SHOT PUT OFFICIAL  
Hughes and Sanders are the current  
leaders.

RYKER  
Let's win this!

Brady fist bumps Ryker.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - HIGH JUMP - DAY

Coach Mays watches T.J. McLean stretch as he prepares to jump.

TRACK OFFICIAL  
The bar is set at six feet eight  
inches.  
(beat)  
Mclean! You're up. Samuels, you're  
on deck.

T.J. eyes the bar. He rehearses his movement then takes off for the pit. He rises off the ground.

TRACK OFFICIAL (CONT'D)  
Height is cleared. Samuel, you're  
up!

Coach Mays and T.J. celebrate.

COACH MAYS  
Your currently in second place.

T.J.  
With no misses.

COACH MAYS  
Keep it going!

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - STARTING LINE - DAY

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Our next event is the women's one  
hundred meter dash.

Fantasia adjusts her blocks. Each lane is filled with competing runners.

Fantasia does a runout.

TRACK OFFICIAL  
Runners on your mark.

Trevor and Gretchen watch.

GRETCHEN  
Go, Fantasia!

The track official raises his starter pistol.

TRACK OFFICIAL  
Set...

SERIES OF SHOTS

- The women explode from their blocks.
- Fantasia accelerates through her drive phase.
- Runners in lanes three and five pull even with Fantasia.
- At fifty meters, Fantasia starts to pull away.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Fantasia Dupree has defended her  
crown with a new state record of  
eleven point six seconds!

Trevor and Gretchen rush to the finish line.

TREVOR  
You faster than me.

Gretchen hugs Fantasia. Coach Wells and Coach Mays run up.

GRETCHEN  
I so proud of you!

COACH MAYS  
One event down, three to go. Better  
get ready for the four-by-two.

FANTASIA  
Will do, Coach.

COACH WELLS  
Too bad she can only run in four  
events.



COACH MAYS

The way she ran the hundred, she'll  
be hard to beat in the open two  
hundred.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - LONG JUMP PIT - DAY

Simone waits for the LONG JUMP OFFICIAL to signal she can  
jump. Coach Wells stands off to the side.

LONG JUMP OFFICIAL

Simmons is up. Wallace is on deck.

Simone eyes the pit. She takes off down the runway, hits the  
board.

A RED FLAG is raised

LONG JUMP OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

Foul!

Simone exits the pit, shaking her head in disappointment.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

Coach Sinclair types on his phone.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - LONG JUMP PIT - CONTINUOUS

Coach Wells gets a text alert. She looks up at Coach Sinclair.  
She nods.

Coach Wells motions for Simone to come over.

COACH WELLS

You were behind your mid-mark. Move  
your start up six inches.

SIMONE

Will do. Thanks!

Chelsea runs up to Coach Wells.

CHELSEA

Something's wrong with Gretchen.  
She's in our team tent.

COACH WELLS

I'll be right there.

(beat)

Simone! You can do this!

Simone smiles, and gives Coach Wells a thumbs up.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - TEAM TENT - DAY

Gretchen, on her back is attended by a MALE and FEMALE MEDIC. She appears disoriented. Chelsea and other team members stand off to the side, watching.

COACH WELLS

Is she alright?

FEMALE MEDIC

Hypoglycemia.

MALE MEDIC

Said she didn't eat breakfast.  
Nervous about today's meet.

COACH WELLS

Will she be okay?

FEMALE MEDIC

Have her eat and drink these. We'll  
check her levels again in about  
fifteen minutes.

GRETCHEN

I run, Coach. I want to run!

MALE MEDIC

Just relax young lady. We're here  
to help you do just that.

GRETCHEN

Okay. Thank you for take care of  
me.

CHELSEA

What about the four-by-one relay?

COACH WELLS

Stephen can run in her place.

GRETCHEN

I want to run!

Coach Wells faces Gretchen.

COACH WELLS

Let's make sure you're okay. If so,  
you can still run in the two-by-two  
hundred meter race.

GRETCHEN

I understand.

COACH WELLS  
Chelsea will watch you. I've got to  
check on our relay team.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - INFIELD - DAY

Coach Wells gathers the four-by-one Unified relay team.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)  
Marcy, you will hand off to Stephen.  
Stephen, you will hand off to Andrew.

Stephen signs that he understands.

ANDREW  
Then I'll hand off to our anchor  
leg, Insane Bolt!

TREVOR  
The crowd cheers. I win!

COACH WELLS  
Practice your handoffs. I will be  
right--

Simone limps up.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)  
What happened?

SIMONE  
My last jump. I hit the board  
perfect.

COACH WELLS  
And?

Simone holds up a silver medal.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)  
Super job!

SIMONE  
But I twisted my ankle on the landing  
pretty bad. Not sure if I can run  
the Unified relay with Gretchen?

COACH WELLS  
Get some ice from the trainer. We're  
not sure Gretchen can run either.

SIMONE  
Why not?

COACH WELLS

A medical issue. We'll hope for the best.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - STARTING LINE - DAY

Unified participants and their partners receive final instructions.

OFFICIAL STARTER

Runners, please make sure you stay in your lane during the entire race. Head to your exchange zones.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Folks, please direct your attention to our next event! The Unified four-by-one-hundred meter relay.

The crowd cheers as the leadoff runner for each team adjust their blocks.

Marcy, in lane four adjusts her blocks.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

After five events, the Trinity Crusaders lead the men's team standings while the Clermont Highlanders women's team is currently in first place.

(beat)

This just in, Clermont's Unified shot put team of Brady Hughes and Ryker Mathews have claimed first place!

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - TEAM TENT - DAY

Gretchen is now sitting upright. Simone limps up.

SIMONE

I'm sorry you don't feel well.

GRETCHEN

I much better now.

(beat)

Why you limp?

SIMONE

Long jump. I landed on it funny.

GRETCHEN

Can you run with me?

Simone adjusts her ice pack.

SIMONE

Probably not.

Gretchen bows her head.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

But Coach Wells will find someone  
just as good.

GRETCHEN

But I count on you.

Simone gives Gretchen a hug.

SIMONE

I count on you too.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - TRACK - DAY

Each Unified leadoff runner is set in their blocks. The  
starter scans each lane.

OFFICIAL STARTER

Runners on your mark...set...

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Marcy gets out of her blocks quickly. She speeds ahead  
then hands off to Stephen.

-- Stephen is several places behind. He makes a clean handoff  
with Andrew.

-- Andrew, in fourth place quickly joins the leaders. He  
hands off to Trevor for the final one hundred meter leg.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

CHEERING CROWD

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentleman we have a close  
race. Clermont, Oldham County, and  
Manual high schools are neck and  
neck!

Trevor sees runners on each side of him. He lowers his head  
and takes off towards the finish for the win.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Oh, my! Clermont's runner certainly  
found another gear!

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - FINISH LINE - CONTINUOUS

Trevor is mobbed by his teammates. Coach Mays and Coach Wells converge.

COACH MAYS

Where did that speed come from!

TREVOR

I Insane Bolt!

COACH WELLS

Best handoffs of the season!

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

According to the official timer.  
Clermont High School just set a new  
Unified State Meet Record!

Coach Mays and Coach Wells look up at Coach Sinclair in the stadium stands. He gives a big thumbs up!

COACH MAYS

Simone's second place finish in the  
long jump keeps us in first place  
for the women, but not by much.

(beat)

If T.J. can win the high jump, and  
Luke can place in the top three in  
the pole vault, the men's team might  
make the podium?

COACH WELLS

Simone's ankle is sprained pretty  
bad.

COACH MAYS

I was hoping she could sneak into  
the top five for the two hundred.  
At least Fantasia should repeat as  
State Champion.

COACH WELLS

I still need to find someone to  
replace Simone on the Unified two-by-  
two.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - TEAM TENT - DAY

Gretchen is attended by the Female Medic. Fantasia sits next to Simone.

CHELSEA

So is she better?

FEMALE MEDIC

It looks like her glucose level is back to normal. And her vitals are in order.

GRETCHEN

Let me run!

CHELSEA

Is that possible?

FEMALE MEDIC

On our end, she's all clear.

Gretchen thrusts her hands into the air.

Simone confides in Fantasia.

SIMONE

(whispering)

I feel terrible. I really let Gretchen down.

FANTASIA

You know as well as I do that injuries happen.

Trevor and Stephen approach.

TREVOR

I heard you hurt!

GRETCHEN

Not anymore! I all better!

Stephen claps his hands. Gretchen looks over at Simone with an ice pack on her ankle.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

Smone need to be better so she run with me.

Simone looks at Fantasia.

SIMONE

What can I do?

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Clermont's women still lead in the team standings. There has been some movement on the men's side with Trinity still in first, but Clermont has moved up from eighth place to fourth after winning the men's high jump.

(MORE)

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(beat)

Coming up, the eight hundred meter dash followed by the Unified two-by-two.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - POLE VAULT - DAY

Coach Mays watches Luke Wallace during the pole vault competition.

Luke gets set then charges down the runway towards the pit. His pole hits the vault box as he sails well over the bar!

POLE VAULT OFFICIAL

Fifteen feet.

Luke walks over to Coach Mays.

COACH MAYS

Right now your in the top three.

LUKE

I really want this!

COACH MAYS

No reason you can't win! I would also move up a pole.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - INFIELD - DAY

Coach Wells checks her clip board. Coach Mays jogs up.

COACH MAYS

Luke could win the pole vault.

(beat)

How's Gretchen.

COACH WELLS

The medics cleared her to run. I'll get Marcy to take Simone's place?

Fantasia approaches.

FANTASIA

Coach Mays, Coach Wells, could I take Simone's place on the two-by-two with Gretchen?

COACH MAYS

That would be fine, but it would put you over the limit of how many races you can run.



COACH WELLS

I appreciate your offer, but I was going to ask Marcy.

FANTASIA

I've decided to drop out of the two hundred meters.

COACH MAYS

But, you're the defending state champion!

FANTASIA

You don't understand, Gretchen saved my life. I want to do this for her.

Coach Mays removes his hat and rubs his head.

COACH MAYS

You know, I can't argue with your reason. Coach Wells?

COACH WELLS

Gretchen will be thrilled!

FANTASIA

Thank you! I better get warmed up.

COACH MAYS

I guess coaching isn't always about winning?

COACH WELLS

The wins will come as long as a team cares about each other.

COACH MAYS

You're starting to sound like Sinclair.

Coach Wells receives another text. She gives a thumbs up to Coach Sinclair.

COACH MAYS (CONT'D)

What did he say?

COACH WELLS

Why are we standing around and talking. Get to work!

COACH MAYS

(facetious)  
I really miss him.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - INFIELD - DAY

Fantasia stretches. T.J. and Charles Davis approach.

T.J.  
I heard what you did. I'm impressed.

CHARLES  
Everyone's asking why?

FANTASIA  
This is more important than a trophy.

T.J.  
Gretchen will never forget this.

CHARLES  
You've changed her life.

T.J.  
Here she comes!

Gretchen jogs up as Simone limps from behind. Gretchen reaches to give Fantasia a hug.

GRETCHEN  
Thank...you for run with me.

FANTASIA  
With Simone hurt, you needed a partner.

GRETCHEN  
I promise I run fast, just like you show me.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
First call for the Unified two-by-two.

Coach Wells walks up.

COACH WELLS  
You two better get checked in.

SIMONE  
I can't believe she's doing this!

COACH WELLS  
You both have come a long way this season. I'm very proud of you.

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - STARTING LINE - DAY

Unified teams gather around the official starter for final race instructions. Gretchen stands next to Fantasia.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentleman our final Unified event of the day is the two-by-two hundred meter race. One lap around.

(beat)

Because of an injury, Clermont's Fantasia Dupree, the defending state champion in the two hundred meters will fill in, and forfeit her chance to defend her title.

The crowd begins to buzz.

Fantasia adjusts her blocks.

Coach Wells shows Gretchen where to stand to receive Fantasia's handoff.

Coach Wells receives a text from Coach Sinclair. The display reads: "Why is Fantasia running?"

Coach Wells responds: "We'll talk later."

Fantasia, in lane five stares down the track.

OFFICIAL STARTER

Runners, on your mark...set...

GUN BLAST

SERIES of SHOTS

-- Fantasia explodes out of her blocks reaching the curve well-ahead of anyone else.

-- Gretchen bounces up and down, excited as she waits for Fantasia.

-- Fantasia has a fifty meter lead over the rest of the runners as she hands off to Gretchen.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Incredible! Fantasia Dupree just ran under twenty three seconds for her two hundred meter split!

-- Gretchen receives the baton and stumbles, but regains her balance.

-- Two other Unified runners gain on Gretchen.

Coach Wells, Trevor scream at Gretchen. Stephen signs his encouragement too!

COACH WELLS  
Come on Gretchen! Don't give up!

TREVOR  
Faster, Gretchen!

Fantasia sprints across the infield to cheer Gretchen on down the homestretch.

With fifty meters to go, the two other runners pull even with Gretchen.

FANTASIA  
Arms, Gretchen. Pump your arms.

Gretchen glances over at Fantasia. She follows directions.

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Folks, with fifty meters to go, it could be anybody's race!

The crowd stands to their feet with a roar of cheers.

Gretchen begins pulling away.

COACH WELLS  
Look! She's moving ahead!

FANTASIA  
That's it, Gretchen! Drive harder.  
Lift your knees!

TRACK ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
And at the finish it is Clermont High School winning it, setting another state record!

Fantasia, Coach Wells, Trevor, and Stephen envelope Gretchen at the finish line.

COACH WELLS  
That's my girl!

FANTASIA  
You are a warrior! Incredible!

GRETCHEN  
I so tired, but happy!

EXT. STATE TRACK MEET - STANDS - CONTINUOUS

Coach Sinclair slowly stands, claps and high-fives others around him.

INT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Special needs students, track and field team members, TEACHERS and ADMINISTRATORS dance to a DJ playing music.

Coach Sinclair dances with Coach Wells to an upbeat tune.

Brady shows off his dance moves to a circle of onlookers.

COACH SINCLAIR

This is one way I can get my cardio in.

COACH WELLS

Great turnout!

Trevor and Gretchen dance by.

TREVOR

(waving)  
Hey, Coach!

GRETCHEN

Ask him out!

COACH WELLS

(loud whisper)  
Already did!

Gretchen gives a thumbs up!

Principal Baines and Matt Horan take in the moment.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

A huge success!

MATT HORAN

It looks like Coach is enjoying himself with Coach Wells.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Anything I should know about?

MATT HORAN

He didn't say anything to me.

The DJ introduces a slow tune. Coach Sinclair looks at Coach Wells. She extends her arms.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

I think I know the answer.

Chelsea and Andrew Whitaker partner up. They watch Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells.

CHELSEA

Are they a couple?

ANDREW

It's looking that way!

As Gretchen and Trevor continue to dance together, Fantasia and Simone approach.

FANTASIA

Can we cut in?

GRETCHEN

I dance with Smone.

TREVOR

Tasia my girl!

GRETCHEN

Hey! You cheatin' on me?

TREVOR

Kiddin'.

Coach Sinclair comes up to Principal Baines.

COACH SINCLAIR

Since our athletic director won't ask you to dance...

(beat)

May I?

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Of course!

Horan shakes his head. Anna grabs Horan's hand.

PRINCIPAL BAINES (CONT'D)

So when you said, "Our athletic director," does that mean?

COACH SINCLAIR

Got any coaching vacancies?

Coach Mays and Coach Wells dance up.

COACH MAYS/COACH WELLS

(in unison)

Yes!

Chelsea grabs a microphone. Andrew stands next to her.  
Chelsea signals the DJ to stop the music.

CHELSEA

Attention!  
(beat)  
Is everyone having a great time?

All in attendance give a rousing cheer and clap.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

One of the reasons we're here tonight  
is because of someone who has touched  
each of our lives.

TREVOR

Yeah! That's me!

GRETCHEN

Quiet! It's not you!

CHELSEA

Coach Sinclair has meant so much not  
only to me, but to our entire team.  
Tonight we want to celebrate his  
legacy.

Chelsea hands Andrew the microphone.

ANDREW

Coach, as a senior, I'm really going  
to miss you! Coach Mays and Coach  
Wells did an outstanding job with  
us, but there are so many  
underclassmen who would love to have  
you coach them.

Andrew passes the microphone to Matt Horan.

MATT HORAN

Thank you, Andrew. When Coach Sinclair  
decided to leave, I not only lost a  
great coach, but a friend. I'm hoping  
we have a chance to work together  
again.

Ryker approaches. He sets down two large trophies.

MATT HORAN (CONT'D)

Coach Mays and Coach Wells, could  
you both join me.

(MORE)

MATT HORAN (CONT'D)

(beat)

Because of Coach Mays and Coach Wells, Clermont High School continued to show great resolve and success this track season.

Horan hands the microphone to Coach Mays.

COACH MAYS

When Coach asked me to take over this season, I felt overwhelmed. As a team, you gave tremendous effort and made the coaching transition for Coach Wells and myself much easier. Thank you!

Coach Wells takes the microphone.

COACH WELLS

To say I'm amazed about this season is an understatement.

Brady starts hooping and clapping in the back.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

Thank you, Brady.

(beat)

Tonight is a celebration for not only athletic achievement, but for life and how Coach Sinclair represents that.

Principal Baines cradles a plaque.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Coach Sinclair, please come up.

Coach Sinclair hesitates. The crowd urges him on.

PRINCIPAL BAINES (CONT'D)

We want to honor you tonight with this plaque, recognizing not only your outstanding coaching accomplishments, but for the compassion and character you model to the Clermont High School students. Thank you!

More cheers and applause.

COACH SINCLAIR

I wasn't expecting this, but thank you!

(MORE)



COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

(beat)

Being able to coach and teach a group of student athletes like yourselves this long has been a true blessing. I will never forget you and how much you mean to me.

Matt Horan picks up one of the trophies.

MATT HORAN

Each year, Clermont High School is considered a top contender at the state track and field meet. Although we didn't win it this year, we did place second in the team championship!

Applause and cheering ensue.

MATT HORAN (CONT'D)

Could I have our Unified athletes come up?

Gretchen, Trevor, Brady, Stephen, and Anna stand next to podium.

Coach Wells is handed the microphone.

COACH WELLS

As a first year coach, I had my doubts that I could make a difference in these student's lives. Because of their effort and their unconditional love towards others, they have changed my life.

Horan hands Coach Wells an even larger trophy. She faces the Unified members.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

Unified team, in honor of your hard work and courage this season, I am proud to present to you the first place trophy given to the top Unified track and field team in our state! A first for Clermont High School!

An enormous roar of cheering and clapping fill the gymnasium.

Each of the Unified athletes celebrate. Trevor grabs the microphone.

TREVOR

I want thank Coach Wells for let me run!

GRETCHEN

Thank you, Tasia and Smone for helping  
me fun fast.

IN THE CROWD

Fantasia and Simone wipe their eyes. They make a heart with  
their hands.

PRINCIPAL BAINES

Coach Sinclair, again, thank you.  
And to our track and Unified athletes,  
let's bring home even more trophies  
next year!

EXT. CLERMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRACK - DAY

Coach Sinclair leads Clermont's track team through their  
stretches.

SUPER: "ONE YEAR LATER"

Coach Wells enters the track complex with a baby bump, followed  
by the rest of the Unified athletes. They stop in front of  
the bleachers.

COACH WELLS

Team, set your things down.

Trevor dashes away from the rest of the group.

GRETCHEN

He's got issues.

Coach Wells crosses her arms.

COACH WELLS

Trevor Rusk, get back here right  
now!

Coach Sinclair looks over at Coach Mays.

COACH SINCLAIR

I'll be right back.

Coach Sinclair catches up to Trevor.

TREVOR

I getting faster?

COACH SINCLAIR

Definitely! Better head back to the  
group.

TREVOR

Yes, Sir!

Trevor rejoins the Unified group next to the bleachers.

COACH WELLS

Everyone, take a lap.

Coach Wells confronts Coach Sinclair.

COACH WELLS (CONT'D)

Why does he do that?

COACH SINCLAIR

He's the state champion, remember?

COACH WELLS

But it's disrespectful.

COACH SINCLAIR

He doesn't mean it to be.

(beat)

How are you feeling?

COACH WELLS

If your son would quit kicking me, a lot better.

COACH SINCLAIR

You once told me you couldn't have children. Remember.

COACH WELLS

I'm not in the mood.

COACH SINCLAIR

Are you sorry you married me?

Coach Wells rubs her stomach.

COACH WELLS

(teasing)

I'll let you know.

Two familiar faces appear. Hugs are exchanged.

COACH SINCLAIR

Home on break?

FANTASIA

I thought it would never get here!

SIMONE

I love college, but I really miss you all and my teammates.

COACH SINCLAIR

And track?

FANTASIA

Everyone's fast, but I love the competition.

SIMONE

Once this season is over I might concentrate on my studies.

COACH WELLS

Have you two decided on a major?

SIMONE

Social Justice. I want to help those to have a voice who are disadvantaged or looked down upon by society.

FANTASIA

At first I thought about Business, but my heart is guiding me towards Special Education. Who knows, Coach Wells may need a future assistant.

COACH WELLS

Without a doubt!

COACH SINCLAIR

I'm excited for both of you.

As the Unified team members continue to jog, Gretchen can be heard arguing with Trevor.

FANTASIA

I've got an idea.

Fantasia and Simone sneak around the bleachers and come up behind the Unified team members.

SIMONE

All I hear is arguing. I want to see teamwork.

FANTASIA

I don't care how fast you are, your form needs work. Pump your arms. Get your knees up!

The entire Unified team surround Fantasia and Simone with hugs and greetings.

TREVOR

Tasia!

GRETCHEN  
Smone. We missed you!

Brady wears his state championship medal and gives high fives.  
Stephen signs repeatedly. Anna is embraced by Fantasia and Simone.

FANTASIA  
Did we surprise you?

Stephen signs, "YES!"

GRETCHEN  
You stay with us?

SIMONE  
We're just home on college break.

Coach Sinclair and Coach Wells move in closer.

TREVOR  
I even faster this year!

FANTASIA  
So is the goal to repeat as State  
Champions!

UNIFIED TEAM  
(unison)  
YEAH!

SIMONE  
Then you got to put the work in.  
Practice hard everyday!

FANTASIA  
And listen to Coach Wells.

Coach Wells squeezes Coach Sinclair's hand. He puts his arm  
around her.

GRETCHEN  
I still pray for you.

FANTASIA  
Please, don't stop.

Coach Sinclair motions for the entire men's and women's track  
team to come over.

COACH SINCLAIR  
Just like Fantasia and Simone,  
everyone here today will always be a  
part of this team.  
(MORE)

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

These are your brothers and sisters  
for life. Never forget that!

(beat)

Everyone, bring it in.

Clermont's team and coaches embrace as they encircle Fantasia,  
Simone, and the Unified team.

COACH SINCLAIR (CONT'D)

Unified on three. One, two, three!

TRACK TEAM MEMBERS

(unison)

UNIFIED!

FADE OUT.

THE END