Fight Or Flight

Ву

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### ACT 1 SC 1 INITIATION

INT. SCHOOL - NEAR LOCKERS

Will gets pushed into a locker and a punch is headed towards his head but he ducks out of the way. Chad's hand slams into a locker and he grunts in pain.

> WILL Whoa whoa I don't wanna fight man!

Will puts up his hands up in front of him.

CHAD I saw you eyeing my girl, don't you deny it!

Chad takes another haymaker like swing and Will shoots under and takes him down. Then Will takes mount and starts slapping Chad

### WILL

You done?!

Chad is struggling to get Will off him but makes no progress. Out of no where Will is ripped off Chad and takes a punch from another guy. Will faces the other guy to fight him but then catches a punch to the back off the head from Chad. Will turns around to face Chad but then the other guy grabs Will in a full nelson and Chad starts teeing off on Will's face and stomach.

After the beating, Will is almost unconscious and the two guys throw Will onto the ground.

CHAD Watch your mouth next time, bitch.

Chad spits on Will and leaves.

WILL (V/O) Welcome to Ashborne High School.

Cue intro.

ACT 1 SC 2 MOVING DAY

INT. MOVING CAR

Will is looking out the window with a cardboard box on his lap.

Will has a flashback of his father getting shot.

(CONTINUED)

### WILL (V/O)

I hate this town, ever since my father passed away nothing is the same. We moved to Ashbourne, a shithole excuse for a town but you get use to it, or have to.

ACT 1 SC 3 BACKGROUND

INT. SCHOOL

A fight between two underclassmen breaks out. Upper class men and other underclassmen gather and watch.

WILL (V/O) See what I mean? The town became a mess after an oil spill back in 09' that defamed the name Ashbourne. Then all the wealthy left, and the scum moved in. The towns around didn't care or even want to know, long as there was no overspill into their precious white picket community.

Student handing money to teacher, the teacher leaves the room and locks the door for a student to meet his fate of his angry classmates.

A group of upperclass men walk through the hallways and people make way for them.

#### WILL (V/O)

The school...well - the school was like the jungle, the upperclassmen the lions, the fragile gazelle underclassmen and the teachers were the trees, bystanders to it all. Turning a blind eye to the violence and chaos. But hey at least the school is nice, they built it before the oil spill incident so now you can look at some nice tiles before you pass out.

ACT 1 SC 4 PRINCIPLE PROBLEMS

INT. PRINCIPLE'S OFFICE

Will is sitting down across from the principle.

WILL This is bullshit! All I did was help Lily with her math homework and Chad comes out of nowhere talking about how I was sweet talking his girl!

PRINCIPLE I see, I see and what happened next?

WILL This happened.

Will points to his black eye.

PRINCIPLE Hmm... I see.

WILL Are you gonna do anything about it?!

PRINCIPLE Of course, I'll make sure to talk to Chad

WILL Thank you (Sarcastically)

ACT 1 SC 5 BLIND EYE

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT

Will is walking home and sees 2 kids picking on another kid, Will stops in his tracks, stares at the kids, clenches his fist but after a bit he reaches up to touch his black eye and then walks away leaving the kid to his fate.

ACT 2 SC 6 SHADOWS

INT. CONTROL ROOM

Man in a dark room, face somewhat hidden.

SANDMAN The new kid got his initiation?

PRINCIPLE Yes sir, he isn't broken yet but in a couple of weeks he'll be one of us. SANDMAN Perfect, and the shipments?

PRINCIPLE They got through no problem, the pigs can't touch it.

SANDMAN That's what I want to hear Mrs. Clarence, you keep up with this good work and you'll have the money you need.

ACT 2 SC 7 NIGHTMARES

Will is behind his dad, his dad has his hands up and a man has a gun pointed at Will's dad.

DAD Will, go get your mother!

MYSTERIOUS MAN Little Will, stay right where you are and see how much of a coward your dad is.

Will looks up to his dad, his dad commands him

DAD

Run Will!

Will runs off and hears a gunshot. Will stops in his tracks.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

RUN WILL!

Will covers his ears and keeps running.

Will is awaken by his alarm clock.

ACT 2 SC 8 PRIMAL FL

Will walks into school with his headphones in minding his own business. Then he sees a girl handing out flyers that read "Want to prove your worth? And make some money on the side? Join The Primal Fight League! -Sunday 6pm-1am"

Will takes out his earbuds and grabs a flyer.

WILL What is this? LISA Sandman is having matches to see the new prospects.

WILL Who's that?

LISA Sandman? He runs the show around here and the fight league.

WILL Lisa why are you helping this guy? He only keeps you around for eye candy.

LISA Better eye candy than this

Lisa reaches her hand and strokes her thumb on his eye. Will flinches away.

LISA

Sorry.

WILL

I'm fine

LISA I don't know Will, maybe if you went, Chad would stop bothering you.

WILL Seriously doubt it.

LISA

Well I really hope you figure out a way to get Chad off your back but I need to get back to handing these flyers out or I'm gonna be in trouble. I'll see you around Will.

WILL See ya Lisa.

ACT 2 SC 9 RUN WILL

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM

Bell rings, Will pops out of his seat and leaves the classroom. Chad intercept Will and Will bumps into Chad.

5.

CHAD Hey watch where you're going!

WILL

Agh sorry man.

Will tries to walk away and Chad stiff arms him.

CHAD I heard you had a little chat with our principle...

Will's face turns worried and anticipated.

WILL And? You shouldn't try anything unless you wanna speed up your expulsion process.

Chad breaks into laughter.

CHAD You really think they're gonna expel me? Wow you really don't get it do you?

WILL What do you mean?

CHAD

No one can help you Will, the administration is a joke here. They are merely puppets in a bigger game. So heres the deal Will...I'll give you one free shot.

Chad points to his chin and leans forward.

WILL

Why?

CHAD Because I'm going to kick your ass.

Will is suddenly scared.

Will looks around for a second then pushes Chad onto his butt and starts running away.

CHAD Run Will, Run! I'll be right behind you!

Will runs through the hallways trying to find a way out.

Chad is now behind Will running to catch him.

Will starts getting gassed out and finds a room, he runs in and shuts the door behind him. Then he barricades the door and sits there.

Chad is banging on the door.

CHAD Oh come on Will! Come out and play!

Will looks at his watch and it reads 11:25am

WILL (To himself) I have a hunch that Ms. Floren won't mind that I cut class.

Time passes, Will looks at his watch and it reads 2:20pm now. Will leaves the room cautiously and looks around. No one is at school so he leaves.

CUT TO BLACK

ACT 2 SC 10 LOVE MOM

Will arrives home, throws his backpack down then goes to the fridge and sees a sticky note that reads "Won't be home tonight, working late. Love -Mom"

Will sighs in frustration then opens up the fridge.

ACT 2 SC 11 DAYMARES

Will is sitting in class and is falling asleep but can hear the lecture from the teacher.

TEACHER When an animal is faced with the threat of survival, their sympathetic nervous system fires off which primes the animal to either fight or flee. However there is another response called the freeze response, where the animal is surprised and cannot process the information in time before the predator strikes...

Will falls asleep and he is running in complete darkness.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Run Will!

CHAD

Run!

Will is terrified and running. Will looks back and bumps into his dad and falls down.

WILL

Dad?

Will's dad has a ruler in his hand and starts to swing it at Will

The teacher smacks the ruler on the desk, right next to Will's head to wake him up.

Will pops up and the class starts laughing at him.

ACT 2 SC 12 TRUE COLORS

Will is getting a drink from the water fountain and hears arguing from nearby.

LISA Stop it, Jake! I told you we're over.

Will peaks and sees a man invading Lisa's personal space and touching her. Lisa is clearly uncomfortable, then before Will can react, Chad gets involved and starts yelling at the guy, exchanging pushes. Eventually the other guy swings at Chad, Chad rolls under the punch and counters with a hook knocking the guy down.

LISA

Thank you.

CHAD No problem, run along before anyone sees.

LISA Thanks again.

Lisa runs off and Will sits in his thoughts wondering about the morality of Chad.

ACT 2 SC 13 ANSWERS

INT. SLC/HALLWAYS

Will is leaving class and walking.

The intercom speaks.

PRINCIPLE(V/O) Due to recent budget cuts, we will have a few less computers in the lab. So please pair up during class activities.

Will is about to round the corner but then he hears Chad talking to some of his friends. Will stops in his place and listens in.

CHAD

Lisa? Not sure what she did, something about stealing from the bossman, but if you ask me. She found out.

KEVIN That's too bad, I liked her. She was nice.

CHAD Kevin you would say that about any girl after your 4 month dry spell.

KEVIN Whatever man.

Chad gets a text message.

CHAD I need to go check up on some shipments, I'll see you around.

Chad and Kevin slap hands then Chad leaves

Will sits there contemplating what to do.

WILL (V/O) I really shouldn't get involved, I'll just call the cops or something...like they'll do anything...

#### WILL

(Under his voice) Damn it.

Will takes some deep breaths and slaps himself firmly.

Will sneaks up behind Kevin then pops up, hits Kevin on the lower back and then wraps a rear naked choke on Kevin. Kevin tries to throw some elbows and claws at Will's face until he passes out.

ACT 2 SC 14 BLACKOUT

INT. SMALL ROOM

Kevin is tied to a chair and eventually wakes up.

KEVIN What is this? Wha?

Will walks in frame.

WILL Hey Kevin.

KEVIN You better let me go Will. Do you know what you're even doing?

WILL I need answers.

#### KEVIN

And you're not gonna get any. How bout this, I think you just made a mistake Will, so if you let me go, Sandman won't have to hear about this.

Will hits Kevin across the face, Kevin whiplashes back and spits on the ground.

WILL Where is Lisa? (Slow and deliberate).

KEVIN Why do you care?

Will raises his hand up to hit him again, Kevin winces away.

KEVIN Okay okay... I'll tell you.

# ACT 2 SC 15 SANDMAN'S DEAL

Will approaches Chad who is guarding a door.

CHAD Why you have some nerve showing up here...

WILL Good to see you too Chad.

CHAD You must have some kind of death wish, Will.

WILL I need to talk to Lisa.

CHAD I can't do that, Sandman is dealing with her.

WILL C'mon Chad, she's an innocent girl.

Chad becomes more sincere.

CHAD They're not my rules, I'm sorry.

WILL I know you aren't like that Chad, please let me see her.

CHAD YOU. DON'T. KNOW ME. Now back off before Sandman finds you here.

Sandman exits through the door and enters the scene.

SANDMAN Did someone say my name?

CHAD That was me, boss

Sandman looks around at the others.

SANDMAN You must be Will, it's good to meet you.

Sandman extends his hand, Will reluctantly shakes it carefully.

WILL Hello Mr. - Er Sandman?

SANDMAN Call me Chris.

WILL Okay...Chris, you took my friend Lisa and you need to let her go.

SANDMAN

Deal.

WILL I DON'T GI - Wait what?

SANDMAN But you need to participate in the school's Primal Fight League.

WILL You want me to fight for entertainment?

SANDMAN Yes that...and also some other added bonuses

Sandman gestures, rubbing his index and middle finger to his thumb. Gesturing money.

Will hesitates.

WILL What exactly do I need to do?

SANDMAN Chad will help you out, but win 3 consecutive fights in the league and I will release Lisa along with enough money for you and your mom to leave this town for good. We both know that's what you want.

Chad looks over confused, having no prior knowledge of this deal.

Will hesitates.

WILL

Deal.

ACT 2 SC 16 UNDERGROUND

INT - BASEMENT

Basement is a grimy basement with matts on the floor, a double end bag and weights.

Chad is leading Will around.

CHAD This is the treadmill to keep your cardio up, a lot of the fights may not end that fast. We have mats to practice jiu jitsu, the double end bag to work striking and some basic weights to stay strong. It isn't much but you'll become a way better fighter if you have a place to train, and a person to teach you.

Chad sits down on the mats and Will follows.

WILL

Thanks...You mean you?

CHAD

Good guess. Now we need to lay down some rules that we have in the Primal League

WILL Hahaha (Ironic, sarcastic laugh)

CHAD

What's so funny?

WILL

Are you telling me there's rules to defending my life?

#### CHAD

Yes now shut up, you can't hit to the groin, bite, scratch, pull hair or keep beating up someone after their knocked out or tapped out. No eye gauges, ear pulling - anything else...that's all for now.

WILL And they say there's no honor in Ashbourne (Sarcastically) CHAD We aren't complete monsters.

WILL What is this Primal Fight League anyways?

CHAD

Basically it's regulated fights between students with cash awards. It's the only "sport" we have in Ashbourne. All the other sports were cut after the oil spill and then Sandman came and offered this to the students. It isn't pretty but kids need the money and Sandman offered the opportunity.

WILL Why do they call him Sandman?

Chad stands up.

CHAD Enough with the questions, lets get to training

WILL

Right yeah.

Will gets in front of the double end bag and Chad corrects his fighting stance with his legs and arms.

Chad shows him how to punch by grabbing his hand and extending it.

ACT 2 SC 17 NO FIGHTING

INT. SCHOOL

Will is studying at the library when he gets up to find a book he needs for his paper.

Will walks in on a kid picking on another student.

Will approaches the bully and is about to swing but is intercepted by Chad. Chad brings Will around the corner and slams him against the wall.

Chad places his hand on Will's mouth. Chad is shocked but then calms down as he sees chad placing his fore finger vertically on his lips.

(All in hushed tone)

CHAD And what do you think you're doing?

WILL I'm trying to save some poor kid!

CHAD

The only saving you should be doing is saving your own ass. You have 3 fights, you wanna go into these a hundred percent or you won't make it.

# WILL

But -

CHAD NO. FIGHTING. Understand?!

Chad glares at Will and Will looks down nods his head. Will glances around the corner and sees the kid meeting his fate.

KID

Help! HELP!

#### CHAD

Let's go.

Will reluctantly leaves with Chad.

ACT 2 SC 18 ANGLES

INT. BASEMENT.

Will and Chad are sparring lightly and Will is backing himself in the corner because he is scared to stand his ground. When Will is in the corner, Chad throws a flurry of strikes. Will ends up on the ground. Chad walks away while taking off his gloves

> CHAD You need to stop backing up.

Chad hands Will a water bottle.

WILL I know, I can't help it. I see the punches coming and I naturally just back up.

CHAD Will, do you know why fighting is my favorite sport? WILL Besides it being the only sport here?

CHAD

I love fighting because it is the ultimate competition between two people. When you win the glory is all you, and when you lose theres no one to blame but yourself.

WILL

Why are you telling me all this?

CHAD

Because in life, just like in fighting - you can back up, and it may seem like a viable option, but at some point you need to stand and fight or you'll find yourself in a corner with no options.

WILL I see, what can I do instead of backing up.

CHAD You cut the angle, come at them from a different angle while staying within your range.

Will looks at Chad confusingly.

CHAD Get up, I'll show you.

Chad shows Will how ducking will get him to the outside and at a different angle.

Cut to end of training session. Will is taking off his gloves and packing up.

CHAD Reminder that your first fight is tomorrow. So get some rest and stay out of trouble.

Chad gives Will a firm pat on the back and they leave.

EXT. SCHOOL

Will is walking to school and sees a girl getting beat up by two guys but she is doing a very good job in defending herself, but because she is outnumbered she is slowly losing the fight.

Will sees it and looks down at the Primal Fight League poster in his hand then back at Olivia. He drops the flyer and runs over and kicks one of the attackers onto the ground. The other attacker sees Will and starts to face him but gets caught by a left jab from Olivia. The attacker that Will kicked down gets up and starts throwing punches at Will, Will is backing up then trips over Olivia's backpack. Will falls on his butt and as the attacker tries to stomp Will, Will rolls over to one side, roll back grabs the attacker's leg and sweeps him.

Olivia is caught with a jab cross and as the attacker throws a hook, Olivia goes for a double leg takedown. Olivia gets stuffed and the attacker has a guillotine choke on Olivia. Olivia resists the choke with a hand on the arm. Then she throws a few knees to loosen the attacker up, then she spears through ending up behind him and sweeping the attackers leg out from under him. The attacker hits his head on the ground and is out cold.

Olivia walks over and bends over to pick up her bag, seemingly ignoring Will

> WILL Uhh you're welcome?

OLIVIA I had it handled.

WILL Can I at least get a thanks?

OLIVIA Thanks. (Dryly)

Olivia walks away.

ACT 3 SC 20 KEVIN'S REVENGE

Will is sitting down and Chad is massaging his back, loosening him up.

CHAD

Now remember to use ducks and slips to cut the angle and if you're gonna back up, come right back after. Keep it simple okay? One two, just like we practiced.

Will's opponent walks into the room and Will sees that it's Kevin. Kevin smirks at Will and sits down.

WILL

Ah shit...

## CHAD

What?

SANDMAN May the fighters rise, meet in the middle and tap fists.

Kevin and Will get up from their chairs and meet in the center.

Kevin whispers to Will

KEVIN Payback's a bitch.

They tap fists and back up.

#### SANDMAN

FIGHT!

Kevin comes in with a jab cross, front kick and Will is already backing up. Will finds himself against the wall and Kevin starts throwing a flurry of strikes. Will circles and gets away from the wall but then catches a front kick to the stomach and falls down. Will gets up and Kevin lets him but as soon as he rises Kevin throws a jab cross, switch cross at Will and he finds himself against the wall again. This time Will goes in for a double leg and takes Kevin down. Will gets mount and starts to throw punches and elbows down onto Kevin, Kevin rolls to his stomach and tries to get up. Will slaps on a rear naked choke as Kevin stands up and brings his legs back to catch him. Will squeezes the choke in, Kevin struggle throwing a few elbows into Will but Will holds on tight until Kevin passes out. Will tosses Kevin's limp body to the ground.

Sandman claps slowly.

ACT 3 SC 21 GOOD PEOPLE

Will spots Olivia in the hallways and taps her on the shoulder.

# WILL

Hey.

Olivia is startled and spins around, clears the hand from her shoulder and drives Will against the locker with her forearm on his neck.

Olivia sees who it is and lets go.

OLIVIA I'm so sorry. It's just that usually -

WILL I'm fine, I'm fine.

Will rubs his neck.

OLIVIA I'm really sorry, how can I make it up to you?

WILL You can start with telling me your name.

OLIVIA Right. I'm Olivia.

WILL I'm Will, it's good to meet someone who isn't an asshole.

OLIVIA You don't know me, I could be.

WILL Nah you seem like good people.

OLIVIA Good people do bad things.

WILL

True...Well I wanted to ask you how you learned to fight so well.

OLIVIA Through trial and error in the fight league.

WILL You're in the fight league too?

OLIVIA Yup been fighting since I was a kid.

WILL Don't you hate it? Having to fight all the time?

OLIVIA There are days I don't wanna fight but it puts food on the table so I can't complain.

Bell rings.

WILL

Fair...Well I should probably get to class, I'll see you around?

OLIVIA

Sure.

ACT 3 SC 22 REVELATIONS

Will is walking to his next class when he hears the principle in the other room talking on the phone.

Will eavesdrops.

#### PRINCIPLE

They're on to us, FBI caught the last shipment and it's gonna be a matter of time before someone squeals. - Yeah I understand - hmmm okay. We need to get everything out of here including us by Friday. Yes. Yes. I know another fight is due Friday but if we don't leave we'll all get arrested. Okay...Fine we'll have the fight but as soon as it's over we're out of here. ACT 3 SC 23 THE PLAN

INT. BASEMENT

Will is doing some pushups as Chad is coaching him

CHAD 3 more! 3 more!

Will finishes his pushups and rolls over tired.

CHAD Good job! So I got the info on your next fight on Friday

WILL Nice! Who's he?

CHAD It's a she, and I know it seems wrong but its not my call.

WILL That's not cool.

CHAD Her name is Olivia.

Will is shocked.

WILL I'm not fighting her.

CHAD

Why?

WILL Besides it being wrong, she's my friend.

CHAD Will, you can't let your emotions take over you.

WILL It's plain wrong, Chad.

CHAD You're right but what're you going to do? If you don't fight, you're gonna get punished. WILL I'll think of something.

CHAD

No you won't, you'll fight.

WILL What are the shipments Chad?

CHAD

What are you talking about?

WILL

Don't play stupid with me Chad, I know theres something fishy going on at the school and if you don't help me out you're gonna get caught in the fallout

CHAD

HA! What fallout are you talking about?

WILL

I overheard the Principle talking to Sandman. They're gonna get the rest of the shipments and get out of here on Friday after the fight.

CHAD Now why would they do that?

WILL

The FBI, they know. I'm guessing they're gonna raid the school on the following Monday.

CHAD Why should I believe you?

WILL

Because I wouldn't lie to you about this and I know what kind of person you are. You saved Lisa the other day, you aren't like them.

CHAD

You don't know me Will.

WILL Good people do bad things, it doesn't mean you can't change.

Chad sits in silence contemplating this decision.

CHAD What's the plan?

ACT 3 SC 24 BACK UP

Olivia is walking to class then Will intercepts her.

OLIVIA

Move!

Olivia shoves Will out of the way.

WILL Whoa, what's with the hostility.

OLIVIA Well maybe its because you're gonna try to take off my head tomorrow.

WILL That's actually what I wanna talk about.

OLIVIA What's there to talk about?

WILL I don't wanna fight you.

Olivia's tone softens up.

OLIVIA I don't wanna fight you either, but what can we do?

WILL I have an idea...

Will smiles.

ACT 3 SC 25 LAST FIGHT

Will is sitting in a chair, with Chad massaging Will's back getting him ready.

CHAD You sure this will work?

WILL

Nope.

CHAD That makes me feel a lot better (Sarcastic)

WILL Don't worry it'll work, just stick to the plan.

# SANDMAN Fighter's rise - tap fists

Will nods at Olivia, Olivia nods back. Sandman notices.

Will and Olivia tap fists.

SANDMAN

FIGHT!

Will and Olivia start throwing punches but they aren't at full speed and no one is getting hit.

Sandman gets suspicious and starts whispering to his goony next to him.

Will notices

# WILL (V/O) He's not buying it...

Will starts actually trying to hit Olivia. Olivia gets caught with a straight right cross and is enraged. Olivia really starts to amp it up and blocks a right hook and loads Will up in a hip throw. Olivia throws Will and has him in a headlock on the ground and starts throwing right hooks at his head.

Will sees Sandman leaving the room and panics.

### WILL

Now!

Olivia shoulder rolls off Will and leopards paw a goony's throat. The goony pulls out a knife and takes 3 awkward swings while holding his throat. On a backswing Olivia catches the hand and drives the goony to the ground by driving his shoulder down. Olivia stomps on the goony's head and grabs the knife.

Will pops up (defensive stand up/kip up) and a Goony runs at Will with a blunt object. Will front kicks the goony onto the ground. The goony smacks Will with blunt object as Will tried to get close distance. Will falls over, ears ringing. The goony gets back up and raises the blunt object about to swing then is stabbed by Olivia. The goony falls over then Olivia offers a hand to Will, Will grabs her hand and she helps him up.

OLIVIA Now we're even.

WILL You never owed me anything.

OLIVIA You know what I mean.

WILL Chad you good?

Chad is shaking his hand, broken wrist or hand.

CHAD

I'm fine.

Will picks up the blunt object.

WILL

Let's go!

Will, Chad and Olivia run out the room.

ACT 3 SC 26 TRUTH

INT. WAYCAM

Will, Chad and Olivia run into an office. Will sees some papers reading.

Laptops x546

Desktops x344

Other Electronics x451

Student Backgrounds x697

Staff Backgrounds x67

Expenses \$245,892

Income \$4,325,612

Chad comes over and closes the folder.

CHAD The shipments were filled with school equipment... I had no idea.

#### WILL No one did.

Will leads everyone into the green room. They see Lisa tied up, hands and feet. They rush over and Olivia starts cutting the ties, Will ungags her.

## LISA

## You guys need to leave now!

All the lights turn on and Sandman is standing in front of all of them standing up. Sandman has a gun pointed at them.

SANDMAN You guys had to ruin everything huh? Had to ask questions...

WILL Put the gun down Chris

SANDMAN

Or what Will?

WILL What's your end goal here, if you leave now you can still get away. Maybe leave the country, do you really want to get murder charges as well?

SANDMAN

I'll be okay.

Sandman cocks the hammer back.

Will starts running towards Sandman.

WILL

Run!

Cuts to black and a gunshot is heard.

WILL (V/O) Something that Ashbourne taught me was that you don't need people to like you, you just need them to respect you.

CUE CREDITS