

# ***VICTORY LANE***

a one hour pilot

created and written

by

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## TEASER

We SMASH CUT right into the middle of intense action inside a race car.

The camera work is fast and jumpy as we see our hero, TERRY TURNER, a young stud, (his true complexities will emerge soon enough) racing his heart out, running neck-and-neck with a car on each side of him...

The three ARCA Series cars head into the last turn before the front stretch...

The Flag Man has the CHECKERED out...

The fans are on their feet as the lead cars break away from the pack and go into the last turn "three wide"...

Terry, in the middle, gets squeezed by the outside car who wants his line. They bump, trading paint, but it's enough to break Terry momentarily loose...

And the outside car moves in to take Terry's line. But the outside car is too early and clips Terry's front end...

And just like that, Terry's suddenly heading into a concrete wall at 167 m.p.h. and there's not a damn thing anyone can do about it...

And everything SLOWS DOWN - WAY DOWN...

As Terry heads into the wall and struggles for control - we go into BULLET TIME...

A hundredth of a second is stretched to a full second. And THE CAMERA MOVES within this surreal time frame so that we see every excruciating detail of this balletic display of awesome destruction.

Terry addresses us, from the heart, laced with his characteristic humor.

TERRY (V.O.)

In that blink of an eye before you hit, it's amazing what goes through your mind. Stupid stuff like, "I wonder how big a smudge I'm going to leave on that wall."

MOVING IN ON TERRY'S EYES - wide with anticipation but surprisingly calm.

TERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 After every race, there's always  
 smudges.

CUT TO:

**EXT. RACE TRACK -- DAY**

A WORKMAN paints over a huge smudge applying a fresh clean coat of white with a roller.

TERRY (V.O.)  
 And before every race, there's always  
 a nice clean wall to greet the crowd.

BACK TO CRASH:

In BULLET TIME, Terry's car makes first contact with the wall and starts to fold like an aluminum can.

TERRY (V.O.)  
 I just hope nobody holds this against me. It wasn't my fault but when you wreck everybody gets nervous. Wreck too many times and they start to whisper this one's "unlucky." I don't need that. Not after what I've been through to get here.

**EXT. DIRT RACE TRACK - DAY**

HOME MOVIE LOOK - A YOUNG TERRY (about 13) leading a race in his Quarter Midget car, suddenly flies off the course and wrecks. He's pulled out by some spectators.

TERRY (V.O.)  
 Coming up, I used to wreck a lot. I'd either win or I'd wreck. Every week. Mostly, I'd wreck. The fans loved it. I was real popular.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Young Terry is macking on a hot-looking 17 year old RACE FAN behind a fence as the main event, a demolition derby, goes on behind them.

**EXT. MILITARY CAMP - DAY**

Terry, a young Marine in uniform, marches in formation with his unit.

TERRY (V.O.)

Like they say, you can't win unless you finish. And you can't finish unless you're disciplined. That's why I joined The Core. I hated it but I can't argue with the results.

Terry's DRILL SERGEANT lays into him about his marching.

CUT TO:

**EXT. LOCAL RACE TRACK - VICTORY LANE - NIGHT**

Terry and his crew chief, ANGEL, stand on the platform accepting a huge TROPHY for the State Championship. They receive a nice check and a kiss from the very pretty track queen.

TERRY (V.O.)

When I got out, I was focused, I was driven, and I never wrecked. Never.

CUT BACK TO CRASH:

Still moving in BULLET TIME as the front of Terry's car is crushed like an accordion.

TERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So why do I find myself, in the most important race of my life, about to leave a smudge? The strange part is, on some level, I know I could die, but all I'm worried about is losing my chance to race again.

**INT. AUTOPSY ROOM - NIGHT**

A CORONER stands next to a DEAD RACER *whose face we never see* lying on a table with his chest opened exposing his heart. The Coroner explains:

CORONER

The human body isn't designed to decelerate from 170-plus miles-per-hour down to zero like that.

The Coroner snaps his fingers and then points to the racer's exposed heart.

CORONER (CONT'D)

Arteries can actually detach on impact. There's no nerves here so you don't feel it. You walk away thinking your fine and then...

He snaps his fingers again to say, "gone."

**CUT BACK TO CRASH:**

Still moving in Bullet Time, Terry's car slides along the wall leaving a long nasty smudge and then flips on its roof and skids along the asphalt spraying a rainbow shower of sparks behind.

ON TERRY, upside down, riding it out.

TERRY

So you might be wondering why do I do it? The simple answer is because - I can.

CUT TO:

**STILL PHOTOS OF THE GREATS:**

**RICHARD PETTY, FIREBALL ROBERTS, PEARSON, THE ALLISONS, ETC.**

TERRY (V.O.)

I think about racing all the time. I dream of winning in my sleep and getting into the record books with all the greats. I'm always trying to figure out how to go faster. I can't explain it more than to say that when God gives you a gift, there's nothing better than being able to use it.

Terry begins cart-wheeling in his car.

TERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That slice of heaven is worth it for me. And that's why I'm not afraid of crashing. Except when it comes to Fire. I friggin hate Fire.

SMASH CUT TO:

REAL TIME

KABOOM! Terry's car explodes into a BALL OF FLAME as it tumbles, horribly, down the track!

**EVERYTHING FREEZES**

The car, the flames, the crowd, everything, perfectly still.

Then TERRY'S GHOST, or spirit or whatever you want to call it, floats out of his car.

He floats over to the inside car, frozen in a BLUR OF MOTION, and looks in the window at the driver.

We see that it's a woman, a very beautiful 19 year old. Her name is JOLENE CORBETT. We'll learn a lot about her later.

TERRY'S GHOST

If this is my time, I'm gonna be real sorry that I didn't get to know her better.

Terry floats over to the other car. The one that hit him and he looks in at an intense looking young man.

TERRY'S GHOST (CONT'D)

And this son of a bitch here. He better hope I die.

SMASH CUT TO:

REAL TIME:

Terry's car cartwheels down the straight away...

The crowd is in a frenzy. And in A BLUR OF MOTION -

One of the remaining cars crosses the finish line -- we don't see which -- and the Flagman waves the checkered.

And the race is over.

Terry's car comes to a stop as the rest of the field tries to avoid him which starts a chain reaction of several more crashes. KABOOM BOOM BOOM...

A FIRE TRUCK pulls out from the infield...

CUT TO:

**LATER**

The stands are almost empty now, most of the fans left long ago, except the morbid few who are still watching the scene down on the track.

The same CORONER directs TWO PARAMEDICS to carry A BODY BAG on a stretcher to the back of an ambulance.

And by the end of the teaser we know:

Somebody won. Somebody lost. And somebody died.

END OF TEASER