

THE FIGHTER

Written by

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CREDITS OVER BLACK. Gradually hear the sound of metal
scraping against asphalt...

TITLE: Lowell, Massachusetts - 1993

FADE IN:

**1 FIVE-CORNER INTERSECTION - LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS -
AFTERNOON.**

2 FORWARD MOVING WALKING STEADICAM WIDE ANGLE POV 2

Abandoned textile mills on both sides, a two-story flat-iron
style building splits the roads 100 yards ahead. Still hear
metal scraping against asphalt.. .then it stops.

BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER OF FRAME, a wheelbarrow filled with 250
pounds of black asphalt edges into frame, followed by the

guy

sweating, struggling as he pushes it, GEORGE "MICKY" WARD
JR., 31, short, compact, close-cropped reddish-blond hair,
little boy face, glancing over his shoulder, dumps the
wheelbarrow on old cracked cement.. .picks up a scraping-
spreading tool on a metal broom stick, and commences to
spread out the new asphalt. Trying to complete a newly paved
road to the right which ends in this intersection. The
scraping tool spreading the new asphalt. Micky sweating,
dirty from asphalt.

working.

Now skinny bare arms start shadowboxing around Micky

Only the arms enter frame in combinations, shadow punches.

MICKY

(ignoring punches, keeps

SPREADING ASPHALT)

Will you help me finish this?

He turns and kinda smiles as leans away with the rake, then
slips and moves with the punches being thrown by RICHARD
"Dicky" ECKLUND JR., 38, Micky's half-brother, skeleton-like
arms, backwards baseball cap, shorts, work boots, enters
frame, shadowboxing around Micky, smiles missing teeth. The
two brothers play spar, joking, having fun. Micky throws a
and Dicky play snaps his head back. Then Dicky does it to

head

Micky. Then Micky throws an upper cut and Dicky pops his
up, broken toy robot.

DICKY

You knocked my block off!
He resets his head, punches Micky.

MICKY

You knocked my block off!

(C.C)NTTNTTFT) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 1A.

2 CONTINUED: 2

He resets his head, Micky throws again, Dicky mimes going
down, then gets up immediately.

MICKY

(counts like ref)
-six, seven, eight. [takes Dicky's
hands] Can you continue? [Dicky
nods] Who's the president?

DICKY

another
out,
Five o'clock.
Micky waves his hands like Dicky's done. Dicky throws
play punch and Micky hams up going down, getting knocked
feet flying up in the air.

(CONTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 2.

2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

DICKY

He's down! Micky Ward is down! 4-3-2-1, it's ovah! He's out! A surprising ovahhand right! Dick Ecklund Jr. is BACK, right hereon HBO, ladies and gentlemen! PAN REVEALS, HBO documentary cameraman, and a PRODUCER taping it all. Guys on the ROAD CREW crack up in the background.

DICKY

The Pride a Lowell is back!
He pulls Micky up INTO A BROTHERLY ARM BUMP/HUG HANDS CLASPED. Micky smacks the back of Dicky's head as Dicky raises Micky's arm in the air like a champ.

DICKY

(SHOUTS)

My brotah's gonna beat Mamby, next week, on ESPN, sorry HBO!
Camera crew laughs as DICKY helps Micky up, HOLDS BROTHERS' ARMS IN THE AIR, E.L.O.'S 'DON'T BRING ME DOWN' starts;

(RNNTTNTTFT))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 3.

2 CONTINUED: (3) 2

THEM CAMERA PULLS AWAY FROM THEM FAST DOWN THE STREET LEAVING

SMALL IN THE DISTANCE --

SMASH CUT TO:

3 STREETS, LOWELL - DAY 3

Dicky walks like a hero down the streets of working class Lowell, locals spilling out of storefronts, lunch counters, HBO camera following him.

DICKY

(shadowboxing, moving)
Look who's here! I'm comin' back,

Lowell! Micky's gonna win, we got
HBO here! Look at this --
He walks down the street like he's running for office,

people

shouting his out his name. . .most everyone knows him...and
even those who don't are charmed by this toothless Pied
Piper... some look confused, surprised by his comeback, some
hold memorabilia from his Sugar Ray Leonard fight to sign.

He

kisses a girl, laughs his missing-toothed grin. Dicky high-
fives 19-year-old RAY RAMALHO, crew cut, body bent by
cerebral palsy.

DICKY

Ray Ray! Smile, you're gonna be in
my movie! HBO's makin' a fuckin'
movie about me! And my brothah's
gonna win next week!

crew

He grabs Micky's arm again, they are trailed by the road
guys (one holds a boom box) walking behind Dicky shaking
their heads, smiling, following. "Don't Bring Me Down"
continues... Everybody shouting out Dicky's name, "Dicky!"
"Dicky!" "Dicky!" Some calling "Micky!" "Micky!" "Micky!"

CUT TO:

meagh

4 LOWELL MAN ON THE STREET INTERVIEWS. What Dicky & Micky

to the city.. .What the city is all about, broken dreams, no
hope. . .How Micky & Dicky are both the pride of Lowell now

&

forever... TAR AND DONNA COME UP AND SAY ARE YOU TALKIN

ABOUT

MY FAMILY? THAT'S NOT RIGHT. Other sisters come up asking
questions: Pork, Little Alice. "Let's go to the bah!" Sherry
shouts.

TIME CUT TO:

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 4.

5 THE FOXTAIL LOUNGE - COUPLES SQUARE, THE ACRE - NIGHT 5

.Dicky moves through the crowd, punches the air dancing in
the dark crowded smoky club, old disco ball scattering light
on gray carpeted walls, "Don't Bring Me Down" still

playing...

DICKY

(shouts over the music)
Meet my muthah! We're back on HBO,

MA -

His mother, ALICE WARD, 57, caught off guard, smoking, waves them away, hides her face.

ALICE

NO! JESUS! I'm not ready!
Catch a glimpse of her tough, sexy, fighter's nose, years of hard life, bleached-blond hair, sucking on a Lucky Strike, drinking by at a white-topped table cluttered with empty beer bottles, overflowing ashtrays, cigarettes burning out.

DICKY

(shouting over music)
My sistahs!
Six of Alice's seven daughters ARRIVE, look up as the camera pans and pauses for each one: GAIL "RED DOG" (ECKLUND) CARNEY, 35, skinny, red hair; SHERRY "THE BABY"; PHYLLIS "BEAVER" ECKLUND, 32, blonde red, tall. CATHY "PORK"

ECKLUND,

30, full breasts, bleached-blond; "LITTLE" ALICE ECKLUND, 31, a mini-version of Alice; DONNA (ECKLUND) JAYNES; 36, round face, bleached-blond, CINDY "TAR" (ECKLUND) COOPER, 33, wasted; and They are like a bleached blond, cigarette smoking Greek chorus that trails Alice everywhere. PAN FROM ONE TWO the next as Dicky introduces them, seeing each distinctive, hardened face.

DICKY

(as each nods to camera)
That's Red Dog, Sherry, the baby, Beavah, Pork, Little Alice, Donna, and Tar. They follow my muthah everywhere!

MICKY

(Holding a napkin to his

FACE)

I'm Mary, the eighth sister.
Alice runs for the bathroom. Dicky chases after her through the crowd and the smoke and the music.

(CONTINUED)

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5 CONTINUED: 5

Dicky grabs and pulls her onto the crowded little dance floor.. .Dicky and Alice dance. Micky and the sisters join

in.

(C ONTTNTJFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 5.

5 CONTINUED: (2) 5

THROUGH THE CROWD MICKY STARES AT CHARLENE FLEMING, 25, tall long red hairy strong, serving drinks, guys encouragi ng her to do shots, hesitates, they pull her around the bar, moves in slight SLOW MOTION, Micky sees her ass, then her cl

eavage

when she turns, bends over to do shots with them.

SMASH CUT TO:

6

EVERYONE SITTING TOASTING WITH DRINKS -- 6

Dicky, Alice, Little Alice, Donna, Red Dog (Gail), Beaver (Phyllis), Tar (Cindy), Pork (Cathy), HBO Producer, cameraman laughing sit along the wall at tables. Micky just drinks water and watches, from afar bartender CHARLENE FLEMING at the BAR.

HBO PRODUCER

I'm confused, George's whose father?

DICKY

(TOOTHLESS GRIN)

- Who knows how many fathahs,

Alice ain't prejudice, she gives
everybody a chance!
Alice punches Dicky in the arm.

LITTLE ALICE

(NODS)

Dick Ecklund Sr. is Dicky's father

(CONTTNTTFT) 1

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6 CONTINUED: 6

SHERRY

And Donna's, Gail's and Phyllis's
fathah.

SHERRY

And even though I'm an Eklund, and
so is Cindy and Cathy, George is
really our dad.

DICKY

George is my Poppa.

MICKY

But we got the Eklund name.

ALICE

(horrified by all of this)
Dick Ecklund and I were separated.
It's not like I was foolin' around.
Producer looks confused.

TAR (CINDY)

Georgie's fingahs are so fat he
can't dial the phone.
Pan to George Ward, holding a roofing invoice, trying to
the buttons on a pay phone next to them.

GEORGE

(trying to dial pay phone)

dial

Shut up, Tah.
Alice and everyone laughs. George reading the roofing invoice, holding the pay phone, and gives them all the finger. Short & fat.

ALICE

That's not helpin', George.

RED DOG (GAIL)

Look at that fat thing!
They all crack up.

**CAMERA TRACKS WITH GEORGE WALKING WITH MICKY A STEP TOWARD
THE BAR, STARING AT CHARLENE THE BARTENDER TENDING BAR 15-
FEET AWAY.**

GEORGE

You can't beat that ass, come on.
George pats his son's shoulder as he stands behind Micky at the bar, both looking at Charlene. Awkward.

(RNNTTNTTFD)

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6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

She glances up at him once in the midst of her bartending. He doesn't say anything. She ignores him. It's awkward.

CHARLENE

(works, not looking)
Are you gonna say anything? Are you gonna order a drink? Are you gonna just stand there lookin' at my ass? Your father looks at my ass but at least he talks.
Micky looks at her.

CHARLENE

(works not looking)
He thinks you're the greatest, but

he didn't tell me you're mute.

MICKY

You're Kenny Fleming's sistah.

(RUNTTNTRT) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 6A.

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

CHARLENE

(works, not looking)
Oh, you talk. You pave streets,
right?

MICKY

I do, and I'm a fightah.

(CONTNTPD)

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6 CONTINUED: (4)

6

CHARLENE

(works, not looking)
I heard you're a steppin' stone.

MICKY

A steppin' stone?! I'm no steppin'
stone. What do you mean steppin'
stone?

CHARLENE

(finally turns and looks)
The guy -- they use -- against
othah fightahs to move the othah
fightahs up.
Micky and Charlene stare at each other. He is taken aback.

MICKY

Maybe I had a few -- tough fights,
but that's not who I am. [she
stares at him, gauging him]. Next's
gonna show who I am.

DRUNK GUY

(shouts from behind Micky)
He's gonna lose again! [Micky looks
away, pissed, like he's gonna
leave]. Scotch & soda one for me
and one for Charlene, move that
sugar ass and get the drinks!
Micky suddenly slaps the guy fast twice with one hand, the
guy kinda falls to the bar.

MICKY

Be nice! Be respectful. Don't
disrespect her.
Charlene watches, slightly turned on.

DICKY

(jumps in front of Micky)
Don't hurt ya hands, we got a fight
next week!
(turns to the drunk)
- What you say to my bruthah? What
you say to me?
OTHER BARTENDER plunks down the drunk's drinks.

DRUNK GUY

(peaking above the bar)
I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Micky.

(CCNTTNTTPD 1

6 CONTINUED: (5)

6

DICKY

And whatta ya say to me?

DRUNK GUY

I'm sorry, Dicky.

DICKY

(to Charlene, hugs Micky's

SHOULDERS)

That's right, and I'm takin' ya drink. My bruthah's gonna beat Saoul Mamby! This guy's gonna be a champion, he's a great guy, a great fightah.

(NNNTTNT7RT) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 8.

6 CONTINUED: (6) 6

He takes the guy's drinks, kisses smiling Micky on the cheek.

Charlene stares.

MICKY

That's my big brothah. Taught me everything i know. HBO's doin' a movie about 'im.

CHARLENE

Everybody's talkin' about it. But who are YOU fightin'? Saoul, Sal, Saul? Mamby, Mamby. Momby. What kinda name is Saoul Mamby?

MICKY

Black. And Jewish.

CHARLENE

Where'd they find a guy like that?

MICKY

He's no joke, Formah World Champ.

CHARLENE

Formah champ.

MICKY

But I match up good against him.

CHARLENE

What's that mean?

MICKY

I'm lightah, not gonna brawl him,
I'm gonna outbox him.

CHARLENE

I didn't know there was a
difference.

MICKY

Brawl, ya slug it out, I hit you,
you hit me; boxin', like a chess
game, I pick my punches to take him
down. I'm gonna go head, body,
head, body, see I go up his side, I
hit him here, arm comes down, I go
back up [demonstrates on her,
close, looks at her shy] I'd like
to maybe take you out some time.

(CNNTTNTIFF)

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6 CONTINUED: (7) 6

Charlene smiles at Micky's awkwardness, drinks. A DRUNK GUY
squeezes her around the shoulders, she shoves him off, turns
away, guarded, takes care of business other side of bar.

CHARLENE

Are you married?

MICKY

Married? Would I ask you out if I was married?

CHARLENE

It happens all the time, trust me.

MICKY

I'm not married. I wanna get to know you bettah. I could take you to dinnah and a movie, how 'bout that? I'm not married. I got a daughtah I see every othah weekend. Let me take you out.

CHARLENE

When?

MICKY

Saturday I get back from Atlantic City.

(CC)NTTNTTRD)

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6 CONTINUED: (8)

6

She holds his gaze a moment. She picks up a pen and starts to write on a white cocktail napkin. She writes "Charlene" and her number on the napkin, then draws a lopsided heart around it.

MICKY (CONT'D)

(takes the napkin, smiles)
Next Saturday. Dinnah and a movie.

(CNNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 9.

6 CONTINUED: (9) 6

remains A fight breaks out next to Micky, jostling him but he
oblivious, happily reading the napkin. George, cigarette
dangling from his lips, claps for Micky.

SMASH CUT TO:

7 RAMALHO'S WEST END GYM - RING, 1ST FLOOR - NEXT DAY 7

on Micky jumps rope in the ring, stops, sweating, moves around
the ring. HBO producer sits bored, looks at his watch.
Dilapidated gym, peeling paint, exposed pipes. Owner, ART
RAMALHO, 60s, pushed-in nose, starts working a couple kids

old duct-taped heavy bags, speed bags, including JOSE
SANTANA, 20s, middleweight. Micky, sweating, leans on the
ropes, glances at the clock, 11:25.

across EXPLOSIVE LAUGHTER AND CACKLES of WOMEN - Micky looks

gym: 4 SISTERS LAUGH UPROARIOUSLY AS HBO Cameraman tapes.

HBO CAMERAMAN

(SMILING)

Why is Gail the toughest?

SHERRY

Cuz she's quiet, but she'll
straighten anyone out.
Gail makes a fist, cracks up, covers her missing teeth.

HBO CAMERAMAN

Whose your mother's favorite?

TAR

The princesses.

SHERRY

The girls.
They all crack up.

RED DOG

They never had to do nothin', never
take out the garbage, or clean--

SHERRY

You can never wake 'em up, shhh,
the babies ah sleepin'.

MICKY

That's cuz we hadda train! Come on!

(RNNTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 9A.

7 CONTINUED: 7

SHERRY

[STARTS CRYING] This is ah family
and they're makin' a movie, it's us

(MNTTNTTTPD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 10.

7 CONTINUED: (2) 7

RED DOG

She's the baby, Sherry's the baby,
very emotional.

TAR

Ah mothah's excited about the
movie, Dicky comin' back. And we
hope Micky wins (crosses herself).

SMASH CUT TO:

MICKY

(MID-INTERVIEW)

Dicky's six years older than me.
(pause) I used to carry his bags
(pause) to his workouts, some of
his fights. He's a born fighter,
very natural talent. I always hadda

work harder, and he's been my teacher. He's -- ya know - [real love] Dicky, nobody talks like him, moves like him, he fought Sugar Ray Leonard, ten rounds, he's the hero of Lowell. Everybody knows Dicky.

HBO PRODUCER

He's s'pposed to be trainin' you right now, right? Is he still coming or did we mix this up?

SISTERS

(OS)

He'll be here -- should be --

MICKY

He kinda goes on his own schedule sometimes. He'll be here. --

MICKY O'KEEFE

(OS)

You know where he is --
They turn and look: MICKEY O'KEEFE, 50, COP IN UNIFORM,
walks up to the ring. Sisters react with bit of surprise, drama.

MICKEY O'KEEFE

You gotta fight next week, Micky, you gotta be trainin' on time.

MICKY

He'll be here.
(C'.C)NTTNTT1 fl)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 10A.

7 CONTINUED: (3) 7

MICKEY O'KEEFE

Come on, I can do the mits for ya, but then I gotta get back to work. He jumps into the ring and holds the mits for Micky who hits

them, they work the mits. Sisters whisper, gossip. Suddenly the door bursts open, EVERYONE LOOKS: Alice, made un, hair done, high heels, gold earrings, new dress, grand entrance with Dicky's scrapbooks under her arm...Two more daughters, Little Alice and Beaver, follow her. She stops when she sees the camera guys look up, unprepared.

ALICE

What's he doin'? Where's Dicky?

MICKY

Look at Alice! All dressed up for the movie!

ALICE

Outta the ring, O'Keefe, you can't do what my Dicky does!

MICKEY O'KEEFE

Your Dicky ain't here, Alice.

MICKY

(LAUGHING)

Where could he possibly be, Ma? Undah the cabbage patch?

(CC)NTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 11.

7 CONTINUED: (4) 7

ALICE

(to the crew, laughing)
Oh, Micky. Micky's a clown. Dicky went to the store for me.

MICKY

Yeah. He'll be here.

ALICE

Get outta the ring, O'Keefe, Dicky's the numbah one trainah, should be that way in the movie.

MICKY O'KEEFE

Jesus, I come by to help! I gotta go back to work anyhow, it ain't fair to Micky. He needs to be trainin'. He's not bein' handled right.

ALICE

(waves off HBO producer)
Don't -- he's not part of this, forget him. He's numbah two man

O'KEEFE LEAVES UNDER ALICE'S GAZE; MICKY LOOKS KIND OF LAUGHS TO HIMSELF SHAKING HIS HEAD. THEN EXHALES, SERIOUS, LOOKING DOWN, BIT FRUSTRATED..

ALICE

You need me walkin' in again?
(turns back to the door)
- I wasn't ready last night, but I'm ready today.

SISTERS

(LAUGHING)

She's all dressed up! Look at her!

MICKY

Alice is dressed up.
Producer nods for cameraman to turn to door. ALICE RE-ENTERS.

Alice turns to an old framed BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH on the wall ...A row of 14 year old boys posed in fighter's robes and gloves.

ALICE

That's the Golden Gloves, before that the Silvah Mittens, Micky did that too. Micky used to follow his big brothah everywhere, Dicky taught ya everything, right, honey?

(RNNTTNTTF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 11A.

7 CONTINUED: (5) 7

Micky raises eyebrows, nods.

MICKY

He's not only a great fighter, he's also a pretty great trainer.

(C ONTTTTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 12.

7 CONTINUED: (6)

7

ALICE

(eyes lighting up)
My Dicky had went pro at 12,
Rockingham Race Track with a 26
year old jockey. Both weighed 106
pounds. Dicky lied he was 18.
In the ring, push in on Micky looks up, eyes wide.

MICKY

Tell 'im about Sugar Ray, Ma.
Dicky knocked down Sugar Ray
Leonard.

ALICE

(NODS)

In '78 -- we got the offah to fight
Sugah Ray Leonahd.

MICKY

He just won the Gold Medal at the
Olympics, Sugar Ray. He was the,
ya know, the big new welter weight
at that time.

ALICE

And Dicky was just a kid from Lowell.

MICKY

Dicky was undefeated!

ALICE

Dicky had never been knocked down in his professional career, neither had Sugar Ray. They were both 21-years-old.

MICKY

It was Dicky's first ten roundah.

ALICE

(PAUSES)

I know ya could question the judgement, first ten roundah against Sugar Ray Leonard, right? But as his managah, how could I not take a Sugah Ray? Do you see what I'm saying? It was the biggest thing that evah happened to Lowell.

(MNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 12A.

7 CONTINUED: (7) 7

MICKY

It was huge. People still talk about it to this day. It was a great fight.

ALICE

AHT! WHERE'S YA VIDEO AT?

ACTUAL GRAINY 1978 VIDEOTAPE OF HBO OLD-FASHIONED COLOR

GRAPHICS INTRODUCE THE FIGHT. ALICE BEING INTERVIEWED.

ALICE

(15 years earlier, already

HALF-IN-THE-BAG)

Tonight my son is gonna surprise everybody and beat Sugar Ray Leonard. Believe it, I know it. Micky and Sugar Ray are described over HBO clips.

BACK TO ALICE AT THE GYM NOW:

ALICE

It's true! Sugar Ray had a hard time hitting Dickie, didn't really knock him down, but Dicky knocked Ray down! I wore a new white dress. This fight was gonna change our lives forever, and it did. BACK TO VIDEOTAPE, 2ND ROUND, Dicky, 21, bobbing moving versus Sugar Ray, 21. Hear Don Dunphy & Larry Merchant, "Ecklund is fast, Larry. If his goal is to frustrate

Leonard,

he's doing it. Leonard still hasn't solved his speed, still hasn't been able to find him, I think in his own cute way Ecklund is making Leonard be the aggressor.."

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 13.

7 CONTINUED: (8) 7

BACK TO THE TAPE, Sugar Ray seems to either punch or pull Dicky to the mat. "Ecklund smiling again, Ecklund is down! Let's see if they call that a knock down." Dicky pops right back up and they go to separate corners. "Let's see if they call that a knock down. Nope, not a knockdown. And the bell rings." "I didn't think that was a knockdown, Don." "I

didn't

think so either Larry, he was wrestled down. Not a knockdown."

8 LIVING ROOM - CRACK HOUSE, 48 SMITH STREET - DAY 8

DICKY

(shakes his head, holding
crack smoke in)
Wasn't a knockdown.

Dicky kneeling smoking a crack pipe. He exhales crack smoke
as he pops back to his feet where he bounces on his toes

like

a fighter opposite GARY "BOOBOO" GIUFFRIDA, 40, a goofy
looking chubby crackhead, rotting teeth, trucker's hat;
WOLFIE, long sideburns, sunken eyes, 35.

Dicky inhales again from pipe, a refashioned plastic soda
bottle, lit with a Bic lighter. He starts sparring BooBoo.
SINGLE ON Dicky OVER BOOBOO'S SHOULDER, actual audio in his
head from the fight: "Ecklund has a bit of a reputation for
being a fast-liver, Don." "A what?" "A fast-liver. And they
think, at least Angelo said he thought that's what has held
him back. But of course with an opportunity like this

perhaps

he's slowed down his living a little bit."

DICKY

(holding white dog)
BooBoo put ya hands up, stand like
Sugar Ray I gotta get ready for my
movie!

BOOBOO

Why they doin' a fuckin' movie on
you?

KAREN

(CAMBODIAN ACCENT)

Legend-a Lowell, BooBoo! Comeback!
Come on!
(CnNTTNTTF.D)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 14.

8 CONTINUED: 8

Karen, 33, Dicky's Cambodian girlfriend, sitting on a

stained

suede couch with BECKY, 31, dirty blonde hair; BONNIE, tall,
35, mid-drift, high, moving, in the background. Dicky shadow
boxes BooBoo, while holding white dog.

DICKY

I stahed the ovahhand right in the
8th. Slippin' his left, settin'
him up for the knockdown in the
9th.

FIGHT

GOES

FAST CUTS OF BOOBOO, WOLFIE, KAREN, BRENDA, BONNIE, WATCHING
Dicky IN SUSPENSE. PUSH IN ON Dicky'S FACE, HEAR ACTUAL

AUDIO IN HIS HEAD -- FLASH TO ACTUAL FOOTAGE, Dicky KNOCKS
SUGAR RAY DOWN. BACK TO Dicky ACTS IT OUT ON BOOBOO, WHO

DOWN ACTING IN SLOW MOTION:

DICKY

THERE IT IS! First knock downa
Sugar Ray's career!

WOLFIE

(snaps to rare moment of

LUCIDITY)

Ain't ya 'sposed to be trainin'
Micky in the movie right now?

DICKY

(SHADOWBOXING BOOBOO)

That's not til 9.

BECKY

It's 11:45, Dick.

DICKY

What?!

SMASH CUT TO:

9 48 SMITH ST., CRACK HOUSE - DOWNTOWN, LOWELL - DAY 9

They scramble looking for the car.

DICKY

Where'd you fuckin' pahk the cah,
BooBoo?

BOOBOO

I didn't pahk it, you did!
They are on the street of row houses, CAMBODIAN IMMIGRANTS.
(C'.ONTTNTTF.n 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 15.

9 CONTINUED: 9

DICKY

Fuckit, I'll run, I need the

ROADWORK -

Dicky starts running down the street ...BooBoo shakes his head, "roadwork?"...Wolfie staring after Dicky in shock.

BOOBOO

Roadwork?! Are you crazy?

WOLFIE

He runs great even when he's high.

10 STREETS - DOWNTOWN, LOWELL - DAY 10

.Dicky runs in his crack clothes, shorts, work boots... .Dicky runs in his crack clothes, shorts, work

boots,

throwing punches in the air. HE PASSES A 'WARD ROOFING'

TRUCK

and WAVES to his father GEORGE WARD ON A ROOF WITH WORKMAN.

DICKY

(RUNNING)

Hey, Pappa!

George looks up as he kneels, roofing, and sees Dicky. Kids run after him shouting.

11 RAMALHO'S WEST END GYM - 1ST FLOOR - DAY 11

HBO camera crew in the background filming Micky working the heavy bag, boom-boom-boom-boom! Tinny radio blares 'Voices Carry' by Til Tuesday. ALICE LOOKS THROUGH SCRAP BOOKS WITH

THE SISTERS WHO LAUGH AND CHAT.

Dicky BURSTS THROUGH THE DOOR sweating out-of-breath, yet still goes into his trademark pimp stroll. Nobody turns, Micky's punches and radio too loud. His mouth drops, sees

the

camera filming Micky.

DICKY

Quackah!

MICKY

Quackah! Look who decided to show
up, Dicky Donuts.

ALICE AND SISTERS

Ahh! Dicky! Quackah!

(CNNTTNTTFM

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 16.

11 CONTINUED:

11

DICKY

(notices Alice's hair,

TOUCHES IT)

- This is nice.
She slaps his hand away half coyly.

DICKY

(walks over to the HBO
camera, laughs)
You been talkin' to the camera,
Mick? Introduce everybody!
(laughs, points at Carlos)
Hoppy cut!

MICKY

(throws upper cut)
-Hoppy cut!
CARLOS GARCIA, 50, short, Puerto Rican, points back, laughs

DICKY

Goncho, goncho, no goo' for yooou,
Deeekie, no goo' for youuu!'

CARLOS

(thick Puerto Rican
accent, nods)
No goo for you, Deeekie!

Micky cracks up. Ray Ramalho, cerebral palsey limps up to Dicky, high-fives him.

RAY RAMALHO

Dickyeeeeee!

DICKY

Ray-Ray!

(sweetly holds Ray's head
to his to teach him)

Put ya hands like this, turn that
punch. Turn it. Ya ready for the
camrahs?

Micky's stands waiting, watching Dicky putting on a show.
It's always the Dicky show.

HBO PRODUCER

(TO MICKY)

Are you annoyed that Dicky's late?
Micky smiles, fades, a little annoyed, sorta covers.

(C:ONTTNURD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 16A.

11 CONTINUED: (2) 11

DICKY

Micky, how do ya make a girl sound
just like a porpoise?

MICKY

I don't know, how?

DICKY

Ya go for the back door [Looks over
his shoulder, shakes his head
'no']" "Eh-Eh! Eh-Eh!" [Everyone
cracks up] I had a lot of eggs this
mornin' I'm full of yokes!
Micky laughs as he punch/taps Dicky in the ribs.

DICKY

(holds his back)

My back! My back!

MICKY

(laughing, mimics Dicky)
"My back! My back! I'm full a
yokes!" Quackah!

DICKY

We got Saoul Mamby. Jewish, black,
formah World Champ. I think we got
all the bases covahed, right?
(laughs) Micky lost three fights in
a row, he can't get used to losin',
it becomes a mental thing, we're
gonna break it with Mamby, right?

MICKY

Yeah, let's train!

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 17.

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

DICKY

Enough a you wastin' time, Mick,
half the fuckin' day's gone, we got
work to do!
Micky glares at Dicky like he's going to fucking hit him.

DICKY

Oooh, Alice, he's mad now, look at
him. Ya hit one those guys like ya
wanna hit me right now maybe ya
woul'da won one of them fights!
(laughs to HBO producer) See? He's
a quiet guy, he needs the fire.

SMASH CUT TO:

12 RING, RAMALHO'S GYM - DAY

12

Micky, mad, motivated, works mits with Dicky. As they flow together, Dicky's movement is, impressive, fluid and more intense.

DICKY

(calls out combinations)

Work, work, head, body, head, body.

[To camera] Set it up sneaky, switches stances inside. No!

[shoves Micky] That's too far out, switch inside, see, he switches outside, I'm gonna catch him like this, [upper cuts Micky, nails him], don't switch OUTSIDE!

Micky, mad, throws a fast combination back but Dicky leans

on

the ropes and SLIPS IT ALL, clinches Micky, smiles at

camera,

pops his hips forward.

DICKY

(CLINCHING)

Gimme Jose!

SMASH CUT TO:

.Micky sparring Jose in the ring, headgear, mouthpiece.

Dicky on the apron, shouting out instructions. Alice and his sisters standing behind him. HBO documentary camera filming.

(CC)NTTNT7Fn)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 18.

12 CONTINUED: 12

DICKY

(shouting at Micky)

Micky does everythin' I tell him, he's goin' all the way to a world title! Now move, that's why you dropped the weight! We're gonna out box Mamby. [Now to Producer] Three months. I can get myself back in shape in three months.

ALICE

(hand on Dicky's shoulder)
My Dicky can do anything!
Micky looks over annoyed.

DICKY

Hook-- Head-Body-Head! C'mon!
That's ya fuckin' combo, head-body-
head!

ALICE

Dicky taught him that!

DICKY

(throwing the combo himself)
Ya know Sugah Ray's gonna be there
callin' the fight for ESPN. I ain't
seen him since since I knocked 'im
down 14 yeahs ago.
(shouts at Micky in ring)
You don't wanna embarrass yaself in
front a Sugah Ray, do ya Mick?!
Micky scowls at them, gets inside, unloads a vicious hook to
Gilberto's ribs. Jose crumples down to the canvas.
.Micky's eyes go wide as he looks down at Jose on the
ground. Micky's surprised himself, that was good!

DICKY

That's ya punch, Micky.

(CNNTTNTTRD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 19.

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

ALICE

(nods, clapping)
Both my boys are gonna do it!

MICKY

(hiding a young smile)

Hey Jose, I'm sorry. [helps Jose

UP]

DICKY

That's a kidney punch, shuts the whole body down. Right heah - [pokes HBO producer on the spot and he bends over in pain, Dicky laughs].

13 STREET, RAMALHO'S GYM - DUSK 13

.Micky & Dicky head out of the gym, showered, dressed, hair still wet. Alice walking up ahead of them heading for her '88 white Lincoln Continental parked on the street, Little Alice and Beaver (Phyllis) following after her. HBO cameras gone.

MICKY

(energized, hopeful)
I feel good. I feel lightah.

DICKY (CONT'D)

You look good! You can definitely do this. You look good in there, Micky, real good. [false teeth sideways, crazy face]. I'm Saoul Mamby, Micky Ward hit me - Dicky arm around Micky, walks up to Alice at her car, Little Alice and Beaver getting inside. He shoves his dentures coo-coo sideways --

(RLNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 19A.

13 CONTINUED:

13

Micky smiles as Dicky acts crazier, zinging him in the sides a little; Micky zings him back, two brothers, they mash into Alice and sisters and against the car, all laughing, Dicky tickles Alice.

(CNNTTNTTFE)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 20.

13 CONTINUED: (2) 13

ALICE

(scrunches her neck &
shoulder, squirms away

LAUGHING)

I can't stand that, Dicky, JESUS,

STOP!

14 ' 89 SILVER FORD TEMPO (MOVING) - NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE -

DAM

.Micky driving his banged-up old car, parking in the
driveway of a large beautiful house, upper-class
neighborhood.

15 EXT. BEAUTIFUL HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY 15

Micky knocking on the door. His ex-girlfriend's husband,
JIMMY, 45, well off, answers the door.

LAURIE'S HUSBAND

(WHISPERS)

Micky, how's it goin'? Ya know I
don't think Laurie's expecting --
LAURIE CARROLL, 32, dirty blonde, thin walks up.

LAURIE

What's he doing here? This isn't
your visitation day, Micky.

MICKY

I just wanna say hi to Kasie.

LAURIE

It's not your day, goodbye.

MICKY

I'm not around next weekend --

LAURIE

Now you're ditchin' the days you DO
have?

MICKY

I have a fight I told you that. (To
Jimmy) Jimmy --

(NNTTNTTF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 21.

15 CONTINUED: 15

JIMMY

I can't get in the middle.

MICKY

I'm asking YOU, Jimmy. I can't talk
to her, so I'm asking YOU.

JIMMY

Kasie, talk to your father.
.Micky's daughter, KASIE WARD, 10, curly hair, cute, comes
up to the door, hugs her father hello.

LAURIE

Goddamnit, Jimmy!

JIMMY

Don't put me in the middle-a this

KASIE

(through the doorway)
Daddy's gotta fight Saoul Mamby-

MICKY

That's right, and I wanna tell ya
that after I win --

LAURIE

Talk to her on your days!

MICKY

I'm gonna staht makin' good money

LAURIE

Hah! That's a good one!

MICKY

I'll move to a biggah apahtment so
you can live with me more days like
we talked about.

LAURIE

Don't hold ya breath, Kasie. It's
cruel to mislead ya child, Micky.
She closes the door, arguing inside with Jimmy.

KASIE

(shouts through door)
Good luck, Daddy!
(C'.nNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 22.

15 CONTINUED: (2) 15

MICKY

(shouts to door)
Thanks, Kasie.

**16 EXT. MICKY'S APARTMENT ABOVE GARAGE - MORNING - LATER IN
THIS**

WEEK

Micky's apartment above a two-car garage, next to a gray
Victorian house, lower-class neighborhood.

17 BEDROOM, MICKY'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING 17

Micky fixes himself in the mirror, straightening his button-
down shirt, wears an ill-fitting sports coat, looks like a
little boy playing dress up. Suitcase open on his bed. This
is it, the day before the big fight.

18 ' 89 SILVER FORD TEMPO (MOVING) - LOWER HIGHLANDS, LOWELL

-18

EARLY MORNING

front.

Micky parks in front of his parents' house; a limo out
Micky opens the door, grabs his suitcase...

19 **19 ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - 28 HAWTHORNE ST.,**

LOWER HIGHLANDS - EARLY MORNING

Alice checks her hair, smooths her dress in the mirror.
George, dressed nicely, struggles to close their suitcase on
the bed, whistling. Both smiling, excited about the day, the
fight. LITTLE Dicky, 5, redhead, Dicky's son, runs in,
followed by Pork.

ALICE

(embraces Little Dicky)
Little Dicky, listen to Mummy, you
be good for ya Aunt Cathy so ya
daddy can help ya Uncle Micky win a
fight, OK?

20 **20 LIMOUSINE (PARKED) - ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - EARLY**

MORNING

.Micky, Alice, George, Pork, Sherry, and Red Rog standing
around the limousine. All dressed nice for their travel.
They exchange looks. George shakes his head and mutters
something to himself. No sign of fucking Dicky.

MICKY O'KEEFE

(lowers his voice)
It's none a my business, but I been
goin' to meetin's, and they say let
go and let Gahd. You don't need
this shit, Micky. Let's just go
without 'im.

(RONTTNTTF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 23.

20 CONTINUED: 20

MICKY

(looks down at his feet)
- thanks, Mick, but Dicky taught me
everything, he's been in my cornah,
ya know. I can't do it without 'im.

MICKY O'KEEFE

You're already doin' it without
him.

A21 EXT. CRACK HOUSE - EARLY MORNING A21

Micky walks down the driveway of the crack house as Alice
walks up to the front porch.

21 CRACK HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR - LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING 21

.Dicky open mouth makes out with Karen, his Cambodian
girlfriend, BooBoo sits next to them smoking crack. They've
been up for days, eyes racing, high.

WOLFIE

(shouts from downstairs)
Dicky, YOUR MUTHUAH'S OUTSIDE!

DICKY

(real fear in his eyes)
I'm not here!

back

Bonnie laughs as Dicky rushes for an open window in the

of the kitchen, 2nd floor of the crack house. Dicky climbs
out the window and jumps...

22 BACK ALLEY, CRACK HOUSE 22

.Dicky flying, falling... lands hard on top of some garbage
bags...Bounces onto the filthy ground. He rolls over, his
back fucked. Stumbles up to his feet, grimacing...
Micky stands there waiting in the back yard, watching.

MICKY

What the fuck are you doin'?

DICKY

(WHISPERS)

Don't tell Ma I'm here, pick me up
back at the house, I'll go through
the yahds -

MICKY

We gotta go to the airport now.
You know how important this fight
is.

(CNNTTNTTFF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 23aA.

22 CONTINUED:

22

DICKY

(WHISPERS)

Pick me up at the house!
Micky gives Dicky a boost onto a fence to climb over.

MICKY

(BOOSTING DICKY)

Hurry up, she's out front, and we
gotta flight to catch.
But as Dicky struggles to climbing over, George comes
charging toward them.

(CONTTNTTFT))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 23A.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

(CNNTTNTTFT))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 24.

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

GEORGE

This is what you do to ya brothah
the day we travel?

George pulls Dicky off the fence, swings at him with a big
punch; Dicky slips the punch and nails George in the eye

with

an overhand right, George goes down. Micky rolls his eyes.

MICKY

Could we please just go to the
airport for once?

Alice comes around the corner.

ALICE

(SCREAMS)

Ohmygawd, Dicky, why do you come to
this place?

DICKY

(walks her, arm around)

No, no, I just came to check on
some friends, I'm not mixed up in
this.

Micky looks at his mother in disbelief, his father down on
the ground behind him... his brother high out of his mind.

MICKY

Help ya husband up, Alice. Ya
husband's on the ground there.

Instead Dicky helps Alice up the driveway to the limo. Micky
helps his father to his feet.

23 LIMOUSINE (PARKED)

- CRACK HOUSE - MORNING 23

Everybody sits in the limo in silence looking out different
windows as Micky helps George settle into his seat and hands
him a can of Coke George holds to his punched eye.

MICKY

Close the door.

DICKY

Hold on.

BOO BOO STARTS TO CLIMB IN, 'COSMO' written on forehead.

MICKEY O'KEEFE

What the fuck is he doin' here?

(NNTTNTIIFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 25.

23 CONTINUED: 23

DICKY

We got a promotional thing we're doin', for the bar, it's gonna be good, you'll see.

MICKEY O'KEEFE

No. That's distracting for Micky.

DICKY

Nobody asked you!

MICKY

No. No BooBoo.

BooBoo looks to Dicky who rolls his eyes; BooBoo leaves. Micky stares in disbelief.

24 RESORTS INTERNATIONAL CASINO - ATLANTIC CITY - DAY 24

Alice leads Dicky, Micky, George, Mickey O'Keefe through the ringing slot machines of a casino.

25 MICKY HOTEL'S ROOM - RESORTS INTERNATIONAL - NEXT MORNING

25

Next morning, day of the fight. Micky & Dicky hanging out in Micky's room, sitting on the bed watching a video of "Mamby vs Meekins" on TV.

DICKY

(excited, jumps up off the bed, showing Micky)

See his right arm goes leaves his side open, light him up like a pinball machine, he'll be pissin' blood, no way you lose, no way -

.Alice and LOU GOLD, 40s, balding, mustache, the matchmaker

for ESPN, walk into the room, "Mamby vs Meekins" still playing on TV. Alice looks serious.

DICKY

(stretches out his back)
ESPN couldn't get us bettah rooms than this, Lou?

LOU GOLD

I wouldn't worry about the rooms, Dicky, we gotta bigger issue.

(NNTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 26.

25 CONTINUED:

25

DICKY

Like what?

ALICE

(SADLY)

The doctor won't let Mamby fight.

MICKY

Why not?

LOU GOLD

He's got the flu.

MICKY

Mamby got the flu?!

MICKY

feels his whole fight plan go out the window.

LOU GOLD

We can still have a fight, Micky. Micky stares at him.

MICKY

With who?

LOU GOLD

Mike Mungin.

MICKY

Mike Who? Mungin?

DICKY

The guy from Philly, ain't he in prison?

LOU GOLD

He's been out a few months. It's the only guy we could find, I called everybody.

MICKY

The last few fights were rough, Lou, this one's 'sposed to be a little easiah.

LOU GOLD

The guy just got off the couch today, it's an easy win for Micky. Dicky and Alice nod, Micky unsure.

LOU GOLD

Joey Ferrell knocked this guy out.
(C_nNTTNTTT?T)1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 27.

25 CONTINUED: (2) 25

ALICE

Micky knocked out Joey Ferrell.

LOU GOLD

Exactly, and Mungin just got off the couch. He can't make weight, of course, he's a bit over.

ALICE

How over?

LOU GOLD

Maybe 162, 165.

MICKY

(EYES WIDE)

165?

DICKY

He's a fuckin' middleweight, Ron!

ALICE

Micky got light! He's 146!

DICKY

We're gonna box Mamby, not slug it out with a middleweight!

LOU GOLD

He's fat! He just got off the couch!

DICKIE

(exhales, thinks)

OK. And Joey Ferrell knocked him out. I gotcha.

MICKY

Hold on, 165's big.

DICKIE

You knocked out Joey Ferrell.

MICKY

So what? The guy's a middleweight.

DICKIE

He just got off the couch.

MICKY

He's 20 pounds bigger than me.

(CONTTNIWN 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 27A.

25 CONTINUED: (3) 25

DICKY

Joey Ferrell knocked him out! You
knocked out Joey Ferrell.

MICKY

You just said that.

DICKIE

You can't be scared.

MICKY

How 'bout you go fight him? He's a
middleweight.

DICKIE

He's fat. You knocked out Joey
Ferrell.

MICKY

How many times ya gonna say I
knocked out Joey Ferrell? A beats B
B beats C so A can beat C? But what
if it rains that day, anything
could happen --

LOU GOLD

You don't fight, nobody gets paid.
Whoa. Micky sees Alice and Dicky looking at him.

MICKY

OK. Joey Ferrell knocked this guy
out. And I knocked out Joey
Ferrell.
They all nod.

ALICE

You gotta pay us somethin' extra
for the change, Lou. [He nods]

26 AUDITORIUM - RESORTS INTERNATIONAL - 26

TITLE: Ward vs. Mungin - Resorts International, Atlantic
City. MICKY CLIMBS INTO THE RING WHILE WE HEAR ALICE DIALOG

OS ENDING PREVIOUS NEGOTIATION.

Micky's in white trunks, robe with "'Irish' Micky Ward" on
the back, following Dicky, Mickey O'Keefe, 2nd in the
corner,

cutman ED ALIANO. Micky sees his name spelled wrong on the back of the white corner men jackets, "Mickey Ward."

MICKY

I don't spell my name with an 'e.

(CNNTTNTTF N'

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 28.

26 CONTINUED: 26

MICKEY O'KEEFE

Don't fuckin' ask me. I just take what ya give me.

O'Keefe turns back to Micky who's staring at MIKE "MACHINE GUN" MUNGIN, 27, 5'9", 158 lbs, red trunks, in the opposite corner: HUGE, and in prison shape, big biceps, shoulders, neck. Micky's eyes widen with fear.

MICKEY O'KEEFE

That guy's not a welter weight.

MICKY

(whispers to his brother)

Dicky, look at that guy.

.Dicky's not listening, waving to the HBO cameraman filming ringside... sees SUGAR RAY LEONARD, now 38, sitting

ringside,

calling the fight for ESPN with AL BERNSTEIN, 40s, salt & pepper hair, mustache.

DICKY

Ray! Sugar Ray! Ovah heah!

Sugar Ray doesn't respond to Dicky. He's talking to the ESPN camera, still looks young, handsome, not a mark on him.

DICKY

We gotta talk latah!

MICKY

Dicky, listen to me. I can't lose again. Look at that guy.

DICKY NOW LOOKS AT MIKE MUNGIN AND HIS HEAD SNAPS A LITTLE.

DICKY

Holy shit. [rubs Micky's neck]

MICKY O'KEEFE

Yeah, holy shit, stop lookin' at Sugar Ray and wake up. We'll hafta run the first few rounds, get 'im tiahed, he can't be ready, right? He just got off his fuckin' couch.

MICKY

He did not just get off his fuckin' couch.

DICKY

Look at me, Mick, don't look away.

(CNNTTNTTFV))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 28A.

26 CONTINUED: (2) 26

He grabs Micky's chin and makes Micky look him in the eye.

(('CNTTNTTPT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 29.

26 CONTINUED: (3) 26

DICKY

You can't go back to fightin' scared, you gotta hit back like you know you can and I know you can. I don't care who that guy is, you're Micky Ward.

Micky nods, but we see he's scared; it's not a fair fight.

27 RING - RESORTS INTERNATIONAL - 8:16 PM 27

TITLE: Rd 3 - :49 (time running down). Mungin muscling

Micky

into a corner, blood already dripping from Micky's nose.
Hook to the body--Hook to the body--Hard uppercut ...Bam!

Bam!

Bam! Micky stumbles, hurt, almost goes down, blood spilling
down his nose, mouth, face, hear AL BERNSTEIN, "Oh, he hurt
Micky Ward!"...Micky ties Mungin up, holding on.. .Sugar Ray
Leonard, "This would be a huge upset! I'm not sure what

Micky

expected from a last minute substitute, but he surely
couldn't have expected this."
.Dicky screaming from ringside for Micky to move.. .Alice,
George sitting behind him can't look. . .Micky tries to

fight

back ...Mungin's just too big, too strong, unloading hard
shots to Micky's head, big uppercuts ...Micky's getting the
shit kicked out of him...All he can do is cover up, holding
his gloves close to his face.. .The bell rings. End of Rd 3.

ALICE IN THE CROWD LOOKS AWAY, CRYING.

28 MICKY'S CORNER, RING 28

.Micky heads for his corner, blood running, Dicky jumps
into the ring, Mickey O'Keefe puts down the stool.. .Micky
sits down, ED ALIANO starts to wipe the blood from his face,
Dicky takes out Micky's mouthpiece.

DICKY

- Button it up, Ed. If you can't
stop the bleedin', we'll fuckin'
sue ya.

.Ed Aliano smiles, sticks swabs up Micky's nose to stop the
bleeding, get everything cleaned out. . .Dicky pours water

into

Micky's mouth. Micky swishes it around, spits it out...

DICKY

You okay?

(C_C)NTTNTTTT)

28 CONTINUED: 28

MICKY

(looks up at his brother;
knows he can't win)

YUH -

DICKY

What're you doin' out there? You
feel like fightin' or what? You
gotta jab and move. Don't stand in
front of this guy, keep 'im off ya,
jab and move -
(shows him, jabbing the
air, moving back & forth)
Jab and move. What are you ascares
of? You're fightin' scared again!
Micky just nods.

29 RING - RESORTS INTERNATIONAL - 8:31 PM 29

TITLE: Rd 6 - 2:01 (time running down. Micky covering his
face with his gloves, gash open, bleeding above his left
eye.. .hear Al Bernstein, "Micky's taking a beating. He's
standing there taking those shots from Mungin. I'm not sure
why." Leonard, "I don't know, Micky was once one of the most
promising light welterweights around, but he's had some

tough

luck losses, and sometimes after a fighter loses a few times
it becomes a mental thing." Mungin hits him with hard left
uppercut and an overhand right right on the chin. . .Micky

goes

sprawling across the ring, stumbling backwards... Falling

down

hard onto the canvas!

.Micky gets back onto his feet, looks into his corner at
Dicky screaming, "Hold on! Hold on!"...Micky bleeding from
his nose, above his eye, looks lost. . .Referee JOE CORTEZ
gives him a standing eight-count, "One... Two... Three..."
.Micky wipes blood from his nose with the back of his
glove..."Six... Seven..." He glances into the crowd, blood
smeared on his face, gloves, sees his mother covering her
face with her hands...

30 RING - RESORTS INTERNATIONAL - 8:49 PM 30

Post-fight, crowded. Ring doctor checking the cut above
Micky's left eye, another deep gash open on his cheekbone
just under the eye, still bleeding from his nose, his face a
bloody mess.. .Dicky wiping Micky's face with a sponge,
glancing down at the HBO crew, shaking his head, Mickey

O'Keefe rubbing Micky's neck ...Mungin smiling in the background, everybody waiting for the decision...

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 31.

30 CONTINUED: 30

.Blood, sweat dripping into Micky's eyes, he knows he lost, he knows he fucking lost again...

31 MICKY'S DRESSING ROOM - RESORTS INTERNATIONAL - NIGHT 31

Micky sits on the trainer's table in the middle of the room, showered, dressed, face bandaged. Alice gently touches the back of his neck, whispers in his ear. He nods. She holds

his

head a few moments. Dicky comes in. HUGS HIS BROTHER.

DICKY

We nevah shoulda fought that guy.

Forget about it. Alice, HBO's waitin' for us. Sugar Ray's out there! C'mon you come too, Mick.

Dicky heads back out. Alice looks at Micky, pats his cheek and follows after Dicky, leaving Micky sitting alone on the trainer's table.

32 RESORTS INTERNATIONAL, CASINO - NIGHT 32

Dicky walks toward Sugar Ray Leonard who is with A PRETTY WOMAN AND A BODYGUARD signing autographs for fans.

DICKY

RAAAAAAY! Hey, Ray,--

The bodyguard stops him. Sugar Ray sees Dicky and waves him over.. .Dicky smiles, missing teeth. The HBO cameraman following after him. Sugar Ray shakes Dicky's hand.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

Tough night for your brother, he shoulda jabbed more, stayed away.

DICKY

That's what I was tellin' 'im! I told 'im, Ray. But Mungin weighs like 160 pounds! ESPN fucked us,--

(stretches his back, turns
to Sugar Ray's girl)
Ya know I knocked Ray down.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

(laughs, smiles his
million dollar smile)
Come on, Dick, I tripped.

(C ' NNTTNTTFT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 32.

32 CONTINUED: 32

DICKY

Oh don't say that now. I know I
look like shit, but,-- I went 10
rounds with you, Ray, I knocked you
down. C'mon, lemme buy you guys a
drink.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

Thanks, Dick, but we have to get
going, I have a plane to catch.

DICKY

(points to the HBO

CAMERAMAN)

HBO's doin' a movie on me, Ray.
And I'd like to call ya sometime,
I'm gonna get a fight, and I'd like
ya to be there for old time's
sakes, ya know, maybe you can
commentate on it or somethin'.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

OK, Dick, you let me know. What's
the movie about?

DICKY

(looks at Sugar Ray like
he's fucking crazy; what

ELSE)

My comeback.

Sugar Ray just nods at Dicky, sees Alice walking up to them.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

- You look great Mrs. Ward, hope
you're well.

ALICE

Nevah bettah, Ray, nevah bettah.

God bless.

Sugar Ray smiles and slips out of the casino with the girl
and his bodyguard, leaving Dicky & Alice standing alone

under

the bright neon lights. HBO camera still filming...

DICKY TURNS AND SEES MICKY TALKING TO AN OLDER GUY, MIKE

TOMA,

30 FEET AWAY. TOMA'S ENTOURAGE STANDING NEARBY.

DICKY

What's he talkin' to Mike Toma for?

He starts to head over.

(RNNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 33.

32 CONTINUED: (2) 32

ALICE

(holds Dicky back,
lowering her voice so the
camera doesn't hear)
Stay heah, Dick, stay heah, don't
go ovah thayh.

CUT TO:

33 MICKY TALKING TO MIKE TOMA; TOMA'S ENTOURAGE NEARBY. 33

MIKE TOMA

(shakes his head, gruff

BROOKLYN ACCENT)

You goin' to the hospital?

MICKY

(NODS)

They said I need stitches.

MIKE TOMA

(pulls Micky in closer,
lowers his voice)

Listen, Mick, I'm just gonna cut to
it, you never shoulda fought that
guy. You should be doin' better.
With all due respect, I don't think
you're bein' handled properly. I
wanna give you a real shot. I want
ya to come with me. I wanna pay ya
to train with my guys.

MICKY

Where?

MIKE TOMA

Las Vegas. Do it right and make
one last run at this thing before
it's too late.

MICKY

You'll pay me to train in Vegas?

MIKE TOMA

Change of scenery's good, get outta
Lowell.

Micky looks at him, eyes widen as he looks over Toma's
shoulder; he seems to feel a touch of VERTIGO AS CAMERA
CIRCLES so we can see what he's looking at: ALICE AND DICKY

30 FEET AWAY WATCHING.

(C' _NNTTNTTFF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 34.

33 CONTINUED: 33

MICKY

What about my brothah?

BOB ARUM

(shakes his head)
With all due respect, he's too much
trouble. You owe it to yourself to
come to Vegas.

**CAMERA CIRCLES BACK TO MICKEY STARING AT HIS FAMILY,
THINKING, deciding.**

34 LIMOUSINE (MOVING) - LOWER HIGHLANDS, LOWELL - SATURDAY

34

MORNING

Hear his mother and father and brother laughing, kibbitzing,
smoking cigarettes.

ALICE

What did Mike Toma want?

MICKY

(looking out window,

DISTANT)

He wants to train me in Vegas.
Alice and Dicky glance at each other, and study Micky.

DICKY

You can't trust that guy, Micky,
you don't know 'im. Did he say
anythin' about me? Did he say I
could come?

MICKY

(looking out window)
No, he didn't mention you.

ALICE

Who's gonna look out for ya in
Vegas, Micky? They're all crooks
out there. What would you do
without Dicky? Or the family?

MICKY

(looks at Dicky)
Yeah I know. That's what I told
'im.
Micky looks back out the window, face bandaged, no emotion.

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 35.

35

35 EXT. ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - LIMOUSINE (PARKED) -

MORNING

Everyone walking away from the limo, suitcases in hand. Micky heading for his shitty car parked on the street, Dicky walking to Alice's house with his mother and father. Micky O'Keefe stands nearby at his car. Pork, Tar, Beaver, Sherry and Red Dog are also there.

DICKY

(calls out to Micky)
Take care, Mick, we'll talk
tomorrow.
Little Dicky runs out of the house into Dicky's arms.

DICKY

Hey, champ! Daddy's home!

LITTLE DICKY

Did Uncle Micky win?

DICKY

Not this time, Dicky, try and gimme
a sock in the nose--
Micky, lost in thought, stands at his car watching Dicky
playing with Little Dicky.

ALICE

(TO MICKY)

We'll get you another fight, Micky.

MICKY

Nah, I don't think I wanna do this
no more.

ALICE

What?

DICKY

(looks up as Little Dicky

tags him in the nose)
What're you talkin' about?
George walks over to his Micky sympathetically as Dicky
grabs
his brother by the shoulders.

DICKY

ESPN screwed us, they owe us.
We'll get anothah fight. Just get
healed up, Micky, you're okay -

(RNNTTNTTFF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 36.

35 CONTINUED: 35

ALICE

Listen to your bruthah, honey, they
owe us big time. Maybe they could
even do Dicky's comeback fight too.
Micky just nods okay. Dicky pats him on the back as Micky
gets into his car.

GEORGE

Christ, Alice, he's been through
the wringah -

ALICE

What're you talkin' about?
(to O'Keefe who's staring

AT HER)

- And what's your fuckin' problem?
Mickey O'Keefe shakes his head and walks away.

36 MICKY'S APARTMENT, ABOVE GARAGE - NIGHT 36

PAN of photographs of Kasie, Micky & Dicky in the ring after
fights; red & white boxing gloves; boxing magazine;
flickering TV. Micky lies sleeping in his clothes on the
couch, bandages on his head. He sits up, TV playing.
He gets up and walks into the small kitchen, grabs a beer
out

of the refrigerator, swallows some PAIN pills. And picks up
the cocktail NAPKIN WITH CHARLENE'S NUMBER AND HEART ON IT.

Picks up the phone, starts to dial, stops, looks at the number. Hangs up the phone. Goes back into the living room and lies down on the couch and falls asleep again. FADE OUT.

37 FADE IN. NEXT MORNING. MICKY'S STILL SLEEPING IN HIS 37 CLOTHES ON THE COUCH, TV STILL ON, MORNING LIGHT BLEEDING THROUGH THE SHADES. HE IS WOKEN BY BANGING ON HIS DOOR. MICKY SNAPS AWAKE, SITS UP, LOOKING AROUND.

MICKY

(groggy, out of it)
What,-- What is it?
He gets up off the couch and peeks through the shade.. .AND SEES CHARLENE STANDING ON HIS DOORSTEP. Scared, he ducks back down, crouches behind a chair. KNOCKING continues.

(RNNTTNTTFT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 37.

37 CONTINUED: 37

CHARLENE (OS)

I saw your shadow. And I heard you talk two seconds ago!
Micky doesn't move.

CHARLENE (OS)

Why don't you open the door and tell me to my face why you didn't call me yestahday?
Micky thinks, goes to the door, opens it. Charlene is slightly taken aback by his bandaged face.

CHARLENE

- Why'd you stand me up last night?

MICKY

I was gonna call, I started to call, but I couldn't call.

CHARLENE

'Cuz you lost the fight?

MICKY

(PAUSE)

Maybe, yeah, 'cuz I lost the fight.
They stand there looking at each other.

MICKY

How'd you know my house anyway?

CHARLENE

I asked my brothah,--
(sees one of the bandages
on his head peeling away)
Your, ahhh, your thing is comin'
off.
She points to his face. He touches the right side bandage.

CHARLENE

No, the othah thing. It's a mess.
It IS a mess.

CHARLENE

Ya got any tape?

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 38.

38 MICKY'S BATHROOM - DAY 38

re- Micky sits on the edge of the tub while Charlene carefully
bandages the left side of his eye and cheek bone. It is
quiet for a few moments while Micky looks into her face.

CHARLENE

(QUIETLY)

Did the Jewish black guy do this to
you?
Micky looks away. Charlene fixes the bandage.

MICKY

I didn't get to fight the Jewish
black guy.

CHARLENE

You didn't go head-body-head.

MICKY

(shakes his head)
He got the flu, the guy who took
his place had 16 pounds on me, I
nevah shoulda fought him.

CHARLENE

So why'd you fight him?

MICKY

Nobody woulda got paid. Everybody
said I could beat 'im.

CHARLENE

Who's everybody?

MICKY

My mothah and my brothah.
She looks at him as she takes this in.

CHARLENE

So are you gonna take me to dinnah
and movie tonight or what?

CUT TO:

DUS9

39 ' 89 SILVER FORD TEMPO (PARKED) - CHARLENE'S APARTMENT -

Sun starting to set. Micky stands next to his car, checks
himself in the side view mirror, hair still wet, combed, new
bandage on his face, pauses.

(CINTTTNTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 39.

39 CONTINUED: 39

CUT TO: He opens the passenger door for Charlene, she's in a
tight top, short skirt, fancy flip-flops. Her large yellow
Victorian house behind her.

MICKY

Wow, you look great. You got a nice house.

CHARLENE

Thanks. It's an apartment building.

MICKY

Oh.

CHARLENE

There's five of 'em in there, one-a my old roommates lives in one.

MICKY

(closes the door, gets into the car)
Old roommates from where?

CHARLENE

College, but a lot a good it did me, I'm workin' in a bah.

MICKY

You seem to enjoy it. You're very popular down there -

CHARLENE

Uh yuh. Popular. I need to get the hell outta that place. If I don't drink while I'm workin' I'd kill myself -

MICKY

(starts the car, looks over at her)
What college?

CHARLENE

U.R.I. Full boat.

MICKY

Scholarship? For what?

CHARLENE

I was a high jumpah.

(CNNTTNTIFF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 40.

39 CONTINUED: (2) 39

MICKY

A high jumpah?! You gotta be
kiddin' me.

CHARLENE

Fuck you, I cleahed 5-10, I was
New England Champ, but so what, I
nevah graduated. I pahntied too
much.

MICKY

(drives looks at her
raising an eyebrow)
You?!
Charlene laughs lightly through her nose.

40 ' 89 SILVER FORD TEMPO (MOVING) - ART-HOUSE MOVIE THEATER

- 40

LEXINGTON- NIGHT

Night. Micky pulls up to an art house movie theater in
another city, state (right next door), "hip" part of town.
They get out of the car.

CHARLENE

(looking around the
theater, street)
What the hell we doin' in Richie
Rich Lexington? You come to this
theatah a lot?

MICKY

Oh yuh, it's a good movie theatah.
They have good movies.

CHARLENE

Like what?

MICKY

(MUMBLES)

Bell-ah Epa-cue.
The marquis says "BELLE EPOOUE" is playing.

CHARLENE

I think Belle Epic is how ya say it
and I nevah heard of it. Is it only
playin' up here in Lexington?

MICKY

Oh yuh. And I heard it's a good
movie.

(RNNTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 41.

40 CONTINUED: 40

CHARLENE

From who?

MICKY

(walks ahead of her)
Guy at work -
She looks at him puzzled as she they enter the theater.

41 INT. LEXINGTON ART-HOUSE MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT 41

Four people there - movie in progress. Charlene sit watches,
looks at Micky asleep with his head back, mouth open.

42 EXT. LEXINGTON ART-HOUSE MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT 42

After movie, Micky and Charlene exit the theater. Neither
says a word for a moment.

CHARLENE

That's what you wanted to see?
There wasn't even any sex. What
Lowell guy on a road crew saw that
movie in Lexington and recommended
it??
Micky walks quickly ahead to the car, can't find his keys.

MICKY

(GROWING ANXIOUS)

Where's the keys, I musta lost 'em
in the theatah, I'm a dummy [WALKS

TOWARD THEATER]

CHARLENE

Micky. [He stops, turns] They're
in your hand.

Micky looks at the keys in his hand, embarrassed.

43 ' 89 SILVER FORD TEMPO (PARKED) - NIGHT 43

.Charlene stares at him as he starts the car. He starts to
back out, looking over his shoulder.

CHARLENE

What's going on? You afraid to run
into your girlfriend? You have a
girlfriend, just say it, that's why
you took me to Lexington.

then stops, puts the car in park and turns the engine off.
f nNTTNTTFT) '

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 41A.

43 CONTINUED: 43

MICKY

I don't have a girlfriend. I came
here because I don't wanna show my
face in Lowell.

(CNNTTNTTFT) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 42.

43 CONTINUED: (2) 43

Charlene stares at him. He doesn't look at her.

CHARLENE

- What do you have to be ashamed

of?

MICKY

(GROWS DARK)

I told everyone I was gonna win that fight and get back on track. I told Kasie we'd get a biggah place so she could move in.

CHARLENE

(stares at him a beat)
You said you never shoulda fought that guy, but your mothah and your brothah wanted ya to do it.

MICKY

What's the difference, I'm alone in the ring anyway.

CHARLENE

You think your family's lookin' out for ya?

MICKY

(finally looks at her)
You can't say that about my family.

CHARLENE

What else could I say after what you told me? Look at your face, look at you.
Beat. He suddenly leans in and kisses her. The kiss builds with confidence and passion to a very intense level of connection and abandon and promise.

44 LOWELL MAN ON THE STREET INTERVIEWS. YEAH, WELL, HE LOST AGAIN, YA KNOW, SO MAYBE HE'S GONNA BE DICKY ALL OVAH AGAIN, NO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR LOWELL, HE'S LIKE THE REST OF US I GUESS. THE TOWN'S SEEN BETTAH DAYS, SO HAVE OUR FIGHTAHS.

45 ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - DAY - WEEKS LATER 45
CAMERA CIRCLES Alice talking on the phone, sitting at her dining room table control center, long Lucky Strike cigarette in her hand.

(RNNTTNTTRT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 43.

45 CONTINUED: 45

of Most of the sisters sitting and walking around her, center
their universe, some drinking some smoking, all chattering.

ALICE

(INTO PHONE)

- Bullshit, Lou, I'm not gonna stop callin' til ya make it right and give us a fight that's fair! My boy coulda got killed last time. . .Like what? ...What else?... OK, what is it? Mm, mm. Now you're talkin', that sounds very interesting, I'll get back to you. [Hangs up] We gotta a great opportunity, we gotta find Micky.

PORK

Nobody seen him for like a week.

ALICE

Jesus, it used to be Dicky was the one we couldn't find, now it's both of 'em?

TAR (CINDY)

I think Micky's with that girl from the bah.

ALICE

What girl?

RED DOG (GAIL)

George was all fuckin' eagah for them to get togethah.

BEAVER (PHYLLIS)

I heard she's into threeways.

SHERRI

With othah girls.

PORK (CATHY)

Yeah like one of them MTV girls -

ALICE LITTLE ALICE

(puts her hand over the (screws up her face)
phone) MTV girl?
MTV girls? What're you
talkin' about, Cathy?

PORK (CATHY)

Wild.

(C ONTTNTT1 fl

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 44.

45 CONTINUED: (2) 45

TAR (CINDY)

She acts all superiah 'cuz she went
to college.

ALICE

Just find Micky and tell him we
have business to discuss.
I'm gonna go find Dicky myself.

46 SMITH STREET, CRACK HOUSE - '88 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL
(PARKEI4}5 -

DAY

Alice, trailed by Dicky holding the white dog, walks back to
her car from the crack house, trying not to cry. Dicky,
behind her like a kid in trouble, looks like shit, up for
days. She pauses at the car, crying. Dicky hugs her
shoulders with one arm.

47 ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 47

Mid-handshakes, awkward Charlene, with Micky, meets Alice,
Tar, Beaver, Pork, Little Alice, Red Dog, Sherri. Cuts on
Micky's face healed. Charlene does a double take on Alice's
staring and studying her as Charlene has moved on to the
sisters, she and Alice share an icy wary look.

ALICE

(looks Charlene up & down)
- I've heard a lot about you.

CHARLENE

Really? I heard a lot about you,
too.

ALICE

What's that supposed to mean?

CHARLENE

The same thing you meant.
Micky shifts uncomfortably toward the sofa.

MICKY

Why don't we sit down and hear
what's goin' on businesswise?

CUT TO:

48 THEY ALL SIT IN THE LIVING ROOM 48

ALICE

(smiles, excited again,
proud of herself)

(MORE)

(C ONTTNTTFT))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 45.

48 CONTINUED: 48

ALICE (CONT'D)

I got ya anothah fight, Mick, just
like I said I would. Lou Gold and
ESPN made it right.

DICKY

(holds white dog)
Just like I told ya! Against Joey
Belinc in six weeks at Foxwoods!
Kid's like 10-8. He's nuthin'.

And they're payin' us 25 grand!

ALICE

(nods, still smiling)

PROUD)

17.5, Dick.

DICKY

17.5, I thought you said 25,
anyway that's still good money,
Mick.

MICKY

Oh yuh. That's good, Dick, I'm
just, ya know, trying to figure
out what's best for me--
Micky tilts his head, cat's got his tongue. They all look at
him. Alice lights a cigarette, exhales, tense.

ALICE

(exhales cig smoke)
Like what?

DICKY

What!?
Charlene looks at Micky, as if to say, "speak. is He looks
at
her, she starts to open her mouth, stops.

ALICE

(looks at Micky, hurt)
I don't know why you're not more
excited, Mick. I thought ya'd be
more excited. That's good money.
It's a good fight. I got tough
with Lou Gold, Micky, I told him he
owes us.

MICKY

Yeah, I know, Ma. It's just,-- I
don't want things goin' the way
they been goin'.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2) 48

DICKY

(mouth open, wild-eyed)
Why, how they been goin'? You're the one in the ring, Micky, yeah that last one was unfair, but we ain't gonna repeat that, so it's up to you in the ring.

MICKY

I know, but I don't want things to go like they been goin' HERE.

ALICE AND DICKY

Where?

MICKY

Here, this, us, Lowell. The routine.

ALICE

We're workin' very hard for you, Micky, I don't know what more you want.

DICKY

What's his problem?
Micky sits back and folds his arms, a bit frustrated.

CHARLENE

I don't know, maybe you not showin' up on time to train. Maybe Micky havin' to come find you in a crack

HOUSE--

ALICE

Crack house?!

CHARLENE

--when you're sposed to go to the airport.

ALICE

(glares at Charlene)
I'm sorry, I don't understand who you ah or why you're talkin' -

CHARLENE

My name is Charlene, you just met me, I'm datin' Micky. Should we do it again? Hi, my name is Charlene.

(CENTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 46A.

48 CONTINUED: (3) 48

DICKY

What do you know about anythin'!
We don't even know who you ah.

MICKY

You just met her -

(C()NTTNTTFT) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 47.

48 CONTINUED: (4) 48

ALICE

(sits back, laughs)
YOU just met her!

DICKY

(laughing with his mother)
He don't know who she is!

MICKY

We're togethah.

CHARLENE

(nods, getting pissed off)
We're together, don't insult me and

don't insult Micky.

ALICE

You gonna listen to some MTV girl who works in a bah. What does she know about boxin'?

CHARLENE

(CONFUSED)

MTV girl? I might not know -- much about boxin' - but goin' to Vegas an' gettin' paid yeah round -- sounds much bettah to me -- than what you got 'im doin' heah.

ALICE

(looks over at Micky)
- Ah you gonna let 'er talk like that to your muthah?

PORK (CATHY)

C'mon, Micky!

MICKY

I told you we're together! This is my girlfriend, I want her here.

ALICE

(TEARING UP)

I have done everything [pauses] I could [pauses] to help you. And for this -- MTV girl --

CHARLENE

Stop callin' me a MTV girl, whatever the fuck that means.

SISTERS

Wild. [Charlene makes a face]

WNNTTNTTFN 1

ALICE

(wipes a tear)
I been doin' this for ovah 15
years, she comes in and disrespects

ME--

DICKY

And me.

MICKY

She don't mean no disrespect. I had
a chance to get paid to train year
round, that's all she's talkin'
about. I think everyone can
appreciate that.
Dicky stares taking this in, wheels turning.

DICKY

Of course! Of course, Micky, I
coulda had that! I know what
you're talkin' about. You think
I'm stupid?

ALICE

He knows, we know --

DICKY

Ma, please, let me say this

(PAUSE)

I had opportunities like you're
gonna maybe have. I had a girl I
wanted to be home with. [Sad for a
moment] You should have that. No
one's sayin' you shouldn't have
that. But I can't have you goin'
to Vegas, we gotta stick together,
Micky, please. I can get ya money
to train yeah 'round, if that's
what ya want. I'll handle it.
Dicky looks at Micky. . .then turns to Alice and nods his

head

at her. He's got it. She's puzzled. Micky nods.
Uncomfortable awkwardness as everyone looks at him and
Charlene.

CAMBODIAN GUY

(OS, TALKS IN CAMBODIAN)

(CNNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 48A.

49 CONTINUED: 49

DICKY

(OS)

You put in \$200, then you get ten
OTHER people --

50 INT. CRACK HOUSE IN LOWELL - DAY 50

Dicky and BooBoo sit amid an ASSEMBLED GROUP OF ABOUT 10
CAMBODIANS. Karen, his CAMBODIAN CRACK GIRLFRIEND AND 6 YEAR

**OLD SON IS NEXT TO HIM HOLDING HIS HAND LOOKING A BIT STRUNG
OUT.** BOOBOO is behind Dicky.

(CC)NTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 49.

50 CONTINUED:

50

DICKY

-- to give YOU \$200 each, and now
you have your \$2,000.

KAREN (DICKY'S CAMBODIAN CRACK

GIRLFRIEND)

Translates to Cambodian.

DICKY

Understand?

PRAN

Everyone give you 200 dollah?

DICKY

Not everyone, just 10 a you.

BOOBOO

Ten lucky ones.

Karen shouts at the others in Cambodian.

PRAN

You rip us off!

DICKY

No no no no. I'm givin' you an

OPPORTUNITY!

CHAN

You give ME \$200!

DICKY

You get that from TEN OTHAH PEOPLE
you offah the opportunity to.

PRAN

You think Cambodian people STUPID.

BOOBOO

White people do this! To othah
white people! It's what makes the
world go 'round.

DICKY

(puts an arm around Karen)

I love Cambodian people!

They all yell in Cambodian at Dicky who looks aggravated,
still holding onto Quackah.

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 50.

51 CRACK HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 51

.HBO crew filming Dicky smoking crack, Bic lighter in his hand, leaning against half of an old dining-room table in a filthy kitchen, faded strawberry wallpaper. BooBoo, Karen, Becky, Wolfie, standing around. Bonnie in background.

DICKY

(mumbling fast to camera,
high out of his mind)
They didn't understand. They're
practically my gang, they usually
listen to me but didn't understand
the opportunity, anyway, where were

WE--

HBO PRODUCER

Before you fought Sugar Ray --

DICKY

Oh, yeah, all the money I coulda
made if we just fuckin' did it
RIGHT, they threw me in too early.
We didn't know, my mothah didn't
know, Sugar Ray was too much, too
soon. I needed to build slow. If I
had Micky's discipline, with my
talent, forget about it. My wife
Debbie was the prettiest girl in
Lowell, and my daughtah Kasie, I
mean Kerry, I want Kerry to be
proud a me. [Lights pipe]

KAREN

Why you let them film you smokin'?
What this movie about again?

BONNIE

Hey's crazy!

HBO PRODUCER

I told you it's about crack
addiction. Showing what can
happen, what it really is, so kids
can see it for real.

BOOBOO

I can tell ya about the way it
works in the brain--

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 50A.

51 CONTINUED: 51

DICKY

Excuse me, BooBoo, it's still my movie, and this part [lights pipe] will make me and Micky's comeback more dramatic. I'll tell ya how crack works [inhales from pipe].

(MORE)

(CONTINUED 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 51.

51 CONTINUED: (2) 51

DICKY (CONT'D)

When it entails ya blood, ya get a peaceful energetic feeling ovah ya body, a kinda happiness -

As his words continue we PUSH IN ON Dicky'S FACE and CUT TO FLASHBACK: medium shot, Dicky sits by a window, high; from this dissolves a second Dicky who dances a slow happy, funk dance across the room; out of this second Dicky dissolves a third Dicky who lies on the couch, Karen comes and makes out with him --

DICKY

(OS over the above)
-all the mistakes and the regrets of the past melt away, you feel so much lightah like when you were

young and everything's in front of
you. Then it fades and you gotta
get high again.

All three Dickys in the flashback - by the window, dancing,
making out on couch -- flicker and vanish to the grating
sound of aphone left off the hook.

PULL OUT FROM Dicky's face in present

DICKY

(EXHALES SMOKE)

Fuck I gotta find money for Micky.
What time is it?

52 EXT. CHARLENE'S YARD - DAY 52

Charlene stands alone on the lawn with her arms crossed.

CHARLENE

Why aren't you at work? Is ESPN
paying you to train?

MICKY

(OS)

Dicky's handlin' it.

CHARLENE

Dicky? Alice would be better than
Dicky.

MICKY

(OS)

Would you jump for Chrissakes?
Kasie's bein' very patient.

(CONTINUED) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 52.

52 CONTINUED: 52

PAN REVEALS: MICKY, IN RUNNING CLOTHES, HOLDS ONE END OF AN

HIS

OLD BAMBOO GARDEN STICK, 5' ACROSS, LIKE A HIGH JUMP BAR;

DAUGHTER KASIE, 10, HOLDS THE OTHER END, A PILE OF tattered
chez pillows on the lawn beneath it.

KASIE

Maybe it's too hard for her. Maybe
there's not enough cushions.

MICKY

It's only 5'1", she did 5'8" as a
champ, right Charlene? 5'8"?
Charlene jogs a little curve to the bar and LEAPS backwards,
clearing 5'1," landing on the pillows.

MICKY AND KASIE

Yes!

He claps with Kasie as Charlene stands rubbing her ass.

CHARLENE

Fuck, those pillows barely did the
job, pardon my French, Kasie.

MICKY

Hey, we gotta get you home Kasie, I
gotta business dinnah with Nana.

53 EXT. ABANDONED LOWELL CRACK CORNER - NIGHT 53

Skinny Karen stands on the corner in hooker hot pants, high
heels, halter top. A new Volvo station wagon slows down and

a

nervous-looking upper middle class NPR-type businessman, 45,
in a suit and tie, cruises and toots the horn. Karen walks
up to the window.

KAREN

You wanna date?

The businessman swallows and nods as he looks at Karen's
nipples and body.

54 EXT. SHADOWY DEAD END STREET - NIGHT 54

The Volvo wagon is parked by the side, lights off.

55 INT. BUSINESSMAN'S VOLVO STATION WAGON - NIGHT 55

Karen starts to go down on the businessman while he leans
back and closes his eyes.

(RNNTTNTTFT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 53.

55 CONTINUED: 55

Suddenly a beat-up station wagon pulls in behind them with its brights shining.

BUSINESSMAN

Oh shit.

DICKY

(through cheap megaphone

SLURRING)

Get outta the cah put ya hands on the roof!

The business man gets out, nervous, hands up, pants undone, puts his hands on the roof. All he sees are bright lights and Dicky's silhouette holding up a wallet like a badge. Still hear Quackah barking.

BUSINESSMAN

(puts his hands on roof)

Please, God, I never did this before, I have two kids, a wife and I support my mother and my aunt.

DICKY

Empty ya pockets, put everything on the roof, ID, wallet, cash. Your wife know you're here, huh?

BUSINESSMAN

(confused, starts to turn)

No, what? Are you - are you a cop?

DICKY

(swaying, wasted drunk)

Don't turn around! Empty ya pockets!

The guy empties his pockets onto the roof of the Volvo. BooBoo sits in Dicky's station wagon.

DICKY

Walk to the sidewalk, we have to take the vehicle. [Takes cash,

mumbles to Karen] Take half, get us
some rocks.

BUSINESSMAN

How will I get home?

Suddenly the BWOOP-BWOOP of a police siren and the flashing
lights as a COP CAR PULLS UP AND ANOTHER BUSINESS MAN, bald,
gets out and POINTS AT Dicky.

(RNNTTNTTT T))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 54.

55 CONTINUED: (2) 55

BALD BUSINESSMAN

THAT'S THE GUY, HE GOT ME AND HE'S

DOIN' IT AGAIN!

Dicky takes off running away...

56 STREETS - DOWNTOWN, LOWELL - NIGHT 56

Dicky running down streets... running through backyards,
driveways...

57 INT. OLYMPIA RESTAURANT - DOWNTOWN, LOWELL - NIGHT 57

Alice pulls out a LOBBY CARD, "WARD VS. BELINC - FOXWOODS
RESORT as she sits in a large booth with George, Mickey
O'Keefe, Red Dog, Sherry. Micky arrives with Charlene --

ALICE

(excited, smiles proud)
What do ya think, Mick? Looks
good, right?

MICKY

(kisses his mother hello,

SITS DOWN)

Oh, yeah, Ma, it looks great.
Dicky comin'?

ALICE

(looks at watch)
He'll be here.

GEORGE

(nods, kisses Charlene)

HELLO)

Yuh. Hey, Charlene didja quit the bah?

ALICE

Didn't she just staht workin' there?

CHARLENE

She did. But she's wants to quit to go for teachah certification.

ALICE

(CHUCKLES)

I thought she was plannin' to live offa Micky.
Charlene gives Alice a look.

(CONTTNTTFT))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 54aA.

57 CONTINUED: 57

MICKY

C'mon, c'mon, this is 'sposed to be about the fight, let's just talk about the fight --

(C'_C)NTTNTTTRT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 54A.

57 CONTINUED: (2) 57

ALICE

What?! I was just makin' a joke for chrissakes. I'm sorry, Charlene.

CHARLENE

It's OK, I know you been tryin' to live offa Micky for years.

MICKY

Can we talk business?

MICKEY O'KEEFE

(changing the topic)
Is there gonna be a press conference?

(RNNTTNTTT Y)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 55.

57 CONTINUED: (3) 57

ALICE

Yeah, five days before the fight --

58 STREET - COSMOPOLITAN CAFE/OLYMPIA RESTAURANT - DOWNTOWN,

58

LOWELL - NIGHT

.Dicky running down the street toward the restaurant, passing the COSMOPOLITAN CAFE, crowd of people out front, BOUNCER, 6'4", 230 lbs., sirens in the air.

BOUNCER

(puts his hand up, shakes

HIS HEAD)

Whoa, spucky teeth, I thought you were smokin' rocks, now you're gargling with 'em?

DICKY

(looks away, mumbles)
You're 'bout to lose your breath.

BOUNCER

I'm about to lose my what?
And Dicky nails the bouncer in the gut, drops him to his
knees, wind knocked out of him, then Dicky hooks his
sickening jaw... 6'4" guy dropping fast, hitting the sidewalk,
thud. COP CHASING HIM on foot runs up, Dicky PUNCHES HIM
OUT. Busting open his nose, blood pouring. Dicky takes a
swing at ANOTHER COP. More police cars pull up. Officers
jump out and slam Dicky to the ground! Dicky screams,
fighting back, kicking and punching the police arresting
him...

59 OLYMPIA RESTAURANT - NIGHT 59

MICKEY O'KEEFE

We were lookin' at tape today on
Belinc and I think if Micky cuts
off the ring in most rounds --

GUY IN DINER

Dicky! IT'S Dicky ECKLUND!

ALICE

(STANDS UP)

Ohmygahd! Dicky!
Mickey O'Keefe jumps up, starts for the door. Charlene just
shakes her head, what the fuck. Alice still holding Micky's
lobby card, heads outside with George, Sherry, sisters.
Micky stands up. Charlene pulls him back down.

(RNNTTNTTRT))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 56.

59 CONTINUED: 59

CHARLENE

Whoa.

MICKY O'KEEFE

(glances back, shouts)
Don't, Micky! I don't want ya
gettin' hurt before the fight!
He rushes out after Alice, George, Red Dog, Sherry leaving
Micky and Charlene behind. Hear more SIRENS, SCREAMS from
the street.
Micky can't take it, jumps up.

CHARLENE MICKY O'KEEFE

Are you kiddin' me? Are you Are you for real? Sit down.
serious? Sit down, sit. Sit down.
She grabs the back of his pants.. .he drags her a little,
pushes her hand off, leaves her outstretched, hair fallen
over her face.

60 COSMOPOLITAN CAFE - DOWNTOWN, LOWELL - NIGHT 60

Alice, George running across the street. Red Dog rushes
toward the fight, tries to pull the cops away from Dicky,
kicking & clawing... Another officer grabs her. Dicky's
thrashing handcuffed on the ground, struggling against the
officers keeping him down, crying out for help...
.Micky runs out as cops bang Dicky up outside the paddy
wagon. Micky runs into the middle of it all, grabs a cop's
arm.

MICKY

Just put him in the wagon.
Police tackle Micky to the sidewalk, start beating, subduing
him with their flashlights... Crack! Crack!

ALICE

(SCREAMS OUT)

They didn't fuckin' do anything!
Get off my boys!
.Micky raises his arm defending himself from the long black
metal flashlights, head split open bleeding.

CHARLENE

Mickyyyyy! Noooooo!

(CCNTTNTTFN)

60 CONTINUED: 60

.Hear a cop yell, "He's a fightah, break his fuckin' hands, break his hands!" Crack! Hard metal breaking bone in Micky's left hand. Micky screams out in pain...

(C'C)NTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 57.

60 CONTINUED: (2) 60

starts CHARLENE THROWS HERSELF between the cops and Micky and shoving them off him.

CHARLENE

LEAVE HIM ALONE! [swings at cops]
Back the fuck up!

MICKY O'KEEFE

into (pulling fellow cops away,
trying to keep the peace)
Guys, come on, back up.
Cops back up from Charlene and O'Keefe... Blood spilling
Micky's eyes, holds up his left hand, which Charlene looks at.

CHARLENE

(CRYING)

- Micky, your hands! Your hands!

COP

Micky Separate cells, don't let' em work
up some bullshit defense story.
Alice runs up to Dicky as he's put into one police car,
into another; she drops the lobby card which is trampled on
'til it's no longer visible.

FADE OUT

FADE IN: PULLING OUT ON MICKY'S BANDAGED HAND...

61 LOWELL DISTRICT COURT - 1ST FLOOR - MONDAY MORNING 61

Micky is led in through one door where he stands before judge; Dicky led in separately through another door to stand 15 feet from Micky -- they exchange looks -- both shackled, handcuffs, leg irons, both still wearing their bloody

clothes

from the fight. Hear the laundry list of charges against Dicky, "Ward one count of disturbing the peace, released on your own recognizance. .Ecklund. Three counts of Assault & Battery on a Police Officer. One count of Resisting Arrest. One count of Larceny from a Person. One count of impersonating a police officer."

Alice holding 4-year-old Little Dicky in her lap starts to sob, sitting in the gallery with Tar, Pork, Sherri, Little Alice. Daughters try consoling Alice. No sign of Charlene. Karen there, ignored by Alice. HBO camera crew filming...

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 58.

62 ATRIUM OUTSIDE COURTROOM - MORNING 62

Micky stands while his cuffs are unlocked by an OFFICER; Dicky comes led down the hall by ANOTHER OFFICER, he slows down and leans to Micky, and stops --

DICKY

We gotta talk, it was self-defense, right, say it was self defense, ya come outside, ya seen 'em beatin' on me, I didn't do nuthin' --

MICKY

You didn't do nuthin? Look at my hand ya selfish prick.

OFFICER

(PULLING HIM)

Let's go, Dicky -

DICKY

(leaning back to Micky)
I was doin' it for you!

MICKY

What were you doin' for me?

Officer pauses so Dicky can listen.

MICKY

This? Do me a favah, don't do
nuthin' for me.

DICKY

(stung, eyes well)
What ah ya gonna do without me?
Micky stares as Officer pulls Dicky away, sad.

63 HOLDING CELL - BEHIND COURTROOM - MORNING 63

.HBO cameraman filming Dicky shaking his head, being placed
into a holding cell behind the courtroom.

DICKY

- I can't believe they let Micky
go. What about me?

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 59.

63 CONTINUED: 63

HBO PRODUCER (OS)

What'd you expect, Dick? You
violated your parole.

DICKY

What'd I do? They're aftah me.
I'm fuckin' Dicky Ecklund. I'm
gonna have to plead out, right, get
like three yeahs. Could HBO help
talk to 'em? What's gonna happen
to my movie? I'll be out in a yeah
or so, maybe less with good
behaviah. We can finish it then,

RIGHT -

HBO PRODUCER

Your part will just end with you
bein' arrested.

DICKY

(tears in his eyes)
What about my comeback? I didn't
do nuthin'. Who's gonna take care
a Little Dicky and, what about
Tommy?

64 MICKY'S APARTMENT ABOVE GARAGE - NIGHT 64

Micky sitting alone drinking a beer, left hand in a cast,
staring at the floor.

65 CHARLENE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 65

.Micky finishes another beer, throws it into the bushes and
walks up to the entrance. Rings the intercom.

CHARLENE (OS INTERCOM)

Who is it?
Micky doesn't say anything.

CHARLENE (OS INTERCOM)

I don't wanna see you, Micky.

MICKY

CHARLENE-

CHARLENE (OS INTERCOM)

I can't take it, I'm not gonna let
you or your family drag me down.
(C''nNTTNTW.1))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 60.

65 CONTINUED: 65

MICKY

I'm quittin', Charlene, OK? I'm
done fightin' I don't need it no
more.

CHARLENE (OS INTERCOM)

That's fuckin' stupid.

MICKY

What?! Why?

CHARLENE

Because it's sad you let them take
it away from you, with all their
stupid bullshit.

MICKY

- What else could I do, Charlene?

CHARLENE (OS INTERCOM)

There's a lot you could do, Micky.
Ya fathah's gotta guy he wants ya
to meet. You just don't think you
can do it without Dicky -
Micky looks at the intercom... doesn't say anything... looks

up

at the apartment building. Walks away.
65aA INT. DICKY'S CELL - BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTIONS-

NIGHT 65aA

Dicky shivers through crack withdrawal, clinging to his bed,
sweating. SCREAMS, scratches at himself, SCREAMS in agony.
PRISONER'S SHOUT OS 'SHUT THE FUCK UP.' Time lapse shows day
night day night as Dicky shakes, screams, shivers. Til he
stops - exhausted. Clean.

65A FADE IN - EXT. ROOF OF HOUSE -- DAY 65A

2 MONTHS LATER - Micky, depressed, one hand bandaged, roofs
with George and Beaver. FADE OUT - FADE IN --

65B INT. ALICE'S HOUSE - 3 WEEKS LATER - HBO PROMO FOR 'HIGH

EB

CRACK STREET' PLAYS ON A TV

66 LOWELL MAN ON THE STREET DOCUMENTARY INTERVIEWS. REAL 66

INTERVIEWS WITH REAL LOWELL. TALKING ABOUT "HIGH ON CRACK

STREET" AIRING THAT NIGHT... HEARD IT MAKES THE CITY LOOK

BAD...MICKY & DICKY BAD FOR THE CITY... DREAM IS DEAD...

67 DUNKIN' DONUTS - CHELMSFORD ST., LOWELL - DAY 67

Raining. Micky runs into a crowded Dunkin' Donuts, tired, dark circles, out-of-shape. HAND HEALED, HABITUALLY

STRETCHING AND CLENCHING IT.

(CUNTTNTRT))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 60aA.

67 CONTINUED:

67

Everybody looking at him, some whisper. Micky's eyes wide, catches sight of Mickey O'Keefe in the back drinking coffee, reading the newspaper, still in his police uniform.

MICKY

Hey!

(C'NNTTNTTRT) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 60A.

67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

MICKEY O'KEEFE

(stands, hugs Micky hello)
How's ya hand?!

(MORE)

(NNTTNTTP FL

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 61.

67 CONTINUED: (3) 67

MICKEY O'KEEFE (CONT'D)

Looks bettah.

MICKY

It's good, gettin' there.

MICKEY O'KEEFE

Why don't ya come down to the gym
if ya want? Ya fat fuck, look
atcha.

MICKY

(looks at people staring)
Now I gotta worry about this movie
tonight on HBO, everybody lookin'
at me like I did somethin' wrong,
ain't my fault he's on TV.

MICKEY O'KEEFE

It's bettah for ya if ya don't see
it, Micky, it's just gonna make ya
feel bad. [turns to everyone] What
are you lookin' at? He ain't gonna
be on TV, it's his crazy brothah.
People stare at them.

68 BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTIONS - VISITOR'S ROOM-1ST FLOOR

68

- DAY

.Dicky playing with his 4-year-old son, sitting across from
Alice smoking a Lucky, three newspapers in her lap, room
crowded with convicts, visitors, thick with smoke.

ALICE

Everybody's talkin' about the
movie, Dicky, it sounds.

DICKY

(regretful, wary)
I know.
(shakes his head)

They're lettin' everybody on the first two tiers watch it tonight. C'mon, hit daddy with a knuckle sandwich. Bang-bang. Right in the mouth.

(takes Little Dicky's hand, hits own mouth)

C'mon, a knuckle sandwich!

.Little Dicky hits Dicky in the mouth again. . .And Dicky pops out his fake teeth. Little Dicky cracks up laughing.

(CENTTNTTF.T)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 61aA.

68 CONTINUED: 68

DICKY (CONT'D)

(laughing with his son)

- My teef, my teef, Dicky, you knocked out my teef!

ALICE

They're sayin' it makes you an' the city look bad. What'd they make ya do?

DICKY

(pops his teeth back)

It wasn't supposed to work out this way. Say we did it for the kids, ma.

ALICE

What kids, Dicky?

DICKY

About drugs, and all that. Is Micky gonna watch it? You ask 'im why he don't come to see me? All I do in here is think about comin' back and workin' with Micky, that's what keeps me goin'. I want a second chance to do it right for him and win a title. Will ya tell him that

for me?
They hear a guard, "C'mon, five minutes Dicky, wrap it up."
Little Dicky reaches out and gently cups his father's nose..

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 61A-62.

69 PRISON CORRIDOR 69

Dicky escorted by GUARD walks past 6' of bars where guys crowd and yell: "Dickyyyye!" "Hey, Dicky! Dicky!" "Can't wait for tonight, brothah!"

70 HALLWAY, RE-ENTRY ROOM - 1ST FLOOR, B.H.C. - DAY 70

.Dicky heading back to his cell down the long tunnel-like hallway, stopping at the checkpoint for his strip search. The guard, Corrections Officer 1, 30s, short, stocky, opens the door to the small closet-like room, handprints on the wall.

Dicky turns back around, bends over and separates his cheeks...

CORRECTIONS OFFICER 1

Lookin' forward to seein' your HBO movie tonight.

71 DICKY'S CELL, 1ST TIER - 2ND FLOOR, B.H.C. - NIGHT 71

.Dicky pacing his 6-by-10 cell, solid stone walls, black iron-barred door, stainless-steel sink, toilet, crucifix hanging on the wall. Dicky starts throwing punches in the air, dancing around a rope stretching from one wall to the other, make-shift clothesline drying underwear, white socks.. .over the loudspeaker, "15 minutes to movie time." Dicky glances in a small mirror hanging on the wall...

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 63.

72 DAY ROOM - 2ND FLOOR, B.H.C. - NIGHT 72

Two prison guards supervise. Convicts cheer when they see Dicky walk in. Dicky raises his hands above his head...

NIGHT13 73 MICKY'S APARTMENT ABOVE GARAGE - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM -

Guide .Micky sitting in the tiny kitchen, drinking beer alone,
dead drunk, ON TV, HBO's "High on Crack Street," a Tour

Revolution says, "Lowell was the birthplace of the Industrial
in America, a place people came to find the American dream."
BooBoo riding in a car, pointing, "That house sold crack,
that one sold heroin, the one on the cornah sold crack."

MICKY SCRAMBLES FOR THE PHONE, DIALS FRANTICALLY.

MICKY

(INTO PHONE)

Jimmy, hey, sorry to rush, but I
wanted to make sure Kasie's not
watchin' HBO, okay?

74 LAURIE & HER HUSBAND'S LARGER HOUSE - NIGHT 74

LAURIE'S HUSBAND

(INTO PHONE)

OK, Mick, I got it --

LAURIE

(GRABS PHONE)

I want her to see it! Let her see
who her uncle is! Who you ah!

MICKY

(INTO PHONE)

Who I am? What are you talkin'
about? Turn it off, Laurie, turn
it off.

Laurie up, joins Kasie, Jimmy as she watches eyes wide ...ON
TV, Dicky talking to camera, missing rotting teeth,
hollowed-

out eyes, skeleton-like arms, fucked-up high, tries to spark
a lighter, "Whoa,-- there's Richard Pryah for ya."

75 B.H.C. - DAY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR - NIGHT 75

me .Dicky laughing, sitting in the room, wall-to wall noise,
cigarette smoke, convicts whistling, cheering, watching his
life playing back in front of him on TV, "You shoulda seen

my then! My wife Debbie was the prettiest girl in Lowell, and

daughtah Kerry, I want Kerry to be proud a me now. Who knows what my life woulda been like, ya know." Convicts hollering, "Dickyge!" "Dicky!" "Dickyeee!"

(C ONTTNTRN

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 64.

75 CONTINUED: 75

Dicky jumps up & puts on a show, grinning, throwing punches in the air... ON TV, Court officers leading Dicky out of the courtroom. Camera zooming in on Alice holding Little Dicky

in

her arms, both crying, sobbing. Zooming tighter on Little Dicky's face, tears falling down his cheeks, snot dripping from his nose...

DICKY STOPS PUNCHING, GRINNING... STANDING IN THE NOISE AND THE SMOKE... WATCHING HIS 4-YEAR-OLD SON CRYING FOR HIM ON

TV,

THEN, his own face behind bars in a holding cell, tears in his eye, "I didn't do nuthin'. Who's gonna take care a

Little

Dicky and, what about Tommy?"

.Dicky stands there for a moment watching himself, his son, his life on TV... starts shaking his head no no no no. He turns still shaking, and heads for the payphones in the back of the room, ignoring all the noise, cheering, yelling. He picks up one of the phones, dials 0 + his mother's number, hears the operator, "Operator."

DICKY

(INTO PHONE)

Collect call from Dicky.

He hears a busy signal, operator say, "Sorry, that line is busy, sir." Dicky looks back up at one of the TVs, Alice and Little Dicky sitting in the living room watching a tape of

24-

year-old Dicky fighting Sugar Ray Leonard on HBO.

He hangs up the phone and walks out of the day room...

76 CAFETERIA - 2ND FLOOR, B.H.C. 76

.Dicky drifts through the cafeteria, darkness lit only by

fluorescent lights from the open kitchen, three inmate cooks chatting, cleaning. Nobody even sees Dicky, a ghost floating through the gloom. He opens a large unlocked black metal

mesh

door in the back, heads down the stairs, at the bottom another large door. Dicky opens it...

77 INT. TRAP, 1ST FLOOR - B.H.C. - NIGHT 77

arrive

.He steps into.. .the Trap, the room in which inmates to be processed, where a guard, Corrections Officer 2, 30s, tall, sits.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER 2

(stands, surprised)
Dicky!? What're you doin' here?

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 65.

77 CONTINUED: 77

DICKY

I gotta go home, Harry. I gotta tell Dicky it's gonna be okay, he don't gotta cry.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER 2

(steps out, puts a hand on

DICKY'S SHOULDER)

Get back upstairs before I write ya up.

DICKY

- He don't gotta cry no more.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER 2

I don't know what you're talking about, Dicky, but you can't be here. You gotta go back up.
Dicky looks at Corrections Officer 2, turns and heads back.

78 CORRIDOR, 2ND FLOOR - B.H.C. - NIGHT 78

.Dicky walking down the dimly lit hall, shadows dancing off walls, distant cheering, screaming echoing... stepping into the dark kitchen... Dicky sinks to his knees.. .onto the

hard

grey cement floor.. .and bows his head to pray.

79 ALICE'S & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 79

.Alice cries as she watches "High On Crack Street" with George and couple of her daughters. Little Dicky comes in.

ALICE

(wiping away her tears

DIALING PHONE)

No, sweetheart, go back upstairs,
you can't watch this. [into phone]
Micky, can you believe what they're
doin' to us?

80 MICKY'S APARTMENT ABOVE GARAGE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN 80

- NIGHT

.Micky on the phone, upset, watching HBO.

MICKY

(INTO PHONE)

Ma, I know, but he did it to
himself.

(CNNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 66.

80 CONTINUED: 80

ALICE

(ON PHONE)

What was he thinkin! They set him
up!

**KNOCKING ON THE DOOR, HE OPENS IT AS HE LISTENS TO
PHONE..CHARLENE IS THERE. Micky's eyes widen with surprise.**

He hasn't seen her in a while.

ALICE

(ON PHONE)

Maybe they got the drugs far 'im
an' the movie --

MICKY

(staring at Charlene)

It's very sad, ma, I gotta call ya
back.

He hangs up. He and Charlene stare at each other, taking it
in, emotional, awkward. She laughs a little through
tears. - .they hug.

Micky crying into her shoulder and hair, Charlene holding
onto him, she backs him into his BEDROOM, the fall to the
bed, kissing. FADE OUT -

81 FADE IN - MICKY'S BEDROOM - EARLY NEXT MORNING 81

Next morning. Micky's hands grab dingy white boxing wraps
out of the darkness of his messy closet, faded red gloves,
throws them into an old blue gym bag, leaves. Charlene sits
up in bed, groggy, gets up in Micky's t-shirt, goes out.

81A STAIRS - MICKY'S APARTMENT ABOVE GARAGE - EARLY MORNING

81A

slung

Micky stands at the top of the stairs, old blue gym bag
over his shoulder, early morning. He looks out at morning...

82 EXT. MICKY'S 2ND FLOOR APT. PORCH - CONTINUOUS 82

Charlene runs out; Micky pauses on stairs.

MICKY

(pauses on stairs)

I wanna meet that guy George told
you about. [pause] The one with the
cab company.

Charlene nods, Micky disappears down the stairs; she runs to
the edge of the balcony, looks down, waits, in a moment
Micky's back appears from under the porch, walking away. She
watches him go.

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 66A.

82A EXT. LOWELL STREET NEARY MICKY'S - DAY 82A

Micky walks -- silently -- camera tracks with him, on his face. Then let's him go into distance.

(CC)NTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 67.

82A CONTINUED: 82A

TICK TICK TICK WE HEAR JUMP ROPE BEFORE WE DISSOLVE TO:

83 OMITTED 83

84 RAMALHO'S WEST END GYM - DAYS 84

Days later: MICKY JUMPS ROPE; MICKY DOES ABS WORK under Mickey O'Keefe's watchful gaze.; MICKY HITS SPEED BAG; MICKY MOVES IN RING. JUMPS ROPE AGAIN. Pan reveals: Charlene, George, and SAL LONANO, 45, Italian, dark, mustache, tinted glasses, thick dark hair, watch.
.Micky stops jumping, catching his breath. Kisses Charlene hello.

MICKY O'KEEFE

Nobody keeps tryin' like this kid,
I swear to God someone up there's
watchin' over him, he's far from
done. He'll take five punches to
land one, that's how he fights,
that's who he is. Micky this is Sal
LoNano.
Micky shakes Sal LoNano's hand.

MICKY

You own a cab company, you're a
good businessman, right?

SAL LONANO

(NODS)

I already made some calls. Spoke
to Bobby Tags and he says we can

get a small fight, somethin' local
to staht back with.

MICKY O'KEEFE

Get ya confidence back.

SAL LONANO

Right, go from there. [claps his
hands together in an idiosyncratic

WAY]

MICKEY O'KEEFE

- Micky, I know ya dad wants this
guy to manage ya, and I'll train ya
on one condition.

CHARLENE

No crazy-time nonsense.

(RNNTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 68.

84 CONTINUED: 84

MICKEY O'KEEFE

No Dicky, no Alice. If they come
back, I'm gone, Mick. I can't deal
with the bullshit, no offense
Georgie.

GEORGE

None taken, I'm the one who's gonna
get his balls cut off anyway.

85 ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 85

George holds his arms up as pots, plates come flying at him.
Alice looking around for something else to throw at him.
George grabs her and holds on before she can hit him...

ALICE

You traitor motherfucker!

GEORGE

Those pans hurt, you crazy bitch! I
hadda help Micky!

ALICE

With that scumbag LoNano?! Now I
gotta save Micky!

86

86 ' 88 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL (PARKED) - ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S

HOUSE - DAY

Alice and most of the sisters piling into Alice's car.

87 OMITTED 87

88 CHARLENE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY 88

Micky and Charlene make out in their underwear on the bed
when a car screeches up outside. The intercom rings.
.Charlene looks out her window, sees TWO SISTERS on her
porch while Alice and FOUR OTHER SISTERS pile out of the car
and up her walk.

CHARLENE

Holy shit. Your mothah's here with
your sistahs.

MICKY

Don't answah the door.

CHARLENE

I'm not hidin' from your crazy
fuckin' family, Micky!

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 69.

89 FRONT DOOR - CHARLENE'S APARTMENT - DAY 89

THE DOOR OPENS...and Charlene stands there with Micky
slightly behind her.

CHARLENE

Hi.

ALICE

Well, well, well, look at this.

CHARLENE

Look at what?

ALICE

You can't hide from us, Micky.

CHARLENE

He's not hiding.

ALICE

I wasn't talkin' to you, I was talkin' to my son. What're you doin' Micky?

MICKY

I'm not hidin' from nobody -

ALICE

Ya not helpin' yaself with ya fathah's scumbag friend, and ya can't turn ya back on Dicky, all he evah wanted was for you to be World Champ.

CHARLENE

Micky's a grown man, he can make his own decisions.

ALICE

Keep ya mouth shut. I'm his muthah. You need Dicky, no one trains you like him, ya can't do it without

'IM -

CHARLENE

(LAUGHS)

What else can he do, Dicky's in prison!

(CNNTTNTTFF)

89 CONTINUED: 89

MICKY

Why ya always lookin' out for him,
Ma? Wes? Why's it always Dicky,
Dicky, Dicky -

ALICE

I'm lookin' out for YOU. My boys
are everything to me. I had nine
children, I loved all a you the
same.

CHARLENE

You got a funny way a showin' it --

MICKY

Yeah, a funny way, Ma, Dicky's a
great trainah, I love him to death,
but do ya evah think all the othah
damage he's done?

CHARLENE

Lettin' him get beat up, get his
hand broken.

ALICE

(lunges at Charlene)
Are you crazy, Micky's my baby!
Micky grabs her before she gets to Charlene.

MICKY

Don't ever lay a hand on Charlene.

TAR (CINDY)

Skank.

PORK (CATHY)

She's a fuckin' bah skank!

CHARLENE

Don't call me skank, I'll rip that
hair right outta ya fuckin' head!
Red Dog lunges at Charlene and takes poke at her; Charlene
grabs Red Dog's face and shoves her.. .then backhands

Beaver,

who's grabbing her hair, sloppy like a bar fight.

MICKY

(lets go of his mother,
breaking up the fight)
HEY! HEY! For the love a Christ!

(CNNTTNTTFF ')

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 71.

89 CONTINUED: (2) 89

ALICE

(quiet, crying)

MICKY --

They look at each other, tearful, heartbreaking. Red Dog and Beaver put their arms around her and walk her to the car.

ALICE

(crying as they walk)

What's happening? My God, what is happening to everyone? I don't undahstand it.

George pulls up in roofing truck, starts to get out, sees Alice and sisters, looks scared, pulls out.

90 SHERATON INN LOWELL - GUEST ROOM, 4TH FLOOR - 7:00 PM -

90

FRIDAY

TITLE: Ward vs. Castillo - Sheraton Inn Lowell - August 19, 1994. Micky getting undressed, getting ready for the fight. Charlene sitting on the bed watching him. CLOSE ON: Micky stands till in the mirror, muttering under his breath as he goes over combinations and scenarios in his head.

91 HALLWAY - SHERATON INN LOWELL - 8:28 PM 91

Hour later. Micky leaving his room, head moving side-to-side, warmed up, sweat dripping, gloves, robe on. .

.Charlene

next to him, Mickey O'Keefe, Art Ramalho, and cutman Ed Aliano walking in front of him.. Micky sees "'Irish' Mickey Ward" on the back of O'Keefe's corner jacket.

MICKY

(shakes his head, on edge)

I do not spell my name with a friggin' "E."

92 ELEVATOR, SHERATON INN LOWELL - DOORS OPEN 92

Micky stands in his robe, boxing trunks, gloves, in the elevator with the others, nods to a young couple and their two kids, rolls his neck, shakes his legs, Mickey O'Keefe rubs his shoulders. Young couple not sure what to make of it..Ding! The elevator finally arrives. Micky lets the family out first, then he, Charlene, Mickey O'Keefe, Art Ramalho and Ed Aliano step off.

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 72.

93 RING - BALLROOM, SHERATON INN LOWELL - 8:58 PM 93

TITLE: Rd 4 - 2:08 (time running down). Micky's chin almost atop LUIS CASTILLO's, 33, 5 9", 144 lbs, shoulder... throws

a

left hook to Castillo's ribs...Mickey O'Keefe shouting from ringside... Charlene cheering with Sal LoNano...George

...Micky

follows with a short right uppercut, then a hook.. .And Castillo goes crashing down to the canvas! Tries to get up, stumbling... Referee waves the fight over... hometown

standing-

room-only crowd explodes cheering, screaming for Micky... .Micky raises his hands in victory for the first time in years, looks over to his corner...no Dicky. Mickey O'Keefe ducks through the ropes and hugs Micky, whispering something in his ear. Charlene follows, hugging Micky.

94 INSIDE YARD, 1ST FLOOR - B.H.C. - DAY 94

Weeks later. Dicky's running, shadowboxing around a track, gray hooded sweatshirt soaked with sweat, noisy crowded square 75-by-75, solid brick up 20-feet, razor-spiraled barbed wire. He slows down, walks, alone, quiet within himself. We watch him for a moment. Over loudspeaker, "Visit for Dicky Ecklund."

95 VISITOR'S ROOM - 1ST FLOOR, B.H.C. - DAY 95

.Micky and Dicky sit facing each other.

MICKY

I know you know what I'm doin'.
I'm sure Alice, everybody else,
told you, I wanted to tell you to
your face, myself. I got new
management, I'm workin' with Mickey

O'Keefe, and it's going good.

DICKY

Yeah, sure, they got ya fighin'
Alfonso Sanchez.

MICKY

(PROUD)

On HBO.

DICKY

(makes a face)
Yeah, HBO's all invested in the
Mexican, Micky, wake up, they don't
care if you get killed. Toma did
it. He's usin' ya like a steppin'-
stone for Sanchez.

(RNNTTNTTPN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 73.

95 CONTINUED: 95

MICKY

Of course, how could I stand a
chance without the Great Dicky
Ecklund in my corner? You didn't
care if I got killed with Mungin,
now all of a sudden, you're worried
Sanchez is gonna hurt me, why? Cuz
you're stuck here and you can't be
center of attention no more.

DICKY

I seen that Mexican fight, Micky!
He hits very hard! 15 knockouts!
Undefeated! Are you crazy? That
idiot LoNano went right for it!
He's usin' you to steal money!

MICKY

(PISSSED)

I wasted my 20s in bad fights set by you and Alice! I finally gotta good thing goin', shut up and be happy for me!

DICKY

What's ya plan, Mick? How ya gonna fight Sanchez?

MICKY

I ain't here to talk about that!

DICKY

Oh yeah, you are.

MICKY

Watch the fight, you'll see the plan.

DICKY

They won't let us watch the fight cuz it's 'violent'! They let us watch the stupid documentary on crack but not my own brothah fightin'! [people look at them]. Are ya scared? Are ya embarraassed cuz ya don't even have a plan? Just tell me.

MICKY

Ya gonna shit on it no mattah what I say!

(C'.ONTTNTTFT)'

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 73A.

95 CONTINUED: (2) 95

DICKY

I won't shit on it. Come on, just tell me.

MICKY

(thinks, then, grudgingly)

Go toe to toe; ovahhand right in
the middle rounds. He's weak
against the overhand right.

DICKY

(EYES WIDE)

Who came up with that? Fatty
O'Keefe?

MICKY

Fuck you. I'm gonna go. (Stands]

DICKY

Ya gotta run against this guy!
Move, let 'im punch himself out

(MORE)

(C 'ONTTNTTF: F)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 74.

95 CONTINUED: (3) 95

DICKY (CONT'D)

Take 'im to the body, Micky! Get
inside. Switch stances like ya
workin' his right, hit 'im on the
left. Be careful, don't switch
outside.

MICKY

(starting to go)
You're not me. You can't be me. You
had a hard enough time being you
when you had your chance. I'll
fight Sanchez the way I fight.
Walks out.

DICKY

(stands and shouts)
I'm TALKIN' about the way you
fight, you moron! You know I'm
right!

As Micky opens the door his face registers Dicky's words.

96 THOMAS & MACK CENTER, LAS VEGAS - AISLE - 9:02 PM 96

TITLE: Sanchez vs. Ward - Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas. Micky making his way down the aisle for the Sanchez fight, emerald trunks, robe with white trim, "Mickey Ward" spelled wrong on the back, crowd cheering, HBO. . .Mickey O'Keefe

and

cutman ED ALIANO, 62, gray hair, glasses, right behind

Micky,

emerald "Mickey Ward" corner 'ackets.

97 RING - THOMAS & MACK CENTER- 9:28 PM 97

TITLE: Rd 5 - :48 (time running down). Micky beat up, running away, face red, scrape on his left cheek, cut above his left eye.. .Hard punching ALFONSO SANCHEZ, 25, 5'7", 140 lbs, black trunks, chasing after him.. .Charlene screaming sitting ringside with Sal LoNano, George, Donna, Beaver, their husbands, sitting behind them.. . .crowd all around booing Micky, hear one of the HBO announcers, LARRY MERCHANT (the real audio), "I mean, Ward's just running away.

(RNNTTNTTFD'

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 75.

97 CONTINUED: 97

It's awful. I know Sanchez is strong, really strong, but I can't understand why Ward's not fighting back. This fight's supposed to be a reality check to see where he's at. He's a better fighter than this. He just keeps running away."

.Sanchez catches Micky, lands a right and a left ...Bam! Bam!...Micky reels against the ropes... Sanchez hits him

with

a right--Right--Left hook--Left hook.. .Micky tries to tie Sanchez up...Bam!...Left hook! The bell rings. End of Rd 5.

98 RING APRON, MICKY'S CORNER - BETWEEN 5TH & 6TH RDS-8:29PM

98

.Charlene watches Micky stumble to the corner. Mickey O'Keefe inside the ring pouring water into Micky's mouth, Al Gavin leaning over, working to stop the bleeding above Micky's left eye.

CHARLENE

(stands up, shouting)
Come on Micky! Stop dickin' around!

MICKEY O'KEEFE

(kneels in front of Micky)
Breathe, Mick, breathe. Catch this
sunovabitch with an ovah hand
right, ya hear me? He won't see
it comin'.

MICKY

(nods, spits out water)
He hits like bricks. When he
misses it hurts.

99 RING - THOMAS & MACK CENTER - 8:31 PM 99

TITLE: Rd 6 - 2:01 (time running down).Micky running again,
around & around the ring.

100 ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

100
the

Alice stands holding the phone to her ear as she watches
fight on HBO. Little Alice, Sherri, Tar, Pork, all watching
the fight with her.

ALICE

(ON PHONE)

He's fightin' scared, Dicky.
Runnin', not hittin' back, O'Keefe
looks mad. He's gonna get hurt -

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 76.

101 B.H.C. - DAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS 101

.Dicky on a pay phone, convicts on all the phones, more
waiting their turn behind the yellow line.

DICKY

(ON PHONE)

No, Ma, it's okay, it's okay, he's
doin' what I told' im. He's doin'
it!

INTERCUT as necessary:
ON TV, Micky switches stances outside...Sanchez counters
with
a booming left uppercut ...Bam! Micky drops to one knee!

ALICE

(ON PHONE)

Oh Jesus!

DICKY

(ON PHONE)

What happened?!

ALICE

(ON PHONE)

Knocked down with an uppah cut
changin' stances outside!

DICKY

(on phone, screaming)
I told 'im inside, c'mon, Micky!

CUT BACK TO:

102 RING - THOMAS & MACK CENTER 102

.Micky gets back to his feet. . .Referee MITCH HALPERN gives
him a standing eight-count, "Three... Four...Five..."

REFEREEEE MITCH HALPERN

(looks at Micky)
You alright?

MICKY

(eyes wide, blood

DRIPPING)

Yuh.

.Halpern motions to start fighting. Micky immediately runs
again, staying away from Sanchez, hear another HBO

announcer,

ROY JONES JR., (the real audio), "The referee should just go
ahead and stop this fight.

(RNNTTNTTF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 77.

102 CONTINUED: 102

He knows that Micky doesn't want to be here." Hear JIM LAMPLEY, "This is really one of the saddest kinds of fights in boxing. Micky Ward is 32-years-old. He's here because he needs the money. He's taking a beating. Getting humiliated." Micky just keeps running.
The bell rings. End of Rd 6.

103 ALICE & GEORGE WARD'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM 103

ALICE

(ON PHONE)

They're sayin' they should stop the fight, they never seen such an embarrassin' performance, oh it's awful, Dick.

104 B.H.C. - DAY ROOM 104

DICKY

(eyes wide, starting to get nervous, on phone)
He's gotta go inside, Ma, he's gotta go inside when the time's right. He's gotta -

105 MICKY'S CORNER, RING - THOMAS & MACK CENTER 105

.Micky makes his way over to his corner, bleeding from above his left eye, left cheek.. Mickey O'Keefe jumps into the ring... Sal LoNano leaves his seat and goes to the corner,
Charlene follows him.

SAL LONANO

(shouts at Micky)
Why you running around so much?!
Don't run around no more

MICKEY O'KEEFE

(yells back at Sal)
Shut the fuck up, Sal!

SAL LONANO

You're blowin' it!
.Mickey O'Keefe pours water into Micky's mouth. Referee Mitch Halpern comes over to the corner.

REFEREEEE MITCH HALPERN

Ya gotta show me somethin' soon,
Mick, or I'm gonna stop it.

(CONTTNTTRT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 78.

105 CONTINUED: 105

MICKY O'KEEFE

He's good! He's good!

CHARLENE

(looks up at Micky from

RINGSIDE)

They're gonna stop the fight!

MICKY

(leans out ropes, angry))
Don't stop the fight,-- I got it.

CHARLENE

(SHOUTS)

THEN LET'S GO, BABY! Let's GO! Get
ya frickin' punches off!

MICKY O'KEEFE

(through the ropes)
Will ya siddown, I got it! I know
what I'm doin', Jesus --
(wipes Vaseline over

MICKY'S FACE)

I don't know what's happenin' out
there, maybe you wanna fuckin' tell
me, cuz we're losin' all six
rounds. Is that what ya want? You
want me to stop it? I'm gonna stop
this fight, Micky. I sweah to
Christ, I'll stop it. I don't know
what ya doin' but ya bettah do it

soon.

CUT TO:

ALICE

(tense tears, holds
phone, watches TV)
Round 7. Sanchez'll try to finish
'im right now. (tearing, wipes

EYES)

CUT TO:

Dicky on the phone at prison, leans head on wall, tense,
muttering to himself, shakes his head, tearing up. Prisoners
watch, SAD.

DICKY

(SAD)

Aw, come on, Micky.

CUT BACK TO:

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 79.

106 RING - THOMAS & MACK CENTER 106

TITLE: Rd 7 - 3:00 (time running down). Sanchez comes out
from his corner, no fear of Micky. The bell rings. Micky
meets him in the middle of the ring...Sanchez COMES OUT

HARD,

TRYING TO END IT, pounds Micky's body ...Bam! Bam!
Bam!...Micky shakes his head, unloads a hard left hook and
takes a step closer...
SUDDENLY EVERYTHING SLOWS DOWN.. .Micky sees exactly what
Dicky told him-mapped out like dance steps on the canvas.
Micky moves inside on Sanchez He switches stances workin'
his right.. .Then he hits him on the left. That's his punch.
He owns it. He and Dicky worked it a million times.
BACK TO REGULAR SPEED. Sanchez goes down to his hands and
knees like he's been shot! Hear Lampley, "What am I looking
at? This is one of the most extraordinary things I've ever
seen in boxing!"...Sanchez crawling on the canvas in pain.
Halpern counting him out, "Six... Seven..." Micky runs to a
neutral corner; then jumps with his arms in the air when

Sanchez does not move.

CHARLENE

(jumping up & down)

YEAHHHHHH! FUCK YEAHHHHHHH!

CUT TO:

ALICE

(shocked, eyes wide)

HE DID IT! BODY SHOT! IT'S OVAH!

CUT TO:

DICKY

(SCREAMING OUT)

**YEAHHHHHH! MY BRUTHAH DROPPED
SANCHEZ!** Just like I told 'im!

PRISONERS AND GUARDS EXPLODE INTO CHEERS.

CUT BACK TO:

ring
him,
Mickey O'Keefe HUGGING MICKY, jumping up and down in the
together as Sal LoNano and George jump up in Micky's corner.
Charlene jumps up and down crying and laughing. Sal hugs
Micky pushes him off.
.Micky drops to one knee in his corner and crosses himself,
blood dripping down his face.

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 80.

107 DRESSING ROOM - THOMAS & MACK CENTER - NIGHT 107

Micky sitting on a table, Ed Aliano fixing up his face,
cleaning up the blood. Charlene, Mickey O'Keefe, George,
Donna, Beaver, husbands, other hanger-onners, celebrating,
happy, drunk. Sal LoNano walks in.

SAL LONANO

Micky, Mike Toma just told me

something very interesting.
Micky, Charlene look at Sal, unsure.

SAL LONANO

Remember Alice told ya Mike Toma
was usin' ya like a steppin stone
for Sanchez and I said she was
fulla shit? Turns out she was
right. Toma said Sanchez had a
title shot if he won tonight.
Micky and Charlene look unsure as they take this i

MICKY O'KEEFE

Holy Christ, that's beautiful.

CHARLENE

Why? Why is the beautiful?

SAL LONANO

Now it's Micky's shot. Shea Neary
in London for the title.
Charlene kisses Micky. Everybody slapping Micky on the back,
hugging him, jumping up & down around him, celebrating him,

a

world title shot. Micky smiling in the middle of the
celebration, then, distracted, something's missing.

108 LOWELL MAN ON THE STREET DOCUMENTARY INTERVIEWS. REAL

108

INTERVIEWS WITH REAL LOWELL. EXCITED TALK ABOUT SANCHEZ

KNOCK

OUT: BAM, LIKE HE WAS SHOT! MICKY PROVED EVERYONE WRONG. .

.AND

NOW SHEA NEARY! WORLD TITLE! HOPE IS BACK...DREAMS

RENEWED...

109 B.H.C., FRONT DOORS - NORTH BILLERICA, MASS - DAY 109

Months later. Dicky walks out of prison into the bright sun,
three-story brick building high on a hill, wearing the same
clothes he was arrested in over a year ago... stretches out
his back, heads down the stairs toward the driveway, 30-foot
chain-link fence, high razor-spiraled barbed wire.

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 81.

110

110 VISITORS PARKING LOT, B.H.C. - '88 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL

(PARKED) - DAY

.Dicky sees his mother's Lincoln parked at a security gate, starts to run. Alice gets out of her car, Little Dicky, now 6-years-old, jumping out the other side.

ALICE

(gives Dicky a big hug)
Oh Dicky, thank Gahd, everythin's gonna be OK again.

DICKY

(hugging his mother)
Easy, Ma, my back's killin' me.

ALICE

Thank god you're out! Charlene and that LoNano charactah are robbin' 'im blind, Sal's sayin' ain't no money for spahhin' pahtnahs!

DICKY

I'll make it right with Micky, I'll apologize, it'll all be okay.

ALICE

(looks at Dicky like he's

CRAZY)

What are you talkin' about? You're Dicky Ecklund. You got nuthin' to apologize for.

CUT TO:

GYM,111

111 ' 88 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL (PARKED) - RAMALHO'S WEST END

SCHOOL ST. - DAY

after

.Dicky closing the door to his mother's car, Little Dicky in his arms, McDonald's in his hands.. .Alice gets out

him. Dicky looks up at the decaying brick warehouse, still abandoned except for the 1st floor, broken windows still on all the upper floors.

112 RAMALHO'S WEST END GYM - 1ST FLOOR - DAY 112

NOTE: SISTERS WILL COME IN WITH CAKE AND WELCOME BACK DICKY

SIGN AT WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT WE FEEL AND CHOOSE TOMORROW.

Dicky steps through the doorway, holding Little Dicky, McDonald's, Alice behind them...sees Micky hitting the pads with Micky O'Keefe in the center ring... Charlene, George, Sal, Art Ramalho watching ringside, Ray Ramalho cleaning up the place.

(RNNTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 82.

112 CONTINUED: 112

DICKY

(looks around, shouts)

Quackah!

.Micky stops punching, smiles when he sees his brother, sweat dripping... and jumps out of the ring, leaving Mickey O'Keefe behind holding the pads... Charlene, George, Sal,

Art,

Ray, other fighters in the gym look at Dicky, some call out, "Dicky!" "Dickyee!" "Dicky!" WHILE MICKY AND ALICE HAVE AWKWARD EYE CONTACT; ALSO CHARLENE AND ALICE, then Micky and Charlene.

MICKY

-- Dicky Donuts lookit ya! They let ya keep the new teeth!

DICKY

(nods, smiles)

Hey, why ain't Micky spahhin'!?

Georgie, what're you doin' outta the house?

Charlene just shakes her head at Dicky. Micky kisses his mother hello.

GEORGE

(puts a short beefy arm around Dicky's neck)

Dicky, meet my friend Sal LoNano.

Dicky glances warily at Sal for brief eye contact.

DICKY

(emotional, defended)
Hey. (turns to Ray Ramalho) Ra
Ray! (high fives Ray)
O'Keefe stares, fuming, looks to Micky, who glances
nervously, but says nothing.

DICKY

I wanna make an amend to everyone
here, I know I done a lot of stupid
things, and I wanna say I'm sorry,
and that's ovah.
They all look at him.

DICKY

I'm very grateful to be back in
this gym with you all. I gotta
lotta time to make up for, and I
wanna make the best of it.

(MORE)

(CNNTTNTTFT) '

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 82A.

112 CONTINUED: (2) 112

DICKY (CONT'D)

You deserve the best, Micky, you
have a chance to go all the way and
I'm ready to be there for ya.
Charlene and O'Keefe look upset. Awkward, everyone looking

at

Dicky who nods, pleased, and walks into the locker room.
O'Keefe and Charlene stare intensely at Micky, who looks
somber.

(RNNTTNT7FT) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 83.

112 CONTINUED: (3) 112

Micky goes into the locker room.

113 LOCKER ROOM, RAMALHO'S WEST END GYM - DAY 113

Dicky changing, Little Dicky watching him, both still eating McDonald's. Micky walks into the locker room.

DICKY

(CHANGING)

I can't tell ya how good it is to be back.

MICKY

You look good, your eyes are clear.

DICKY

I look good, right? Alice said lock up mighta been the best thing to happen to me. I got clean. I got clear up here (taps his head).

MICKY

That's beautiful, Dick. There's somethin' we gotta talk about.

DICKY

Hold on, I wanted to say' I been waitin' for this day, Micky, I been waitin' the whole time I was away. It kept me goin', it kept me alive, the idea of us workin' togethah again.
Micky looks at him, nods. It's breaking his heart.

MICKY

I made a promise to them that I wouldn't work with you again. Dicky takes this in. Stunned.

(CNNTTNTTF'

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 83A.

113 CONTINUED: 113

DICKY

Ever?

MICKY

I had to. After everything that happened. I'm sorry. Dicky is hurt, stunned.

DICKY

The whole time I was away --

MICKY

I'm glad you're back, I'm glad you're doing good, I don't know what else to say.

(RNNTTNTTFT) '

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 84.

113 CONTINUED: (2) 113

Micky, tears in his eyes, stares at Dicky a moment, nods, leaves the locker room.

114 INT. GYM - CONTINUOUS 114

All eyes watch Micky messed up now -- Charlene, O'Keefe, George, Alice, Little Dicky, others. He steps back into the ring with O'Keefe.

O'Keefe looks unsure as he holds the mits. Micky's about to throw when O'Keefe turns, looks.

(CnNTTNTTF.)1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 85.

114 CONTINUED: 114

Dicky walks back into the gym as Micky is about to work out with O'Keefe.

ALICE

What happened?

DICKY

He says I can't work with him.

ALICE

That's not right. [Dicky starts to leave] He never woulda won Sanchez without me!

MICKEY O'KEEFE

That's fuckin' bullshit! Take that back!

DICKY

Don't talk to my mother my mother like that.

ALICE

Why don't you ask Micky?

MICKEY O'KEEFE

They gotta go. If we're gonna train.

CHARLENE

They have to go, Micky.

ALICE

Why don't you ask Micky if he woulda won Sanchez without Dicky? Ask him.

They all look at Micky. He is torn up over this as he considers it before he speaks and they all watch, tense.

MICKY

I wouldn'ta won Sanchez without Dicky.

CHARLENE

How can you say that to O'Keefe?

MICKY

Because it's true. I went in with

our plan and it wasn't working, I
switched to what I learned with
Dicky.
Micky looks at O'Keefe, who is hurt.

(CNNTTNTT' N

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 85aA.

114 CONTINUED: (2) 114

MICKY (CONT'D)

I wouldn'ta won it without you,
either, O'Keefe, you know that.

CHARLENE

You got the focus and confidence
from O'Keefe and Sal and your
father and me!

ALICE

You were lucky to win that fight,
Dicky saved him!

CHARLENE

We saved him! Dicky a junkbag!

(C ONTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 85A.

114 CONTINUED: (3) 114

DICKY

Fuck you, Charlene, I'm 8 months
sober.

CHARLENE

I'm sure you'll need somethin' for
your back now that you're out.

DICKY

O'Keefe's in the same boat I am,
one day at a time, why's it all
right for him to be here, but not
me? I'm blood.

MICKY

I'm the one fighting, not you, not
you, and not YOU. I know what I
need.

CHARLENE

(GETS SHRILL)

And you need Dicky?
Micky roils as he makes this decision.

MICKY

I want Dicky back. And I want you,
Charlene, and I want O'Keefe, and
my family.

CHARLENE

You can't do that to us.

MICKY

You sound like them now.

CHARLENE

Maybe you're just like them and
that's where you belong.
She looks at him, turns and walks out of the gym, followed
by O'Keefe, who looks sadly back at Micky.

ALICE

Everything happens for a reason,
this could be for the best, honey.
Micky watches Dicky get geared up with gloves, headgear,
mouth guard by Art Ramalho. ANOTHER BOXER gears up Micky.

(CNNTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 86.

114 CONTINUED: (4) 114

Alice's eyes glow.

RAY RAMALHO

Dicky Ecklund, the pride a Lowell!
This rankles Micky as he and Dicky square off.

DICKY

I was trainin' in jail, so I'm
ready.
The two brothers spar, falling right back into it as Alice,
George, others watch. Dicky moving around the ring...
He snaps Micky's head with a combination. Micky starts
banging him with body shots...Bam! Bam! Bam!...Dicky tries
to
make Micky miss. Micky grabs him tying him up.. .Dicky
pushes
Micky away, ducks, jabs.. .Micky traps Dicky's left under
his
elbow/arm, pulling it. . .Turning Dicky so his back is
exposed,
drilling him in the kidney. Dicky goes down on one knee in
pain...
And Micky comes over the top with a straight right off the
back of Dicky's head.. .Dicky SLAMS down hard! Face hitting
canvas, blood running from his nose into his mouth...

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 86A.

114 CONTINUED: (5) 114

LITTLE DICKY

(CRIES)

Daddy, Daddy!
(CONTINUED.n'

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 87.

114 CONTINUED: (6) 114

ALICE

(holds Little Dicky)
Alice, take him home. [Little Alice leaves with Little Dicky]. What're you doin', Micky? What's the matter with you!

MICKY

Can this be my fight, for once, Alice, huh, just once, maybe just this one time, not for Dicky? I know you think he's comin' back, he's 40 years old and doesn't have a tooth in his head that's his own--

DICKY

(GETTING UP)

I can go ten more rounds, let's go-

ALICE

Let your brother talk.

DICKY

I'm Shea Neary, let's go, I'm Shea Neary, how ya gonna work me?

MICKY

Shut up!

DICKY

Shea Neary --

MICKY

Shut up!
Dicky, hurt, stops.

DICKY

I'm the one who has this fight, this is my chance for a title, and I won't get another one after this. Am I being selfish? Am I saying Micky, Micky, Micky? I'm sorry, I thought I was fighting for a

championship.
He throws his gear off and starts to go when she runs to
him,
embraces him.

ALICE

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I didn't
know.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 87aA.

114 CONTINUED: (7) 114

ALICE (CONT'D)

I didn't know what I was doing, I
don't know why I did what I did, I
did the best I could, I'll do
better, I don't want to hurt you,
Micky, I love you so much.
As she holds him, Micky looks frustrated, but tears up in
spite of himself and nods.

**THEY HEAR WOODEN FOLDING CHAIRS THAT WERE PROPPED BY THE
CAKE
FALL BY ACCIDENT, AND LOOK TO SEE Dicky throw gear as he
leaves via the main door.**

A115 EXT. RAMALHO'S WEST END GYM - CONTINUOUS A115

George runs after Dicky outside the gym, shouts.

GEORGE

(trying to keep up with

DICKY)

Come on back--

DICKY

No, I gotta take care a something.

GEORGE

Micky wants you, I want you.

DICKY

Do ya, Georgie?

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 87A.

A115 CONTINUED: A115

GEORGE

We gotta do this for Micky, come on. You're my son, too, Dick. Come on.

DICKY

You're my poppa, George.

DICKY

I gotta take care a something. He takes off, leaving George behind.

GEORGE

(SHOUTS)

I know what that means, don't do it, Dick. Come back. But Dicky keeps going. George watches, sad.

(CONTINUED) 1

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 88.

A115 CONTINUED: (2) A115

(CONTINUED)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 88A.

A115 CONTINUED: (3) A115

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 89.

115 STREETS - DOWNTOWN, LOWELL - LATE AFTERNOON 115

Sun starting to die in the sky. Dicky limping down the street, still sweaty in shorts, t-shirt, hears people shouting out his name, "Dicky!" "Dicky!" "Dicky!"

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 90.

116 EXT. CRACK STREET - CONTINUOUS 116

Dicky walks down the street, waves to familiar Cambodian faces and others. Approaches the crack house. BooBoo, Wolfie, some other crackheads hanging out front.

BOOBOO, WOLFIE, KAREN

(see Dicky, shout)

Dicky's back! Hey, Dicky!

Dicky limps toward them, slows down, looks at BooBoo, the house behind then continues to walk-then starts to run.

Dicky running down the street...

117 CHARLENE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON 117

Dicky pushes the buzzer, sweat dripping.

DICKY

(INTO INTERCOM)

Charlene, it's Dicky.

CHARLENE

Get off my porch, you piece of
shit.

Dicky presses the buzzer and won't stop.

CHARLENE

(over the buzzer)
You fuckin' asshole!

118 FRONT DOOR, CHARLENE'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON 118

Charlene opening her door...Dicky standing in the doorway,
sweating, agitated.

DICKY

I know you can't fuckin' stand me.

CHARLENE

Really? What makes ya say that?

DICKY

I got no use for you eithah, but my
bruthah loves ya and ya can't walk
away 'cause a me. He don't deserve
that. If you want me to quit, I'll
quit.

CHARLENE

You're full a shit.

(CNNTTNTT D'

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 91.

118 CONTINUED: 118

DICKY

Sweah to God, I'll quit if it makes
you go back. Micky's got a chance
to do somethin' I nevah did -

CHARLENE

(MOCKING)

Oh, the Sugah Ray Leonahd fight was my chance, I was great, I fought Sugah Ray Leonahd---

DICKY

Fuck you, Charlene. I came here to make things right -

CHARLENE

OK, let's make things right, numbah one: Ya didn't knock down Sugah Ray Leonahd, he tripped.

DICKY

(PAUSES)

I was in the fuckin' ring with 'im, Chalene, don't you think I know what happened? But I went ten rounds with Sugar Ray Leonard, what the fuck have you evah done? Is your life so great? She doesn't say anything.

DICKY

Your eyes are red, you're hung ovah, don't tell me you're not. Ya life sucks.

CHARLENE

Maybe, the part without Micky sucks. Maybe I never did anything special like you, but I love Micky and I want him to have his chance.

DICKY

Then leave me alone. He needs me, you heard him, and I know he needs you, so let's spare him the bullshit from either one of us. She looks at him. Nods grudgingly.

(CC)NTTNTTF)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 92.

118 CONTINUED: (2) 118

CHARLENE

OK. I'll see ya in Micky's corner,
otherwise go fuck yourself.
Dicky nods, walks off the porch.

119 STREET - CHARLENE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

119

.Micky slams the door of his car, walks to see: Dicky
leaving.

MICKY

(SURPRISED)

- What the hell are you doin' here?

DICKY

We worked it out fah you. Ask her.
It's all together.
Micky looks up and sees Charlene standing in the door. She
nods. He looks at Dicky.

MICKY

Good. Get O'Keefe back, too.

DICKY

Micky nods, heads toward Charlene.

DICKY

- hey, Mick, you think I knocked
down Sugah Ray Leonahd?
Micky pauses, looks at his brother, says nothing.

MICKY

You went ten rounds, and he never
hurt you. You were my hero.

DICKY

(walking away, back

TURNED)

I was...
He walks away.

(CNNTTNTTF '

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 93.

119 CONTINUED: 119

MICKY

(calls after him)
Do you want a ride home?

DICKY

(shakes his head, limps

AWAY)

Nah, I'm good. I'm good.
Micky watches his brother walk away; Charlene hugs Micky's
arm.

120 HILTON LONDON OLYMPIA HOTEL - CONFERENCE ROOM - LONDON,

120

ENGLAND - NIGHT

TITLE: Neary vs. Ward, WBU Light Welterweight Title Weigh-In

Hilton London Olympia Hotel, London.
Dicky, Alice, Charlene, George, Sal, O'Keefe bicker as Micky
stands on edge of press conference.

DICKY

I should be the one standin' there
next to him, I'm his trainah, his
brothah and my mothah--

ALICE

Been there from the staht --

CHARLENE

Me and O'Keefe got him through

SANCHEZ --

MICKY

HEY. Nobody goes on stage. Just
me and the manager, that's how it's
done by the professionals. I don't
wanna hear anothah word.
Micky & Dicky standing together watching SHEA "SHAMROCK
EXPRESS" NEARY, 30, 5'8", 140 lbs, hard looking, flat nose,
short-cropped hair, square jaw, shirt, pants off, underwear
only, being weighed-in by British Boxing Commissioners, WBU

officials. Neary's manager, JOHN HYLAND, 41, bald, glasses, by his side, yapping at reporters, microphones, cameras.

JOHN HYLAND

(thick Liverpool accent)
- Shea's been sleepin' on a concrete floor in an empty apartment, livin' by 'imself away from 'is family.

(CNNTTNTTFN)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 94.

120 CONTINUED: 120

Dicky whispers into Micky's ear...Micky smiles, put his arm around his brother. Sal LoNano standing behind the scale, hear a commissioner shout, "Neary, -- 9 stone, 13 pounds!" Photographers snapping shots, reporters shouting questions, "Hey, Micky, what about you?"

MICKY

Nah, I ain't gonna sleep on no floor. I like my bed an' my girlfriend too much -
He waves at Charlene in the crowd. Reporters laugh. Neary glares at Micky and steps off the scale. Micky sees Alice squeezed way in the back of the room with George, both all dressed up, new clothes, hair done up.

MICKY

(SHOUTS OUT)

Hey, Ma, Dad, come on up here!
Alice and George start heading toward the front of the room, Alice looking at all the cameras, smiling, she's back in the spotlight. She's the belle of the ball.

MICKY

(to the reporters)
My muthah used to manage both of us, me and Dicky both. Neithah of us would be here if it weren't for her, right?

DICKY
No shit, Mick, she's our muthah -
Reporters laugh, shout, "How long were you their manager
for,
Mrs. Ward?"

ALICE
(smiles at all the
cameras.. .her one well-

REHEARSED LINE)
I been managin' both of 'em my
whole life, honey.
Reporters laugh. Micky & Dicky laugh. Micky sees Charlene
shake her head and smile despite herself.

SHEA NEARY
(Liverpool accent, snaps)
Why the hell's ya mothah up here,
this ain't no place for old ladies.

(C Y)NTTNTTT?T))

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 95.

120 CONTINUED: (2) 120
Alice turns to Neary like she's gonna fucking hit him. Dicky
puts an arm around her. Photographers yell, "Let's eeta
Picture, boys!" "Face off!" Micky shakes his head, stands
across from Neary. Neary glares at Micky trying to
intimidate him. "Micky, it's your first fight overseas, and
it's in Shea's hometown, you worried about that?"

MICKY
(SHRUGS)
- You can have the whole country
behind ya, but it's only gonna be
me and him in the ring, right?

121 OLYMPIA GRAND HALL - 9:10 PM 121
TITLE: Neary vs. Ward, WBU Light Welterweight Title -Olympia
Grand Hall. Crowd streaming into Olympia Grand Hall,
stunning Victorian architecture, barrel-vaulted roof. Neary
fans singing, waving Irish flags, painted green faces.

122 HOLDING AREA, AISLE - OLYMPIA GRAND HALL - 9:11 PM 122

.Micky & Dicky stop at the top of a long aisle down to the ring, both looking out at the screaming crowd, 11,000 Neary fans ...an HBO producer with a headset holding up a hand. Micky pops his yellow gloves together, white trunks, robe, black trim, "MickyWard spelled right, Dicky stretches out his back, kicking the nervousness out of his legs, "Micky Ward" on his white corner jacket. . .Sal LoNano, the 2nd in

the

corner, and cutman Al Gavin behind them.

DICKY

(turns to Sal, on edge)
Where's his song, Sal? You gotta be good for somethin'. I dunno why you gotta be in the cornah anyways -

SAL LONANO

Make sure you don't do somethin' stupid.
.Whitesnake's "Here I Go Again" begins playing over the sound system...

DICKY

Why dontchya try singin', Sal, maybe you can do that -

MICKY

(nods, singing the song quietly to himself)
"Now I don't know where I'm goin'
But I sure know where I been."

(CC)NTTNTTRT) '

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 96.

122 CONTINUED: 122

Dicky looks at his brother and starts quietly singing along with him. . .walking down the aisle together, crowd booing, whistling, screaming... Sal LoNano and Al Gavin following, Whitesnake singing, "And here I go again on my own/Goin'

down

the only road I've ever known. Like a drifter I was born to

walk alone."

123 RING 123

.Micky climbs into the ring, Dicky helps him take off his robe... lights go dark, green spotlights shine, the Pogues rollicking "The Irish Rover" plays...Micky & Dicky watch

Shea

Neary making his way down the aisle, black trunks, no robe, green gloves, handler behind him holding up the WBU title belt, another waving a big Irish flag. .. Crowd cheering, dancing, singing along...

.Dicky crosses himself, kisses his fingers... Micky sees Charlene sitting ringside in the dark, flashing green

lights,

and gives her a little wave... Charlene waves back, mouths,

"I

love you. Kick ass!" Alice and George sitting a couple rows behind her. Neary walks toward the ring, pounding himself hard in the face, jaw, forehead with both gloves...

124 RING - OLYMPIA GRAND HALL - 9:19 PM 124

.Micky and Neary standing face-to-face in the middle of the ring, Dicky rubbing his brother's neck ...Neary leans in and presses his forehead against Micky's forehead...Referee MICKEY VANN, red shirt, black bow-tie, giving the fighters pre-fight instructions.

REFEREEE MICKEY VANN

(LEEDS ACCENT)

Come out when ya hear the bell, and don't piss about. Shake hands, both of ya.

.Micky reaches out to touch gloves with Neary...Neary will not touch gloves, instead, to Micky's surprise, he pushes

his

forehead into Micky's. Ref separates them, Micky again reaches to touch gloves but Neary will not.

MICKY

(walks to Dicky in his

CORNER)

- You see that? I'm gonna kick his ass.

DICKY

Good. Go right at him, staht early for once!

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 97.

125 RING, OLYMPIA GRAND HALL - 9:20 PM 125

TITLE: Rd 1 - 3:00 (time running down). The bell rings. Micky and Neary meet in the middle of the ring, hear one of the HBO announcers, JIM LAMPLEY (the real audio), "The big challenge for Ward is to get off to a faster start than is customary for him. Micky Ward a notoriously slow starter, Shea Neary an ultra-fast starter. And that's the question that hovers over round one, will Ward be ready for the fight." Neary takes it right to Micky, whistling shots hammering his body ...Bam! Bam! Bam! Micky stands his ground and catches Neary with short uppercuts... Standing forehead-

to-

forehead in the middle of the ring. . .Micky taps Neary on

the

side of the head, drops down and drills a left hooks into Neary's ribs ...Bam!...Neary grimaces, lowers his elbow... 1:47 (time running down) ...Micky throws another hook-- Upper-cut--Upper-cut--Hook...Neary fires back, unloading wide rights into Micky's body...Bam! Bam! Bam!...Micky takes the punches and answers. Both fighters in close, trading back & forth, hear HBO's Larry Merchant (the real audio),

"Forehead-

to-forehead. And Ecklund I'm sorry, Ward's,-- the right side of Ward is red from the body punches being thrown by Neary." Hear Lampley, "Ward's coming out trying to match Neary blow for blow! And now Neary starts to come on and take the last 30-.seconds .Neary fires

Ward!" Micky goes

sprawling into the ropes, almost falling out of the ring, only the ropes holding him up! Crowd on its feet screaming for blood... Charlene, Alice, George all yelling for Micky. Dicky screaming, "COVER UP! COVER UP!"

:20 (time running down) ... Lampley, "Ward's still hurt.

He's

trying to hold on. He eats an uppercut. A fighter cannot be saved by the bell in any round "...Neary moves in for the kill.. .Micky trying to hold onto him, hear HBO's GEORGE FOREMAN (the real audio), "Ward should stay still. His legs aren't under him.". Neary attacking wildly...Micky's out on his feet, stumbling drunk. The bell rings. End of Rd 1.

126 MICKY'S CORNER, RING 126

.Dicky jumps onto the apron, forgetting the stool...hear Lampley, "Ward is out on his feet." Micky standing unsteady, hear Merchant, "They don't have the stool up there fast

enough!" Dicky holding up Micky, blood from Micky's mouth spilling all over Dicky's shoulder, chest, white corner jacket...

(CC)NTTNTTFM

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 97A.

126 CONTINUED: 126

DICKY

(TO MICKY)

You got the Elvis leg, Mick, jump, c'mon, Micky, jump with me, we gotta get ya legs back, jump with

ME -

(CNNTTNT7FD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 98.

126 CONTINUED: (2) 126

CHARLENE

(screaming at Sal)
Give him the stool! Where's the stool!

DICKY

Shut up! Get outta here!

CHARLENE

He needs to sit!

DICKY

(TO MICKY)

Jump with me!

(CNNTTNTTRT)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 99.

126 CONTINUED: (3) 126

Micky jumps with Dicky ...two brothers lumping, jumping like little kids.. .Referee Mickey Vann motioning Micky back into the center of the ring...

DICKY

(leans close into his
brother before he goes,

TALKING FAST)

Go aftah 'im so he don't think ya
hurt, Mick, stay off the fuckin'
ropes!

.Dicky heads out of the ring... crosses himself, kisses his
fingers and climbs out through the ropes, his brother's

blood

all over him.

127 RING, OLYMPIA GRAND HALL - 9:24 PM 127

TITLE: Rd 2 - 3:00 (time running down). Neary comes out of
his corner ready to put Micky away... crowd still standing
screaming for blood. He gets Micky right back on the ropes.

DICKY

Go aftah 'im! Get off the ropes!

Micky throws a right, going right after Neary. Neary caught
off-guard, steps back, letting Micky off the ropes. Micky
keeps throwing, legs still unsteady. Neary flicks out a jab,
keeping his distace. Foreman, "I think Neary's making a big,
big mistake. He's allowing Micky to recover. He knows

Micky's

a veteran who's been hurt before, knows what to do when he's
hurt. But he doesn't know if he's still hurt or not."

.Micky waking back up, getting his legs back under him,
hitting Neary with a left to the body--Left uppercut

...Neary

answers, landing a left hook to Micky's chin--Left hook--

Left

hook.

(RNN'TTNTTRD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 100.

127 CONTINUED: 127

Lampley, "And now Neary comes back again, and now Ward!"
Micky answers with a short right--Uppercut...Bam!

Bam!...hear

Merchant, "This isn't entertainment. This isn't business.
This is fighting!"

CUT TO:

128 MICKY'S CORNER, RING - BETWEEN 2ND & 3RD RDS - 9:28 PM

128

.Micky taking deep breaths, Al Gavin in the ring working on a two-inch gouge under Micky's left eye, Dicky leaning through the ropes, pouring water in Micky's bloody mouth.

DICKY

(inches from his face,
just the two of them)

Don't take unnecessary punishment,
you're not a punchin' bag, don't
let him abuse you! You hear me? We
been waitin' our whole lives for
this! It's all been leading up to
right now, Micky! This is your
time, Micky! I blew it, but you
don't have to. Take all ya emotion
and pain from me all we done and
use it out there right now. Don't
let 'em take it away from you,
Micky! Do you hear me?

Micky looks at his brother, nods, turns spits out blood and
water. Dicky TAKES MICKY'S NECK IN HIS HANDS AS HE PUTS HIS

FOREHEAD TO MICKY'S; THEY CLOSE THEIR EYES A MOMENT; BELL

RINGS FOR THE NEXT ROUND.

Micky stands, turns to Charlene sitting ringside; Dicky puts
the mouth piece into Micky's mouth. She's on her feet

staring

at her man. Alice and George on their feet, staring as well.

129 RING, OLYMPIA GRAND HALL 129

toes
TITLE: Rd 3 - 3:00 (time running down). Micky stands up and crosses himself, cut, bruised, swollen face.. .sees Neary standing across the ring... Dicky starts bouncing on his
ringside, looks up at his brother in the ring. Micky starts bouncing on his toes.. .walks toward Neary...

CUT TO:

trading
are
2:28 (time running down). ..Micky and Neary toe-to-toe punches, neither backing down, hear Larry Merchant, "They trying to hurt each other with every punch. This is a test now of will." Neary swings hard hitting Micky's temple with a big right...Bam!...Micky's hurt, legs dancing about! Lampley, "Ward wobbled there by a right cross from Neary! (C.ONTTNTTF.n'

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 100A.

129 CONTINUED: 129

Neary goes to the body and to the uppercut as he tries to finish Micky!"

A130 INT. ALICE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY A130

THE SISTERS WATCH THE FIGHT ON TELEVISION, TENSE, chatting about it.

(CONTTNTTFD)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 101.

A130 CONTINUED: A130

.Crowd standing, screaming...Charlene and Alice can't

watch ...Neary backs Micky up against the ropes, hitting him with everything he's got, pounding hard right after hard right ...Bam! Bam! Bam! Merchant, "Vicious body shots from Neary!"...Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!...Micky covering his face with his gloves, bleeding from his mouth, under his eye.. .hear Merchant, "And Micky Ward is in trouble again!"
.Dicky's on his feet ringside, leaning on the ring apron, mirroring Micky in the ring... covering his face with his hands, bobbing his head.. .starts punching, screaming,

"Punch

ya way out of it. Punch out of it!"
.Micky starts firing at Neary, hear Lampley, "Ward trying to trade his way back!"...Neary steps back...Micky slips off the ropes and raises his hands over his head, letting Neary know he survived. . .And fires a left hook--Right uppercut! Lampley, "And Ward hurts Neary with a body shot! Ward hurts him again with that left to the body! Neary is wobbled!"
Micky rocks Neary with another left hook to the body ...Bam! Micky follows with a huge left uppercut... Bam!
Neary stumbles backwards and goes crashing down to the canvas! Hear Lampley scream, "Big uppercut by Ward! First time in 22 fights that Shea Neary has been down!" Neary gets back up to his feet at "Four..." Referee Mickey Vann giving him the standing eight-count, "Six... Seven... Eight."
.Dicky shaking his fist, screaming Micky on, "This is it! This is it! This is it!"
.Micky walks back in and unleashes a huge left hook--Left hook--Right uppercut--Left hook. Neary backpedaling. Right uppercut. Neary trying to cover up. Another left uppercut sends Neary reeling across the ring! Sprawling out of control, landing with his head CRASHING down in Micky's corner!
Dicky raises his hands over his head, white corner jacket stained with Micky's blood...
.Charlene, Alice, George all on her feet screaming, crowd now cheering for Micky ...Lampley, "Neary down for the

second

time! Mickey Vann's gonna stop it!"...The referee waves it's over, it's over, hear Merchant, "He's done it! Micky Ward's done it!" CUT TO: SISTERS EXPLODE TO CHEERS WATCHING AT

HOME.

.Micky throws his hands in the air, blood dripping down his face...he can't believe it...he can't believe it...he can't believe it...he screams with joy. . .Dicky jumps up into the ring, runs to his brother... Charlene... Alice... George all screaming with joy outside the ring...
(C_fNTTNTT1 f)

The Fighter 8/28/09 GREEN DRAFT 102.

A130 CONTINUED: (2) A130

MICKY

(looks down and hugs his
brother's head between
his gloves, laughing)
Dickyyyye!

DICKY

(holding Micky up off the
ground, looks up at
him.. .tears in his eyes)
Ohmygahd, Micky, you're the world
champion! You're champion a the
whole world!
.Dicky holding his brother up in his arms...Micky raises
his fists above his head... the two brothers together in the
middle of the crowded ring... FREEZE FRAME ON MICKY IN THE

AIR

HELD ALOFT BY Dicky. Credits start. Then TEXT: 'Micky Ward
went on to three epic fights with Arturo Gatti. bringing
Micky his first seven-figure paydays. He retired in 2003.'
UNFREEZE: Dicky turns as he holds Micky and now we see
Dicky's face, scrunched against Micky's hip as he holds him
aloft. FREEZE FRAME ON Dicky: "Dicky lives with Alice and
Little Dicky a few blocks away from Micky, and trains
fighters in Lowell. Free from crack, he battles his

addiction

every day.' UNFREEZE: Alice steps into the ring, BEAMING,
followed by George.

ALICE

Both my boys are champions, Micky
you're a champion! I love you!
She touches Micky's hair and neck, loving eye contact with
him, when Micky is pulled toward Charlene, who grabs his

face

and kisses him deeply, leaving Alice to turn and lovingly

fix

the collar of Dicky's cornerman jacket. FREEZE ON MICKY
CHARLENE KISS: 'Micky married Charlene in 2005. They live in
Lowell with his daughter Kasie in the house he bought with
the money he made from the Neary fight. Credits continue.

CUT TO:

130 LOWELL MAN ON THE STREET DOCUMENTARY INTERVIEWS. 130

Credits continue over real interviews with real Lowell;
followed by the sisters. Micky & Dicky are champions of the
world. . .the dream is alive in Lowell...