

LYNN

REVISED

INT. STABLE -- DAY

Lynn looks up from the Sound of the BUZZER. She pulls down a saddle from a hook on the wall and places it on Ginger's back.

JOE PRESTON (46), a bonafide cowboy, large hands, large hat, approaches Lynn. His eyes practically gleam with excitement.

START

JOE
How you feeling?

Sc.1

LYNN
Feeling like a winner.

JOE
How you thinking?

LYNN
Thinking like a winner.

It's a routine they go through.

JOE
That's my girl. You better get out there. Mike and Kip are waiting.

LYNN
I'm just making sure Ginger's ready.
(petting the horse)
Okay?

The horse WHINNIES in response.

JOE
Go get'em. Make me proud.

END

They exchange knowing grins then Joe disappears out into the mayhem.

~~INT. ARENA -- DAY~~

~~A different team of three Riders race around the arena, driving out their numbered cattle.~~

~~EXT. ARENA -- DAY~~

~~Just outside the entrance into the arena, Mike and Kip sit astride their horses as the horses SNORT and shuffle their feet in anticipation.~~

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CONTINUED: (2)

LYNN

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Eddie hands him the money.

JOE (CONT'D)
Thanks, Eddie.

He turns to go but stops at Eddie's voice.

EDDIE
Joe. I'm telling you this as a friend. You're a good mechanic, everyone here respects that. You've haven't been holding up your end. Some guys have been complaining. It's got to stop. I can't cover for you any longer.

JOE
Right. Got it.

EDDIE
Good. I'm serious, Joe.

~~And he is. Chastened, Joe nods and leaves.~~

INT. SCHOOL -- CAFETERIA -- DAY

Lynn and Casey sit at one of the long tables, math book open in front of them.

START

LYNN
No, see, it's a ratio. That means that when the numerator increases, the denominator does as well.
(off his look)
The bottom's got to get bigger when the top does.

Sc. 2

CASEY
By the same amount, right?

LYNN
By the same multiple. If you double the top, you have to double the bottom.

Casey rubs his eyes in exaggerated weariness and glances up at a clock on the wall which read 3:57.

CASEY
It's kind of weird in here, being empty.

(MORE)

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(CONTINUED)

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CASEY (CONT'D)
I was thinking, you want to go
somewhere else? I've got my truck.

LYNN
Sure.

CASEY
Let's do it.

They gather up the study materials.

CUT TO

EXT. VALLEY -- END OF DAY

A breathtaking view of rolling valleys nestled below
mountains, the colors just starting to turn to autumn's
brilliant reds.

Casey and Lynn sit side by side in the back of a pick up
truck, feet dangling over the edge.

Cont...

LYNN
We should get back to the math...

Casey motions towards the horizon where the sky is ablaze
from a spectacular setting sun.

CASEY
Who cares about math or equations
or whatever when you've got that.

Lynn gazes at the beauty of the horizon. She too gets lost
in its beauty.

LYNN
You know, this time of day used to
be my favorite. I'd take my horse
to a field like this and then we'd
gallop straight at the sunrise,
just like we were going to jump
over the horizon and kick the sun
into deep space.

She's lost in the scenery and the memory. Casey studies her.

CASEY
How come nobody at school knows
you?

LYNN
What do you mean?

3.57

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CONTINUED:

CASEY

People see you in class, sure, but you never talk to anyone, you don't belong to any clubs or go to dances or parties.

LYNN

(shrugs)

Penning takes most of my time. When I'm not competing, I'm practicing. It doesn't leave a lot of time for partying.

She turns back to the sunset but Casey continues to look at her. Tenderly, he turns her face with his hand and kisses her on the lips. She goes with it for a second but then jerks her head back.

LYNN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

CASEY

Sorry. Pretty scenery and a pretty girl, it seemed like the right thing to do.

LYNN

I... I don't think we better.

She can't meet his eyes. He finally nods.

CASEY

It's all right. Didn't mean to upset you. Should we go.

END

Lynn nods.

~~EXT. PRESTON RANCH -- YARD -- EVENING~~

~~Joe leads Ginger around the ring. The horse has a large support bandage around one foreleg and is clearly favoring the other. He looks up as Casey's pick up truck pulls up at the top of the driveway.~~

~~He watches as Lynn steps out of the truck and waves good-bye to Casey. Then she turns and catches sight of Joe and Ginger. She starts running toward them.~~

LYNN

~~Dad! What are you doing?~~

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CONTINUED:

LYNN

73.

JOE

I've still got my pride. Besides, even if I wanted to ask him for a job, the trouble is that everything I knew is out of date now. Rigs are controlled nowadays by computer chips. I wouldn't even know how to begin to do a repair now.

(sighs)

I'll just keep looking. Something has to turn up.

Helen goes to him and gives him a quick hug.

HELEN

You'll find something. You're too good a mechanic not to.

JOE

Thanks. Mmmm, that smells good. Want me call Lynn in?

HELEN

Wait a minute. Actually, I need you to talk to her. She was here all day, working with Ginger. She's decided to drop out of school.

INT. STABLE -- LATER

Lynn feels along Ginger's leg.

SC. 3

START

LYNN

Looks good Ginger. I think you're on the mend.

Lynn grabs a bucket of water and exits the stall, almost bumping into her dad.

JOE

Whoa, easy there. You need a hand with that?

LYNN

(diverting her eyes)

No. I'm good.

Lynn busies herself filling the bucket with fresh water from a hose.

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JOE

So your mom tells me you've been dodging school. Mind telling me why?

LYNN

I just figured it was more important getting Ginger riding in events again than going to school.

JOE

You know, a month ago, I would have said you're finally thinking like a winner.

Lynn ignores this as she places the bucket of water in Ginger's stall and locks it up.

JOE (CONT'D)

But these last few days have been an eye-opener. Times have changed. It used to be you could work with your hands, get good at something, and you'd make a decent living. Now... Everything's so complicated you need a degree just to get the chance to work at something. You can't drop out of school. Where's that going to get you?

LYNN

Where is finishing school going to get me? I mean it's not like I can afford to go to college.

This hits Joe where it hurts.

LYNN (CONT'D)

Besides, you never wanted me to go anyway.

JOE

I just wanted you to get your dream first.

LYNN

Your dream, dad. It was always your dream.

This silences Joe for a moment.

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JOE

I'm sorry, Lynn. I just thought you wanted to be a winner.

LYNN

It was never about winning. It was about making you proud of me. The problem is, now I have to win, whether I want to or not. I'm really not like you, dad. I'm not like you at all.

Her words hit Joe hard as Lynn exits the stable and leaves Joe alone.

END

EXT. PRESTON RANCH -- DAY

Lynn works Ginger through a cluster of sawhorses and barrels laid out in a pattern. She guides Ginger successfully through the maze.

Lynn gives Ginger a pat on the neck.

LYNN

Thatta girl.

Lynn looks up at the sight of Casey's truck pulling up the driveway.

She slides down from Ginger's back and meets him at the corral fence.

CASEY

Hey. I was starting to think you'd moved to a new school. What's going on? How come you haven't been to class?

LYNN

Right now I've got to make money and use it to help my parents. I can't do that and go to school.

CASEY

You're dropping out.

LYNN

That's the deal, got it?

CASEY

Yeah. I got it. You've gone off the deep end.

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