

PRO SKATER

Written by

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EXT. HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS STAIRWAY - DAY

CHAD and BUCKY are waiting by the stairway railing as students head to class. RODNEY LEWIS approaches them on his skateboard, wearing jeans.

RODNEY LEWIS
Hey dudes. Y'all ready?

BUCKY
Bro, what took you so long?

RODNEY LEWIS
Had to ditch my mom.

BUCKY
Ha! Mama's boy!

Rodney gives a sarcastic smirk.

RODNEY LEWIS
Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

Chad takes out his stopwatch.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)
Time?

CHAD
Just a few minutes 'til the bell rings.

Rodney looks nervously at the railing.

RODNEY LEWIS
Cool. Cool.

CHAD
Are you sure you wanna do this?

Rodney ponders.

FLASHBACK

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS STAIRWAY - DAY - MONTHS AGO

Rodney grinds down the stairway railing on his skateboard. Suddenly, an out of control GOLF CART DRIVER heads towards him.

GOLF CART DRIVER
Coming through, dude!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - WEEKS LATER

Rodney is laying in a hospital bed with his leg in a cast.
His parents and friends surround him.

MOM
Skateboarding is too dangerous,
Rodney. No more!

Rodney rolls his eyes.

FLASH FORWARD

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS STAIRWAY - PRESENT DAY

Rodney takes a deep breath.

RODNEY LEWIS
Yeah, I've got this. It's just
trial and error. Trial and error.

Chad looks at his watch, and sets his stopwatch for 2
minutes.

CHAD
And.... Go!

Chad starts the 2 minute timer. The song "Superman" by
Goldfinger plays as Rodney begins to skate around the area.

BUCKY
Alright, Rodney! Break a leg!

Chad gives Bucky a jarring nudge.

CHAD
Dude, come on.

BUCKY
What? It's only a joke!

Chad rolls his eyes.

Rodney skates towards the railing and focuses hard.

RODNEY LEWIS
3..... 2..... 1.....

Rodney grinds the railing right as the school bell rings. He grinds to the bottom successfully.

He shouts in victory, and his friends come to cheer for him.

BUCKY
Dude, that was sick!

RODNEY LEWIS
Pretty slick, right?

Chad takes a flyer out of his pocket, and hands it to Rodney.

CHAD
Here, check this out.

Rodney reads the flyer.

RODNEY LEWIS
"Summer Skate. Compete against your friends to win a grand prize of..."

Rodney stares at the flyer in disbelief.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)
A signed Tony Hawk skateboard?

CHAD
Yep. Bucky and I are signed up. You should too!

In his head, Rodney pictures Tony Hawk doing his famous 900 skateboarding trick off a halfpipe at the 1999 X-Games.

Rodney grins.

RODNEY LEWIS
I'll do the 900.

The boys pause.

BUCKY
The 900?

CHAD
Are you sure about that?

RODNEY LEWIS
Yeah, why? What's the problem? Tony Hawk did it!

CHAD

That's one of the hardest tricks there is. Tony's a professional, and you're just... aspiring to be a professional.

RODNEY LEWIS

Yeah, but... Guys, it's a signed skateboard. Come on! Any of us would kill to have that!

His friends ponder.

CHAD

Fine! Tuesdays and Thursdays. Skate park. After school. Tell your folks you're at math tutorials.

RODNEY LEWIS

But I have an A in math.

CHAD

Then start failing math!

RODNEY LEWIS

I'll just say I'm at the library or something.

CHAD

Perfect!

EXT. SKATE PARK - AFTERNOON - WEEKS LATER

Rodney and his friends ride up to the park.

RODNEY LEWIS

Alright, lets go.

The boys get closer to the skatepark. As they do, Rodney spies JANIE WILLIAMS, his school crush, putting on skating pads.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)

Janie? Is that you?

JANIE WILLIAMS

Oh, hey Rodney.

RODNEY LEWIS

I didn't know you liked skateboarding.

JANIE WILLIAMS
It's something new I'm trying out.

Bucky and Chad approach them.

JANIE WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
What are you guys up to?

CHAD
Oh, nothing, we're just...

BUCKY
We're training for Summer Skate.

JANIE WILLIAMS
Summer Skate? What's that?

RODNEY LEWIS
Just a skateboarding competition.

JANIE WILLIAMS
Cool!

She looks at Rodney.

JANIE WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
What trick are you gonna do?

RODNEY LEWIS
(blushes) Well, me, well... I don't know.

CHAD
Oh, Rodney, come on.

Chad smiles and gives Rodney a shoulder pat.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Rodney is going to be performing a little something called... the 900. No big deal. Just one of the hardest tricks in skateboarding is all.

RODNEY LEWIS
Well, I mean it's... Yeah, it's pretty difficult.

JANIE WILLIAMS
Sounds awesome! Well, you guys have fun! I'll see ya at school!

She skates off.

CHAD
(sarcastically) Wow, nice moves
there Casa Nova.

RODNEY LEWIS
What? Oh, come on. She's just a
girl from school.

BUCKY
Mmmm hmmm.

Bucky sings a part of "Bella Notte" from "Lady and the
Tramp."

BUCKY (CONT'D)
"Oh this is the night. It's a
beautiful night, and they call it
Bella Notte."

Rodney nudges him.

RODNEY LEWIS
Dude, quit it. Come on. Let's go.

The boys start practicing their skateboarding.

Rodney puts on his helmet and skates down the ramp. He
crashes, and blood flies everywhere.

BUCKY
Wipeout!

CHAD
How long until the competition?

BUCKY
A few months.

Chad sees Rodney slowly getting back on board.

CHAD
He's gonna need it.

SUPER: SKATE PARK - DAY - MONTHS LATER

The boys practice for the summer skate competition with trial
and error.

Chad and Bucky pull off their tricks.

Rodney is struggling to complete the 900.

Finally, he does one successfully.

Chad and Bucky are thrilled for their friend.

BUCKY
Dude, you nailed it!

CHAD
That was awesome!

RODNEY LEWIS
I know, right?

BUCKY
You know what would be really cool?
At Summer Skate, you should show
the crowd everything you've got.

He puts a hand on Rodney's shoulder.

BUCKY (CONT'D)
And I mean that literally.

RODNEY LEWIS
(gulps) Everything? I, well...

Rodney spies his father staring at him from a distance.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)
Dad?

DAD
It's time to head home, son.

RODNEY LEWIS
But Dad! Did you just see what I
did? I just...

DAD
Oh, I saw. Come on. We'll talk
about it.

Rodney gives a sad look to his friends.

RODNEY LEWIS
I'll see you guys later.

BUCKY
See ya.

CHAD
Yeah. See ya.

INT. DAD'S CAR - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Rodney and his dad enter the car. Dad has a pondering look on his face.

DAD

Your mother and I have told you,
son...

RODNEY LEWIS

I know. I know. I'm not supposed to
be skateboarding.

DAD

It really is very dangerous.

RODNEY LEWIS

I know that, Dad. I can't help it!
This is what I love! I can't stop
skateboarding just because I
have....

DAD

I don't think you should stop
skateboarding.

Rodney is puzzled.

RODNEY LEWIS

I'm sorry. What?

DAD

That trick you did back there, what
was that?

RODNEY LEWIS

Oh, it's called a 900. One of the
hardest tricks in all of
skateboarding!

DAD

Looks like it. So, is this what
you've really been doing in the
afternoons?

RODNEY LEWIS

Yes. I really want to be in Summer
Skate this year! I have to
practice.

DAD

Did I ever tell you about the time
when I was a kid, and I broke my
finger?

Rodney rolls his eyes.

RODNEY LEWIS

Dad, now is really not the time for a lecture.

DAD

Just listen. Basically, what happened was I broke my finger playing basketball and...

RODNEY LEWIS

Dad! I'm not going to break anything! I promise!

DAD

Let me finish. So I broke my finger, right? Well, I had just started dating your mom at that point, and I wanted to do something really special for her.

Rodney thinks for a moment.

RODNEY LEWIS

Wait, you wrote that poem she keeps on the fridge! She loves that poem! You wrote that with a broken finger?

DAD

Yep. That's why the handwriting is so terrible!

RODNEY LEWIS

Dad, your handwriting has always been terrible.

DAD

(laughs). Anyways, the point I'm trying to make, here, is that if you really are passionate about something, you should just go for it. No matter the setback.

Dad becomes somber.

DAD (CONT'D)

I'm sorry if I was one of those setbacks.

The two share a warm embrace.

RODNEY LEWIS
No problem, Dad.

Dad flips the keys in the ignition and the two drive off.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)
So Dad, how are we gonna explain
this to Mom?

The car screeches to a halt.

EXT. SKATE PARK - DAY - THE NEXT WEEK

Hundreds have shown up for the Summer Skate competition. The Lewis family pulls up in their car.

Mom is wearing a large sun-hat and sunglasses, fanning herself.

MOM
Roger, if Rodney dies today, I'm
filing for divorce.

Dad smiles at Rodney.

DAD
Alright, son. You heard your
mother. No dying today. Promise!

RODNEY LEWIS
(laughs) I promise, guys.

MOM
It's not funny, you two! Rodney, do
you have everything you need?

RODNEY LEWIS
Yes, Mom.

MOM
Helmet? Knee pads? Elbow pads?
Shoulder pads.

RODNEY LEWIS
Mom, skateboarders don't wear
shoulder pads.

MOM
Well maybe they should start!

Dad parks the car. Rodney gets out.

RODNEY LEWIS
Maybe so, but not today.

He kisses Mom on the forehead through the car window.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)
Love you two.

MOM
Love you, honey.

DAD
Proud of you, son! We'll be
watching from the bleachers!

RODNEY LEWIS
Awesome! I'll keep my eye out!

Mom reaches into her purse and hands him a large pack of band-aids.

MOM
Here, I've brought a large
assortment of band-aids for you
to...

Rodney walks away.

RODNEY LEWIS
Goodbye, Mom!

He shouts out to him.

MOM
All the pro athletes have a healthy
supply of band aids.

EXT. SKATE PARK - DAY

Rodney finds Chad and Bucky. Both look a bit nervous.

RODNEY LEWIS
Hey guys! Boy, do I feel great!
That Tony Hawk skateboard is
calling our names!

BUCKY
Yeah, that's awesome dude, but...

RODNEY LEWIS
But what?

JANIE WILLIAMS (O.S.)
Hey Rodney!

Rodney looks surprised.

RODNEY LEWIS
J...J...Janie? You came to watch?

JANIE WILLIAMS
Ha ha. No, silly. I'm not here to watch. I'm here to compete! My brother is a huge Tony Hawk fan. If I get him that signed skateboard I'll be, like, the coolest sister ever.

RODNEY LEWIS
Yeah. Yeah you would.

JANIE WILLIAMS
Anyways, best of luck to y'all. I gotta get ready.

She walks off.

RODNEY LEWIS
Crap.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Attention all boarders! The competition begins in just fifteen minutes. Start making necessary preparations now!

CHAD
Well, that's our cue.

The boys walk away.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Rodney is debating with Chad and Bucky.

RODNEY LEWIS
I can't do a 900! Now if I win, I'll look like a jerk!

CHAD
Come on. To who? Janie? Rod, you've been wanting something like this for ages now. She just started skating a few months ago!

RODNEY LEWIS
(sulking) How could this get any worse?

The announcer enters the locker room.

ANNOUNCER
Attention, contestants. There is one more thing to note before we begin. I'd like to introduce you all to today's special guest judge. Please give a warm welcome to Mr. Tony Hawk!

TONY HAWK enters the locker room to much applause.

Bucky looks at Rodney.

BUCKY
You were saying?

RODNEY LEWIS
Double crap! I can't flub a 900 now!

TONY HAWK
How's it going, guys?

Everyone cheers.

TONY HAWK (CONT'D)
I just wanted to give you guys some advice before you go out there, okay. Listen, when you're out there, don't worry about being perfect. Just have fun. That's all that matters, really.

Rodney raises his hand.

TONY HAWK (CONT'D)
Yeah?

RODNEY LEWIS
Um, do you have any advice for someone trying to do the 900?

TONY HAWK
Uh, yeah. I guess (laughs) Be sure to pack plenty of band aids.

EXT. SKATE PARK - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Rodney stands at the top of the half pipe, and looks down at the crowd.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Alright, Rodney. Give us the signal when ready.

Rodney looks again, and various images flash through his head. The golf cart driver, him being in the hospital, images of Janie, but primarily Bucky's suggestion to show the crowd everything he's got.

He takes a deep breath, and rolls up his jeans, revealing his prosthetic leg.

The crowd gasps. Rodney gives a thumbs up.

"Superman" by Goldfinger plays.

Rodney successfully does a 900, and the crowd erupts in applause.

Two of the judges hold up signs saying "10". Tony obviously fakes a bit of doubt, before holding up at 10.

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

Ladies and gentlemen, Rodney Lewis is our winner!

The crowd cheers. Tony approaches Rodney with the signed skateboard.

TONY HAWK

Dude, that was awesome! I couldn't have done it much better. Still better, but not much.

RODNEY LEWIS

Ha ha. Thanks Tony.

Tony hands Rodney the board.

TONY HAWK

Here, dude. It's all yours.

Rodney takes the board and gives an awkward smile as he spies Janie in the crowd, cheering for him.

He goes up to Janie and hands her the board.

RODNEY LEWIS

Here. For one really cool sister.

JANIE WILLIAMS
Are you sure?

He hands her the board with a smile.

RODNEY LEWIS
Yeah. I'm sure.

He looks back at the crowd, cheering for him.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)
I have all I need.

Janie smiles at him.

JANIE WILLIAMS
Well, here's a little something
extra.

She gives him a kiss on the cheek. Rodney blushes.

JANIE WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
Anyways, I'll see you at school.

RODNEY LEWIS
Yeah! See ya!

She walks off. Rodney walks up to Chad and Bucky.

RODNEY LEWIS (CONT'D)
Sorry. No skateboard.

The three start walking off.

BUCKY
Dude, who cares about the
skateboard? How was that kiss?