

THE GIRL OR THE GLOVES

By

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INT. BOXING GYM - NIGHT

BRODY (late 20's) looks up at the REF through BLURRED VISION, hears the count through RINGING EARS.

REF
(muffled)
... six, seven, eight...

Brody struggles to his hands and knees, sees EDDIE (mid 60's) outside the ring. Eddie shakes his head, disappointed.

REF (cont'd)
(more clearly)
... nine, ten!

The ref waves his arms, ending the sparring match. Brody's SPARRING PARTNER smirks as he turns his back on Brody.

CUT TO:

INT. BOXING GYM - NIGHT

Brody sits on a bench, unlaces his BOXING GLOVES. Eddie stands nearby.

EDDIE
Pathetic.

BRODY
Give it a rest, Eddie.

EDDIE
You're leaving?

BRODY
I promised Becca we'd go out.

Brody stands, carrying his BOXING GLOVES at his side. As he walks to the door, Eddie calls after him.

EDDIE
The girl or the gloves, Brody. If you're not gonna give it your all, you need to start looking for another trainer.

The words hit their mark, but Brody keeps walking.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Brody sits alone on a bench, his boxing gloves in his lap. He glances up as an OLD-FASHIONED BUS rolls to a stop.

The side of the bus reads HAWKING-WELLS LINE.

The door CREAKS open, and the BUS DRIVER (mid 60's) smiles down at Brody.

BRODY
Where's the 70?

BUS DRIVER
You wanna ride or not?

Brody looks around. No cars, no people, no lights from nearby windows. Just Brody and the bus.

Brody considers, then boards the bus.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

The bus is empty except for Brody and the bus driver.

Brody notices the dashboard. The DIGITAL DISPLAY SCREENS contrast with the vehicle's exterior.

Brody sits near the front, but not too close. The driver watches Brody in the mirror, notices the boxing gloves.

BUS DRIVER
You a boxer or something?

BRODY
How'd you guess?

BUS DRIVER
Something on your mind?

BRODY
Just drive.

They ride in silence.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - NIGHT

The bus stops in front of Brody's apartment. BECCA (mid 20's) stands outside, waiting for him.

BRODY
This is my stop.

BUS DRIVER
Not yet, Brody. Just sit back and watch.

BRODY
How do you-

The bus driver points to Becca. Brody looks in that direction, sees HIMSELF outside with Becca.

BRODY (cont'd)
What the hell's going on?

BUS DRIVER
You're about to have a heart-to-heart with Becca about your boxing career.

Brody sits in stunned silence. The bus driver turns to face him, ignoring the couple outside of the bus.

BUS DRIVER (cont'd)
The Outside Brody is telling Becca what Eddie told you: the girl or the gloves.

Becca SLAPS Outside Brody. She begins to cry.

BUS DRIVER (cont'd)
But I'm going to give you a gift, Brody. I'm going to give you a glance at "what if".

Outside Brody steps away from Becca, holds his gloves high. He says something to her, then walks to a trash can and throws away his boxing gloves.

BUS DRIVER (cont'd)
Sit back and enjoy the ride.

The bus driver faces forward, puts the bus in gear. The bus begins to roll away.

Brody watches as Outside Brody puts his arm around Becca's shoulder and walks in the opposite direction.

(CONTINUED)

The bus driver fiddles with the control panel as he speaks.

BUS DRIVER (cont'd)
Up ahead, on the left. That's the
church where you'll get married.

The scene outside BLURS, transforms into a DAYTIME WEDDING.
Brody's friends and family CHEER as Brody and Becca emerge.

The scene BLURS again. Brody sees a hospital, sees Outside
Brody emerge from a cab with a pregnant Becca.

BUS DRIVER (cont'd)
Saint Clare's. Here's where both of
your kids will be born.

BLUR. Now, an ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

BUS DRIVER (cont'd)
They'll go to Academy Street. It's
a good school, really, but little
Aidan's going to have a hard time
staying out of trouble. Takes after
his dad.

The scene BLURS faster this time, in rhythm with the
driver's words.

BUS DRIVER (cont'd)
They'll graduate from high school,
go to college, get married, and
give you and Becca beautiful
grandchildren. You'll grow old and
die, surrounded by the ones you
love.

The bus stops at a CEMETERY. Brody's funeral.

BRODY
So I spend my whole life here? What
happens if I choose to box?

BUS DRIVER
I'm afraid I can't show you that.

BRODY
Why not?

The scene outside BLURS one last time. Becca stands alone,
in front of the apartment, waiting for Brody.

BUS DRIVER

The choice is yours, Brody. What do you want to do?

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Brody stands facing the BOXING GYM. With a sad expression, the bus driver nods to himself, understanding.

The door closes with a CREAK before the bus pulls away.

INT. BOXING GYM - NIGHT

Eddie spies Brody walking toward the ring.

EDDIE

That's what I'm talking about. Good boy. Now get your ass in the ring.

Brody laces up his gloves, climbs in the ring, faces his sparring partner. Somewhere, the bell RINGS.

Brody and his sparring partner circle one another. Brody lands a jab, then another, then another.

Brody relaxes his guard. His sparring partner throws a monstrous hook. It connects with a sickening CRACK.

Lying at an odd angle, unable to move, Brody sees images from the life that could have been his.

REF

One, two, three...

Becca waiting. The wedding. The hospital.

REF (cont'd)

... four, five, six...

Elementary school. Graduation. The grandkids.

REF (cont'd)

... seven, eight, nine...

Becca waiting. Becca turning. Becca walking away.

CUT TO BLACK

REF (cont'd)

- ten.