

BRENNA AND RILEY TAKE TO THE
COURT

"Brenna and Riley Against All
Odds"

by
Michael Nguyen (FUJIKO MUNE)

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EXT. CAHILL WOMEN'S TENNIS CLUB, CLAY COURT - DAY

BRENNA HACKLEY, tennis racquet in hand, determinedly prepares to serve the ball, and takes the shot. On the opposite side of the court, tomboy RILEY FAIRWEATHER returns the serve, leading to a rally between the two players.

RILEY does a smash that causes the ball to go out of play on BRENNAS side as she tries to catch it but fails.

BRENNA lies on the ground, feeling exhausted. RILEY comes up to her.

RILEY
Brenna, are you okay?

BRENNA
Yeah, I think so...

RILEY
(sticks out her hand)
Here, take my hand.

BRENNA takes RILEY'S hand, but mischievously pulls her onto the ground with her. Awkwardness between the two women is followed by giggling and laughing as RILEY lies on the ground as well.

They stare at the sky.

BRENNA
Beautiful day, isn't it?

RILEY
(feels the clay on the ground)
I wonder if you can use this clay for sculpting...

They hear CIARA O'HARA'S voice from a distance, looking up to find her near the entrance to the court. She appears to be much older than BRENNAS and RILEY.

CIARA
Hey, are you two gonna lie down out there like you're a couple or something? I'm bringing out the next pair!

BRENNA & RILEY
Yes, Ms. O'Hara!

BRENNA
(to RILEY)
Does she really think we're a
couple?

RILEY
(to BRENNA)
Well, we could be if we wanted to.

A BEAT as the two appear to look at each other sensually...

BRENNA & RILEY
Nah!

They laugh as they get up and exit.

RILEY
I could let you kiss my abs,
though.

BRENNA
(surprised)
Wow, they really let you get away
with doing that?

RILEY
Why don't you ask whoever wrote
this episode!

CUT TO:

OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

CUT TO:

EXT. CAHILL WOMEN'S TENNIS CLUB, MAIN AREA - DAY

Every member of this tennis club in Dublin, Ireland is assembled for a warmup session, practising their swings in unison. CIARA and her assistant, HEATHER COLLINS, the oldest member of the club, monitor each member, mentoring them for improvement purposes.

CIARA
(calling out)
Next!

The club members previously performed forehand swings in unison. Now, it's the same thing for the backhand.

Among the club members practising their swings are a cheerful and happy BRENNNA and a badass and determined RILEY. BRENNNA narrates...

BRENNNA (V.O.)

I'm Brenna Hackley, daughter of an Irish pub owner, and member of the Cahill Women's Tennis Club in Dublin, Ireland. What's that? Of course, I'm Irish! Why do you not think I said that word twice now to any of you international viewers out there (or was it three times)? Come to think of it, aren't "Ireland" and "Irish" pretty much just the same word, except for the North? I'm just curious...

Anyway, all my life I wanted to become one of the greatest tennis players in the country. Why tennis, you may ask? Because I think it's fun! Having a tennis racquet in hand and standing there on a grassy or clay-covered court trying to catch a ball to get to the other side sounds like the best thing I could possibly do in my life! You know, I can't imagine playing any other sport than tennis, not to say that they're all terrible or anything, but everyone has their opinions!

BRENNNA (V.O.)

(attention shifts to
RILEY)

That's Riley Fairweather, the bestest friend I could ever have. She's a tomboy, which means she has all of the qualities that a man has, and she may be tough on the outside, but on the inside, she's actually really a softie! She wanted to join the tennis club so that she can become stronger, and I respect her for that. I admire her so much I wish I could just be like her, you know. I mean, have you seen how muscular her body is? I have never seen any other woman with that much strength! It's almost like she's actually a male wrestler wearing women's makeup and...

(quickly realises she is
going off topic)

Sorry, where was I?

(MORE)

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

Oh, right: The first time that Riley and I met was back in high school when we first decided we wanted to play tennis. She was actually bullied because they said she looked like a boy (that and she was given birth to by a rapist), but I would do anything to make sure she doesn't get bullied again. Whenever Riley felt down, I would always be there to comfort her, and I'm sure she would do the same for me when I feel like I'm let down by something...

BRENNA (V.O.)

(attention now shifts to
CIARA)

That's Ciara O'Hara, our favourite tennis player in the whole world. She's won multiple titles, numerous championships, and hundreds of other honours as a professional, but now she's retired and has become the coach of our tennis club ever since. She may be strict, and she is a total pain in the ass, but that's okay; Me and Riley still love her.

It's been such an amazing opportunity to follow her ways of playing tennis; It's hard for us to do it under someone else!

BRENNA'S narration ends as CIARA announces...

CIARA

Okay everyone, why don't we break for ten minutes? Then, I would like to see Angelica and Sibeal on the court for a practice match.

As soon as she hears CIARA'S announcement, ANGELICA REID starts to become worried.

ANGELICA

Who, me?! But --- but - I can't compete against Sibeal! She's better than I am! I'm just a weak tennis player!

(MORE)

ANGELICA (CONT'D)

You know what she's gonna do: We're just gonna go up there, and she's gonna score a game point in under five minutes while I just stand there with loads of sticky sweat all over my body figuring out how the heck I'm supposed to catch up with all of her shots on the ball. I mean, it's not like she's ten times better than Heather; In fact, it's anything compared to if I had to do practice with Riley, but still! You know how much I have worked hard just to be in this club?! I almost wanted to give up and laze around, but I can't because ---

As ANGELICA continues her worrywarting...

RILEY

Your friend sure is a chatterbox!

BRENNNA

Well, what can I say? She's one of the only other friends that I have.

RILEY

At least you're better than I am. Other than you, Brenna, I don't have any friends. I've never even made a single one in my life.

BRENNNA

Huh?

RILEY

People will just think I look like a man so that they can treat it like it's a joke! I mean, how many other tomboys do you see here? How many?!

BRENNNA

Um, I'm sure there are a lot. After all, this is today's society...

RILEY

That's what I thought. I wish people would just treat me for who I am more than what I look like, the same way they do it to other people who look different than they should be.

BRENNA

Well, why don't they?

RILEY

For that exact same reason: All they'd do is joke around and make fun of me! If it was a man in women's clothing for any reason outside of a comedy sketch, it would be the same thing...

BRENNA

Hey, not all people are like that, okay? A lot of people are more accepting of new things like that than others. Listen, no matter what other people say, I think you look amazing just the way you are. No amount of hair that you have or how much muscle you've grown can match what you can do at that tennis court. I am very proud that I have made friends with a tomboy, and I want for it to stay like that.

RILEY

You really mean that? Even if I was actually a man?

BRENNA

Well, that's beside the point. I don't want you to change simply just because someone tells you to. Change because it's a choice you made by yourself. If you want to start acting like other women again, that's fine, as long as you're the only one making the call.

RILEY

Thanks, Brenna. You know, every time I see you, you always reminded me of SpongeBob if he had a caffeine addiction, but you always know how to encourage me.

BRENNA

Of course I do, Sandy-if-she-was-androgynous-and-actually-took-up-tennis! What are friends for?

MEGAN

For ditching them if they're not
useful to you anymore!

BRENNA and RILEY find MEGAN MACDERMOTT, a snobbish egomaniac.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You know, it doesn't matter if you
look like a boy or not, Riley; I
could still take you down.

RILEY

What do you know, Megan? You're not
even better than I am...

MEGAN

Oh, I'm better than you are, Riley,
in a few ways. For one, I am
rich...

RILEY

That's not what I meant ---

MEGAN

And I've started to work out more
often...

RILEY

That's because Ms. O'Hara insisted
after you lost several practice
games with us!

MEGAN

Did I forget to mention I'm her
favourite, by the way?

BRENNA

I thought it was Heather ---

MEGAN

(to BRENNA)

Was I talking to you?

BRENNA

What?

MEGAN

No, right? So, you need to shut the
hell up and stay out of our
conversation!

BRENNA

Yeesh, I'm just trying to state the
facts, mean-ass Squidward!

MEGAN

The facts that you are telling me right now are wrong and inconsistent! The only things that should come out of people's mouths are true and honest information. You spit out nothing but lies!

BRENNA

No, I don't! Heather is the oldest member of the club for a reason!

CIARA (O.S.)

May I have Angelica and Sibeal on the grass court, please?

ANGELICA stops talking as she hears this and prepares for the worst.

ANGELICA

Oh no! What am I gonna do?! I'm no match for Sibeal! She's gonna win easily! Ms. O'Hara is just wasting her time, right?! What's the point in having someone like me go up against someone who is stronger like her? I mean, I know this is just a practice session, but what if this was a real-live championship match?! I can't live up to that standard! In fact, I'm not even ready for this kind of thing anymore!

BRENNA

Angelica, Angelica! Chill! You got this! You need to learn to stop worrying! The more you worry, the less likely you'll make it through tennis alive! If you can't win against Sibeal, just do better next time! Other than that, you're gonna be fine. Trust me.

ANGELICA

(concerned)

Are you sure?

BRENNA

You said you wanted to be just like me, right? Now's the time to get out there and prove it!

(MORE)

BRENNA (CONT'D)
 (escorts ANGELICA to the
 court)
 Make me proud, Angelica.

ANGELICA
 (doubtful)
 Okay, I'll do my best... I think.

RILEY
 (to MEGAN)
 I gotta admit, she does know how to
 preach.

MEGAN
 Hey, watch where you say that word!
 We're not in a church, you know!

EXT. CAHILL WOMEN'S TENNIS CLUB, GRASS COURT - DAY

ANGELICA and SIBEAL prepare for their practice match, with
 CIARA being the referee. ANGELICA appears to be nervous,
 while SIBEAL is as prepared as she'll ever be.

All of the other club members watch on the side, with BRENNA
 cheering ANGELICA on, much to MEGAN'S annoyance.

BRENNA
 You can do it, Angelica! Just
 remember what I told you!

ANGELICA
 Thanks for the tip!
 (to herself)
 Okay, I can do this. I don't know
 how much of it I can do, but I can
 do this. It's not like it's the end
 of the world. If you lose, that's
 okay. Just do better next time.
 You've got to quit your worrying,
 okay Angelica? You've got to quit
 your worrying. You've got to quit
 your worrying.

ANGELICA repeatedly says "You've got to quit your worrying,"
 her rate of saying it growing faster as SIBEAL prepares to
 take the serve.

As soon as SIBEAL serves the ball...

ANGELICA (CONT'D)
 Okay, now I'm worrying!!!

... ANGELICA returns it. The tennis ball goes back and forth between her and SIBEAL, the former struggling to keep the rally going, the latter having zero problems at all. With just a little bit of might, though, ANGELICA manages to get the ball out of play on SIBEAL'S side.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)
Hey, I did it. I actually did it!
Look, Brenna, I did it!!!

CIARA
Hey, pay attention to the ball!!!

ANGELICA
Huh?!

With ANGELICA almost losing focus, SIBEAL serves again, and the game goes on.

ANGELICA eventually scores 40-30 over SIBEAL and is close to earning a match point. However, she appears to lose steam. BRENNNA encourages her to keep going as MEGAN tries to shut her up.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)
I don't know if I can keep going. I
want to give up now but I can't...
I've got to quit worrying... I've
got to quit worrying...

SIBEAL serves. ANGELICA receives. The rally goes on until SIBEAL tries to pull off a finishing move, if ANGELICA didn't strike back with all of her remaining strength.

As ANGELICA scores a match point and wins the game, she is applauded by all of the club members, with BRENNNA becoming the most excited.

BRENNNA
(hugging an even annoyed
MEGAN)
She did it!!! I'm so proud of
her!!!

MEGAN
Do you want me to smack you in the
nose, Brenna?

ANGELICA could not believe what had just happened. She just stands there until SIBEAL approaches her...

SIBEAL
I almost thought you couldn't make
it. Good game.

... and exits. ANGELICA'S frozenness turns into glee and excitement in moments.

EXT. STREET IN DUBLIN, IRELAND - AFTERNOON

ANGELICA, once again becoming the chatterbox that she is, happily shares her achievement with BRENNNA and RILEY, who walk alongside her.

BRENNNA

I've never seen Angelica so happy in my life before. I mean, I know she's still a chatterbox, but I don't see her worry as much anymore...

RILEY

At least not for today...

BRENNNA

Yeah. Who knows what will happen tomorrow? Maybe she'll go back to her old ways; I don't know. I'll just let her enjoy this moment for now. It's for the best.

ANGELICA

This is the best day of my life!!! I feel like going to a pub and celebrating!

BRENNNA

Um, Angelica, I don't know if going to a pub to celebrate is the best thing for you...

ANGELICA

Aw, you worry too much! I'm going to be fine! It's only a couple of drinks!

BRENNNA

Yeah, but you know, your body and mind are gonna go on a tailspin even after just a couple of drinks, okay? So take it easy on yourself tonight. You're gonna end up worrying yourself again.

ANGELICA

And who are you to tell me to keep it cool?! Don't forget, you live in a pub yourself!

BRENNA

Well, it's true. I do live in a pub, with my parents, that is. I wonder if my life would've been better if I lived in an apartment on my own like all the young people out there.

RILEY

I don't think they all live in apartments. It really depends on who you ask.

BRENNA

Do you live in an apartment, Riley?

RILEY

(admits)

Okay, so I do. But I don't live alone. I have my single mother with me.

BRENNA

That's a good thing. All I have are my parents and my two brothers, one of whom my mum says is annoying, and another who just sits there on his computer all day like he's playing some sort of hot new video game that just came out on Steam...

RILEY

Hey, speaking of your parents, how's the pub business going for you?

BRENNA

It's doing great, actually. It's one of the best known pubs in all of Dublin. The food and drinks are amazing, and the music is great, too! You've been inside once, and you've seen what it looks like.

RILEY

(trying to remember)

Yeah, I think I have, even though I don't remember most of it.

(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

I do remember it was packed, and there was live music every ten to fifteen minutes (typical for most pubs here in this country, I think), and it was pretty noisy if you asked me, and um... Oh yeah, your little brother Tommy; He's quite a dancer!

BRENNA

(slightly embarrassed)

He sure is... My parents want me to be the successor to their business when they retire, but I just don't see any worth in me running a pub for the rest of my life. I know it's making a lot of money, after all, and it really is a cool place for me to live in, but I really want to be a great tennis player! I've worked so hard just to get to my dream, I can't afford to give it all up now just to sell beer to strangers I've never even met!

RILEY

Have you tried talking to them?

BRENNA

I have tried a ton of times, but they don't want to believe me.

RILEY

Maybe you should try again until they get annoyed of you talking to them about what you want to do.

BRENNA

That's not actually a bad idea, unless there's my mum who gets ticked off every time you annoy her. She just blows her top and causes chaos all over the place, cussing and swearing included!

RILEY

Definitely not where I want to be in, that's for sure!

BRENNA

Other than that, she is very nice --

-

Just as the three women reach BRENNNA'S Irish pub home, they hear some thumping sounds as well as...

MARIANNE (O.S.)

Don't touch me!!! What are you, a lickarse?!!?

RILEY

(to BRENNNA)

Is that her right now?

BRENNNA

(hurries home)

Ooh! She must be throwing another fit again! I'll catch up with you later, okay?

ANGELICA

Hey, don't you want me to take her out?

BRENNNA

No, Angelica, it's best if you just let me take care of this. I gotta get inside...

ANGELICA

Alright, but if you need me in there, I said I was weak before, but now I have all the muscle power I can get!

INT. S.U. RONAN HONORARY PUBLIC HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANGELICA can be heard from the outside...

ANGELICA

I can take down an old drunk lady if I had to!

... as BRENNNA enters the pub, live music playing throughout. She quickly sees her mother, MARIANNE, barking at a pervert customer, with nearly 10% of the pub left a mess. More loud sounds heard before...

MARIANNE

If you touch my ass again, I swear I'll cut your throat open, 'ya hear me?!? God!!!

She returns to her post in frustration.

BRENNA notices the live band playing and singing a song amidst what just happened.

BRENNA
Amazing how they're still singing
and playing in the midst of all
that!

She heads to the back of the pub leading to her room. It is a lively environment inside the pub.

She sees her youngest brother, TOMMY, doing a traditional Irish dance accompanying the live music from the band. She rolls her eyes and continues walking.

A still frustrated MARIANNE approaches TOMMY.

MARIANNE
Stop doing that dance or your
throat is next!

BRENNA comes across her younger brother, BRIAN, who had just entered his first year of secondary school.

BRENNA
Hey, Brian.

BRIAN sits on his computer, gaming headset on, disconnected from the outside world.

To see if she can get his attention, BRENNA gets closer to him and says...

BRENNA (CONT'D)
Corsair is better than Alienware!

BRIAN doesn't respond. She repeats this phrase until he does. After a few tries with no response, she gives up and leaves him.

BRENNA (CONT'D)
No sense in going further.

As BRENNA was about to reach the door to her room, her father, JOHN, bartender and owner of the pub, comes up to her...

BRENNA (CONT'D)
Hey, Dad!

JOHN
There you are, Brenna! You've
arrived just in the nick of time!

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

Listen, do you mind if you would take over for your mother for a while? It seems that she's thrown another fit again ---

MARIANNE

No, I've not, you wise-ass!

JOHN

(to BRENNNA)

Don't mind her, my daughter. She'll calm down later on. Do you think you could help me out around here? I'll pay you a little extra if you substitute for her.

BRENNNA

Oh sure, anything to keep her from getting ticked off again. I'll be upstairs to get ready in a couple of minutes.

JOHN

Okay, but hurry back! We've got customers a-waiting!

MARIANNE (O.S.)

(to another customer)

Oh, you wanna start with me too, huh?! HUH?!?

... and in a matter of seconds, another fight ensues.

JOHN

Hey, I just had that wall fixed!!!

INT. BRENNNA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

BRENNNA had just showered and is about to change into her pub uniform when her mother, MARIANNE, shows up at her door. Her tone has suddenly changed.

MARIANNE

Brenna, are you there?

BRENNNA

Yeah, Mum, I'm here.

MARIANNE

How was practice today?

BRENNA

It was really great, actually! My friend Angelica got over her fear of losing against someone who is stronger than her, so she won a tennis match against her, and now she won't stop celebrating over it! I kept saying that she worries a lot, but right now she seems very happy!

MARIANNE

(impressed)

Really? Do you think she's stronger than she was now?

BRENNA

Oh yeah, I think she can be stronger. I'm her closest friend; I believe in her very much, but it was, after all, the only one time that she has ever won. The last times I saw Angelica taking on someone at the court, she always kept losing. She says to herself all the time that she was weak, that she thinks she doesn't have what it takes, but luckily, I encouraged her. We'll see how it plays out for her in the next couple of days.

MARIANNE

Well, I'm glad you gave her some advice. That should tell people I raised my daughter extremely well, doesn't it?

BRENNA

Hey, I learned from the best! A little motivation comes a long way, right?

MARIANNE

That's right, sweetheart! And how's Riley doing?

BRENNA

Oh, she's doing very well, let me tell you, Mum! Every day when I see her, I keep thinking she's getting better and better! You've met her before; You've seen how awesome she is!

MARIANNE

Don't forget, I still have to challenge her to an arm-wrestling match!

BRENNA

At least I get know who the winner's gonna be!

MARIANNE

Who?

BRENNA

(sing-song)

I can't tell you!

MARIANNE

Brenna!

BRENNA and MARIANNE act like they're having a really fun mother-and-daughter conversation.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm sorry about what you saw from me when you came in. I had to deal with another drunk eejit who thinks it's okay to fantasise me as one of his milf buddies. You know, being this beautiful when you're getting older can really get to you.

BRENNA

That's true. It's not the only time that's happened, isn't it?

MARIANNE

Yeah, don't those people know that I'm already married? Do they ever take the time to see the wedding ring that's on my finger? Do these people need eyeglasses or something?!

BRENNA

How can they do that? They're drunk, aren't they? That's why their vision is screwed for a while, with or without eyeglasses!

MARIANNE

I know, right?! It just doesn't make any sense! I'm glad you don't drink, Brenna.

(MORE)

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

All that alcohol is just gonna take over your body and consume you.

BRENNA

Especially when you're playing tennis a lot? I can agree.

MARIANNE

But Brenna, don't you think you could dedicate your future towards something that is, you know, more stable than playing tennis? I mean, I know that being a professional means you get to earn money when you win, but what if you keep losing all the time? I'm just worried you might not be able to support yourself financially in life.

BRENNA

Mum, there is no way I am ever gonna lose in a tennis match. You'll see!

MARIANNE

Yes, but I'm afraid that your optimism is going to get you nowhere in the real world. Why don't you become our successor in running the pub business? It is still making money, so why don't you help us with that while you still can? You can play tennis as a side hobby.

BRENNA

Mum, I know that working at a pub sounds like a cool idea, and I know that we are already number one in the business, but I have to make tennis-playing my top commitment! This is something that I want to do with my life! I can't waste it all on just standing there monitoring people and their drinking habits! I want to do something useful with my body! I just have to!

MARIANNE

Yes, but is that more important than paying the bills, paying for rent, paying for housing, buying groceries, buying supplies for yourself, not making sure you don't end up in the streets for the rest of your life if you don't have any more money?

BRENNNA

You know, speaking of not having any more money, I was wondering, do you think that this pub will ever go bankrupt?

MARIANNE

Brenna! I cannot believe you would say that! Why don't you learn to think positive about our business for once?

BRENNNA

In the exact opposite I talked about playing tennis for a living? How ironic is that!

JOHN

(popping in)

Your mum's right, you know!

BRENNNA

Dad?!

JOHN

And if you don't get over there to help out with the customers, we're gonna be broke for sure! Is your mum doing alright, by the way?

MARIANNE

Yes, I'm doing alright, dear.

JOHN

Are you sure you're not gonna go into another outburst again for the rest of the night?

MARIANNE

(acting like she doesn't know)

What outburst?

JOHN

Yeah, I thought so. Now, it's either you or Brenna, so let's get going!

MARIANNE

Alright, dear, I'll head over there in a second... fecker!

(to BRENNNA)

Brenna, help us out when you have the chance, okay?

BRENNNA

I will, Mum.

BRENNNA'S parents exit. BRENNNA herself, meanwhile, is on her bed feeling hopeless. Also on her bed is a childhood Irish plush doll named Gilianne.

BRENNNA (CONT'D)

I just don't get it. My parents don't understand what I really want to do with my life. I know that running the pub can help me make money, but doesn't staying active as a career lead you to the same thing? They just don't think I'm gonna be able to win all the time. I mean, I can do it! I have what it takes to be like all the other great tennis players out there, right Gilianne?

(no response)

Oh, what do you know? You're a doll!

INT. RILEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

RILEY enters through the front door as her mother, BETHA, waits for her in the living room.

RILEY

I'm home.

BETHA

Well, welcome back, Riley. How was tennis practice today?

RILEY

It was very good. One of Brenna's friends managed to stop being a worrywart.

BETHA
(wanting to know more)
Really?

RILEY
She kept thinking she couldn't be able to win against someone at the court just because she was weak, but Brenna gave her all of the confidence she needed.

BETHA
That's very good. I'm glad you even made friends with Brenna. She's a really nice person. She knows just how to cheer people up.

RILEY
I guess she does... Mum, I don't mean to cause any upset to you, but do you think my life would have been better if you weren't raped?

BETHA
Why, yes, but I don't see why you would want to ask something like that. I thought I gave birth to the perfect daughter.

RILEY
I know, but that doesn't explain how I ended up being this way. I mean, what did my father do to make me look like what I am right now? I don't know if you had anything to do with it!

BETHA
You have my willingness to become stronger, and to not give up when times are tough.

RILEY
Yeah, but not the way my hair looks, or what my voice sounds like, or the fact that I have muscles like these and abs like these! I know I shouldn't downplay on other girls who look the way I do, but I just can't stop thinking about how I ever got born to end up looking like this! What does my father have that you don't to cause me to be this way?!

BETHA

His indecency.

RILEY is confused by this.

BETHA (CONT'D)

Believe me, if I said it was his penis, that would've been questionably funny. Riley, being raped was the most haunting experience I have ever had in my life. I almost didn't want to have you, but I was afraid about what my rapist would do to me if he knew. I went through a lot just to get to where I am at with you right now. No one wanted to adopt you because they just couldn't find the time, so I had to take care of you instead, but the fact that I had my rapist's sperm so I could give birth to you almost killed me; in fact, I almost wanted to kill myself, but I couldn't afford to lose you. You may not know who your father is, but I will do anything to make sure that he doesn't put you in the same fate I had.

RILEY

Did you ever see my father again?

BETHA

Being raped was the only time I ever saw him, and I want to thank God that it was the only time. Riley, I don't think your father has any of the qualities that you have right now, except being boy-like and all that, obviously, but anyway, you can change what's on the outside if you want, but you can't change what I think you truly are inside: You are a warrior, and even if you go through pain and suffering like I have, you always know how to rise above it. I know it, and I believe it, because I've been through all of those things before.

RILEY

Thank you, Mum.

BETHA

Promise me, Riley; Promise me never to let trauma take over your life. If there's something you're going through that makes you want to change both inside and out, just let me know, and I will help you.

RILEY

Whenever I need it?

BETHA

Yes, dear, whenever you need it.

The two embrace.

RILEY

I probably should've waited until after I showered!

BETHA

Oh, that's okay! At least it's your sweat and not my rapist's!

EXT. CAHILL WOMEN'S TENNIS CLUB, MAIN AREA - THE NEXT DAY

All of the club members are doing practice tennis sessions when...

CIARA

May I have everyone's attention?

They all gather around to hear what CIARA has to say.

CIARA (CONT'D)

Club members, I have an important announcement to make.

MEGAN

(raising her hand)

That a national tennis tournament will be held here in Dublin this year, and that you will be selecting which club members are best suited to represent our organisation in the event?

CIARA

(amazed)

Megan, that was as simple as I was gonna say it! How did you know?!

MEGAN

(speaking directly at the camera)

Don't you just love when I give away plot details?

CIARA

(to the club members)

Now, as Megan said, Dublin is holding a national tennis tournament this year, and the officials are considering our organisation to participate in the event, but it can only allow a certain amount of members to take part. Therefore, I will have a one-on-one session with each and every one of you to see who I can find is the best suited to participate in the tournament. You must give me everything you got if you want to take part, understand?

The club members reply "Yes, Ms. O'Hara."

CIARA (CONT'D)

(getting her racquet and tennis balls ready)

Good. Now, if anyone wants to volunteer to go first, step forward and say your name.

MEGAN

(without hesitation)

I'll go...

(steps forward, says to the other members)

... losers!

(approaches CIARA, gets into position)

Megan MacDermott, Ms. O'Hara!

CIARA serves the ball, but MEGAN finds her to be too powerful, and the ball goes out of play.

CIARA

Don't be a pussy! Next!

All of the other club members step forward one by one, each giving out their names and being trained mercilessly by CIARA until the ball becomes out of play during a rally and the club members grow tired.

ANGELICA
She's really tough, isn't she?

BRENNA
That's why she's the best.

RILEY
Hey, heads up. We're next.

Another ball goes out of play.

CIARA
Is that all you got?! Next!

ANGELICA
(confused)
Does she mean me?!

BRENNA
If you want.

ANGELICA
Don't you guys want to?

BRENNA
Don't worry about us! Just go! You
can do it!

ANGELICA
(as she steps forward)
Okay... I got this... I got this...
(approaches CIARA)
I am Angelica Reid.

CIARA serves and ANGELICA returns. ANGELICA is caught off-guard in the middle of the rally, and the ball becomes out of play.

CIARA
Keep your eye on the ball,
Angelica! Whatever happened to
yesterday?! Next!

RILEY volunteers.

RILEY
I'll go if you want.

BRENNA
Alright. Go get 'em, tigress!

RILEY steps forward and approaches CIARA.

RILEY
Riley Fairweather.

CIARA serves, RILEY returns, but this rally is perhaps longer, with RILEY giving all that she's got. BRENNNA finds it tough to watch with each return.

Then, in a few moments, the ball becomes out of play.

CIARA
Next!

BRENNNA realises she is the last one up.

BRENNNA
I guess it's just me...

With much determination on her hands, she steps forward and approaches CIARA.

BRENNNA (CONT'D)
Brenna Hackley.

CIARA serves, BRENNNA returns, but this rally is just as intense as RILEY'S. BRENNNA pushes herself to the extremes, while the other club members, especially RILEY, fear that she might be overdoing herself. CIARA couldn't care less.

Suddenly, BRENNNA manages to get the ball to CIARA'S side, causing it to go out of play. All of the club members are stunned by this. CIARA gives out a look that says "My job here is done..." before heading inside.

CIARA
Well, that should about do it for today. I shall give you all the results in a few moments. Until then, keep practising, everyone.

RILEY approaches an exhausted BRENNNA.

RILEY
Brenna, are you alright?

BRENNNA
Yeah, I'm okay...

RILEY
She really took it hard on you, didn't she?

BRENNA

I don't think so... She is, after all, a really great tennis player...

After a BEAT...

LAUREN

(from the crowd)
Well, that went well.

INT. CAHILL WOMEN'S TENNIS CLUB, HALL ROOM - DAY

All of the club members are assembled to hear their results. They all have conversations with one another. Among them are...

AOIFE

I sure hope I get in. It would be great if I represented my club for the tournament.

CHLOE

Me too, though I'm usually not comfortable playing in front of a lot of people ---
(feels something hurting)

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Ow! Ooh, I think I sprained my right arm somewhere...

AOIFE

Really? Does it hurt?

CHLOE

Nah, it should be cured once I hear the results. I hope so. I wonder if yogurt can help in curing something like this.

AOIFE

What gave you that idea?

CHLOE

Uhm, the internet?

... and...

REBECCA

So, what inspired you to take part in tennis?

NICOLE

Well, I was watching this anime I looked up online called... I think it was called "Aim for the Ace" or something, and ---

REBECCA

Wow, you're into anime? So am I!

NICOLE

Really? We do have a lot in common! How about you, Leanne? Are you an anime fan?

LEANNE

You know, if only I was named after an anime character, then you would get to know me a lot more.

REBECCA

Well, what do you wish you were named?

LEANNE

(thinks about it, then awkwardly)
Nice Holystone?

REBECCA and NICOLE look at each other with confused looks.

NICOLE

What kind of anime character name is that?

... and finally...

MEGAN

Riley, I think I should be a part of the tournament. I want to see lots and lots of people cheering me on as I take down the next person that gets in my way! I want to win that gold trophy and add it to my collection of fabulous riches I've earned along with my parents ---

RILEY

Are you going to waste my time? Because if you are, I'm going to waste yours!

MEGAN

What? I'm just telling you what I'm wanting to do if I get selected; Restate that: when I get selected.

ANGELICA

Brenna, do you think there's a chance that I might make it? I mean, I'm not worried like I'm used to anymore, but I'm just wondering what might happen if I'm not selected to take part in the tournament. Do I have to wait until next year, or is something bad gonna happen to me if I don't get picked, or ---

BRENNA

Angelica, it sounds like you're worrying again.

ANGELICA

(tries to reassure)

What? Me worry? No, don't be ridiculous! I'm not worried! I'm just making some speculations as to what would happen if Ms. O'Hara doesn't select me to take part in the national tournament. Hopefully I don't get penalised and have to leave the club forever! Who knows how I would react if something like that happened, am I right?

BRENNA

Well, I think you're gonna make it. All you gotta do is trust in yourself. You already did that yesterday when you took down Sibeal, remember?

ANGELICA

Well, yeah, you're probably right. I am feeling a little bit nervous though...

BRENNA

You're gonna be fine. Relax. There's nothing to worry about. I don't think anything bad is ever going to happen if you don't get picked.

ANGELICA

I sure hope that's true... Do you think I should get out of here before Ms. O'Hara shows up?

CIARA enters the room...

ANGELICA (CONT'D)

Oh...

BRENNA

Too late! Here she comes!

... and everyone is immediately silent.

CIARA

Club members, when I call out your name, you have been officially selected to take part in the tournament.

The club members begin to listen carefully for their names, as CIARA begins to read out loud from a list.

CIARA (CONT'D)

Riley Fairweather.

This catches RILEY'S attention quick.

CIARA (CONT'D)

Brenna Hackley.

BRENNA quietly becomes super excited to herself hearing her name.

CIARA is just about to read off the remainder of the list until.....

CIARA (CONT'D)

... and that's it. Congratulations. Those whose names I have called out loud, come see me in five minutes.

She exits. BRENNA and RILEY are the only two selected.

All of the club members begin to look at them and whisper to each other. BRENNA and RILEY, meanwhile, did not expect for the result to turn out like this.

BRENNA

Well, I --- I guess we're the only two who got picked...

RILEY

Yeah... It looks like it...

ANGELICA

Hey, look on the bright side! Who knows if you two might end up competing against each other in the tournament, even though you two are supposed to be representing the same club; I'm just making a speculation!

BRENNA

You know, you could be right. If I can go up against Riley, I could be one step closer to becoming the greatest tennis player in all of Ireland!

RILEY

And if I go up against Brenna, that would prove to me that I have become stronger.

BRENNA

Riley, we may have different goals, but we're reaching them in the same way, right?

RILEY

Obviously! Why do you not think we're playing tennis for? Imagine saying that for any other sport out there!

ANGELICA

Do you mean like golf? Rugby? Football? How about the Olympics? Does the Olympics count?

RILEY

The Olympics are a collection of sports, Angelica.

ANGELICA

Oh, 'cause I always keep thinking the Olympics is a separate sport. I knew it had something to do with a track and field, but...

BRENNA

What do you say, Riley? Do you think we'll be able to compete against each other in the tournament?

RILEY

If they'll allow us, sure. I'm ready to take you on anytime.

BRENNA

So do I. We're going to do whatever we can to make our dreams come true. Put it there, partner.

The two women shake on it, and thus become friendly rivals.

SHANNON

Hey, has anyone seen Megan?

LEAH

I don't know. She was here a moment ago.

JADE

Say, is that her outside the window?

The club members look out the window to see MEGAN running outside the building. She stops and screams in frustration the ultimate swear word...

EXT. STREET IN DUBLIN, IRELAND - NIGHT

RILEY happily walks home as BRENNA narrates.

BRENNA (V.O.)

And that's the story of how me and Riley made a vow to take on against each other, if possible, during the national tennis tournament. I know that we may be becoming rivals from this point on, and we may be reaching different goals, but we're getting there the same way we always have. Playing tennis has been such an amazing part of our lives, it's just not the same if it was any other sport (They all seemed boring to us anyway!).

(MORE)

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

I'm sure we'll still be friends even as we take on each other in a real tennis match, especially with someone like Riley, whom I envy very, very much, not just because of her amazing tennis skills, but because she has this really cool personality I wish I could've had when I was in primary school! I'm glad I got to know her. It makes me happy to hear that she is playing tennis to become stronger. It's almost as if she could be my role model ---

BRENNA'S narration comes to a complete halt as RILEY'S mouth is suddenly covered by a mysterious person, as if being held hostage. She tries to escape but is yanked away...

CUT TO:

END CREDITS SEQUENCE