

# The Man Who Beat Mark Spitz

by

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The life story of the 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist:  
Doug Russell

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FADE IN

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE, HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM.

NARRATOR

This is my recollection of a journey. A journey started without a destination...or even a path.

CAMERA follows swimmer's head breaking water, DESPERATE GASP for air as a BLUR of spectators races by, SPLISH-SPLASH...

INT. TV STUDIO MEXICO CITY 1968 - DAY

(Actual Footage) CHRIS SCHENKEL looks down at desk, then off screen, waiting for cue. He faces cameraman, points, starts.

CHRIS SCHENKEL

Alright, we're back again in Mexico City, and the - uh - first day of the second week of competition is still underway. Uh - a nice special note we'd like to pass along to you, with the basketball competition going into the semi-finals tomorrow night, we're pleased to announce at eleven thirty Eastern Time, on the ABC television network - uh - Jack Twine and I will have the pleasure of enjoying the United States - Brazil semi-final basketball game live and in color from Mexico City. Now let's enjoy - for the gold medal - the one hundred meter (pause) butterfly. Mark Spitz, Ross Wales, and Doug Russell representing the United States. Bill Fleming and...

INT. OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL MEXICO CITY - DAY

(Actual Footage) Swimmers on blocks ready to race.

CHRIS SCENKEL

(continues)

Murray Rose.

BILL FLEMING

Right now we're running just a

(MORE)

BILL FLEMING (CONT'D)

little bit short of time...

SUPER: Olympic Symbol, Men's 100 Meter Butterfly, World Record - 55.6 New Olympic Event - FINAL

BILL FLEMING

(continues)

So we're going to set the field very quickly for you for the finals in the one hundred meter butterfly for men, its Nemshilov (STARTING GUN FIRES), Stocklasa, Maruya, Russell..Douglas...Spitz, Wales, Suzdaltsev and Cusack, and in the middle is Doug Russell in lane four. Down and back for the one hundred meters butterfly for men.

MURRAY ROSE

Watch Doug Russell in lane four and Mark Spitz in lane five. Doug Russell likes to go out very fast, Spitz of course has his famous finish and his great second lap. Russell will have to have a lead here going out.

BILL FLEMING

As they make the turn to come back, touching first is Mark Spitz in lane five.

MURRAY ROSE

This is a switch, Mark Spitz very rarely goes out this fast, whether he can hold on and have his usual finish by going out this fast, I don't know.

BILL FLEMING

Doug Russell coming on very fast in lane four, he was the fastest qualifier at fifty five nine - and it seems to be a battle now between Mark Spitz, Doug Russell and over in lane six is Ross Wales (excited) the three Americans...!

EXT. OUTDOOR POOL MIDLAND TEXAS - DAY

SUPER: 1953

MUSIC: THE SONG FROM MOULIN ROUGE (Percy Faith)

PAN early morning shadows of the West Texas desert, gradient colors on the horizon from a Sun about to rise.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

If you take a road atlas and draw a straight line from Fort Worth to El Paso Texas, you'd find Midland right in the middle of the two. Hence the name...Midland.

Blonde, anxious, & lanky DOUG RUSSELL (7), his fingers grasp a gate while holding a quarter as if symbolically revealing to the world in another fashion that he is first in line. JUAN(8) shifts his body & eyes announcing to all he's next.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Midland is a place you're likely to find a high school football or basketball star. We've incubated plenty of college and professional players, even two Presidents of the United States and a four star General.

Other children, families arrive, form a line to enter pool. Even older kids in childish horseplay are cautious about getting too near the entry gate; all understand Doug is going to be first in the pool.

YOUNG GIRL

It's him!

All look at headlights approaching pool, slowing turning into a form of a vehicle, then into a recognizable car.

YOUNG BOY

(corrective tone)

Morales.

Car deposits lovely LIFEGUARD(16) with Elizabeth Taylor hair & 50's movie star makeup, who then waits with customers.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

At the time, Midland wasn't exactly one of the aquatic centers for competitive swimming in the United States...or for that matter, even in the state of Texas.

OLD VETERAN

He's late!

Several look at wristwatches, MOAN, others are antsy.

MAN

We're being cheated.

Doug's anxious nature transforms into visible distress.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Indeed we were being cheated. Every morning mom would give me a quarter, which was ten cents to go swimming all day, fifteen cents for a coke and candy bar.

YOUNG GIRL

There!

All look at the approaching car with relief. FINALLY.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Twelve minutes of my time in the water, time that 10 cents was paying for, was now lost forever.

The POOL MANAGER (30's) arrives, opens gate, motions Lifeguard to station. Doug sprints into the boy's locker room, exits other side, looks to Lifeguard, who nods "OK".

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I not only loved being the first one in the pool, I had to be the first one in the water.

Doug dives in the smooth, glass-like water, swims to the other side as fast as he can.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Being first in the water was the only time I could race the ripples to the other side of the pool.

Doug races the ripples to the other end of the pool, coming from behind to out touch the ripples he created diving in. A hand full of patrons APPLAUD, CHEER Doug. Other kids then jump/dive into the pool.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The feeling I got doing that was beyond personal satisfaction, it was my first taste of victory. Real

(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

victory. Even though it was just a cheer or two from a few early birds by the pool, to me it was the same as if thirty or forty thousand people were applauding.

Doug swims back to the other side of the pool.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Applauding me.

INT. RUSSELL HOME - NIGHT

MUSIC: VAYA CON DIOS (Gene Autry, 1953)

Behind front door the screen door is heard opening SLOWLY. Occasional SCREECH. Front door CLICKS, opens SLOWLY. A tiny face SLOWLY emerges through the crack in the door. Doug scans the area, SLOWLY closes door, tiptoes to kitchen.

Doug devours food left out for him, grabs a cookie, quietly makes his way up stairs. He pauses by first bedroom door - SLOWLY passes it making an effort to hear any sounds coming from behind the door - then SLOWLY makes way to his room.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I was a real life latchkey kid. Mom worked two jobs, so even if she was home, I didn't want to wake her...I spent a lot of time alone.

MUSIC: PATRICIA (Pérez Prado)

EXT. RUSSELL HOME - DAY

GRANDMA RUSSELL (50's) walks up sidewalk, Doug darts out door beaming, excited, takes her hand, they walk downtown.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

A Saturday ritual I never missed under any circumstances was going downtown with Grandma Russell.

GRANDMA

How was school this week?

DOUG

I don't remember a day of it.

GRANDMA

We don't remember days, we remember moments.

Doug stares at Grandma Russell with wonder.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Grandma Russell had seen a lot in her life time; World War One, the Great Depression, World War Two.

GRANDMA

The best way to remember a moment is to enjoy it.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

With all that experience she was really wise, and she sounded such.

GRANDMA

Lost time is never found...ever.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I just wish at the time I could have understood her.

They stop in front of the J.C. Penney's store, Doug stares down the street at the Ritz Movie Theatre marquee.

GRANDMA

Hopalong Cassidy?

Doug frantically shakes his head "Yes."

GRANDMA

You gonna tell me what happens?

Doug frantically shakes his head even faster while Grandma carefully places three coins in Doug's hand.

GRANDMA

Then go enjoy yourself.

Doug sprints down the street to the theater, Grandma Russell watches until he disappears into the leather bounded doors.

GRANDMA

(Biblical tone)

God created the heavens and earth for us to enjoy. Movies must be his way of giving thanks. Lord. Lord.

INT. RITZ MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Doug carefully walks down the aisle, eyes GIRL(7) sitting with both her parents. Doug finds seat so he can watch the movie & Girl, who finally notices Doug. They glance at each

other awkwardly, yet with the understanding of attraction.

The HOPALONG CASSIDY serial starts. Doug is glued to the movie screen, with an occasional peek to Girl, who returns an occasional glance. Their eyes meet & they both smile.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I loved the movies.

EXT. OUTDOOR POOL MIDLAND TEXAS - DAY

SUPER: 1955

MUSIC: THE BALLAD OF DAVY CROCKETT (Bill Hayes) blasts from the snack bar. Doug & others swim, splash, play in the pool.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I taught myself to swim. Hogan Park pool is where you can say my swimming career started. The pool had a rope that separated the diving end from the shallow end of the pool. To get from one side of the pool deck to the other without walking on the hot concrete, you had to swim along the rope.

Doug races everyone swimming along the rope & those who jumped off the diving boards & swam to the ladder.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

My days were full of racing people who weren't exactly racing me.

MIDLAND SWIM COACH (30's) watches Doug from the snack bar, slowly walks over to Doug's favorite resting spot by the ladder, continues to watch Doug's antics & racing.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Then swimming got serious.

Doug returns to his resting spot, notices the Midland Coach.

MIDLAND COACH

You're pretty fast.

DOUG

(out of breath)

Yes, sir.

MIDLAND COACH

You like to race?



DOUG  
 (catching breath)  
 Yes, sir.

MIDLAND COACH  
 Can anyone here beat you?

DOUG  
 (looks around pool)  
 No, sir.

MIDLAND COACH  
 Not even one of the grown ups?

DOUG  
 No, sir.

MIDLAND COACH  
 Can I see you swim across the pool,  
 as fast as you can?

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Well, this was odd. Nobody ever  
asked me to swim fast before.

Doug pushes off, somewhat sloppily swims to the other side but with great speed & stops at the wall. He looks to the Midland Coach, who waves him back & Doug repeats the feat. The Midland Coach just stares at Doug, who looks confused.

MIDLAND COACH  
 You ever been on a swim team, son?

DOUG  
 Sir?

MIDLAND COACH  
 What's your name, son?

DOUG  
 Douglas Albert, sir.

MUSIC: ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK (Bill Haley) blares from the snack bar. Doug, Midland Coach continue (indistinguishable) conversation.

EXT. OUTDOOR POOL MIDLAND TEXAS - DAY

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK continues. Doug swims laps with other competitive swimmers, holding his own with the older boys.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 This was a big step in my life, but  
 (MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

nothing really changed. Happiness to me was just swimming fast...this was just more organized.

Doug treats each set in practice as a separate race.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

At first, being on the team didn't teach me what competitive swimming was.

Older boys become exasperated at the disruption of their usual pecking order - they are forced to train harder.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

All I knew was; I got to stay in the pool three more hours, for free, each day, and I got to race.

Doug starts a new set, racing the older boy next to him.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...race kids who were trying to race me.

MUSIC: KICKS (Paul Revere & the Raiders)

EXT. SWIM MEET - OUTDOOR POOL MIDLAND TEXAS - DAY

MONTAGE:

- STARTING GUN SHOOT. Doug swims freestyle race. Wins.
- Doug swims backstroke race. Wins.
- Doug swims breaststroke. Wins.

END MONTAGE

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Swimming got even better when I found out you could get medals and trophies having this much fun.

Doug stands on winners podium, receives medal.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

My first swim medals. I was in heaven.

INT. AUTOMOBILE - ON HIGHWAY TO FORT WORTH - NIGHT

Holding can of beer, CURTIS(32) drives, BETTY JANE RUSSELL(27) looks in the backseat at Doug, who stares

blankly out the window glum. Betty Jane SIGHS.

Car radio MUSIC: IT'S MY PARTY (Lesley Gore).

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Then I was taken to hell.

Doug picks up one of the green plastic army men from shoebox of toys, examines it very carefully, then observes Curtis & Betty Jane laughing, joking, flirting together.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Even back then I knew there were two types of alcoholics in the world.

Curtis makes crazy face to Betty Jane to make her laugh.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

You had your happy drunks....

CURTIS

It only takes one drink to get me drunk...

BETTY JANE

(suspicious)

Huuuh.....

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...and you had your mean drunks.

CURTIS

The trouble is, I can't remember if it was the eight or ninth one that did it.

Betty Jane GIGGLES, Curtis SLAPS her playfully on the arm.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Curtis was one of your mean drunks.

Curtis, Betty Jane calm down, SIGH together. Doug picks up one of his swim medals out of the box. Betty Jane smiles at Doug with pride, strokes his head. Curtis notices the bond.

CURTIS

(to Doug)

Always do sober what you said you'd do when drunk.

Betty Jane looks at Curtis puzzled.

CURTIS  
 (jokingly to Betty Jane)  
 That will teach him to keep his  
 mouth shut.

DOUG  
 I don't get drunk.

CURTIS  
 You will soon enough, you're  
 getting up there...

BETTY JANE  
 Don't...

CURTIS  
 Awww...just funning'm. You know, I  
 was a pretty good swimmer too when  
 I was his age. (Looks at Doug  
 hatefully) I'll do all I can to  
 help him be a real winner.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 I learned then and there not hold  
 anything a drunk says while drunk.

Curtis skillfully drives while massaging Betty Jane's back,  
 neck, & shoulders. Each separate movement blends as dance.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 The trouble was in the beginning,  
 we never knew when he was.

CURTIS  
 (loud whisper)  
 Baby, you're going to love it when  
 we get to Fort Worth...got you a  
 house...you won't have to work,  
 there'll be...(fades to  
 indistinguishable WHISPERS)

Betty Jane's eyes widens, she smiles, LAUGHS.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Now before we get to Ft. Worth, I  
 need to tell you something that  
 happened in Midland the summer  
 before.

MUSIC: BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS (Johnny Horton)

EXT. SWIM MEET - OUTDOOR POOL MIDLAND TEXAS - DAY

Six hundred age group swimmers scurry around, some playing, some resting, some getting ready to swim. The number of swimmers, parents, meet officials far exceed the pool's deck and surrounding area's capacity.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Something that would change my life forever.

Betty Jane works official's table, directs swimmers, coaches who come to her. She writes results given to her by runners, waves down officials, SHOUTS, directs other officials, etc.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Every summer Midland is the host for a big age group meet, the West Texas Invitational. This year Betty Jane was the meet director, and this year....

MOVE TO: DON EASTERLING (26) CLOSE UP - FREEZE FRAME.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...is when I saw him for the very first time.

BACK TO: STARTER(20's) readies Doug & other swimmers on starting blocks.

STARTER

Swimmers take your marks.

Swimmers set, all in completely different styles, manners.

STARTING GUN FIRES.

Swimmers dive in, swim breaststroke. POV Doug, swimming the first lap looks forward, sees - ALTERNATING with underwater SHOT & the other end of the pool - with each breath:

- Easterling storming up to Betty Jane's table
- Underwater SHOT: other end of pool
- Betty Jane pointing at a paper, shaking her head 'no'
- Underwater SHOT: other end of pool
- Easterling scattering all papers on desk to the wind
- Underwater SHOT: other end of pool
- Easterling & Betty Jane SHOUTING 3 inches from each other

Doug turns on the wall, swims in the opposite direction.

POV Doug: Meet officials, coaches run to the confrontation, everyone else watches with their mouths wide open.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That year the Panther Boys Club  
from Fort Worth came, and their  
famous coach...Don Easterling.

Doug takes a turn on the other wall, sees a crowd of people surrounding Easterling & Betty Jane, clipboards, kickboards, & a chair flies out from the center of the crowd.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

If there were ever two people who  
you didn't want in a confrontation  
of any kind, that's Don Easterling  
and Betty Jane Russell.

One police officer enters the malee, tries to break up crowd & stop the fight. Fails. Another officer appears.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The entire meet came to a complete  
stop when they got after it that  
afternoon. It took half the Midland  
Police Force to come out there and  
restore order.

Another officer appears, then another, until eight policemen finally get the crowd, Easterling, & Betty Jane controlled. Doug takes another turn on the wall, faces away from scene.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

It wouldn't be long before the two  
of them would meet again...

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NON-DESCRIPT - DAY

MARK SPITZ (7) finishes a race, looks to scoreboard, which  
FLASHES: NEW NATIONAL AAU RECORD...!!!

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...but it would still be years  
before I would meet the one that  
would be my greatest rival.

MUSIC: DUKE OF EARL (Gene Chandler).

INT. CURTIS' HOUSE - FORT WORTH - DAY

Front door opens, reveals a smiling Curtis charging in,

Betty Jane & Doug with looks of concern, slowly enter.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
(sarcastic)  
The nice house.

CURTIS  
C'mon...c'mon in...!

BETTY JANE  
(looking around)  
Where's the kitchen?

CURTIS  
Right down here. Doug! That's your  
room over there, go take a look.

Doug creeps into room, looks around. Stacks of Playboy magazines, machinery parts, tools, scary clown paintings on the wall, a shotgun, machine for making bullets.

BETTY JANE  
Douglas!

Doug tears into kitchen to Betty Jane, who has the refrigerator door wide open so Doug could see how fully stocked it is.

BETTY JANE  
Are you hungry?

Doug shakes his head wildly 'yes'.

CURTIS  
Go ahead, darling, cook up  
something...

Doug & Betty Jane immediately go into 'Cook & Helper' mode, setting out the ingredients & tools for a fabulous meal.

CURTIS  
See? You don't need no silver spoon  
to eat good 'round here.

MUSIC: SUSPICION (Terry Stafford)

EXT. PANTHER BOY'S CLUB - FORT WORTH - DAY

Betty Jane, Doug stand before the front door. Silent.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
When mother investigated where was  
the best swim program in Fort  
(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Worth, she came to a very  
frustrating conclusion.

CAMERA ON: Entrance, reads: Panther Boys Club

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That's right, the best coach around  
was Don Easterling, the very one  
she almost got thrown in jail with  
back in Midland.

BETTY JANE

You be careful in there.

DOUG

Yes, ma'am.

BETTY JANE

And don't let him give you any...

Betty Jane takes a deep breath, motions Doug to go in. She  
watches him carefully step up the stairs, disappear inside.

BETTY JANE

(to herself)

Don't let him give you one bit of  
his trash-mouthed, lunatic crazy,  
no good, foul mouthed vocabulary...

INT. PANTHER BOY'S CLUB - FORT WORTH

Doug cautiously looks around, finally sees BOY'S CLUB  
ATTENDANT (20's).

ATTENDANT

You a new swimmer?

DOUG

I believe so.

ATTENDANT

What do you mean? Either you are,  
or you aren't.

DOUG

I'm new here, but I've been  
swimming all my life.

Attendant stares at Doug, taken back, loss of words.

ATTENDANT

Well, come on, then, follow me.



Doug follows Attendant down hallway to pool.

ATTENDANT

Over there is the boys' locker room, that's the girls, you know you have to shower before you enter the pool, right?

Doug nods in the affirmative, bored.

ATTENDANT

Now here's the entrance to the pool, and before practice...hey, are you always going to be here this early?

Doug shakes his head 'yes'.

ATTENDANT

You know, I usually have to...

Attendant stops mid-sentence, holds hand on door.

ATTENDANT

You want to make fifty cents a week?

DOUG

(suspicious)

Doing what...?

MUSIC: WILD WEEKEND (The Rockin' Rebels)

INT. PANTHER BOY'S CLUB POOL - DAY

Doug BLOWS WHISTLE, SHOUTS to clear the pool.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

My first ever job was clearing the pool before practice.

Elderly men start swimming, walking to ladder, steps.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Back then the old men in senior swim time swam in the nude .

Elderly men climb up ladder, walk to get towels by pool.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

My job was to get them all out before I could open up the girls locker room door.

ELDERLY MAN (90's) walks up to Doug, who averts his eyes.

ELDERLY MAN  
We still have ten minutes to swim.

DOUG  
Coach wants the entire team in the water at seven sharp.

ELDERLY MAN  
Well, I'm being cheated.

DOUG  
Yes, sir, I know the feeling.

Elderly Man walks off GRUMBLING, Doug SIGHS relief. When the coast is clear, Doug unlocks the girl's door, unleashing a stampede of girls of all ages. Doug looks into the eyes & absorbs each & every girl as they sprint by into the pool.

NARRATOR  
I loved swim practice.

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE, HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM.

MUSIC: WALK LIKE A MAN (The Four Seasons)

EXT. PANTHER BOY'S CLUB - FORT WORTH - NIGHT

Doug walks out of building, Attendant locks door behind him. Wind blows remaining autumn leaves off tree. Winter calls.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
What I hated was going home.

Doug starts slowly walking down the dark deserted street.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
The pool was ten blocks from my bus stop, and at ten o'clock at night, that was a pretty scary walk.

Doug walks past group of men in doorway, who drink out of paper sacks, smoke, point at Doug & WHISPER.

NARRATOR(O.C.)  
Of course these ten blocks were the worst area of Fort Worth back then.

Doug walks past another group who look, point at Doug, smile to each other, one murmurs a CREEPY LAUGH. Doug is shaken.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I never seen such a scary sight in  
all my life. There were all kinds  
of mean, nasty terrifying-lookin'  
people standing around...

CLOSE UP on SCARY MAN #1

NARRATOR (O.C.)

There were robbers...

CLOSE UP on SCARY MAN #2

NARRATOR (O.C.)

There were father stabbers...

CLOSE UP on SCARY MAN #3

NARRATOR (O.C.)

There were mother rapers...

CLOSE UP on SCARY MAN #4

NARRATOR (O.C.)

There were father rapers...

Doug finally makes it to the bus stop, where several night  
shift WORKERS in uniform wait for bus. All nod acknowledge  
to each other, Doug turns around, checks if he was followed.

WORKER #1

Aren't you cold?

DOUG

No, ma'am.

WORKER #2

Why is your hair always wet?

DOUG

Been swimming, sir.

WORKER #1

Swimming? In this weather?

DOUG

Yes, ma'am.

WORKER #2

Why?

DOUG

To get fast, sir.

WORKER #2

Why?

DOUG

That's what I want now.

Bus pulls up, all get on board. BUS DRIVER(40's) stares at Doug, accepts his fare, watches Doug walk down the aisle shaking water from hair. Bus Driver shakes head in disbelief as Worker #1 pays fare. Worker #1 looks at Doug oddly.

WORKER #1

(to Bus Driver)

Swimmer.

Bus Driver nods slowly as if understanding, drives off.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The most pleasant thing I remember about that bus ride home was passing Mrs. Baird's Bakery, who started baking right about the time I'd be passing by.

Doug stares at bakery passing, breaths in open mouth.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I swear, that smell was so thick and strong you could almost taste bread in your mouth.

Doug stares at bakery disappearing in distance.

NARRATOR(O.C.)

But passing the bakery also meant I was almost home, and that was starting to get not so pleasant.

MUSIC: HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN (Animals)

INT. CURTIS' HOUSE - FORT WORTH

Behind front door the screen door is heard opening SLOWLY. Occasional SCREECH. Front door CLICKS, opens SLOWLY. Doug's face SLOWLY emerges through the crack in the door. Doug scans the area, LISTENS. SLOWLY closes door. LISTENS.

CURTIS

(from parent's room)

What do you mean, you did?

BETTY JANE

(from parent's room)

(MORE)

BETTY JANE (CONT'D)  
INDISTINGUISHED RESPONSE.

CURTIS  
Well, hell, I didn't see any!

BETTY JANE  
(breaking down in tears)  
INDISTINGUISHED RESPONSE.

CURTIS  
Awww, don't be giving me that  
again, I'm tired of your...

BETTY JANE  
(crying)  
INDISTINGUISHED RESPONSE.

CURTIS  
...and I'm tired of you.

GLASS SHATTERS in parent's room, Doug rushes down hall,  
Betty Jane opens door, runs out, Curtis follows. Doug stands  
between Curtis & Betty Jane, protecting his mother.

CURTIS  
See? You never say nuthin' when he  
comes home late...!

DOUG  
(bored)  
Go on to bed, Curtis, it's late.

CURTIS  
I ain't done yet.

DOUG  
Then say your piece, and be done.

CURTIS  
I'm done when I say I'm done.

DOUG  
And we're waiting for you...

Curtis looks around; angry, confused, DRUNK.

CURTIS  
(to Betty Jane)  
...disobedient little...

DOUG  
(waves mother to kitchen)  
Who's disobedient?

CURTIS  
She doesn't...

DOUG  
What?

CURTIS  
She didn't...she...

DOUG  
She didn't...what?

Curtis looks around again, EXPLODES, SHOUTS, lunges towards Doug - the FIGHT begins. Both wrestle, fall in the hallway to parent's room. Punches thrown by Curtis, dodged by a boy half his age. Curtis eventually tires, collapses on floor.

DOUG  
You ready for bed now?

CURTIS  
(mumbling)  
INDISTINGUISHED RESPONSE.

DOUG  
Then let's get you to sleep.

Doug drags Curtis across room, lifts him to bed. Betty Jane slowly approaches hallway, Doug meets her halfway, they hug, Betty Jane cries silently.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
I hated seeing Betty Jane this way.

MUSIC: I GET AROUND (Beach Boys)

INT. PANTHER BOY'S CLUB POOL - DAY

Doug trains in crowded swim pool, racing every swimmer in every lane, in every set. POV SWIM GOGGLES, his eyes follow SUE ELLEN(16) swimming breast stroke in the next lane. She finishes at wall, notices Doug staring, turns away.

EASTERLING  
Ready...Go!

One swimmer in each lane pushes off, followed by another every five seconds. By the time last swimmer in each lane pushes off, the first swimmer is returning.

EASTERLING  
(to Doug)  
What kind of damn finish is that???

Doug looks up to Easterling, exhausted & confused.

EASTERLING

Drive into the wall, drive into it!  
You want to lose the race in the  
last five yards?

DOUG

(meekly)

No, sir.

One of the last swimmers to push off in this set returns, struggling to finish - EXHAUSTED - barely makes it to wall.

EASTERLING

(to struggling swimmer)

What the hell kind of swimmer are you? If you can't do a simple set in practice, how are you going to even finish a race? You're out of your damn mind if you think I'm going to let you swim in a meet and have you embarrass me and the team with that kind of \*\*\*\*\*...

BUZZER in basketball courts next door drown out Easterling's rant. BUZZER ends, Easterling's tirade is INDISTINGUISHED.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

There was no such thing as too much swearing for Don Easterling.

Doug uses curse fest to eye Sue Ellen, who stares down the pool, not affected by the foul language.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I always wondered how some of the girls on the team took his extensive vocabulary.

Sue Ellen glances at Doug, who reacts with a deep breath & shivers that her eyes are on him. She nods in understanding.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Especially her. Sue Ellen Wilson.

PAN, CLOSEUP on Sue Ellen, hair, lips, eyes, hands, body.

NARRATOR(O.C.)

I noticed every inch of that girl.

EASTERLING

Ready...Go!

Swimmers start on Easterling's command. POV Doug, UNDERWATER SHOT of Sue Ellen swimming in next lane.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Every inch.

MUSIC: RHYTHM OF THE RAIN (The Cascades)

EXT. PANTHER BOY'S CLUB - NIGHT - RAINING

Doug springs out the front door, notices among several swimmers waiting for a ride - Sue Ellen - he converts his pace to a near slow motion as he walks by her.

DOUG  
Do you need a ride?

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Don't know why I ever asked that, I didn't even have a car.

SUE ELLEN  
(puzzled)  
Nooooooo.

Doug stops, looks around at other kids, turns to Sue Ellen.

DOUG  
You going to the meet in San Antonio?

Sue Ellen nods "yes", looks down street for her ride.

DOUG  
You swimming breaststroke?

Sue Ellen nods "yes", looks down other street for her ride.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Well, that was it. As a guy a couple of years younger than her, that was about all I could think of to say.

SUE ELLEN  
You?

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Thank God! We were having a real conversation now!

DOUG  
Sure, butterfly, free, and the IM.



Sue Ellen looks at the ground awkwardly.

DOUG  
Have you ever been to the Trinity  
pool there before?

SUE ELLEN  
Nooooo.

DOUG  
Me either.

Sue Ellen warms up, looks at Doug directly.

SUE ELLEN  
A few years ago I was in San  
Antonio at the Fort Sam Houston  
pool. That was a pretty big meet.

DOUG  
How did you do?

SUE ELLEN  
Got a second and two thirds...

A car drives up, all look to see if it is their ride. Doug  
still stares at Sue Ellen, who returns to the conversation.

SUE ELLEN  
...it was a nice pool...

Doug continues to stare, nods head to confirm listening.

SUE ELLEN  
...nice medals too.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
I wanted so much to hold her in my  
arms at that moment.

SUE ELLEN  
First time I ever broke one twenty  
in the hundred breast.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
She was beautiful, she was smart...

SUE ELLEN  
I'm hoping to break one fifteen at  
Trinity.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
...and she was a good swimmer.

Sue Ellen's mother drives up, stressed, in a hurry. Sue Ellen quickly collects gear. Doug awkwardly reaches to help her carry something, which she already has in her hands. He uses his towel as umbrella, covering the walk to her car.

SUE ELLEN

Thanks.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Words that were music to my ears.

DOUG

See ya.

SUE ELLEN

Bye.

Doug watches every move, nuance, & reaction between mother & daughter, seeing signs of a tense & difficult relationship. As the car drives off, Doug follows it out of sight as he slowly starts his bus stop trek in the opposite direction.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

She was every thing I ever wanted  
in a woman...back then...

MUSIC: IT HURTS TO BE IN LOVE (Gene Pitney)

INT. CURTIS' HOUSE - FORT WORTH

Behind front door the screen door is heard opening SLOWLY. Occasional SCREECH. Front door CLICKS, opens SLOWLY. Doug's face SLOWLY emerges through the crack in the door. Doug scans the area, LISTENS. SLOWLY closes door. LISTENS.

FAINT SOBS from the kitchen, where Doug tiptoes to.

BETTY JANE

(noticing Doug)

It's...

DOUG

What can I...

BETTY JANE

(composing herself)

It's alright...it's alright.

DOUG

Did he....?

BETTY JANE

It was just a fight...a few curse

(MORE)

BETTY JANE (CONT'D)

words.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Seems I was getting my PHD in swear words between Curtis n' Easterling.

Betty Jane motions Doug to sit, she uncovers left-overs.

BETTY JANE

You have a good practice?

DOUG

Yes, ma'am.

BETTY JANE

Was Easterling on you?

DOUG

Yea, but at least he swears in an interesting way.

BETTY JANE

There is a difference in swearing and cursing.

DOUG

Ma'am?

Doug begins to devour his food, Betty Jane tidies up.

BETTY JANE

Cursing is invoking the assistance of the spirit, to help you inflict suffering.

DOUG

You mean, just to hurt someone?

Betty Jane nods "yes", sits down, pulls closer to Doug,

BETTY JANE

Swearing is letting off steam, only wanting the spirit to witness your pain.

Both in SILENCE. Doug contemplates images of her meaning.

DOUG

Can we say that Curtis curses cause he wants to hurt you, and coach swears because he's in pain?

BETTY JANE

Yes, and I must say that Easterling  
is a pain, too.

Betty Jane looks to make sure Curtis was not awakened,  
strokes Doug's hair. Doug looks at her lovingly.

DOUG

Mom...?

BETTY JANE

Hmmmm...?

DOUG

How were you courted in school?

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE,  
HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM.

MUSIC: GLAD ALL OVER (Dave Clark Five)

EXT. TRINITY POOL, SAN ANTONIO - DAY

Hundreds of swimmers buzz around in a sea of different  
colored warm-ups & swimsuits around a 50 meter pool filled  
to capacity with swimmers warming up. Doug & nearly every  
Panther swimmer tries to avoid Easterling.

MEET DIRECTOR

(over microphone)

Swimmers! Clear the pool! Clear the  
pool! Meet will start in fifteen  
minutes!

Most swimmers exit pool in playful manner; Doug, others  
attempt as much pool time as possible, exit seriously.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

At this point I started to get  
anxious about my swimming.

Doug & fellow Panther swimmers slowly collect by a camping  
tent where parents, siblings spread towels, roll out  
sleeping bags & prepare food. Doug is the lone loner. Coach  
Easterling approaches, COMPLAINING LOUDLY over organization.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Mostly because I started to get  
anxious about Easterling.

Easterling enters tent, CURSING. Parents, siblings, swimmers  
all lower eyes to avoid his wrath - some parents cover the  
ears of the younger children. Doug slips out back of tent,

discovers Sue Ellen alone, in street clothes.

DOUG

Hey.

SUE ELLEN

Hey.

Doug inspects Sue Ellen, something is wrong.

DOUG

Aren't you warming up?

SUE ELLEN

I'm not swimming...

DOUG

Why not?

SUE ELLEN

Mom said I couldn't.

DOUG

Then why did she drive you all the way down here?

SUE ELLEN

She has friends here she's seeing.

DOUG

Yea, but....

Sue Ellen's grimace told Doug this was a painful topic.

DOUG

The Martinson's brought a heap of hot dogs, they'll be cooking them up in a minute, you want one?

Sue Ellen nods 'no', stares into space blankly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I knew that look. I knew she and her mom didn't get along...

Doug sits down next to her, stares blankly into space too.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...at this moment I realized someone else may had to deal with the kind of home life I had with Curtis.

MEET DIRECTOR  
 (over microphone)  
 First call, men's four hundred IM,  
 report to the waiting area!

Doug reacts to the call, but remains next to Sue Ellen.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 That summer, my thirteenth year,  
 two things suggested I was a man.

CLOSE UP on Sue Ellen.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 First, I had feelings for a woman  
 that I never had before, to the  
 point where I didn't know whether  
 or not I was even supposed to feel  
 such desire for someone.

MEET DIRECTOR  
 (over microphone)  
Second call, men's four hundred IM,  
 report to the waiting area!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 I not only yearned for her, wanted  
 to be with her, but I wanted to  
protect her, protect her from the  
 kind of pain I was growing up with.

Doug sees Easterling stomping towards the tent from pool.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 And second, in swimming, I was no  
 longer swimming in age groups. I  
 was at a senior open, with just one  
 level of competition...the men's.

MEET DIRECTOR  
 (over microphone)  
Last call, men's four hundred IM,  
 report to the waiting area!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 It was this meet that I truly  
 thought of myself as a man.

Easterling sees Doug standing up, turns back to pool. Doug  
 loosens up, prepares for his race, remains by Sue Ellen.

DOUG  
 I gotta go.

SUE ELLEN

Good luck.

Doug trots to waiting area just in time as other swimmers head to starting blocks, he follows. Stepping on the blocks, Doug glances back to Sue Ellen, who is no longer there.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That was the last time I ever saw Sue Ellen, she never came to a practice, or a meet, after that.

MUSIC: LITTLE HONDA (The Hondells)

STARTER

(over microphone)

Swimmers! Take your mark!

All swimmers on the blocks come down & hold. There is some degree of quiet around the pool.....BANG! Swimmers DIVE, glide, break water swimming butterfly. POV Doug, who with each breath sees RICHARD QUICK next to him.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

At that point in my career the best swimmer I ever saw was Richard Quick, who was a star swimmer at Highland Park High School in Dallas, and later at SMU.

Doug swims neck & neck with Quick on the butterfly leg of the first lap, both already pulling away from the others.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Richard and I became good friends later on...

Doug touches first on the butterfly leg, switches over to backstroke. Quick follows appearing shocked being behind. Easterling goes crazy at pool's edge, SHOUTING Doug on.

EASTERLING

GO...! Go...! Go god da...!  
(Starter flashes look of concern)  
Guu...Go...! Go...!

Doug turns from backstroke to breaststroke, still ahead. Swimmers from Ft.Worth at the far end crowd by Doug's lane, Dallas swimmers crowd by Quick's, both groups SCREAMING & CHEERING their colleague on. Quick gains on breaststroke.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

It was about now I usually wished  
my breaststroke was a bit better.

Quick passes Doug on the breaststroke turn, Easterling goes BALLISTIC, throws his clipboard at unsuspecting spectators, meet officials run up, step inbetween, stopping a fistfight. Quick maintains his lead through the freestyle part of race.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Richard was a full three years  
older than me, so that took some of  
the sting out of getting beat.

Quick touches first, Doug finishes a few strokes later.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The other thing that softened the  
agony was getting a medal.

EXT. AWARDS PRESENTATION, TRINITY POOL, SAN ANTONIO - DAY

Doug on the victory blocks being awarded medal around neck.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

It was a medal for second place,  
but it was the biggest medal I had  
ever won, or ever seen, in my life.

EXT. CURTIS' HOUSE - FORT WORTH - NIGHT

Doug leaps from station wagon full of parents, swimmers,  
runs to front door. LOCKED. Doug runs around to back.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

We didn't get home until well after  
midnight. I had to go to the  
backyard and knock on my mother's  
window to get her awake.

Betty Jane opens curtains, too exhausted to smile, her eyes  
still reflect the joy of seeing her son return home. Doug  
lifts medal from around his neck, presents to Betty Jane.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

It not only felt good to get such a  
medal, it was also some degree of  
vindication for me and Betty Jane  
that all of her efforts, sacrifice,  
working two, three jobs...

Betty Jane reaches through window, gives Doug embracing hug.



NARRATOR (O.C.)

...were going to mean something later on. What that was, we didn't know at the time. But right then and there, I knew in my heart this was going to be the thing that made her proud of me.

BETTY JANE

(sleepily, exhausted)  
My! That's a big one. I am so proud of you.

DOUG

Thank-you, mom. (pause) I love you.

BETTY JANE

I love you too, Douglas Albert.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That was the only time in my life I heard the words 'Douglas Albert' together that didn't mean I was in trouble.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NON-DESCRIPT - DAY

Awards ceremony, BOYS stands on podium for 2nd & 3rd place.

ANNOUNCER

...and in first place, with a time of 58.4, a new national AAU record, Mark Spitz!

Crowd ROARS, Spitz climbs podium with 3 other gold medals already around neck (all bigger than Doug's in previous scene) to receive his 4th gold, crowd CHEERS, APPLAUDS.

MUSIC: DANG ME (Roger Miller)

EXT. STOCKYARDS, FORTH WORTH - DAY

SUPER: 1963

Curtis, Betty Jane, & Doug in an oversized cowboy hat meander around the Forth Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, checking out exhibits, contest farm animals, & food. AUCTION!

AUCTIONEER

(in microphone)  
Hay bitta naabaa bitta naabaa sue,  
sue, naabaa fo'....(continuous)

CURTIS  
Look at the tits on that hog!

BETTY JANE  
(embarrassed)  
Curtis....

CURTIS  
What? It's just nature...

Betty Jane throws a stern look ejecting daggers from eyes.

CURTIS  
Just say'n...she was the winner,  
why look at the medal she won!

Doug lags behind taking in the various foods out on display.

CURTIS  
Doug! Looky here! This hogs got a  
medal bigger than yours!

Doug remains behind, keeping his distance.

BETTY JANE  
(to Curtis)  
Hush! Swimming is swimming, this is  
the rodeo...you can't compare.

CURTIS  
Just say'n....

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Funny when you're dealing with a  
mean alcoholic, even when they're  
happy there's always that mean  
little stab at you...

CLOSE UP on Curtis, smiling, shaking head 'yes'.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
...a teeny-tiny little stab just  
enough to keep you from being  
happy.

ANNOUNCER in distance CALLS OUT upcoming event.

CURTIS  
C'mon, let's go see the roping!

Curtis, Betty Jane turn to corral, see Doug still eyeing  
food. Betty Jane starts back to retrieve Doug.

BETTY JANE

He's hungry...

CURTIS

Go on, I'll get him some food.

Curtis turns Betty Jane, pushes her to corral.

CURTIS

We're right behind you.

Curtis trots over to Doug, points to vendor Doug is staring at. While Doug enjoys treat, Curtis buys a beer.

CURTIS

Don't tell your ma'.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

In Curtis' eyes, to drink responsibly means don't spill it.

MUSIC: CHUG-A-LUG (Roger Miller)

CURTIS

If you can't be happy, at least you can be drunk.

The contents of the bottle flowed down Curtis' throat in 4 seconds.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Philosophy. Straight from the philosopher's mouth.

DOUG

Why do you drink so much?

CURTIS

Son, I only drink a little, but when I do, I turn into another person...and that's the SOB who drinks a lot!

Curtis LAUGHS at his own joke, Doug is not amused. They rejoin Betty Jane in the stands, watch tie-down roping.

BETTY JANE

(to Doug)

Did you get something to eat?

DOUG

Yes, ma'am.

BETTY JANE  
Did you thank Curtis?

DOUG  
No, ma'am.

PAUSE. Betty Jane gives Doug a long, stern look.

DOUG  
(to Curtis)  
Thank-you, Curtis.

Curtis rises to his feet CHEERING so Doug's expression of gratitude goes unnoticed. Betty Jane deflates. Roper CALLS for calf, chute operator pulls lever. A calf runs out in a straight line.

BETTY JANE  
(to Doug)  
You tried.

Calf reaches end of rope, which falls off releasing the barrier for the horse & rider, who take off. Cowboy lassos calf, horse stops, rider dismounts, runs to calf.

CURTIS  
Go...! God...! Go on, get'em!

Cowboy reaches calf, picks up, flips on side, quickly strings three of its legs together. Throws up hands. Crowd ROARS in delight, followed by thunderous APPLAUSE.

ANNOUNCER  
Eight point two seconds!

More APPLAUSE. Cowboy takes a bow to the audience.

CURTIS  
Wow, that was pretty good!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
That was the difference between me and Curtis, well, me and a lot of people, really....

Rodeo clowns roll out for a brief skit.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Most people would see something for what it was. I saw that too, but also in terms of swimming.

Rodeo clown charges to Betty Jane, mock proposes, takes

Doug's hat, plays around with other clowns with it.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

If it took eight point two seconds  
to rope a calf, in my mind I would  
imagine what that meant in the pool  
in each one of my races.

INT. SWIMMING POOL - NON-DESCRIPT - DAY

MONTAGE -

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Then I would image how far I could  
go in eight point two seconds while  
swimming butterfly...

UNDERWATER SHOT - POV from BOTTOM of POOL of Doug swimming  
butterfly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Then I would image how far I could  
go in eight point two seconds while  
swimming backstroke...

UNDERWATER SHOT - POV from BOTTOM of POOL of Doug swimming  
backstroke.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Then I would image how far I could  
go in eight point two seconds while  
swimming breaststroke....

UNDERWATER SHOT - POV from BOTTOM of POOL of Doug swimming  
breaststroke.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Then I would image how far I could  
go in eight point two seconds while  
swimming freestyle.

UNDERWATER SHOT - POV from BOTTOM of POOL of Doug swimming  
freestyle.

END MONTAGE

EXT. STOCKYARDS, FORTH WORTH - DAY

Rodeo clowns return to Doug, places hat back on Doug's head.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Of course, that's just me.

Doug SMILES into CAMERA knowingly.

MUSIC: LAST KISS (J. Frank Wilson & the Cavaliers)

INT. CURTIS' HOUSE - NIGHT

The trio stagger into the house exhausted, Betty Jane carries popcorn tubs, Doug his prizes, & Curtis a large bottle of beer. Doug heads straight to his room, lies down.

NARRATOR(O.C.)

Now I imagine most kids after having fun all day at the rodeo would just plop down on bed and fall asleep with all the pleasant memories in mind.

SILENCE.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I didn't have that luxury.

SILENCE.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

In this house, if you ever had any amount of fun, there was bound to be some grief and misery to follow that had to go along with it.

A CRASH echoes from down the hallway, Curtis GRUMBLES....

NARRATOR (O.C.)

This house always seemed to make sure of that.

Another CRASH echoes from down the hallway, Curtis goes off on a RANT, which evolves into a TIRADE of verbal abuse. Betty Jane can be heard SOBBING. Doug lies in bed, stares out the window to the stars, he moves an arm as if swimming.

MUSIC: WISHIN AND HOPIN (Dusty Springfield)

INT. CURTIS' HOUSE - DAY

Doug wakes up to his mother sorting out his clothes, and a few school supplies.

DOUG

Morning....

BETTY JANE

Morning....

DOUG  
What's ya doing?

BETTY JANE  
Just getting your clothes 'n things  
ready for when you start school.  
(pause)  
Starting high school...that's a big  
deal.

DOUG  
(puzzled)  
School's not til next week.

BETTY JANE  
I know, but let's have you go  
through these tonight when you get  
home, see what fits and all...  
(glances down hall)  
Then we'll know if we need to get  
you anything new.  
(points to shirt)  
Does that one still fit?

DOUG  
Don't know, guess so, don't wear  
the long sleeved ones much.

BETTY JANE  
That's exactly what I mean.

Betty Jane leans in, gives Doug a hug, hands his swim suit.

DOUG  
You washed it?

BETTY JANE  
Have to some time, to get all that  
chlorine out.

DOUG  
Thank-you...

BETTY JANE  
You're welcome, now run on out, go  
play, I'm running errands all day.

Doug jets out to a pickup basketball game down the street.  
Betty Jane scans room, SIGHS. CONTPLATES. Closes eyes.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NON-DESCRIPT - DAY

Spitz swims final lap of butterfly race, finishes first.

Looks to scoreboard: 100 Butterfly: New National AAU Record

MUSIC: SHOOP SHOOP SONG - IT'S IN HIS KISS (Betty Everett)

EXT. CURTIS' HOUSE - FORT WORTH - NIGHT

Doug walks up to house from bus stop. A fully loaded pick-up truck is parked out front. Betty Jane walks out of the house carrying a box, puts into back of truck.

BETTY JANE  
(surprised but tender)  
Douglas Albert...!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
There goes that name again...some  
thing serious was up, but I could  
tell I wasn't the one in trouble.

Betty Jane puts a box in bed of the truck, UNCLE LARRY (30's)  
appears from the other side with tie-down rope & canvass.

DOUG  
Uncle Larry!

LARRY  
(business-like)  
Doug...nice to see you.

Betty Jane gives Doug a LONG, welcoming hug.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Now I didn't know what was going  
on, but I knew right then something  
was, and whatever it was, it was  
going to cause some big changes in  
my life.

DOUG  
We going somewhere?

BETTY JANE  
Yes, dear.

DOUG  
Where?

BETTY JANE  
Back to Midland.

Doug looks to Uncle Larry, who shakes head "YES".



DOUG  
 (shocked)  
 But...

BETTY JANE  
 Yes...?

Doug looks around, thinks a moment, looks at house.

DOUG  
 I...

MONTAGE

- Doug swimming at Panther Boys Club
- Doug talking with a group of swimmers at meet
- Easterling YELLS at Doug at practice
- Doug & Betty Jane at park
- Doug wins a race

- END MONTAGE

DOUG  
 Nuth'en.

BETTY JANE  
 It's just getting to be too much.

DOUG  
 Yes, ma'am.

Uncle Larry signals all is ready. Betty Jane puts a key, a note, & a ring in an envelope, slips under front door. All pile into the cab of the truck. Larry turns on radio - MUSIC: THE WANDERER (Dion). Doug stares at front door.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 I used to dream about leaving this house...

Truck STARTS, drives off. Doug still stares at house.

BETTY JANE  
 (noticing Doug)  
 Just think of this as us turning a new page...a new chapter in life...

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Turning a new page? This was more like throwing the entire book out  
 (MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

the window.

Doug watches the skyline of Forth Worth disappear.

NARRATOR

Where was I going to swim now? Who would my coach be? This was the difficult thing for me, leaving Panther Boys Club and for better or worse, Don Easterling.

FOLLOW truck down highway into a sea of night stars.

MUSIC: DOWNTOWN (Petula Clark)

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - MIDLAND - DAY

Pick-up pulls in front of Grandma's house, Grandma steps up from rocking chair, Doug runs to her. Betty Jane, Uncle Larry give a nod of understanding to Grandma, who responds back in kind.

GRANDMA

You want to get an ice cream?

DOUG

Sure.

Grandma, Doug walk off towards downtown, Betty Jane & Uncle Larry begin unloading the truck.

GRANDMA

Heard you're doing a lot.

DOUG

Well, yes, last week I had to swim over eight thousand...

GRANDMA

Doug...

DOUG

Ma'am...?

GRANDMA

Home. Life.

DOUG

Oh...yeah...that...

GRANDMA

Don't want to talk about it?

DOUG  
Don't have anything to say.

GRANDMA  
Because you don't know what to say?

Doug slows to a stop. THINKS. Grandma puts arm round Doug.

GRANDMA  
You know if you needed to talk...  
talk about anything, you can always  
come to me.

DOUG  
Yes, Ma'am.

Both start walking, Grandma stares intensely at Doug.

GRANDMA  
You don't have anything to say?

DOUG  
About what?

GRANDMA  
About living in Fort Worth.

DOUG  
No, ma'am.

GRANDMA  
(looks to sky, to self)  
Now I wonder why that is...

DOUG  
(to Grandma)  
'Cause I don't live there no more.

Grandma LAUGHS, they both continue downtown with  
INDISTINGUISHED conversation, LAUGHTER, JOKING.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
That was the first time I ever  
pulled one over my grandmother. She  
was right, though, I didn't know  
what to say about Ft. Worth.

MUSIC: THE BOY FROM NEW YORK CITY (The Ad Libs)

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY

Doug walks down the hallway, some students stop, stare,  
vaguely recognizing him from the past. Some wave with a

"Hey, long time no see!" energy, some wonder how they remember him. Five swimmers catch up, surround Doug.

MHS SWIMMER #1  
You're going here now?

DOUG  
That's right.

MHS SWIMMER #2  
What about Fort Worth?

DOUG  
What about it?

MHS SWIMMER #2  
You were swimming for Panther.

DOUG  
Well, swimming here now.

MHS Swimmers CHATTER over times, strokes, & relay splits.

MHS SWIMMER #3  
Hot dog, we have a relay now!

MUSIC: DOO WAH DIDDY DIDDY (Manfred Mann)

Doug sees a MYSTERIOUS GIRL down the hall. Doug FREEZES, SCANS every part of her & watches her every move.

MHS Swimmer's excited talk of times, splits, & races BLEND from INDISTINGUSIHED CHATTER to the SOUND of Doug's HEARTBEAT, which increases in RATE as she walks by.

MHS SWIMMER #1  
(for second, third time)  
Doug.....Doug!

DOUG  
(re-entering world)  
Huh?

MHS SWIMMER #2  
Whatta go in the hundred Fly now?

DOUG  
Under a minute.

MHS Swimmers BUZZ with excitement. Doug watches the Mysterious Girl disappear down the hallway, HEARTBEAT returns to normal. Doug rejoins CONVERSATION & excitement of MHS Swimmers. BELL RINGS, they slowly break up to class.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That was the first time in my life  
someone had me stop thinking about  
swimming.

MUSIC: HANKY PANKY (Tommy James & the Shondells)

EXT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL, GIRL'S GYM - DAY

SCHOOL BELL releases students from school. Swimmer #2 acts  
as lookout while students spill out of the building.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Most Midland High School sports  
teams had seventh period PE.

Swimmer #2 looks to Doug, other swimmers waiting in gym.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The swim team had to practice after  
school.

Rush of students leaving school thins out, groups of girls  
gossiping & basketball players bouncing balls linger.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The high school's pool was an  
extension of the girl's gym and  
locker room.

Swimmer #2 signals rest of swimmers to get ready.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

This required us to run from the  
boy's gym across campus to the pool  
in just our nylon briefs and towel  
thrown over our shoulder.

Swimmer #2 SIGNALS rest of swimmers to "GO", all except  
Doug, make a mad dash to the pool. Girls GAWK, GIGGLE,  
POINT, basketball players throw basketballs at the running  
swimmers.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Personally, I didn't know what was  
worse, having the girls stare, or  
having basketballs thrown at you.

Doug casually walks out of boy's gym in street clothes.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

It didn't take me long to figure  
out I would just wear my swim suit

(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

under my clothes all day, and take  
off my shirt and pants by the pool.

Doug catches thrown basketball, shoots ball, makes basket.  
Mysterious Girl, talking with a group of girls off in the  
distance, LAUGHS, Doug notices her out corner of his eye.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That pretty much put an end to any  
more public embarrassment.

Doug turns to look directly at Mysterious Girl, she sees him  
& turns away, talks to other girl in the group.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That ritual would continue all the  
way through my college days.

Doug, other swimmers limber up by pool, basketball players  
return to practicing, most groups of girls disperse. Doug  
looks around for Mysterious Girl. Fleeting GLIMPSES of her  
off in the distance...or was it his IMAGINATION. WHISTLE.

COACH FOGELSONG

Five hundred warm-up!

Some swimmers dive in the water, others horse play. Doug  
prepares to swim, gets goggles, takes off shirt...

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Of course there were occasions when  
Betty Jane washed my suit...

Doug pulls down pants revealing his underwear.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...which was just trading one  
embarrassment for another.

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE,  
HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM.

MUSIC: WHITER SHADE OF PALE (Procol Harum)

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Doug, Betty Jane, Grandma eat dinner, DISCUSS the day.

GRANDMA

...and school?

DOUG

(defensive)

(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)

I went.

BETTY JANE

You'd better, school's the most important part of your education.

DOUG

Don't worry, I'd never let school interfere with my education.

GRANDMA

(confused, but supportive)

Of course you won't, and it doesn't matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That's what I loved about my grandmother, she instinctively knew that an education of the mind without educating the heart is really no education at all.

BETTY JANE

If only the teachers can find a way to have him remember what's taught.

GRANDMA

Kid's don't remember what you try and teach them, they remember what you are. Remember Mrs. Forrester?

BETTY JANE

My third grade teacher?

STRESSED group of people walk by Grandma's house.

GRANDMA

The same. Do you remember what she taught you?

BETTY JANE

Some reading....and math.

GRANDMA

Is that all?

BETTY JANE

I guess. That's all I can remember.

GRANDMA

What do your remember about her?

BETTY JANE

Mrs. Forrester? Oh, momma, you know how I just despised that woman! Why don't you remember when she made me clean all the erasers when...

Betty Jane continues DESCRIPTION of experiences with Mrs. Forrester, Doug notices more people walking past the house, gets up to investigate.

BETTY JANE

...and then when she had the bus driver take that wrong turn on our field trip and we didn't....

Doug looks out door, down street. Something is WRONG. People are collecting at a home several houses down. Doug shoots look of concern to Grandma, who PAUSES Betty Jane, then both ladies slowly move to door.

GRANDMA

What's going on?

DOUG

Don't know, everyone seems to be headed over to the Morales' house.

BETTY JANE

Maybe there's something everyone wants to see?

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The Morales family at the time were the only family for several blocks around that had a television set.

GRANDMA

(notices crowd gathering)  
No, this is...something's bad happened.

DOUG

Shall I go see?

BETTY JANE

Well, uh..maybe we'd better...

Doug's EAGERNESS & WILLINGNESS wins over Grandma.

GRANDMA

(looks to Betty Jane)  
Someone's got to find out, you're the man of the house now....



Betty Jane nods OK, Doug bolts over to Morales' home.

MUSIC: BLOWIN' IN THE WIND (Peter, Paul, & Mary)

More & more people collect in, around the house. A BUZZ of DISPAIR, MOANS of GRIEF. CRIES.

BETTY JANE  
 (eyes Morales' home with  
 concern)  
 What on earth is going on over  
 there?

INT. MORALES HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house is filled with people of all colors, middle class to poor. All are watching a small B&W TV screen housed in a large console that has Aztec & Mayan art on top.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 The Morales family owned a little  
 store on the outskirts of town  
 towards the railroad tracks.

MR. MORALES (50's) & daughter ANN(18) are in the kitchen where Doug slowly weaves through people to get to.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 For those of us who lived far from  
 downtown, it was the closest place  
 to walk to.

Mr. Morales, Ann prepare rolls, lemonade, & water.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 They also made their own bread, all  
 kinds of pastries, and had the best  
 kitchen in all of Midland.

MR. MORALES  
 Douglas, Douglas...

NARRATOR  
 Mr. Morales came to Midland about  
 ten years ago and became an  
 American citizen soon after, but  
 always seemed to act like no one  
 else knew that.

MR. MORALES  
 ...we are so sorry, so sorry...

DOUG

Sir?

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I was confused, no one in my family had died.

MR. MORALES

If only he could come back, even as a shadow, or as a dream...

Doug looks around. CLOSE UP on various faces in DEEP GRIEF.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Now I was getting scared, no one in town we knew could die and have all these people so shaken.

ANN

Have a roll, we'll make some for your mother and grandmother too.

DOUG

What's going on?

Mr. Morales opens his mouth to speak, breaks down crying, Anne points to the living room, Doug walks towards there.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Now the severity of the moment started to overcome me.

Doug weaves through crowded hallway & bits of CONVERSATION.

BLACK WOMAN

...he was the only one who....

UTILITIES WORKER

...no telling what the Russians...

HISPANIC MAN

...right in front of everyone...

ELDERLY WOMAN

...how horrible, utterly horrible.

Doug makes his way in the living room, manages to slide into position so he could see part of the television. On the SCREEN is Walter Cronkite (Actual Footage):

WALTER CRONKITE

...that was Eddie Barker, at our affiliate KRLD in Dallas Texas,

(MORE)

WALTER CRONKITE (CONT'D)

speaking from the room where  
President Kennedy had been  
scheduled to make an address to  
three Dallas organizations...but an  
assassin's bullet cut him down on  
his way to that meeting from the  
airport...

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I remember that moment to this day.

Doug backs away from TV, catches glimpses of screen in  
between the bodies of people glued to the set.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

My own heart - I guess like  
everyone else here - was telling me  
this was a bigger loss than what my  
mind could comprehend at the time.

Doug slowly backs out living room, stands by front door,  
observes those in living room, hallway, & kitchen.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

The biggest surprise happened after  
the shock of the news wore off.

PAN CROWD showing DIVERSITY of people gathered in home.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

With all the fears we had at the  
time...the Russians, a nuclear  
war...there was no panic at the  
Morales house that night.

PAN CROWD showing different races consoling one another.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Instead, there was a connection, a  
deep connection that flowed within  
all of us...and what's odd is that  
everyone there seemed to feel it,  
and knew everyone else felt it too.

Ann walks up to Doug with a small brown paper bag.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Maybe it takes this amount of pain  
for people to see just how much we  
all are the same, deep down inside.

ANN

For your mom & grandma.

DOUG  
Thank-you, Ann.

POV ANN: Doug heads down street, hands Grandma bag. Grandma waves to Ann, Doug TALKS to Betty Jane, who breaks down crying. Grandma stands stunned, embraces Doug & Betty Jane.

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE, HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM.

MUSIC: FIVE O'CLOCK WORLD (The Vogues)

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

One third of class is absent, HISTORY TEACHER (30's) attempts to lecture Doug & remaining students, who sit in shock, confusion, & mourning of the President's death.

HISTORY TEACHER  
Who can tell me how the French managed to turn so many Indian tribes against the British?

SILENCE

HISTORY TEACHER  
Anyone...?

SILENCE

HISTORY TEACHER  
Douglas, why don't you take a stab at it?

DOUG  
A stab, sir?

HISTORY TEACHER  
You know, attempt an answer.

DOUG  
An answer to what, sir?

HISTORY TEACHER  
Why most of the Indian tribes were against the British in the French and Indian War.

DOUG  
Because the French turned most of those tribes against them?

History Teacher drops head in EXASPERATION.

HISTORY TEACHER  
(annoyed)  
We know that.

DOUG  
Yes, sir.

HISTORY TEACHER  
(more annoyed)  
No, I mean we already knew that.

DOUG  
Yes, sir. I just said it.

HISTORY TEACHER  
(changing subject)  
Now class, one of the ways the French formed successful alliances with the tribes was by marrying into the tribe, usually a chief's daughter, and then....

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
I didn't always have the answer, but one thing I did learn in school was how to give an answer when you didn't have one.

MUSIC: SHE'S JUST MY STYLE (Gary Lewis & the Playboys)

History Teacher continues MONOTONE LECTURE, Doug sees Mysterious Girl walk by classroom door, immediately raises his hand, is ignored. Doug motions both hands mimicking a naval flag semaphore signalman to History Teacher.

HISTORY TEACHER  
(irritated)  
Yes?

DOUG  
(standing up, bouncing)  
Sir, may I....

HISTORY TEACHER  
(frustrated)  
Go ahead.

Doug bolts out door into hall. EMPTY. Doug slowly follows direction of Mysterious Girl's path, looking into each classroom door. In one door, Doug sees her writing. She looks up to teacher, notices Doug, their eyes MEET.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Now to me, love at first sight was some idea invented by one of those lady novelists from the South with three names that my mother would read....but at this moment....

Mysterious Girl gives a subtle smile, turns to her teacher giving directions. She pretends to write, gives one more glance to Doug, smiles, returns to work.

NARRATOR

...at this moment the sweetest sight to me in the whole world was just seeing that girl smile.

Doug watches her write, turn pages in book, raise her hand.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I made up my mind right then and there it was me who was gonna be the one that makes her smile.

MUSIC: SHAPE OF THINGS (The Yardbirds)

EXT. UNDER THE STARS, MORALES RANCH - NIGHT

Doug, CRAIG(16) & Morales(16)camp under trees on a hill.

MORALES

...but that's what he said.

DOUG

And how does he know?

MORALES

He works at the airport.

JIM

He saw these people?

MORALES

Saw them run down the gate, and did all heck to get on that plane. Juan drove them, he heard it too.

Doug & Craig look at one another, deciding to believe.

MORALES

It was the last flight out.

DOUG

Guess they couldn't stay one more

(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)

day?

JIM

So what about this bird they supposedly saw?

MORALES

Not a bird. A Pterodactyl.

DOUG

A Para...what?

MORALES

A Pterodactyl. A dinosaur, a flying dinosaur.

JIM

No way.

MORALES

That's what Juan said they saw.

DOUG

Your brother was there?

MORALES

Hired him as guide, had them hunting down 385...between Crane and Fort Stockton.

EXT. DIRT ROAD, OFF HIGHWAY 385 - DAY

JUAN(17) reads comic book in pick-up truck, two HUNTERS disappear into the desert heat waves. HUGE passing SHADOW darkens the sunlight while Juan reads, he looks up. NOTHING. He returns to reading.

A deer dashes by the truck, then another, then several.

PREHISTORIC CREATURE SCREAMS. GUNSHOTS.

Hunters run to truck, FRIGHTENED. Jump in truck. SCARED.

HUNTER #1

(panic, fear)

Go! Go! Go!

EXT. UNDER THE STARS, MORALES RANCH - NIGHT

JIM

No way.

MORALES

That's what Juan said.

DOUG  
Did Juan see it?

MORALES  
Not then. He just heard it.

JIM  
What'da mean, not then?

EXT. OIL FIELDS, AROUND MIDLAND, TEXAS - DAY

Juan drives up in pickup, two workers climb in, EAT.

MORALES (O.C.)  
Few months ago he was bringing his  
uncle dinner since they had to go  
overtime in the fields.

A greyish "boulder" 50 yards in front of the truck begins to  
slowly move. CLOSE-UP on WORKER #1, who takes a bite, CHEWS,  
looks up, eyes BULDGE, SWALLOWS HARD. Points to front,  
knocks over drink that SPLATTERS all over dashboard.

JUAN  
(reacts to spilled drink)  
Hey....man.....

Juan looks to Worker #1, whose face is FROZEN in FEAR, but  
still points to creature forming in the distance.

SUPER: ENGLISH SUBTITLES, DIALOGUE IN SPANISH

WORKER #1  
The Devil!

Juan's eyes follow to where Worker #1 points.

JUAN  
Holy mother of...

Huge wings appear to form out of the rock-like form, SHAKE,  
FLAP, stirring up dust. PREHISTORIC CREATURE SCREAMS.

WORKER #1  
Get out of here...!

WORKER #2  
Go! Go! Go!

Juan slams truck in reverse, speeds backwards, spewing dust.

EXT. UNDER THE STARS, MORALES RANCH

All three boys watch campfire slowly flicker down.



DOUG  
So Juan saw it?

MORALES  
Swears on our mother's grave.

JIM  
How come he never told me?

MORALES  
He won't talk about it anymore.

DOUG  
Why?

JIM  
Doesn't want people to think he's  
crazy.

MOVE OUT from campfire, PAN to around horizon.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Now we all knew Juan wasn't crazy,  
one of the most level-headed,  
trust-worthy, entrepreneur types  
you'll ever meet. But when you're  
sitting under the stars in the west  
Texas desert, where anything is  
possible, sometimes you don't know  
what to believe.

FAINT PREHISTORIC CREATURE SCREAM ECHOES from horizon.

MUSIC: LITTLE GTO (Ronny and the Daytonas)

EXT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL, PARKING LOT

During lunch, Doug steps out of building, holds out white  
shirt revealing embroidery on back, trots to '57 Chevy.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Now back then in Midland Texas, if  
you were an athlete, the next best  
thing to a letter jacket, was  
getting 'the shirt', which was like  
being in special club.

JIM(18) & Jim's GIRLFRIEND(18), step out of Chevy.

DOUG  
Give me a lift home real quick?

JIM  
Forget your lunch money again?

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Jim was the type of friend who knew I often didn't even have any lunch money, and helped me hide it... sometimes.

DOUG  
Just got my shirt...needs ironing.

JIM  
(points down street)  
We just got back from...

Girlfriend gives stern look to Jim, who heeds command to SHUT UP.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Which earned you certain privileges, like using someone's car if you didn't have one.

JIM  
(throws Doug keys)  
OK, but be careful, you know there's no insurance.

Doug starts car, drives off onto street, occasionally looking at his new shirt hanging over passenger seat.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
'Course, if you didn't have one, you weren't really used to driving one either.

CRASH!

Doug REACTS to wreck, gets out, assesses damage.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Not too many people get injured hitting a parked car, in this case, besides a bumper and door, the only thing really damaged was my pride.

Man exits house near damaged car, Doug walks to him.  
INDISTINGUISHED DISCUSSION. Man nods head understandingly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Sometimes misfortune can lead you to a new friend, in this case, it  
(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

led me to a new love.

MUSIC: HUNGRY (Paul Revere & the Raiders)

EXT - BASKETBALL COURT - STUDENT CENTER - DAY

CLOSE-UP on beautiful GIRL'S (17) face. She SMILES. MOVE-OUT to see she is watching boys play basketball. Doug throws wood from atop a truck, watches the pick-up game with ENVY.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Basketball...!

Basketball gets SLAPPED out of court, rolls towards Doug, who jumps down from truck, picks up ball. All boys wave hands to be thrown to, Doug looks at basket. BOY #1 walks towards Doug motions for ball. Doug STARES at basket.

BOY #2

(on court, half-whisper)

He's gonna shoot!

Boy #1 stops, turns to boys & basket, turns to Doug.

BOY #1

(disbelief, smirking)

No he's not.

Doug heaves the ball into the net.

BOY #1

No way!

DOUG

Way.

BOY #2

(throws Dog ball)

Do it again.

BOY #1

(intercepts ball)

Bet he can't.

Doug looks at basket, at wood on truck, then at Boy #1.

DOUG

And if I do?

BOY #1

You can play with us.

DOUG

And you can unload the truck.

Boy #1 looks at basket, at wood truck, then at Doug.

BOY #1

Deal.

Boys on court CHATTER in excitement. Boy #1 jerks, giving the appearance an attempt will be made to block the shot.

DOUG

(whispers to self)

Dear Lord, if you ever wanted to...

POV: Boys on Court. Doug heaves the shot. SLOW MOTION.

DOUG

(continues)

...do me a favor...

CLOSE-UP of ball against sky.

DOUG

(continues)

...now would be a good time as any.

Ball sinks in hook - all net. START MUSIC: WIPE OUT (Surfaris). Boys on court CHEER in wonderment, Boy #1 heatedly takes off his shirt, Doug hands over work gloves, Boy #1 irately pulls them on.

BOY #1

Lucky shot.

DOUG

(walks to court)

I know.

Doug joins in game, SHOUTS of PLAY CALLS & ENCOURAGEMENT. POV Boy #1 from atop back of pickup watches game.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Now I know what you're thinking. I got into another group but made an enemy doing it.

POV Doug to Boy #1 starting to work unloading truck.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

But that's not how people are in Midland. As long as one remains good, a little snip like that is long forgiven...and forgotten.

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE,

HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM. CAMERA follows swimmer's head breaking water, DESPERATE GASP for air as a BLUR of spectators races by, SPLISH-SPLASH...

EXT. APARTMENT POOL #1 - SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Residents relax around & inside pool. Doug, Boys quietly drive by through parking lot casing out the area.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Sometimes when you mix people from  
two sports together, you come up  
with a new one.

MUSIC: WOOLY BULLY (Sam the Sham)

Out of nowhere Doug & Boys leap from atop buildings, fences & stairs creating huge SPLASHES in the apartment pool, drenching all of the sunbathers, who REACT with DISGUST.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
When you mix basketball and  
swimming, you pretty much got our  
version of pool hopping.

EXT. APARTMENT POOL #2 - SWIMMING POOL - DAY

- Repeat of ACTIVITIES in PRIOR SCENE with VARIATIONS.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
We certainly didn't mean any harm,  
besides we'd probably never see any  
of these people again..

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB POOL #1 - SWIMMING POOL -DAY

- Repeat of ACTIVITIES in PRIOR SCENE with VARIATIONS.

- CLOSE-UP on PRETTY GIRL(16) getting SPLASHED

- SUPER: Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States

EXT. COMMUNITY CLUB #1 - SWIMMING POOL -DAY

- Repeat of ACTIVITIES in PRIOR SCENE with VARIATIONS.

- MOTHER(20's) & INFANT(2) get SPLASHED. CLOSE-UP: Infant.

- SUPER: Woody Harrelson, Oscar & Emmy nominated Actor

- CLOSE-UP on MAN(50's) getting SPLASHED

- SUPER: Tony Peyton, Harlem Globetrotter

EXT. PRIVATE HOME #1 - SWIMMING POOL -DAY

- Repeat of ACTIVITIES in PRIOR SCENE with VARIATIONS.
- CLOSE-UP on MAN(50's) getting SPLASHED
- SUPER: Curt Massey, Emmy Award Radio & TV Musician

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB POOL #2 - SWIMMING POOL -DAY

- Repeat of ACTIVITIES in PRIOR SCENE with VARIATIONS.
- CLOSE-UP on PRETTY GIRL(13) getting SPLASHED
- SUPER: Kathy Baker, Emmy & Golden Globe winning Actress
- CLOSE-UP on PRETTY GIRL(18) getting SPLASHED
- SUPER: Judy Rankin, Hall of Fame Golfer, TV Golf Analyst

EXT. COMMUNITY CLUB #2 - SWIMMING POOL -DAY

- Repeat of ACTIVITIES in PRIOR SCENE with VARIATIONS.
- CLOSE-UP on Boy(17) getting SPLASHED, who throws book
- SUPER: Tommy Lee Jones, Academy Award Winning Actor
- HUGE MAN(25) get SPLASHED, who SCOWLS, RISES to Boys.
- SUPER: Wahoo McDaniel, 5-time National Wrestling Champion

Huge Man chases boys out of swimming pool, through parking lot, where they barely pile in car in time & escape.

MUSIC: GOOD LOVIN' (The Young Rascals)

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL - COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

SWIM COACH(30's) enters office, BASKETBALL COACH(30's) continues writing, doesn't look up.

BASKETBALL COACH  
Go away, coach.

SWIMMING COACH  
Now just a second...

BASKETBALL COACH  
Go away, coach.

SWIMMING COACH  
Ya can't take away my All American.

BASKETBALL COACH  
 (stops writing, looks up)  
 I ain't taking him away, he wants  
 to play, all on his own.

SWIMMING COACH  
 Coach, you can't...

BASKETBALL COACH  
 He made the team, coach, all on his  
 own...you know damn well I don't  
 have favorites.

SWIMMING COACH  
 That's not the point.

BASKETBALL COACH  
 What is the point, coach?

SWIMMING COACH  
 The best interest of the kid.

BASKETBALL COACH  
 Yep, the best interest of the kid.

SWIMMING COACH  
 He's a swimmer, coach.

BASKETBALL COACH  
 Who wants to play basketball.

SWIMMING COACH  
 (holds fingers apart)  
 Who's this close to a world record.

BASKETBALL COACH  
 (pretends to hold ball)  
 Who doesn't give up the ball.

SWIMMING COACH  
 (leans in)  
 Can easily get a scholarship.

BASKETBALL COACH  
 (leans in)  
 Can easily get a scholarship.

SWIMMING COACH  
 (turns, exists)  
 We'll see what his mama says...

BASKETBALL COACH  
 (mutters to self)  
 (MORE)

## BASKETBALL COACH (CONT'D)

She'll say what all mothers say.

Basketball Coach takes long look at schedule on wall, returns to writing. RUCKUS SOUNDS burst from down the hall, other COACHES run by to break it up.

## NARRATOR (O.C.)

I never had such a hard choice in my life. It didn't seem to be my own decision, 'cause it seemed to affect nearly everyone around me.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - NON-DESCRIPT - DAY

Spitz finishes swimming freestyle, several body lengths ahead of nearest competitor. SCOREBOARD: Lane 4 - 4:10.6

## TV ANNOUNCER #1

Spitz wins the four hundred free with a new world record...!

## TV ANNOUNCER #2

Incredible! And he still has another year of high school ahead of him!

INT. MOVIE THEATER (DESERTED) - EMPTY OFFICE - NIGHT

BEAMS from flashlights rummage through left items scattered all over the floor. Boy #1 picks up circular metal disk.

## NARRATOR (O.C.)

Little did I know a movie would sort of make that decision for me.

Boy #1 pulls out movie reel from case, pulls out strip of film, views through flashlight. His face, eyes open WIDE.

## BOY #1

Jesus....!

MUSIC: JUDY IN DISGUISE (John Fred & his Playboys)

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

PREACHER'S SON(16) makes out with GIRL(16) in back pew. PHONE RINGS twice in office nearby, then stops. Preacher's Son stops, gets up, heads to office. Girl reacts as if insulted.

## GIRL

That's just a wrong number.



PREACHER'S SON  
Two rings is for me.

GIRL  
What...?

PREACHER'S SON  
One more...

PHONE RINGS again, Preacher's Son immediately answers.

PREACHER'S SON  
Here.

PHONE  
EXCITED INDISTINGUSIHABLE TALK

PREACHER'S SON  
What...?

PHONE  
EXCITED INDISTINGUSIHABLE TALK

PREACHER'S SON  
When...?

PHONE  
EXCITED INDISTINGUSIHABLE TALK

PREACHER'S SON  
Where...?

PHONE  
EXCITED INDISTINGUSIHABLE TALK

PREACHER'S SON  
Now...?

PHONE  
EXCITED INDISTINGUSIHABLE TALK

Preacher's Son opens closet, looks in, shifts boxes.

PREACHER'S SON  
Yea, its here.

PHONE  
EXCITED INDISTINGUSIHABLE TALK

PREACHER'S SON  
Now...???

PHONE  
EXCITED INDISTINGUSIHABLE TALK

PREACHER'S SON  
 Alright, I'll bring it...

Preacher's Son hangs up, pulls large case out of closet.

GIRL  
 Bring what....?

PREACHER'S SON  
 Nothing.

GIRL  
 Looks pretty big to me.

Preacher's Son walks past Girl, heads to door.

GIRL  
 (shocked)  
 Where are you going?

PREACHER'S SON  
 (SHOUTS while exiting)  
 To the movies.

MUSIC: (DOWN AT) PAPA JOE'S (Dixiebelles with Cornbread & Jerry)

EXT. HOME OF BOY #1 - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Several bikes, scooters, & cars are parked in front. Doug & several Boys exit car as Preacher's Son drives up.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Before the internet, the way you  
 found out what's going on was by  
 someone's front yard.

INT. HOME OF BOY #1 - DEN - NIGHT

Boys prepare room for a crowd, arranging chairs, icing beer, raise sheet up on wall. Preacher's Son brings in, opens case & prepares wires. Other kids arrive at house, ROWDILY enter.

BOY #1  
 (scans room)  
 Who'd you tell?

BOY #2  
 Everyone.

INT. NEIGHBOR'S HOME ACROSS STREET - WINDOW - NIGHT

WOMAN NEIGHBOR(40+) peers out window, lifts phone, DIALS.

WOMAN NEIGHBOR

Nel? Get me the Cattlemen's Club...  
please. (pause) Mildred? I believe  
Mr. Thorton is at your banquet?  
(pause) Yes, please.

Woman Neighbor pulls curtain open a little wider.

WOMAN NEIGHBOR

Mr. Thorton? I'm so sorry to  
disturb y'all's banquet, but I think  
you'd better get home. Uh huh. Yes.  
Right away.

THORTON (ON PHONE)

INDISTINGUISHED QUESTIONING

WOMAN NEIGHBOR

I have no idea what's going on, but  
I've been on this earth long enough  
to know trouble when I see it...and  
I'm looking at it right now.

POV WOMAN NEIGHBOR: Fifty or so cars are now parked all up &  
down the street, more cars drive up, turn, at intersection.

INT. HOME OF BOY #1 - DEN - NIGHT

In a tux, MR. THORTON enters den where everyone is watching  
a film on the makeshift screen. Several of the kids scurry  
out of the den, Doug & others merely sit frozen. Mr. Thorton  
looks at the images on the screen, bites his lip.

BOY #1

Dad...

Mr. Thorton scans the room, eyeballing everyone, watches  
some more of the film, then follows the light beam to the  
huge projector, still HUMMING in operation.

MR. THORTON

Where did you get this?

PREACHER'S SON

Sir, the Lord provided this.

PHONE RINGS. Boy #1 hesitates to answer, finally does.

BOY #1

Thorton residence. (pause) Yes sir.  
(looks to father) For you dad.

MR. THORTON  
 Thorton here. (pause) WHAT?  
 Alright, on my way.

Mr. Thorton SLAMS down phone, starts taking off his tux.

MR. THORTON  
 (to Boy #1)  
 Well's out on the north 40, get  
 my tools into my truck.

BOY #1  
 Yes, sir.

Mr. Thorton looks around the room, at screen, a final time.

MR. THORTON  
 (to all remaining)  
 We'll talk about this later.

Mr. Thorton heads to his room to change, Boy #1 looks to remaining boys, NODS to clean up the room, all snap to work.

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL, SWIMMING POOL - DAY

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE, HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM. CAMERA follows swimmer's head breaking water, DESPERATE GASP for air as a BLUR of three figures race by, SPLISH-SPLASH...

Doug swims with others on the team at practice, Betty Jane sits with Swim, Basketball Coaches, TALKING adamantly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Luckily we didn't get chewed out  
 that night from Mr. Thorton, but  
 that didn't stop word getting out  
 all over town...and to Betty Jane.

Somehow that movie and basketball  
 were one and the same in Betty  
 Jane's eyes, so it was pretty clear  
 swimming was going to be my sport  
 from then on.

MUSIC: LIL RED RIDING HOOD (Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs)

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL - COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

Doug walks down hall, boys are lined up waiting to enter office where DOC DODSON(50's) examines BOY#1(16) inside.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

If you had any ache or pain, Doc  
Dodson was who you saw.

Boy#1 exits, Doug cuts through door opposite the line.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

He was also where anyone could go  
to anytime and talk about other  
troubles too.

DOC

(scolding)

Go stand in line like everyone  
else!

Doug returns to hallway, starts to end of line, sees  
Mysterious Girl walk down other hall. Doug hesitates.

- FLASHBACK

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL, LUNCHROOM - DAY

Doug eyes Mysterious Girl getting lunch while eating with  
Jim, Morales & other friends at other end of lunchroom.  
Morales notices where Doug stares & Doug is not eating.

MORALES

Her name is Susie.

DOUG

How do you know?

JIM

The Morales' know everything that  
goes on in this town.

DOUG

(returns staring)

I just love looking at her.

JIM & MORALES

(together)

We know.

DOUG

I'm going to meet her some day.

END FLASHBACK

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL - COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

Doug, tense, sits talking with Doc Dodson in office.

DOC  
...the best thing you can do is the  
right thing, next best is the wrong  
thing, and the worst thing you can  
do is nothing.

DOUG  
Well, I plan to do something.

DOC  
Good. Now just don't be in a bad  
mood when you do.

DOUG  
I'm not in a bad mood...

DOC  
Your face says otherwise.

Doug changes his facial expression.

DOUG  
I want to do both.

DOC  
Then do both.

DOUG  
I don't think they'll let me.

DOC  
Then don't think, make sure.

DOUG  
And if I can only do one?

DOC  
Then you be the one who makes that  
decision.

Doug looks out the window, lost & indecisive.

DOUG  
My mind says swim, it's what I'm  
best at, but my heart says  
basketball, it's what I enjoy.

DOC  
It's not hard to make decisions  
when you know your values.

DOUG  
Huh?

DOC

Values. Is happiness now most important for your life, do you value seeing what you're best at later?

DOUG

I don't know what I'm best at...

DOC

None of us do, until we do it.

DOUG

That's the problem, I want to do both.

DOC

A problem is a chance life offers to do your best...even if the problem is the choice.

Doug returns to staring out the window.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Like so many other areas in life, it came down to a choice.

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE, HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM. CAMERA follows swimmer's head breaking water, DESPERATE GASP for air as a BLUR of spectators races by, SPLISH-SPLASH...

MUSIC: HEART FULL OF SOUL (The Yardbirds)

EXT. OUTDOOR POOL CHICAGO - DAY

National Championship meet buzzing with hundreds of swimmers, coaches, spectators. Television cameras.

SUPER: National AAU Championships

Doug, other swimmers take their marks, STARTING GUN FIRES.

TV ANNOUNCER #1 (O.C.)

...and we're off for the finals of the 400 yard Individual Medley.

NARRATOR

I knew I wasn't going to win or even place in this event, but with TV cameras around, I wanted at least to get noticed or even mentioned on national television.

TV ANNOUNCER #2 (O.C.)  
 Each swimmer will swim all four  
 strokes in this grueling race,  
 starting with butterfly as you see  
 now, then backstroke, breaststroke,  
 and finishing with freestyle.

Doug leads by several body lengths at Butterfly leg.

TV ANNOUNCER #1  
 And at the turn is (PAPER RATTLES)  
 Douglas...Russell, from Panther  
 Boy's Club, getting a huge lead.

TV ANNOUNCER #2  
 Yes, he'll need to pace himself now  
 for the rest of the race.

Doug swims backstroke with no sign of letting up.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Butterfly and backstroke were my  
 specialities, so I was going to get  
 the biggest lead I could...

Doug's has half a pool length lead at end of backstroke.

TV ANNOUNCER #1  
 This is incredible, this kid from  
 Texas is under world record pace by  
 almost six seconds!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 ...because I couldn't swim breast  
 stroke worth a lick.

Doug, exhausted, swims breaststroke painfully slow, rest of  
 the field easily catches up, pass Doug this leg.

TV ANNOUNCER #1  
 Looks like our Texas representative  
 took it out a bit fast.

Doug holds his own on freestyle, but comes in last.

INT. POOL LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Easterling enters, Doug sits on bench, exhausted.

EASTERLING  
 What the hell was that?

Easterling throws stopwatch against wall, SHATTERING it to



pieces. Other swimmers look at each other, slowly walk out.

EASTERLING

The way you swim reflects on me!

DOUG

Was seeing if I could go all out  
for two hundred.

EASTERLING

What?

DOUG

I've a chance in the 200...wanted  
to see if I could go 200 all out.

Easterling throws towel at Doug's face. Walks out.

EASTERLING

Well..you did it...in embarrassing  
fashion.

NARRATOR(O.C.)

Maybe, but I was going to make the  
Olympic Team...in my own fashion.

MUSIC: JUST LIKE ME (Paul Revere & the Raiders)

EXT. OUTDOOR POOL CHICAGO - DAY

National Championship meet buzzing with hundreds of  
swimmers, coaches, spectators. Television cameras.

SUPER: Two days later...

POV Doug, by the block, sees other swimmers stretch, bounce,  
get ready to race. PAN to other end of the pool

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I saw this race over a hundred  
times in my mind these past days.

STARTER

Swimmers, take your marks!

Doug, other swimmers, step up to blocks, shake, stretch.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I knew in my mind and my heart, I  
was going to swim my best race.

STARTER

Set!

Swimmers slowly come down together. GUN FIRES. All dive.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I was going to make it on the  
United States Olympic team.

Doug swims at steady pace, leads a little after the  
butterfly leg. Leads a little more after backstroke.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

All I had to do was stay with the  
leader after breaststroke.

Doug holds his own in the breaststroke leg, one catches up  
during most of the race.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

All I had to do was finish in the  
top three, and I had my ticket to  
the Tokyo Olympics.

One more passes Doug just before the turn from breastroke to  
freestyle. Doug holds his position on the final lap,  
finishes third. Easterling bounces up & down in total joy. A  
lane judge walks up to Doug as he climbs out of pool.

LANE JUDGE

Lane five. You have an illegal turn  
from backstroke to breastroke.

DOUG

What?

LANE JUDGE

(writing on card)

Backstroke to breaststroke. You're  
disqualified.

Doug looks at Easterling still celebrating.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

This was the worst moment in my  
swimming career.

MUSIC: BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY (Frankie Valli & the 4 Seasons)

MOVE OUT. Doug walks over to the elated Easterling. Doug  
puts his head down in shame, speaks.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Not just that I got disqualified,  
but I had to tell Don Easterling

(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

that I got disqualified.

Easterling freezes, looks around, SHOUTS at Doug. Throws stopwatch on pool deck; looks of total SHOCK on faces of parents, coaches, swimmers nearby, who slowly begin to move away from Easterling, who goes into total HYSTERICS.

EXT. DOWNTOWN MIDLAND - YUCCA THEATER - DAY

Doug, Morales, & Jim walk to theater, Jim notices something down the street, nudges Doug & Morales who then look up ahead to where Jim points. All three come to a dead stop.

DOUG

Who is it?

MORALES

Shhhhh...!

JIM

Probably old man Miller.

MORALES

Shhhh....!

A funeral procession passes by the boys, who stand quietly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Now I'm going to have to tell you something about Midland that you probably are not going to see anywhere else.

Funeral procession passes by high school, football players on practice field remove helmets, take a knee.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

And that's people in this town respect one another.

Funeral procession proceeds down city streets, cars pull over & stop to allow the funeral to proceed.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

A type of respect shown even to those we didn't know.

Funeral procession enters graveyard, sheriff & several deputies leading the procession park at entrance, step out of squad cars, remove their hats & stand at attention.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

To say you were from Midland united  
(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

each of us in a special way, and we  
all felt a oneness from that..

MOVE OUT of graveyard to AERIAL SHOT of City of Midland.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...yet at the same time each one of  
use was given respect no matter who  
they were, or what part of town  
they lived.

MUSIC: YOU REALLY GOT ME (The Kinks)

INT. MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL, SWIMMING POOL - DAY

High school swim meet: Swimmers, parents, students & cheer  
leaders crowd around the pool, CHEER. Several members of  
the band BEAT DRUMS, SOUND HORNS in a light version of the  
school song. Doug gets on blocks, sees SUSIE in stands.

STARTER

Swimmers take your marks!

Doug false starts, swims down to where Susie & her friends  
sit, slowly climbs out, staring at Susie the entire process.

DOUG

(to Susie)

This is for you.

Susie's friends GASP, Susie allows a tiny smile break out.

CROWD, SWIMMERS

C'mon Doug! OTHER SHOUTS of  
ENCOURAGEMENT. CHEERS.

Doug trots to blocks, swimmers again set, GUN FIRES,  
Swimmers dive in. POV DOUG: Every breath taken FOCUS on  
Susie, alternate - Water. Susie. Water. Susie. etc

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I'd never been more motivated in my  
life to win a race.

Freestyle flip turn, on the return lap - POV DOUG: Every  
breath taken FOCUS on Susie, alternate - Water. Susie. etc

Doug wins by several body lengths. ERUPTION of CHEERS.

ANNOUNCER

A new school, pool, and state  
record!

Other swimmers get ready, swim other events. Doug gets in warm-up, looks to Susie, who returns look with a smile.

MORALES

(notices eye contact)

Don't just stand there, go talk to her.

DOUG

But I....

MORALES

Go, man, can't you see? She wants to talk to you.

MUSIC: I'M INTO SOMETHING GOOD (Herman's Hermits)

Doug slowly walks down pool, cheers for team mate in water, ends up by Susie as race is over. The CONVERSATION finally starts. Morales smiles, looks to Jim who also notices & smiles back to Morales - they both give Doug a thumbs up.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Doug & Jim stand by a door near the alter waiting in an empty church. Doug is nervous, Jim looks at watch.

JIM

They're late.

DOUG

Why's we have to meet here?

JIM

Cause that's the only way Jan could bring Susie...you want to see her today, right?

DOUG

Sure.

Outside doors OPEN, FOOTSTEPS echo down the hall.

JIM

Finally...

Jim opens the door. POV JIM: PRIEST (50') walks down hallway. Jim bolts under covered alter, motions Doug to follow. Doug makes it in just as Priest opens door. Jim & Doug hold still with all effort to be silent.

PRIEST

(loudly)

(MORE)

PRIEST (CONT'D)

Jesse?

JESSE(20ish) runs down hall, pokes head through door.

PRIEST

We'll need more water.

Jesse nods & disappears. Priest prepares baptism service, several families enter the church. Jim & Doug notice Morales as part of the congregation, unsuccessfully try to get his attention. MUSIC: CHURCH ORGAN. The baptism service begins.

JAN(17)& Susie arrive, peer through door, Doug lifts table cloth, waves to get their attention. Susie gives Doug an odd look, both Jim & Doug shrug their shoulders. Morales notices the girls 'talking' to the empty alter & exits side door.

Morales joins girls, sees Doug & Jim hiding under alter.

MORALES

(whispering)

What are you doing?

Doug & Jim try to tell story with hands unsuccessfully.

MORALES

You know, I like you guys...but  
you weren't invited.

Doug & Jim again motion as a plea for help to get out.  
Morales motions he doesn't understand.

MORALES

I have to go, (points) my nephew,  
Jerry.

Morales returns the way he came, rejoins service, picks up JERRY(infant) for priest to perform blessing. CLOSE-UP: Baby Jerry. Doug & Jim become exasperated, look longingly to Jan & Susie who shrug shoulders, turn and then walk off.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Sometimes first dates just don't  
work out.

MUSIC: SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER (Happenings)

EXT. MIDLAND BUS STATION - DAY

Doug, Jim, Morales, Betty Jane, Susie & several others say their GOOD-BYES to Doug who gets on bus which reads Dallas - Ft. Worth in destination window. GREAT SADNESS by all.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Going off to college was the  
 biggest mix of feelings I ever  
 encountered in life.

CLOSE UP on Betty Jane.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 I had to leave my biggest supporter  
 who meant the world to me.

CLOSE UP on University of Texas at Arlington material.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 On the other hand I had to go on to  
 the next step of my life.

CLOSE UP on Susie.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 But the difficult thing was to be  
 separated from one before I really  
 understood what they meant to me.

Jim, Morales, others crowd around Doug giving their final  
 hugs and good-byes.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Then its always difficult leaving  
 your best friends...

INT. BUS - DAY

Doug looks out the window as Midland disappears behind him.  
 He goes through his UTA packet, opens a letter on University  
 of Texas at Arlington letterhead & READS:

EASTERLING (O.C.)  
 I'm offering you a full four year  
 scholarship. Report to the  
 University of Texas at Arlington  
 pool, June 15th at 4:00 pm for  
 practice.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 That was pure Easterling.

MUSIC: LAST TRAIN TO CLARKSVILLE (The Monkees)

EXT. ARLINGTON BUS STATION - DAY

Doug gets off bus with suitcase & backpack. Searches around  
 bus station, goes to information & ticket counter, where

CLERK (40's) reads newspaper.

DOUG  
Pardon me.

CLERK  
Hrmmmp...?

DOUG  
Can you tell me where the  
University is?

CLERK  
Arlington State?

DOUG  
The University of Texas at  
Arlington.

CLERK  
Oh...yea...(points) Straight down  
this road three miles, it's on your  
left. Can't miss it.

DOUG  
Thank-you, sir.

Doug lifts his suitcase, realizes how heavy it is.

DOUG  
Sir?

CLERK  
Yes?

DOUG  
Is there a place where I can store  
this for a while?

CLERK  
(points)  
Some coin lockers over there.

Doug remains standing, SILENT. Clerk goes back to reading newspaper. Notices Doug still standing in front of him.

CLERK  
Coin lockers...over there.

DOUG  
Yes sir. Is there another place I  
can store this for a while?



Clerk looks around, eyes Doug from head to toe.

CLERK

How long you gonna be?

DOUG

I'll come back right after swim practice.

CLERK

(points to opening by his window)

Slip it through there. I'm here until midnight.

DOUG

(does so)

Yes, sir, thank-you sir.

Clerk acknowledges a 'you're welcome', Doug trots off down the street.

MUSIC: SUNSHINE SUPERMAN (Donovan)

EXT. ARLINGTON STREET - DAY

In sweltering heat, Doug trudges down street with backpack. Sees a 10 meter diving platform, picks up pace to pool.

EXT. ARLINGTON OUTDOOR POOL - DAY

Doug runs into pool area exhausted. Swimmers swim laps as Easterling runs workouts. Doug slowly walks up to Easterling, who half-way glances at Doug.

EASTERLING

(coldly)

You're late. Get in. Five hundred warm-up.

Doug takes off T-shirt & shorts revealing swimsuit underneath, jumps into pool & swims off.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That was pure Easterling.

MONTAGE:

MUSIC: DIRTY WATER (Standells)

SUPER: 1966 NCAA National Championships

Doug swims various strokes & races in college, SHOW SCOREBOARD & TIMES at the end of each race.

SUPER: 1967 NCAA National Championships

Doug swims various strokes & races in college, SHOW SCOREBOARD & TIMES at the end of each race.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

I loved college, for one, if you're one of the best in the USA, you're pretty much going to be one of the best in the world, too.

SUPER: 1967 World Student Games - Tokyo, Japan

- Doug finishes backstroke, SHOW 59.5 - WORLD RECORD
- Doug finishes butterfly, SHOW 56.3 - WORLD RECORD

FADE TO BLACK.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

And it was at the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg that I first felt like I was one of the best in the world.

MUSIC: I'M A BELIEVER (Monkees)

FADE IN

EXT. WINNIPEG HOTEL ENTRANCE - DAY

COACH GUS STAGER (40's) GREETES & WELCOMES Doug who exits bus in high top tennis shoes, 'flood' pants, & old T-Shirt. Some INDISTINGUISHED CONVERSATION. Doug starts to hotel lobby.

COACH STAGER

Hold on, I'm waiting for one of my swimmers, you both can take the last room.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Somehow I didn't feel very special by the way he said that.

A convertible sports car drives up, driven by a Twiggy-ish MODEL, total preppie KEN WALSH(22) kisses her "thank-you", leaps out with his suit case, she hands him a golf putter from the back seat. He kisses her again, she TEARS OFF.

SUPER: Ken Walsh - 100 Free NCAA Champion - Michigan State

COACH STAGER

You're late.

WALSH  
 (nods to car driving off)  
 She forgot my putter.

COACH STAGER  
 Doug Russell, this is Ken Walsh,  
 I'm going to put you two together  
 in 526 (hands keys to Ken).

Walsh accepts keys, eyes Doug from head to toe, places the putter in Doug's hand.

WALSH  
 (almost snobbish)  
 I guess we can manage.

Walsh & Coach Stager walk into hotel engaging in CONVERSATION leaving Doug holding the putter. Doug picks up his bag, follows.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Somehow I didn't feel very special  
 by the way he said that, either.

INT. HOTEL ROOM #526 - DAY

Walsh eyes down length of putter, Doug unpacks.

DOUG  
 That was a nice 100 free you did  
 there at NC two A's.

WALSH  
 (eyes putter from  
 different angle)  
 And what do you swim?

DOUG  
 Fly...back, and IM...

WALSH  
 Against Spitz? Hickcox? Hope you're  
 happy with silver.

DOUG  
 I'm only doing the IM here.

WALSH  
 Then you have plenty of time for  
 some fun...let's go.

DOUG  
 Go where?

WALSH  
Where ever we go, I hope you're not  
going in that (points at Doug's  
T-Shirt).

DOUG  
(looks at his shirt)  
I just was out in that.

WALSH  
Exactly.

Both men stare at Doug's T-shirt, Walsh opens his suitcase,  
pulls out polo shirt, throws to Doug.

WALSH  
See if that fits.

Doug switches shirts, takes a long feel across the polo.

DOUG  
Expensive.

WALSH  
Exactly.

MUSIC: SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND (Beatles).

EXT. WINNIPEG HOTEL ENTRANCE - DAY

Walsh walks up to VALET ATTENDENT (20's), Doug follows.

WALSH  
Rental car...for Walsh.

VALET  
(checking book)  
Yes, sir, Mr. Walsh. One moment  
please.

Walsh sees two young GIRLS in hotel receptionist uniforms  
leaving the workers entrance.

WALSH  
Oh my God!!!

Walsh sprints to the young girls, who freeze with fright.

VALET  
(holding up carkeys)  
Mr. Walsh?

Doug shrugs shoulders, trots off to follow. Walsh, stops,  
drops to his knees in front of the confused girls, stares at

what one girl holds. Doug stops, sees Walsh staring at girl holding a Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album.

WALSH  
(different personality)  
Oh my God. Oh...my...God.

Girls look puzzled at Walsh, then look to Doug, who returns a facial expression: "I'm just as confused as you are".

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
It was right then at this moment I  
knew what I saw was an important  
lesson in human behavior.

GIRL #1 slowly holds out album, Walsh moves in for closer look, Doug slowly moves closer to witness entire scene.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Unfortunately I didn't know any  
psychology to know what that lesson  
was.

GIRL #1  
You like the Beatles?

WALSH  
(mesmerized)  
Exactly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Now this was kinda awkward. Back in  
Midland, guys wouldn't admit they  
liked the Beatles, simply because  
all the girls were so crazy about  
them.

Girl #1 hands Walsh the album, who holds it with reverence & stares carefully at each figure on the album.

WALSH  
Oh...my...God.

GIRL #2  
(to Doug)  
He really likes the Beatles, no?

DOUG  
They're OK.

INT. GIRL'S APARTMENT - DAY

MUSIC: WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS (Beatles). Doug

CHATS with Girl #2, Walsh CHATS with Girl #1 by turntable.

GIRL #2  
 (motions to Girl #1)  
 ...and I thought she was a Beatles  
 freak...

Walsh & Girl #1 point & read everything on the album.

DOUG  
 You might say I'm start'n to learn  
 what a Beatles freak even is...

GIRL #2  
 I hear a Texas accent.

DOUG  
 West Texas.

GIRL #2  
 Midland?

DOUG  
 How'd you know?

GIRL #2  
 You didn't look or sound like  
 someone from El Paso.

DOUG  
 Where are you from?

GIRL #2  
 Synder.

DOUG  
 Texas?

Girl #2 nods her head, gets up, walks to kitchen.

DOUG  
 (following)  
 That's just down the street!

GIRL #2  
 I know...

DOUG  
 Well, what are you doing here?

GIRL  
 What are you doing here?

DOUG  
My career.

Girl #2 REACTS at Doug as if he answered for her.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
This girl had an odd way of having  
me answer my own question.

CLOSE-UP on Girl #2, ZOOM OUT slowly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
She reminded me so much of grandma  
Russell.

DOUG  
(extending hand)  
Douglas Albert Russell.

GIRL #2  
Jessica Maria Morales.

DOUG  
You have relatives in Midland?

GIRL #2  
Lots...

MOVE OUT - both couples CONVERSATION become INDISTINGUISHED.

MUSIC: OLYMPIC FANFARE & THEME

EXT. WINNEIPEG STADIUM - NIGHT

SUPER: Opening Ceremony - 1967 Pan Am Games

TEAM USA marches into, around stadium, Doug notices birds in  
cages are pigeons & cannons on other side of field, nudges  
Walsh as they come to a halt & WELCOME SPEECHES begin.

DOUG  
What are the cannons for?

WALSH  
They re-create the Olympic opening  
here. Those will go off when they  
release the doves after the  
speeches.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Well, the Pan Am Officials might of  
thought no one would notice, or  
maybe they were just trying to save  
(MORE)

NARRATOR (O.C.) (CONT'D)

money...but...

DOUG

Those aren't doves...

WALSH

Huh...?

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Now I may be just a small town boy from West Texas, but I knew exactly what was going to happen if you made a bunch of noise with a bunch of pigeons flying around.

DOUG

(pulls parka over head)

Those aren't doves, those are pigeons.

Walsh looks around, confused, only Doug is protecting his head as the speeches come to an end.

ANNOUNCER

Let the 1967 Pan Am Games begin!

The pigeons are released, followed by cannons & fireworks, Walsh sees a few pigeon droppings fall on people around him & quickly pulls up his parka as well. Pigeon droppings then fall like rain on all the athletes & spectators.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Different as we were, Kenneth Walsh and I turned out to be pretty good friends from then on.

Ken & Doug smile. CLOSE UP: Others around them get bombarded with pigeon droppings.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Whether it was saving him from the pigeons, or just being there the first time he heard the entire Sergeant Pepper album...

Athletes & spectators being to run for cover, attempt to clean the bird poop off while covering themselves. Doug & Walsh walk off at a leisure pace, the only ones untouched.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...I'll never know.



WALSH  
You're alright...

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Whatever the reason, it was just  
good to have a friend at this  
moment in my life.

MUSIC: (WE AIN'T GOT) NOTHIN' YET (The Blue Magoos)

EXT. USA TRAINING SWIM POOL WINNEPEG - DAY

Doug finishes swimming a set, COACHES lean over his lane,  
SHOUT INSTRUCTIONS on changing his form & stroke. Doug  
listens, shakes head 'yes' sceptically, starts next set.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Seems every new coach has a need to  
change something about the way you  
swim right off the bat...even when  
they don't even know you.

Doug finishes another set, motions to Coaches their way to  
swim, COMPLAINS, then motions how he was doing it with  
POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS. Coaches get upset.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Now I was open enough to know that  
change it is a law of life...

Practice finishes, Doug exists frustrated, looks at coaches  
collecting together LAUGHING, showing each other clipboards.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
...but I was also smart enough to  
know you don't change your stroke a  
couple of days before you swim.

INT. WINNIPEG SWIM NATATORIUM - DAY

Mark Spitz wins the 100 Butterfly (56.2)

ANNOUNCER  
Mark Spitz with a new world record  
in the one hundred butterfly, the  
sure favorite for this event in  
Mexico City...

Mark Spitz wins the 200 Butterfly (2:06.42)

ANNOUNCER  
Mark Spitz again dominating the  
butterfly events, a new world  
(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

record in the two hundred!

MUSIC: TIME HAS COME TODAY (Chambers Brothers)

INT. PHONE BOOTH - OUTSIDE USA TRAINING SWIM POOL - DAY

Doug, upset, nervously puts coins into pay phone.

OPERATOR

Operator.

DOUG

I need to make a long distance call  
to San Antonio.

OPERATOR

San Antonio, Texas?

DOUG

Yes, ma'am.

OPERATOR

What number?

DOUG

Ma'am, I don't know the number, but  
it's the Alamo Swim Center...

OPERATOR

One moment please...

DOUG

Thank-you...

OPERATOR

I have an Alamo Pool in Olmos Park.

DOUG

That's it.

OPERATOR

One moment please...that will be  
three dollars & seventy five cents  
for the next five minutes, please.

Doug pushes the coins into the phone. A DING CHING CHING  
sounds after each coin. PAUSE. RINGING heard on other end.

LIFEGUARD

(sleepily)

Alamo Pool.

DOUG

Hello. I need to speak with Don

(MORE)

DOUG (CONT'D)

Easterling, Buford Swim Club.

LIFEGUARD

(sleepily)

There's a swim meet going on.

DOUG

I know that, that's why I'm calling, he's there.

LIFEGUARD

I'll have to find him.

DOUG

Please, it's important.

LIFEGUARD

Hang on...

Lifeguard puts phone down with a CLUNK - YELLING & SCREAMING of swim meet is heard through earpiece.

MONTAGE: TIME PASSES

OPERATOR

Seventy-five cents please.

Doug puts in coins. DING CHING CHING sounds after each coin.

OPERATOR

Seventy-five cents please.

Doug puts in coins. DING CHING CHING sounds after each coin.

OPERATOR

Seventy-five cents please.

Doug puts in coins. DING CHING CHING sounds after each coin.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Luckily I had enough coins...

OPERATOR

Seventy-five cents please.

Doug puts in coins. DING CHING CHING sounds after each coin.

NARRATOR

And just when I put my last three quarters in..

EASTERLING

Hello?

DOUG  
Coach...!

EASTERLING  
Who in hell is this?

DOUG  
Doug..its me, Doug!

EASTERLING  
Why are you calling me?

DOUG  
Coach I need to talk with, they're  
wanting to change everything on my  
IM....

MOVE OUT: Doug talks on phone waving his free hand as if  
doing all four strokes.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Mean-spirited as some thought  
Easterling was, he was my coach,  
and who knew my swimming best.

INT. WINNIPEG SWIM NATATORIUM - DAY

Introductions are made for the 4 X 100 Medley Relay while  
swimmers loosen up, prepare for the race.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Something strange happened just  
before the last event of the Games.

- FLASHBACK

STARTING GUN. Doug starts his 200 IM, EXCITED coaches huddle  
together after taking down his backstroke time.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Seems my split was faster than the  
man who took my World Record away  
in backstroke, Charlie Hickcox.

Doug swims breaststroke & freestyle legs, wins race & looks  
to coaches, all of whom are still in CONVERSATION, shake  
their heads in agreement & in unison, turn to smile at Doug.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
Turns out they wanted us to have a  
swim off for a spot on the Medley  
Relay.

ANNOUNCER  
In first place, Doug Russell..!

END FLASHBACK

Doug jumps into water with the other backstrokers.

ANNOUNCER  
In lane three....BRAZIL!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
And I took full advantage of that opportunity to earn a spot on the medley relay.

ANNOUNCER  
In lane four...the UNITED STATES!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
And that's how I won my second gold medal at the Pan Am Games.

ANNOUNCER  
In lane five...CANADA!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
But that's not the strange thing that happened on this relay.

ANNOUNCER  
Swimmers...take your mark!

All backstrokers slowly rise for start.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
The strangest thing happened when the starting gun went off.

STARTING GUN FIRES, cable holding one side of hanging time & score board over pool slips, falls to just three feet above lane four...Doug swims straight towards it!

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
The first time I passed that thing I must have missed it by half an inch. It was only after I passed it that I even saw this huge piece of metal pointing at my lane like a dagger.

Doug hits the wall, returns with head tilted completely back so he can see the board on his second approach.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Now normally during a race, all  
 focus is on swimming.

Doug approaches board again.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 My only thought then was praying  
 that thing didn't fall on me...

Doug swims past board, barely missing it again.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 ...or breaking my hand on it.

Doug finishes, climbs out of water, watches Russell Webb  
 swim breast with team mates. Mark Spitz gets on blocks.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Now Mark swam the butterfly leg of  
 the relay since he was the fastest  
 butterflyer in the world at that  
 time.

Webb finishes breaststroke, Mark dives in.

NARRATOR(O.C.)  
 And that was the first & only time  
 we ever swam on a relay together...

Spitz swims down & back butterfly.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 ...and he was swimming the stroke I  
 wanted to swim at the next  
 Olympics, the hundred butterfly.

MUSIC: I SEE THE LIGHT (The Five Americans)

POV SWIMMER: A thick black line moves by below to an EERIE,  
 HYPNOTIC SPLISH-SLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH, SPLISH-SPLASH RHYTHM.

INT. - DOUG'S DORM ROOM UTA - NIGHT

CLOSE UP: Alarm Clock @ 3:59, moves to 4:00 & RINGS. Hand  
 slams the button OFF.

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 Morning swim practice at the  
 University of Texas at Arlington  
 started at six AM in the morning,  
 but I was up well before then...

Doug rolls out of bed to Exer-Genie set in closet door.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...because I not only was going to do my workout, I trained when Spitz was practicing in his time zone.

Doug pulls on Exer-Genie set over & over.

MONTAGE:

- Spitz wins butterfly race,
- SUPER: Winnipeg, Canada - July 31, 1967
- Doug wins butterfly race,
- SUPER: Tokyo, Japan - August 29, 1967

NARRATOR (O.C.)

That year before the Sixty-Eight Olympics, Mark & I were trading off breaking the world record in the hundred fly.

- Spitz wins butterfly race,
- SUPER: West Berlin, West Germany - October 7, 1967

NARRATOR (O.C.)

But I'd never beaten him in a head to head race.

- Spitz out-touches Doug in butterfly race #1

NARRATOR (O.C.)

In every race I'd be ahead at the fifty...

- Spitz out-touches Doug in butterfly race #2

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...I'd be ahead after seventy-five meters...

- Spitz out-touches Doug in butterfly race #3

NARRATOR (O.C.)

...Heck, in a lot of races I'd be ahead after ninety-five ...

- Spitz out-touches Doug. SUPER: 1968 Olympic Trials

NARRATOR (O.C.)  
 But in Mexico City, my mind was  
 made up things were going to end  
 different.

- END MONTAGE

INT. - DOUG'S DORM ROOM UTA - DAY

FULL SCREEN of TV: Sports News show interviewing Spitz.

INTERVIEWER  
 Six gold medals in Mexico City?  
 That will surpass fellow swimmer  
 Don Schollander's four golds in  
 Tokyo & Jesse Owen's four golds in  
 Berlin.

SPITZ  
 I've qualified in three individual  
 events...

INTERVIEWER  
 The one hundred free, one hundred  
 and two hundred butterfly...

SPITZ  
 Yes...and when you add the three  
 relays I'll be on...

INTERVIEWER  
 So you'll be on both the four by  
 one hundred and four by two hundred  
 freestyle relays...

SPITZ  
 ...and I'll do butterfly on the  
 medley relay...I am the world  
 record holder...actually I have ten  
 world records so far...

INTERVIEWER  
 Yes, quite impressive. I see here  
 you held seventeen national age  
 group record before you were ten  
 years old...

MOVE OUT to reveal Doug & fellow swimmers watching the TV.

INTERVIEWER  
 ...held national high school  
 records in every stroke and in  
 (MORE)



INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

every distance at Santa Clara High School, won your first national championship at sixteen...

TEAM MATE

...turn it off, we don't want to hear that cocky little...

DOUG

(interrupting)

I do.

INTERVIEWER

...and a year later set your first world record in the four hundred freestyle.

TEAM MATE

Why?

DOUG

He's motivating...

TEAM MATE

Motivating?

DOUG

Motivating me to beat him.

MUSIC: PICTURES OF MATCHSTICK MEN (Status Quo)

EXT. MEXICO CITY - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

Various scenes of Mexico City during the 1968 Olympics; athletes arriving from all over the world, fanatical fans from various countries, clips of various sporting events.

INT. MEXICO CITY - SWIMMING NATATORIUM - DAY

Doug is in prep room for swimmers waiting to enter pool for warm-up & practice session.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

My first impression of swimming in an Olympic Games was seeing all the strange ways swimmers in other countries would get themselves psyched up to swim...

MONTAGE:

- Swimmer BREATHING IN & OUT extremely fast, eyes bulging

- Swimmer SINGS PRAYER brushing talisman over himself
- Swimmer in TRANCE sitting yoga position in HOT shower
- Swimmer dunks head in filled sink, SCREAMS underwater
- Swimmer bouncing up & down with CRAZY expression on face

- END MONTAGE

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Besides the first time the one hundred butterfly was ever swam as an Olympic event, the 1968 Olympics in Mexico city was filled with other memorable events...

- Series of SCENES: Mexican culture, people, & famous landmarks of Mexico.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

It was the first Olympic Games to be held in Latin America, or even in a Spanish speaking country.

- Series of SCENES: South African team entering & participating.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

South Africa was provisionally invited with the understanding segregation and discrimination in sport would be eliminated by the 1972 Games.

- Series of SCENES: Mexican student protests, student marches in the thousands, tanks, thousands of soldiers.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Ten days before the Games, President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz sent out troops to crush student protests for greater civil and democratic rights.

STUDENTS

(on film)

¡No queremos olimpiadas, queremos revolución! (GUNSHOTS)

SUPER: We don't want Olympics, we want revolution!

- Series of SCENES: Vera Cáslavská turns her head down &

away during the USSR national anthem.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Vera Cáslavská made one of the first political statements by turning her head down and away during the Soviet national anthem to protest the USSR's recent invasion of her native Czechoslovakia.

MUSIC: SAY IT LOUD - I'M BLACK AND I'M PROUD (James Brown)

- Series of SCENES from Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised black-gloved fist during Star Spangled Banner.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

What most people remember was the political statement made by Tommie Smith and John Carlos, an event regarded as one of the most overtly political statements in the history of the modern Olympic Games.

EXT. MEXICO CITY - OLYMPIC VILLAGE - DAY

Doug & TEAM USA BOXER CHAT, walk to the cafeteria, where a wall of reporters hound every athlete entering.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Of course, this had news people wanting every athlete's opinion.

BOXER

I don't want to deal with that.

DOUG

Me either.

Doug & Boxer stand, assess the situation.

BOXER

I have an idea.

DOUG

Huh...?

BOXER

Follow me.

Doug follows Boxer around crowd to back of building, Boxer points at window 10 feet up.

BOXER  
I'll lift you up, then you pull me  
in.

DOUG  
But...

BOXER  
The window's open.

DOUG  
How do you know?

BOXER  
How do you think I've been beat'n  
curfew every night?

Doug climbs on Boxer's shoulders, is lifted to window,  
climbs in, then reaches down to pull up boxer, fails.

BOXER  
C'mom, lift...!

DOUG  
What division are you?

BOXER  
Heavy weight.

DOUG  
Well, no wonder...

Doug lets Boxer go, climbs out the window, jumps down.

DOUG  
I'm only one sixty, let me get you  
in first.

Boxer climbs on Doug's shoulders, slips through window, Doug  
jumps up, grabs Boxer's arms, who pulls him up easily.

BOXER  
Should have done that the first  
time.

DOUG  
Guess I wasn't thinking.

MUSIC: PEOPLE GOT TO BE FREE (The Rascals)

Doug & Boxer head down hall to cafeteria. Uniformed staff  
worker walks by, notices open window, closes, LOCKS it.

EXT. MEXICO CITY - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

Various scenes of sports venues, people in stadium, soldiers, police & crowds, locals selling wares, etc.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Then my moment finally came.

INT. MEXICO CITY - SWIMMING NATITORIUM - DAY

In the staging, Doug, Spitz, & other swimmers sit waiting to swim. Doug stares into space with total focus, Spitz is calm, relaxed, & jokes with several other swimmers, which soon dies down to SILENCE. Spitz notices Doug's focus.

SPITZ

What are you doing after the race?

Meet official enters, motions it's time to go.

DOUG

(standing up)

Get ready for the relay.

Spitz looks shocked, walks out with a doubt expression.

NARRATOR (O.C.)

Some people thought I was being cocky, but I wasn't. I'd never beaten Mark Spitz in over a dozen races, but right then, right when he asked me that, I knew I could.

INT. OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL MEXICO CITY - DAY

(Actual Footage) Swimmers on blocks ready to race.

CHRIS SCENKEL

(continues)

Murray Rose.

BILL FLEMING

Right now we're running just a little bit short of time...

SUPER: Olympic Symbol, Men's 100 Meter Butterfly, World Record - 55.6 New Olympic Event - FINAL

BILL FLEMING

(continues)

So we're going to set the field

(MORE)

BILL FLEMING (CONT'D)

very quickly for you for the finals in the one hundred meter butterfly for men, its Nemshilov (STARTING GUN FIRES), Stocklasa, Maruya, Russell..Douglas...Spitz, Wales, Suzdaltsev and Cusack, and in the middle is Doug Russell in lane four. Down and back for the one hundred meters butterfly for men.

MURRAY ROSE

Watch Doug Russell in lane four and Mark Spitz in lane five. Doug Russell likes to go out very fast, Spitz of course has his famous finish and his great second lap. Russell will have to have a lead here going out.

BILL FLEMING

As they make the turn to come back, touching first is Mark Spitz in lane five.

MURRAY ROSE

This is a switch, Mark Spitz very rarely goes out this fast, whether he can hold on and have his usual finish by going out this fast, I don't know.

BILL FLEMING

Doug Russell coming on very fast in lane four, he was the fastest qualifier at fifty five nine - and it seems to be a battle now between Mark Spitz, Doug Russell and over in lane six is Ross Wales (excited) the three Americans...!

BILL FLEMING (CONT'D)

In lane four, Doug Russell taking the lead, Spitz is second, and Wales is third. Here they come! Just about to touch out, and its lane four, Doug Russell of the United States, Mark Spitz, and Ross Wales in fifty five nine, the Olympic record set in the qualifications, and Doug Rusell, a twenty-two year older from the

(MORE)

## BILL FLEMING (CONT'D)

University of Texas at Arlington,  
 who was second in the Olympic  
 trials, has won the gold medal.

## NARRATOR (O.C.)

The gold medal, that was my  
 destination, following the path  
 that God put before me, the one  
 step in my journey I'll never  
 forget.

MUSIC: HEY JUDE (Beatles)

(Actual Footage) Doug's interview at end of race.

MONTAGE: SERIES of IMAGES of the people below with TEXT.

SUPER:

- Richard Quick (1943-2009) went on to swim for Southern Methodist University, where he later coached, and was the Head Swim Coach at Iowa State, Auburn, and Stanford Universities.

He was the coach for the United States Olympic Swim Team for six Olympics: 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, & 2004

- Don Easterling coached the Forth Worth Panther Boy's Club & Buford Aquatic Club from 1952-70. He coached the University of Texas at Arlington swim team to national prominence from 1966-70 with his 1969 team finishing second at the NCAA Championships.

He later went on to coach at North Carolina State for 40 seasons where starting from scratch, he lead the Wolfpack to 17 ACC titles,

- Ken Walsh held the world record in the 100 Freestyle, was a 12-time All American and won gold medals in Mexico City in the 4x100 Medley & Freestyle Relays & the silver in the 100 Freestyle.

- Mark Spitz recovered from his disappointment at Mexico City to win 7 gold medals in the 1972 München Olympics, all seven swims in world record times, a feat never matched to this day.

- Jerry Morales grew up to become mayor for the City of Midland (show photo of Jerry as baby in film, then current photo as Mayor).

- Doug Russell coached at his alma mater, the University of Texas at Arlington...

Later in life he finally found, and married Susie...they both are living happily ever after...

ROLL CREDITS while showing ACTUAL FOOTAGE of Doug's butterfly race on Team USA's 400 Medley Relay.

END