

Dare to Dream

by
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A short film
originally written for The Uncommonwealth.

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FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

A young football team practices on the grass. The COACH barks at his players.

MELVIN, 15 and scrawny, sits on the bench. He is wearing the team uniform without padding. He glances at his teammates, bored. His attention turns to the cheerleading team practicing nearby.

DEBORAH, the head cheerleader, leads exercises.

DEBORAH
--E-T-R-A-T-E! Go, Penetrators!
Yeah!

Deborah can't help but notice Melvin's misty gaze. She gives him a coy look then returns to her exercises.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)
All right girls, let's show 'em how
we do it in the meatpacking
district!

Melvin turns melancholy. She's so far away.

COACH (O.S.)
Heads up!

A football flies from out of the frame and smashes Melvin in the face.

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - GYMNASIUM

Melvin and Deborah dance to a beautiful waltz. The gymnasium is dark, save for a few perfectly romantic spotlights. Melvin wears his finest. Deborah is still in her cheerleading uniform.

Melvin draws Deborah close.

MELVIN
Hi Deborah.

DEBORAH
Hi Melvin.

They twirl, spin, and regroup.

MELVIN

Do you know that I love you?

DEBORAH

I've known since before we were born.

They whip each other around.

MELVIN

Your smallest breath drives me to madness.

DEBORAH

I love you, Melvin.

Melvin dips Deborah. They move in to kiss.

COACH (V.O.)

Gee whiz, what a boner.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM - MELVIN'S P.O.V.

Blue sky and Coach's disappointed face.

MELVIN

What?

COACH

I said, what a *boner*. This is why you're on the bench, Melvin.

(to the team)

He's fine, keep playing.

MELVIN

Deborah...

Melvin looks downfield. Deborah watches from afar, worried but unable to stop her cheer.

MELVIN (CONT'D)

So close.

Coach leans over Melvin, holding football.

COACH

Are you even listening, Melvin? Pay attention next time, whiz-kid; your job is to catch the pigskin --

Coach fumbles the football. It drops on Melvin's face.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - GYMNASIUM

Deborah is lying on the floor, Melvin on top of her. Their voices are hushed.

DEBORAH
You could do anything to me right
now.

MELVIN
What do you want me to do?

DEBORAH
I think you know.

Melvin pulls out a pint of ice cream and gives it to Deborah. She eats a spoonful. Melvin moves down Deborah's body.

MELVIN
What else?

DEBORAH
Kiss me.

MELVIN
Where?

DEBORAH
On the -- WOOF! WOOF!

She mouths something dirty, but we hear a DOG BARKING.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM - DAY

A DOG sniffs Melvin's face. He has a bloody nose, and somebody has put a band-aid on his glasses.

MELVIN
No.

The field is empty.

MELVIN (CONT'D)
So goddamn close....

Melvin gingerly touches his head. Beat. He has an idea. He grabs one of his shoes and stands.

Melvin throws the shoe high into the air, dances a bit trying to position himself under it. The shoe hurtles toward his face.

Just before the shoe hits, a football flies from O.S. THWAP.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - GYMNASIUM

The ice cream container is empty. Deborah is glowing. She pushes Melvin onto his back.

MELVIN

My love for you burns like a
thousand candles dipped in
kerosene.

DEBORAH

My love for you aches like a
thousand arthritic fingers.

MELVIN

Kiss me.

DEBORAH

Where?

MELVIN

Your choice.

Deborah works her way down Melvin. Suddenly we hear the blaring HOWL OF BAGPIPES.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM

Melvin now has a huge welt on his forehead. There's a lone BAGPIPER in full Scottish regalia practicing in the field.

MELVIN

Deborah... I need you Deborah...

Melvin stands up and runs out of the stadium.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

The CAPTAIN of the football team is by his locker. Melvin turns the corner, out of breath.

MELVIN
Hey Chet!

CAPTAIN
Whaddya ya want, scrub? I got
classes to skip.

MELVIN
(panting)
I just finished banging your mom
and she wanted me to get you so you
could finish her off... also...
your mom is ugly but I banged her
anyway.

CAPTAIN
What did you say?

MELVIN
There's like a line of dudes
banging your mom outside. Without
condoms. In the dumpster.

CAPTAIN
You little --

He punches Melvin in the mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - GYMNASIUM

Melvin and Deborah are totally doing it. Melvin begins
peaking, but before the climax --

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

Melvin's on the floor with a split lip.

MELVIN
No!

He frantically puts his head into an open locker, smashes the door on himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELVIN'S DREAM - OUTDOORS

A beautiful field. Melvin gets down on one knee.

DEBORAH
(tearing up)
Oh my god. Melvin.

MELVIN
Deborah, my bag of angels. Will you
marry me?

DEBORAH
Y --

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

Melvin's beginning to look like quite a mess.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Melvin puts a quarter in the vending machine, punches a button, then drops his face to the opening. A soda can flies from the opening and smashes Melvin.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - CHAPEL

Melvin and Deborah are in wedding attire, standing before a PRIEST. Their rings are on.

PRIEST
... for richer or poorer, in
sickness and in health, 'til death
do you part?

DEBORAH

I --

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

MELVIN wakes up, moaning. He pulls a pork chop out of his pocket, rolls over, and puts the meat between his teeth. The dog from earlier runs into the room and leaps at Melvin's face -- CRUNCH.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - HOSPITAL ROOM

Melvin holds Deborah's hand as she finishes the final glorious moment of labor.

DOCTOR

Push!

DEBORAH

Melvin, our sweet baby girl! Here she --

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Melvin, thoroughly disfigured, pulls out a pocket knife and nicks his finger. He looks at the blood and faints.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - HOSPITAL ROOM

DOCTOR

Push!

DEBORAH

Melvin, our ninth sweet baby girl is about to --

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Melvin holds his breath for a comically short amount of time, passes out.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - DEATH BED

Deborah is on her death bed, Melvin by her side. Bed is surrounded by their nine children. A heavenly light falls on DEBORAH's face.

DEBORAH

Melvin, my love. Before we meet in the afterlife, you need --

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Melvin sneezes and passes out.

CUT TO:

INT. MELVIN'S DREAM - PEARLY GATES

He stands before ST. PETER.

ST. PETER

Yes, your wife is in heaven, Melvin Molanski, right through the gate. I'm not sure if you can join her just yet. According to my records, you are going to He --

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Melvin groans, lurches to his feet.

MELVIN

It can never happen. Oh, Deborah...

He's about to cry.

DEBORAH (O.S.)

Melvin?

Melvin looks up. Deborah stands on the other side of the cafeteria. Her face is bloodied, bruised, and bandaged.

MELVIN

Deborah.

They rush into each other's arms.

DEBORAH

I love you Melvin.

MELVIN

I love you too.

They admire each other, disfigured and glowing.

Melvin and Deborah simultaneously headbutt each other. The unconscious couple hold hands on the floor.

FADE TO BLACK.