

[Finding Footing]

Phone rings. Machine click

RYAN

Thank you for calling Ryan's Den Boxing Club the official boxing club of the cub. Our office is currently closed. Please leave a message after the beep or call back during our official business hours:

PETER

Hi, this is Peter Hunt, I don't know if you remember me, we met briefly when I dropped off Junior at your house. Or, rather, not sure if it was your, anyway, I wanted to thank you for being there, to help out with the negotiations that night, I think we all could have handled the situation a little better, me included, so. I do realize that we had agreed that there would be no contact from our end but, well that is why I didn't call to the house, or attempted to reach them. I had some concerns, regarding, I found your card, you know that you gave me and so. I had some questions regarding Junior's adjustments, and well, quite frankly How he is responding to having a, two moms. And so I thought I would call to see, to um, reach out to you, since we did meet before. Again, Peter Hunt, you can reach me at this number. Thank you.

During message: Ryan and Ash in the ring.

RYAN

Alright stop. what the hell Ash.

ASH

Fuhhhhhck.

RYAN

We're weeks away from the fight, you can't afford to shit away time like this.

ASH

Sorry. A little off. A little off today.

RYAN

It's not-.

ASH

What.

RYAN

It's not just today.

ASH

Sorry. I'm distracted

RYAN

You a smarts boxer not a power boxer, gotta keep your head in the ring. Hundred and ten percent.

ASH

Mm hmm.

RYAN

Tommy Tavaréz has never been in a ring with a Southpaw. He's got no clue how to fight you, Ash. He'll see that left hook and be like woah, what? Bam down. We really have a chance at winning your debut. Real prize money. Ker-ching right?

ASH

Yeh yeh.

RYAN

Ash.

ASH

Mm?

RYAN

Are you with me?

ASH

Sorry. Yes. God, I'm just all over the place.

RYAN

Do I have to worry?

Ash shrugs.

RYAN (cont)

How's stuff at home.

ASH

You know. Robs is insane busy, even with the maternity leave from her work, there's the school stuff, the shrink stuff, and she's trying to get him into Yoga, He's so quiet most times but then we're getting calls about broken windows, goldfish bowls, other kids' noses... The other day we got called in coz he glued his eyes shut with bubble gum. He's something, the kid.

RYAN

Yeh, he's a bit not so ordinary.

ASH

He's a freak a bit, but smart, I think. They said he's at least two grade levels above his age group in comprehension and fine motor skills, as well as

Ash laughs

RYAN

What?

ASH

I was just thinking, that time when you tried to teach him boxing, he beat the crap outta you? He's not a natural by any means, not what I'm saying, he's definitely not the build, a little demented- He, kinda reminds me of when I was a kid. I was kinda demented.

RYAN

Was?

ASH

Yeah shut the fuck up.

RYAN

It's a compliment. I like my fighters slightly deranged. Feral. Gr.

ASH

Yup.

RYAN

But in the ring, right? Be feral in the ring. Gotta be ferally focused, k? Grr.

ASH

You know, I was thinking.

RYAN

?

ASH

No it's just, there's so much going on, I feel so ungrounded,

RYAN

I can see that, that's why I'm / saying you gotta