

EXT. POWERPLAY - EMPLOYEE PARKING - 8 A.M.

JAN 15, 1982.

Rezalia's immaculate, white late-70s CADILLAC ELDORADO, pulls into her space in the side lot. Only a few cars present. As Rezalia steps out she notes Marina's beat-up but well-loved British Racing Green 1968 TRIUMPH SPITFIRE Mk III with wire wheels and an "I [HEART] ART" sticker on the rear bumper.

She looks at her watch to make sure. Yep, 8 a.m.

INT. POWERPLAY - KITCHEN - MORNING

Coffee brewing. Marina, bleary, almost sleepwalking, awaits, a rarely washed ART CENTER mug in hand.

REZALIA (O.C.)

Good morning, sunshine.

Rezalia appears behind her, a FOLIO under her arm. She extends an Ole's Waffle Shop mug. Marina pours for her.

MARINA

Oh, morning. I've never seen you drink coffee before.

REZALIA

Never seen you in at 8 before.

MARINA

(yawns mightily)
Never made it home. Cream?

REZALIA

No. I like my coffee like I like my men... Bitter.

MARINA

(misses the joke)
Like Hal.

It takes Rezalia a moment to parse that Marina means Hal is bitter and not insinuating that Rezalia "likes" Hal.

REZALIA

Knew it. But you had to find out for yourself. To Hal, accepting help is admitting he needs it. Well, least we can say you tried.

MARINA

I'm not finished, yet. So long as there's coffee, there's hope.

Marina goes to fill her own mug. Rezalia blocks her.

MARINA (CONT'D)

I need that.

REZALIA

What you need is to listen to me. That one way sign in the lounge... Hal believes it. He's not going to accept help. You're already running on fumes. So the last thing you should be doing is losing sleep on one of Neal's pipe dreams.

MARINA

It's not a pipe dream. I'm sure I can do it.

REZALIA

And that certainty is why you'll run yourself ragged chasing this. And why are you arguing with me?

MARINA

I'm arguing because this matters.

REZALIA

So does our work. Everybody thinks the games sell themselves, but they don't.

MARINA

But if they looked better maybe the games would sell themselves.

Rezalia puts her cup down, opens her folio, which is stuffed with slicks for current and upcoming competitors.

REZALIA

Do you see our competitors counting on that? No. Their stuff is top notch. Our job is to top it, grab people before they grab an Atari or Activision game.

MARINA

I know that, but...

REZALIA

Then you know why you can't waste any more effort on Hal. Let's matter in the way only we can. You hear me?

Marina signals surrender by placing her mug in the sink.

REZALIA (CONT'D)

Great. I need you sharp for our two thirty. So do us both a favor and catch a nap. Now.

Marina nods sullenly. Rezalia smiles warmly, exits with her coffee, passing Elmy entering. Ad-libbed "mornings". Elmy finds a clean mug, grabs the coffeepot.

ELMY

Good morning, Marina! Coffee?

MARINA

Mom says I can't.

ELMY

And since when do you do as you're told?

Marina thinks. Watching for Rezalia she retrieves her mug and extends it to Elmy. She's decided.

MARINA

Since never. Hit me.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. 1265 BORREGAS AVE., SUNNYVALE - MIDDAY**

The Ferrari parked curbside on this business park street. Neal's behind the wheel, Rezalia shotgun, wearing a jacket, chilled. They eat deli sandwiches.

REZALIA

When I said I'd buy, I meant a restaurant, not a picnic.

NEAL

It's a beautiful day. We're in a Ferrari. Tell me you don't like being envied.

REZALIA

It's January and we're in a damned convertible...and not everyone's an exhibitionist.

Neal waves towards someone O.C. curbside.

NEAL

Just making sure these sad suckers see what they're missing. Know there's a better way. Know just who can give it to them.

REVEALING THEIR LOCATION

Stopped directly in front of a building with a curbside Atari logo, watched by the people coming and going.

REZALIA

That what you're doing? Showing us all a better way?

NEAL

Yeah, like Atari used to be, under Nolan. Remember?

REZALIA

Yeah, I remember. I remember how he'd pop in and reassign tasks on a whim. I remember managers had to follow behind and remind everyone who they actually reported to and put them back on task. Sound like someone we know?

NEAL

But we took chances. We innovated. Now they blow six months on product research deciding what not to make. That's why we left. Why we break the rules.

REZALIA

I break rules when the rules are broken. You break rules just to prove you can.

NEAL

You're claiming they're not the same thing.

REZALIA

Look, I get why you want Marina on the game graphics. But we have to pick our battles. We're not the only ones out to eat Atari's lunch. Sure, we'll be the third or fourth on the market, but a year from now...one in fifty. So this is our moment...to build a brand, make a splash, establish an identity. That's what's at stake. That's why I had to take your candy from the baby and force her eat her carrots.
(stops him)

Oh, do not "President and CEO" me. When we started, you promised to get out of the way and let us own our responsibilities. So, get out of my department and let me own my responsibilities.

(when he doesn't reply)

Neal...

NEAL

From now on your department only delivers what it's responsible for. I won't ask for more.

REZALIA

No. You won't.

Rezalia stuffs the detritus of their lunch into the bag it came in. Neal starts the engine and revs it noisily.

NEAL

I'd say that's enough recruiting for today. Thanks for lunch.