

KICK

Written by

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INT. - NOVA'S HOME - EARLY MORNING - DAY 2

BLACKNESS

Soccer game blares, immersing all who hear it.

FADE IN:

Recorded soccer game of A-league women's league, on a CRT TV.

Screen title 'Kick'.

The crowd is cheering, half-time horn is sounded. Nova (Female 15-19 Athletic, fetching) strides past and switches off telly and exits through front door with sports bag in sport attire.

NOVA'S MUM O.C.

(Further inside)

Nova!

Nova halts.

NOVA'S MUM O.C. (CONT'D)

(Further inside)

Don't forget abuela and abuelo are coming over this afternoon for dinner.

NOVA

(Exiting home with sports bag)

I won't mamá.

Nova WALKS through front yard to PUSH open front gate.

CUT TO:

EXT. - PARK - EARLY MORNING FOGGY/MISTY - LATER - DAY 2

Nova is training hard attempting JUGGLING and KICKING ball, sweaty and gross. After one of her many kicks of the ball, she exhausts to a knee catching her breath, exhaling condensation. She looks up, a hopeful memory crosses her mind.

CUT TO FLASHBACK

1

EXT. - PARK - MID MORNING - DAY 1

Nova is CHEERING on her brother Sebastian (20's Athletic, strapping) in a competitive soccer game, some parents and onlookers watch. Sebastian is working his way through the other team to score, Nova is following along the field along the white line inciting cheers. GOAL! Sebastian kicks the ball straight into the net. Nova LAUNCHES with joy!

CUT TO FLASHBACK

2

EXT. - PARK - LATE MORNING - DAY 1

Nova CARRIES Sebastian's soccer gear as they WALK back to the car, after the game.

NOVA

(Revisiting)

That was awesome!

SEBASTIAN

(Sounds too familiar)

Yeah, yeah.

NOVA

(Assuring)

No really! It's heaps good. You always seem to beat 'em.

SEBASTIAN

(Taking off soccer boots)

Not without my number one fan.

NOVA

(Smiles)

Yeah.

NOVA (CONT'D)

(Joy)

But hey, maybe I can be shooting goals like you some day. Out on the field.

SEBASTIAN

(A joke)

Yeah.. sure you can Nova (chuckles under his breath)

Nova is emotionally punctured.

CUT TO PRESENT:

Exact same punctured face while kneeling, Nova stands. Ball drops to her feet-

CUT TO:

INT. - SCHOOL BUS - MORNING - LATER - DAY 2

Bus squeaks and door noises. Nova is seated on a bus, swaying to it's motion. She contemplates her sleepiness out a window.

CUT TO FLASHBACK

3:

INT. - NOVA'S HOME - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT - DAY 1

Nova's Mum (40's Spanish woman, warm and open), Nova's Dad (40's Filipino man, goof ball, supportive), Sebastian & Nova sit at the table. They serve dinner, and praise success.

NOVA'S DAD

(Huddles)

We're so proud of you Baz!

NOVA'S MUM

(Dishes food)

Well done Sebby.

Nova uses a fork, not eating, and third wheel's life.

SEBASTIAN

(Chuffed)

Thanks Dad, thanks Mum.

NOVA'S MUM  
(To Nova)  
You should be more like your  
brother, kicking goals.

NOVA  
(Supressed smile)  
Yeah..

NOVA'S DAD  
(Supportive)  
That's right! Our son's a  
superstar! (chuckles)

Nova's Dad sizes Sebastian's shoulders.

NOVA'S MUM  
(Giggles)  
Leave him alone, he needs to eat-  
He's a growing boy.

NOVA'S DAD  
Anything for the best! He's the  
next Cristiano Ronaldo.

SEBASTIAN  
(Humbles)  
No Dad, nothing like that-

NOVA'S DAD  
Don't be silly, you did laps around  
those guys.

NOVA'S MUM  
(Nova's Dad)  
Sweetie sit down, your dinner is  
getting cold.

NOVA'S DAD  
This looks great!

SEBASTIAN  
(Eating)  
Thanks mum, it's really good.

NOVA  
Thanks Mum.

CUT TO PRESENT:

EXT. | NOVA'S HIGHSCHOOL | COURT | MORNING - DAY 2

Nova WALKING to school gates with backpack, mind in the past. Sebastian hanging with mates, sees Nova, and RUNS over to Nova.

SEBASTIAN

(Cross)

Oi

NOVA

(unsure)

What?

SEBASTIAN

(walking backward in

Nova's path)

Where's my ball?

Nova SIGHS, STOPS, and TAKES OFF her backpack, UNZIPS bag and THROWS the ball at Sebastian's chest which bounces and STAGGERS Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

(Ticked)

Hey!

Nova LEGS IT off to class.

INT. - NOVA'S HIGHSCHOOL - CLASSROOM - MIDDAY - LATER - DAY 2

Nova is dozing off to the sight of a clock counting down; It is clear she is tired. A boy, Samuel (Male 15-19, charismatic, handsome) sitting near her leans near Nova.

SAMUEL

Nova.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

(Leans back)

Sleeping's normally done after school.

NOVA  
 (yawns and stretches  
 through a smile)  
 I'm not tired (wakes temporarily)

SAMUEL  
 Right.. You training again?

NOVA  
 (Piqued interest)  
 Yeah.

SAMUEL  
 (Calm & collected)  
 Cool. You kick your bro's ass yet?

Nova huffs a smile, see's teacher unimpressed.

NOVA  
 (Warns)  
 Sam..

TEACHER  
 (Firm)  
 Mr Tenor.

Teacher sluggishly STANDS from teacher's desk, and WADDLES over to Samuel's desk. Class continues working. Samuel LEANS back and prepares for being scolded. Nova smugly smirks.

TEACHER (CONT'D)  
 (Content)  
 Would this be the 11th time I've  
 moved you for distracting students?

SAMUEL  
 (Cheek)  
 Nah sir, but I think you're close.

Teacher sighs as class chuckles. Nova shakes her head and hides a chuckled smirk.

TEACHER  
 (Sarcasm)  
 Oh.

(MORE)

**TEACHER (CONT'D)**

And, I never knew you loved detention so much. Are you going to let Ms Rivera do her work?

**SAMUEL**

(Cheek)

Sir, I'm just swamped with all the work right now. Do you mind if we discuss it over lunch?

Class in shocked amusement.

**TEACHER**

(Serious)

Certainly. I will also see you after school to continue talking then too.. Back to work Mr Tenor.

Samuel FLATTENS. Nova continues writing, smirking. Samuel looks over to Nova unnoticed and continues work.

CUT TO:

EXT. - NOVA'S HOME - FRONT YARD - EARLY AFTERNOON - LATER

Bus hums and revs away unseen, Nova makes way into house.

INT. - NOVA'S HOME - STUDY/BEDROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON - SECONDS LATER

Nova SLUMPS into another chair over a desk, the desk light lamp teems the intensity of too much study. SIGH. LOOKS past door frame and sees soccer ball at brother Sebastian's door, LOOKS back at teeming homework, then back again. Nova goes to ball, door creaks open. Sebastian SNORES. Nova SNEAKS soccer ball outside.

TRAINING  
MONTAGE:

Nova attempts to do fancy ball trickery and fails a few times. Huffs, in verbal frustrations, and keeps practicing.



<https://open.spotify.com/track/5DBjmt7HQqmxapTjVwwBXe?si=6020faa95cc94e4f> - Soccer training montage

Montage of Nova attempting multiple times trying to juggle successfully. Each time dropping the ball, a variation of frustration. - Going over the days noted on-screen, from school, to scrapping homework into her bag off the desk, and back to training. - Going through training in-between cones. Coach sees Nova when packing up gear, Nova training still at late dusk. - Nova reading a book/magazine while doing tricks with the ball. Rainbow flip.

FADE TO:

EXT. - PARK - MID-AFTERNOON - DAY 21

'Game Day'

Young Women's Soccer League plays on an open field, the ref flips a coin, spins up, and hits the ground. Whistle blows-

CUT TO:

Game plays in centre. Nova is bored of defending, watching action at distance. Nova's mother sits in stand and waves to Nova, Nova gradually waves back. Mid fielder sprains her leg and is carried off. Coach gathers team on sideline.

COACH

(Gruff)

Doing great out there girls. Who wants to take mid attacker? Megs is out for this one.

TRACE

(Sass)

Coach, no one else trains mid attacker.

Coach WAVERS an oversight.

COACH

(Persists)

Trace!.. Look, just need a volunteer.

Nova LOOKS around huddle, no other girl is saying "yes", Nova RAISES her hand.

COACH (CONT'D)

(points)

Alright, Nova. Mid attack, just, try and keep up with the ball okay?

Nova NODS the condensation. They move off on field.

CUT TO:

Whistle blows, game continues, Nova sweeps in and steals the ball immediately and runs it past multiple opposition players and shoots a goal seamlessly. Nova turns to gobsmacked Coach and Spectators. Nova's Mother alone wails happiness, then her team Spectator's all cheer. Nova walks back to mid position.

GAME DAY  
MONTAGE:

Nova kicks ball to teammates who run it further up field who kick back to Nova, scoring. Score tally winning 5-4. Nova goes through all opponents again and shoots, ball bounces off goal post and smacks her face, breaking her nose, crowd oo and ah. She is guided off with bloody nose.

CUT TO:

Nova is now wearing a metal nose guard looking ridiculous on a bench. Samuel walks down from grandstand chuckling. Nova sees his laughter. Mid-Attacker Megs from earlier is benched near Nova with an iced sprained calf.

NOVA

(Talking without a nose)  
Something funny?

SAMUEL

I think it's your best game yet.

NOVA

(Disappointment)  
It's my first game.

SAMUEL

(Genuine)  
Exactly. Nothing else to average  
the good ones. I'll admit, you're  
better than you think you are.

Nova looks at Samuel and smiles, then back at the game.

On the field, the opposition shoots a goal into Nova's team's net. 5 all. Just over a minute until over-time. Nova feels the spark of a second wind.

NOVA

(Held back)  
Now or never right?

SAMUEL

(Profound)

I say.. Make you're own victories,  
something tells me you don't need  
luck when you're Nova. (smile)

Nova pecks Samuel on cheek, then gets up, and jogs over to the subs bench, coach is relaying other subs on. Nova grabs arm of one sub, Trace.

NOVA

(Insists)

Let me go.

TRACE

(Iffy)

Nova, I don't think-

COACH

(Rushed)

What's going on?- Aw Nova! Are you  
going back on?? It's your call kid.

Nova takes a moment, rips off the nose plate, and cracks her nose, the spectators wince. Nova poorly plays off pain.

COACH (CONT'D)

(Concern)

You good?

NOVA

(Wheezing, eyes watering)

Yep.

Nova breathes through pain.

COACH

(Pep talk)

Alright kid. Go get 'em.

Nova runs out on the field. Spectators watch and cheer.

CUT TO:

NOVA'S MUM

(Proud)

That's my baby girl!

CUT TO:

FRIEND

(Slaps Sebastian's chest)

Yo dude! Your sis is going back out  
there. (points)

SEBASTIAN  
 (Surprised)  
 No way..

CUT TO:

Nova slows to her position, the horn sounds for full-time. Nova's in the thick of it; Over-time, final goal wins. Nova's perception heightens, looks to opponents.

MEAN GIRL  
 (Calls out)  
 Aim for the goal this time ay!

MEAN GIRL 2  
 (Adds)  
 Can't smell, how bad she stinks!

Opponents poke fun and snicker. Mid attacker intensely eyeing Nova. Nova eyes Referee adjacent to all in the centre with whistle in mouth eyeing both Mid-Attackers, Nova readies. The whistle bleeps. Opponent's pass the ball to mid attacker who runs out with ball. Nova's team's defender sweeps in and tries to get around opponents with great difficulty.

NOVA  
 (Indicates)  
 Pass it! Here!

Defender has ball stolen from them by opponent, as Nova scoffs and bolts in. Opponent goes to shoot a goal with terrified goalie, Nova jumps in and headbutts the ball under her control, juggles it down a little, and nutmegs the opponent, side passing two others. The coach stands excited.

COACH  
 (Fist pumps)  
 Go Nova!!

Nova is just passing halfway, when, she is slide tackled and is illegally taken out, hitting the ground. The whistle is sounded, Nova is hurt. She sees the opponents team arguing over the person who slide tackled her, Nova's leg sprains from the tackle.

REFEREE  
 (Checks)  
 Nova? Nova, are you okay? Do you need to go off?

Nova gets up off the ground, and brushes off grass and dirt.

NOVA  
 (Tempered)  
 No, I'm fine.

Referee shows yellow card to the opponent who slide tackled  
 Nova's leg, crowd oo's.

COACH  
 (Riled up)  
 Play fair or go home! Come on!!

REFEREE  
 (Declares)  
 Foul. Red's get to shy in.

Nova walks off pain, Nova looks at her team shying, they see  
 her, but then throw to another team mate towards own goal.

NOVA  
 (Sore)  
 No..

The ball reaches further away from the other team's goal.  
 Nova runs after it. The opponent goes to shoot again, the  
 goalie catches it and boots it centre field near Nova. Nova  
 intercepts it and makes two passes coming to a defensive wall  
 of defenders where she rainbow flips the ball over their  
 heads and Webster kicks straight through the hands of the  
 goalie into goal. Ball claps into the nets.

CUT TO:

Horn and whistle blares. Crowd cheers. Nova's team surround  
 and praise her realisation, Sebastian joins from crowd.

NOVA'S MOTHER  
 (Chants)  
 Nova! Nova! Nova! Nova!-

CROWD  
 (Chants)  
 Nova! Nova! Nova! Nova! Nova! Nova!

Sebastian, and Nova's soccer team, lift Nova up triumphant.  
 Smiles, her brother supports his sister, acceptance. Frozen  
 frame of Nova's wholesome joy.

DISSOLVE TO  
 BLACK:

SCREEN TITLE 'KICK'  
 Ending with same cheering as the beginning.

ROLL CREDITS  
 END