

footsies

written by

Daniel Baer

danielbaer218@gmail.com

The following takes place entirely on computer screens.

OVER BLACK

Silence. And then--

BOOM-BOOM. A heartbeat. A flicker of flame reveals something in the background.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
For it's fourth concurrent year--

BOOM-BOOM. The flames lick the edges of a heart symbol.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Returning to the heartland--

BOOM-BOOM. We see a deep red heart with IV across the center.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
...Heartbeat IV.

The screen is engulfed in fire. Fast paced hip-hop plays.

We see a series of moments:

A player jumps up from their chair with a huge burst of energy and fist bumps their opponent.

A player hangs their head in shame at a loss.

Another player holds their hands up in victory to a roaring crowd.

People smile and have fun on at retro arcade cabinets.

Rock paper scissors.

A tournament organizer makes a heart with his fingers and it transitions into a hearth shaped trophy.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Coming in December. Register now.

We pull back to reveal this is being watched on-

TWITCH - MOZILLA FIREFOX

-where thousands of viewers leave a stream of comments on the sidebar. The chat is hype as fuck. Well, mostly.

Suxmydik69 writes: *"Imagine going to this shit ass tourney."*

The CURSOR clicks on this message and hits the reply option.

They type: *"Imagine getting no bitches."* We click over to-

START.GG - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Where we see a bunch of featured fighting game events, including Heartbeat IV.

The cursor is about to click on the event then stops, thinks of something else. It slowly moves down to the bottom left corner where we see a default blank profile icon.

CLICK. We see the username for this profile: CAM1.

We CLICK on profile settings. Edit profile image. A window pops up to upload an image. The cursor goes to the windows icon on the bottom left of the screen. Types: "camera" and-

INT. CAMILA'S BEDROOM - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

We see the user of this computer, CAMILA RODRIGUEZ. A little frazzled by how she looks, she futzes with her beanie then looks into the camera and gives a toothy grin. The webcam SNAPS a picture of her.

START.GG - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Camila uploads her new profile picture and heads back to the home page. Now it's time. She clicks on Heartbeat IV. Register Now. The page takes a bit to load and when it does--

Early Bird Registration: \$100

Camila stops dead in her tracks. She highlights the number. In a new tab she types in "ca" and it auto populates to-

GOOGLE CALENDAR - MOZILLA FIREFOX

We see today's date: June 17. An event is scheduled for the 18th: "hormone payment". Camila clicks a bookmark called: "Banking".

PAYPAL - MOZILLA FIREFOX

The home page loads and Camila is immediately presented with a balance of \$0. Regardless, she scrolls past to her savings account. Her savings account has a balance of \$2500. Plenty of money. Camila scrolls down.

Further down the page she has set up goals. Well, one goal in particular. It reads: "NEVER TOUCH EVER, REMEMBER THE PLAN" and in it sits all \$2500 dollars. She clicks the goal.

A new menu pops up. A menu where she can edit the goal...or delete it. Camila hovers over the delete button. Her cursor circles it in frustration. She closes the tab.

START.GG - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Cami clicks a button reading: "*Find events*".

In the prompt that pops up she types: "*Street Fighter 6*".

A long list of tournaments pop up. Cami clicks the tab: "*Near me*". Only one tournament remains. Cami follows along the title with her cursor as she reads. "*KC FGC OFFICIAL STREET FIGHTER 6 LAUNCH*". She stops on that last word, moves her cursor down to the date, June 17... 2023. Ok. Nevermind.

FACEBOOK - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Camila goes to her groups, clicks on the one reading: "*Kansas City Fighting Games*". The first post is excitement about Heartbeat coming back for another year. She scrolls down. Bingo. She sees an event happening tonight only a few miles away. It starts at 6:30. It's 4:23 right now. She's got time to kill.

Camila closes out of all of her tabs and lands on the--

DESKTOP

Her background is a picture of her as a young boy smiling and holding a trophy while her father lifts her into the air.

The windows search menu pops up and Camila types in: "*OBS*". As the program loads we see--

INT. CAMILA'S BEDROOM - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Camila has a look of determination on her face. She clicks a button and starts recording.

CAMILA
It's June 17. This is practice
session #42. Aiming for 10 in a
row.

Camila clicks an icon on her taskbar and up pops--

STEAM

Camila navigates to her library, clicks a large green play button and boots up--

STREET FIGHTER 6

The game loads in and Camila selects ranked play. She's off.

As Camila plays we see the following:

Camila comes out of the gate swinging. The announcer yells:
"Perfect K.O."

Camila fights an opponent who stays far away from her.

CAMILA
Ok. Think you can keep me out, huh?
Let's see about that.

Camila barrels towards her opponent, maneuvering around their attacks. "K.O."

Camila has her opponent in a corner and starts furiously crouching, a signal of disrespect.

CAMILA
Really gonna let me do that? 9-0.

"K.O."

CAMILA
Alright. Game 10. Who's it gonna
be?

She connects with an opponent named "*MaximumEffort*". She doesn't see the name.

"Round 1. Fight." Immediately Camila recognizes this opponent is different. He moves more confidently, sure of his position. Camila smiles, a challenge.

They maneuver around each other, trading blows. Camila thinks she spots an opening but at the last moment her opponent backs out and punishes her whiff. The first round is his.

Camila's eyes narrow. She locks in.

"Round 2. Fight." Camila moves in fast, applying an unrelenting pressure, making sure not to leave any gaps that can be exploited. She knocks her opponent down, as he wakes up she smiles.

CAMILA
No reversals today.

Camila stuffs out whatever option her opponent picked by cashing in her super meter making her totally invincible. She takes round two.

"Round 3. Fight." Camila is cautious now, she doesn't want to mess this up. Her opponent moves in.

CAMILA
Jump? No, he's gonna go low. Or--

Her thought process is interrupted by her phone's ringtone.

Camila tries to ignore it, eyes still set on victory. Her opponent jumps in on her and lands with an attack. Her health bar drops lower. The phone keeps ringing. Camila's eyes burn with anger.

She has a moment where she can hit a combo but she drops it. Her opponent doesn't miss a thing and ends the round there. Camila force closes the game before the final results screen.

CAMILA

FUCK! WHO. THE. FUCK. IS CALLING?

Camila looks down at her phone. Her face softens, just a little. She answers.

INT. CAMILA'S BEDROOM - EVENING (WHATSAPP VIDEO)

Camila purses her lips as she waits for the call to connect. Her eyes continue to smolder.

INT. EMILY'S APARTMENT - EVENING (WHATSAPP VIDEO)

EMILY, Camila's older sister, beams at the camera. She's absolutely glowing.

EMILY

Hey girllllll! How's my favorite brother turned sister doing?

INTERCUT CAMILA/EMILY'S WHATSAPP VIDEO CALL

CAMILA

Well, first: I'm your only brother turned sister so I'm the favorite by default. Second, why the fuck are you calling me so many times, if I don't pick up the first time I'm obviously doing someth--

Camila stops mid train of thought as Emily, still smiling, holds her hand up to the camera. It focuses on a large sparkling diamond ring.

EMILY

Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee! Gina and I are getting married!

CAMILA

Wow... congrats.

Camila tries to play coy but can't contain her smile.

CAMILA

Alright, that's awesome. I'm actually really happy for you.

EMILY

I'm happy for me toooooo! I'm literally gonna start planning the wedding tonight. I already know how I want the cake, the flowers, basically my whole guest list.

CAMILA

Guest list?

(smirking)

Since when did you get friends?

EMILY

I'm gonna choose to ignore that. I'll have you know it's a very exclusive list: Ashely, Will, Imani, you of course and... Mom.

Camila's eyes widen. She must be dreaming.

CAMILA

You're actually going to invite Mom, after everything?

EMILY

I think we might be able to mend things, she'll see how happy I am and maybe she'll finally accept me.

CAMILA

Accept you? Girl, please. She has acted like you don't even exist for the past two years. She won't even talk about you around the house.

EMILY

Well I'm going to try. It's Mom y'know. How is the whole transitioning thing going for you? Need any more help with the injections?

Camila suddenly becomes very aware of the time.

CAMILA

You know, I would love to talk about that but I'm actually running late now so we'll have to talk later. Call me tomorrow. I love you. Congrats. OK. Bye.

Emily is about to respond but Camila ends the call. She shuts down the computer. As the tiny dots spin on the screen we--

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK

The echoing BOOM-BOOM we heard earlier during the trailer for Heartbeat. We zoom out to see--

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

LEO BLACKWELL, 20M dark hair with a square jaw, is watching all of this go down from his webcam in the top right corner of the screen. He sees the chat going crazy in excitement and even laughs as Camila's earlier message rolls past.

LEO

Crazy, right chat?

We zoom out even further and see Leo is also streaming himself. His chat is... empty. He's only got one viewer, himself.

Leo takes this in stride and CLICKS over to--

TWITTER (GOOGLE CHROME)

Where he navigates to the page for Heartbeat. He sees the latest post announcing the return of the tournament. He **LIKES** the post and **QUOTE RETWEETS** it, writing: *"This looks totally awesome, live now playing some matches in anticipation. Twitch.tv/LikelyLeo"* A totally shameless plug.

Leo exits his browser and opens up--

STEAM

He scrolls through his massive catalog of games until he lands on--

STREET FIGHTER 6

The announcer belts out the title of the game as it loads in. Leo smiles at this, he's home.

Leo moves through the menus until he's at ranked play. He thinks on it for a moment then proceeds. He's off.

As Leo plays we see the following:

The announcer yells "PERFECT K.O... YOU LOSE!" Leo grimaces.

Leo is backed into a corner as he faces unrelenting pressure from the giant ZANGEIF. He gets grabbed and tossed around-- "YOU LOSE!"

Leo's ranked scores drops lower and lower...and lower some more.

Leo looks over to his chat. His eyes light up as he sees an actual message, BallNMonkey22: "GGs Owen, that was me last match."

LEO
Hey, GGs man, but my name isn't
Owen, it's Leo.

BallNMonkey22 replies: "You sure its not 0 and fuckin' 10 loser? Leo is not so amused by this.

LEO
Nice one... Well while you're here
maybe you wanna help me hit my
follow goal?

Leo glances at the bottom left corner of the screen where his follow goal sits: "0/5"

No response. His only viewer, gone, just like that. Leo takes a deep sigh and exits out of the game. Back on the--

DESKTOP

Leo clicks one of the many icons on display. Opening up--

DISCORD

On the left hand side of the screen are a bunch of different server icons. Leo clicks on one that is just the laughing crying emoji. He enters--

LAUGHWORLD - DISCORD

A private server with a few of his friends in it. Well, maybe not friends, acquaintances. Six of whom are online right now. In the general chat Leo begins to type a message: "@everyone anyone down to chat while i stream?" He thinks for a moment, decides to delete the whole thing.

Instead he clicks over to--

FRIEND'S LIST - DISCORD

Where his one, and only, friend JUSTIN pops ups. He opens their dm and writes: *"wanna talk? im streaming."* Leo waits.

Then, in the chat he sees: *"Justin is typing..."*

Justin: *"one sec. getting earbuds."*

A beat. Justin starts calling Leo on Discord. Leo CLICKS the answer button.

LEO

Sup man! How's it going?

JUSTIN (V.O.)

I'm doing well. Out of the house right now. How are you? How's the stream?

As they talk Leo opens up a browser version of snake and begins to play.

LEO

It's...alright. I haven't been having a ton of viewers, but I'm having fun so it's OK.

JUSTIN

Man, let me keep it straight with you alright. Streaming yourself playing and talking about fighting games is not how you are going to grow. It's so niche, and I mean this is coming from me, I would know. If you really want to blow up play Fortnite or something, like Ninja.

LEO

OK...well, Ninja is cringe and old now so I won't be doing that. Look, I like fighting games and if someone like MaximillianDood can talk about them and still be big, why can't I?

Leo moves the snake around the screen, wiggling it up and down.

JUSTIN

I don't know maybe because he's been doing it for 12 years at this point and you've been streaming for what? Six months? All I mean to say is that I care about you and I hate seeing you not make any progress.

That comment stings Leo.

JUSTIN

But hey, forget all that. Are you coming to the tournament tonight?

LEO

Yeah...I'm still gonna try to make it.

JUSTIN

Dope. I'm just going to head over from here when I'm done. Just getting a few things from Trader Joe's. Let me see how long it's going to be.

Leo's snake eats another apple as Justin fumbles around with his phone.

JUSTIN

Ok, from Trader Joe's to 3620 College Ave--

LEO

DUDE! Why the fuck are you saying my address while I'm live?!

JUSTIN

Relax. No one heard it, OK?

That comment REALLY stings Leo. He goes dead quiet.

JUSTIN

Shit. I didn't mean it like that, alright? Leo?

The pixelated snake runs into its own tail. Dead.

Leo hangs up the call. Quits Discord. Turns off his stream.

CUT TO:

BUMBLE PHONE APP - LATER

Leo swipes past girl after girl. He tries to match with all of them with seemingly no criteria. Swipe after swipe until...he lands on a profile that is obviously a bot.

KATERINA, 25F, stares longingly into the camera. Her bio reads: *"Add me on snapchat for a fun time: KILL_R_ROBOTXX"* In a totally desperate moment Leo swipes yes on her...and still doesn't get a match. Even the bots avoid Leo. Worse yet, he's now out of swipes completely.

He looks at his match history. Sees that yes, it is still empty, and closes out of the app. Opting instead for--

SAFARI

Where he begins to type in: "p" and it autofills to "pornhub.com" Just as Leo is about to hit enter he gets an email notification from "mamablackwell@hotmail.com" the subject reads: *"I miss you."*

Leo swipes the notification away instantly, the last thing he wanted in this moment was to see a message from his mother of all people.

Leo closes out of the tab. In one of his open tabs he sees the Kansas City Fighting Games Facebook page. That reminds him. He goes to--

IMESSAGE

Finds Justin in the list and messages: *"don't really want to go anymore. just gonna stay back tonight."* Justin replies immediately with: *"I just pulled in. You're coming."* A beat. He then sends a picture of Leo from through the window, unflattering to say the least. Followed by: *"Back more hunched than the Notre Dame motherfucker."*

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SOME ARCADE SOMEWHERE - NIGHT (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Leo and Justin appear on the camera. Leo sits perfectly straight in his chair, reads some note cards. They both have headsets with attached microphones on them.

They sit in front of a blank wall. The glow of the fluorescent lighting reflects off of Justin's glasses. Justin looks into the camera and begins his address.

JUSTIN

Welcome back everybody! Thanks for joining us on this fine night in Kansas City.

LEO

A fine night indeed, Justin.

JUSTIN

Right. So it looks like we've got a decent crowd tonight, bracket should be starting in a few minutes here.

LEO

Just a few minutes away...yeah.

Justin gives Leo a look. Leo continues to look at his cards when suddenly--

LEO

(reading off card)

Say, did you hear about the fire at the circus?

JUSTIN

What are you doing?

LEO

It was in tents.

Justin is about to say something when a GAMER in a green Legend of Zelda t-shirt whispers something in his ear.

Justin immediately perks up and his eyes dart across the room, searching...

He sees what he's looking for, points it out to Leo.

JUSTIN

(to Leo)

Turn the camera. Yo, turn the camera.

Leo reaches forward and as he grabs the camera we spin around to REVEAL Camila standing amidst the other attendees.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

You know who that is? In the green beanie?

LEO (O.S.)

Uhhhh...

JUSTIN
That's CAM1 (read as Cami). I've
never seen him here before though.
He's super legit. Shit we might as
well just pack up now.

CHALLENGE - MOZILLA FIREFOX

A tournament brackets for the weekly pops up showing all the
upcoming matches. CAM1 starts in the second round.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
Alright we got CAM1 vs Shabloinkz.

Energetic music begins pumping over the top.

STREET FIGHTER 6

A punch.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
Ooh.

A kick.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
Ah.

A grab.

GAME ANNOUNCER (V.O.)	JUSTIN (V.O.)
K.O!	Ouch, that's got to hurt.

INTERCUT CHALLENGE/STREET FIGHTER 6

Camila moves her way through the bracket. As she progresses
the overall game count gets filled in.

"CAM1 vs Shabloinkz: 2-0"

"CAM1 vs Xen: 2-0"

Camila has her character make funny faces while she waits for
the next match to load.

"CAM1 vs AMAC: 2-0"

JUSTIN (V.O.)
We're in winner's finals now so
we'll be going to best of five,
like that's gonna help these guys.

"CAM1 vs TheSource: 3-0"

The tournament has reached Grand Finals, the apex, a glorious moment of competition, peak fighting games.

Camila is up two games versus her opponent. She has already taken one round in the third game and is up on life. Camila backs her opponent into the corner, gets a LEG SWEEP knocking them down.

INT. ARCADE SETUP - NIGHT (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Camila stares as her opponents character begins to stand back up. Her eyes laser focused on the screen, watching.

She walks forward as if to grab the opponent, and in a flash steps right back. A bait.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
The shimmy!

LEO (V.O.)
No way!

Camila flashes a grin as her opponent falls for her trap and tries to grab the now empty space in front of him. She empties out her super meter with a level three, complete overkill.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
And the level three. Just disrespectful.

Camila jumps from her chair in excitement, lets out a roar that carries through the room and into the commentary mics. She collects herself and fistbumps her opponent. GGs.

INT. SOME ARCADE SOMEWHERE - NIGHT (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Justin and Leo sit in the commentary booth with mouths agape.

JUSTIN
Just like that, CAM1 takes out Deep with a commanding 3-0! Give it up!

Justin elbows Leo-- The camera's back on us dude!

Leo continues to sit in awe of what he just watched. Justin rolls his eyes, he takes off his headset and stands.

JUSTIN
Alright dude, I gotta take a piss. Since you seem so into this I'm going to let you handle the interview, 'kay?

LEO

...K.

Justin catches sight of something.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

CAM1! Hey CAM1! Come sit over by
commentary for your interview!

With that he walks off to relieve himself.

Camila appears on camera, slips on the headset and sits down
next to Leo.

LEO

Hey, what's going on? Congrats on
the win tonight.

CAMILA

Thank you, thank you. Any idea on
how I'm getting paid out?

LEO

I think Anthony will come find you
here in a sec. So, you go by CAM1
but what's your real name?

Camila's eyes the camera, suddenly self-conscious.

CAMILA

...My name's Carmelo but all of my
friends call me CAM1.

LEO

Alright CAM1 let's talk about your
run this evening. I mean wow, I
have never seen someone dominate
like that before.

CAMILA

How long have you been watching? I
mean I appreciate it but I've never
won a major or anything big like
that.

LEO

You could have fooled me, I think
you made that last guy cry.

Camila laughs.

LEO

No like literally.

Leo turns the camera around again to reveal DEEP, Camila's last opponent, sobbing into his hands.

Leo flips the camera back. He and Camila share a look and then burst out laughing.

CAMILA

You are funny, I'll give you that.

LEO

...I like your smile.

Camila blushes.

LEO

So, CAM1 what's stopping you from taking home that big win?

CAMILA

It's not like I'm not trying, I came close a couple months ago but I lost in Grand Finals...to Max.

Leo's eyes widen a little bit.

LEO

Max, yeah. I've heard of him but--

CAMILA

You know what. Fuck it. Let me say this while I'm on here. Max, I'll be going to Heartbeat this year. I can't wait to see you there. I've been practicing and you are going down.

(grabbing the mic)

You self-righteous, narcissistic, piece of sh--

ANDY, the tournament organizer enters the frame.

ANDY

Alright there. CAM1, here is your winnings for the night. Let's wrap this up.

LEO

Alright CAM1, final thoughts?

CAMILA

Yeah. Thanks for the money, Max I'm coming for you and if anyone wants to get coached by me you can look me up on Metafy. Peace!

Leo watches as Camila walks off. Unfinished business.

LEO
Night everybody.

INT. CAMILA'S CAR - FACETIME - CAMILA'S IPHONE

Camila's face pops up as she is driving, she looks down to see who is calling. Ugh, her mother. Camila accepts the call.

MARISOL RODRIGUEZ, 40f stands in her kitchen, stone-faced.

INTERCUT INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - FACETIME - LEO'S IPHONE

Leo gets a facetime from "Brother", he accepts. MAX, 25m sits at his desk, face aglow.

MAX
I was watching the stream tonight--

CAMILA'S IPHONE

CAMILA
Mom, how did you even find that?

MARISOL
I like to keep track of what you are up to, you never keep me in the loop. I can't believe--

LEO'S IPHONE

MAX
--what that bitch was saying about me, and dude you just sat there and let that shit slide.

LEO
...I didn't know what to say, okay.
I'm--

CAMILA'S IPHONE

CAMILA
--sorry you had to hear that. I just, ugh. I get so angry and I see red and I just have to let it out.

MARISOL
Carmelo, you remind me so much of your father.

CAMILA
Why are you--

LEO'S IPHONE

LEO
--bringing up Dad? Can we please
not do this right now?

MAX
All I'm saying is Dad just let Mom
walk all over him all the time,
it's why he left.

Leo stares off into space.

MAX
OK, fine. Let's change the subject.
How's the stream going? You making
any money yet? It's half-way
through the year. Don't forget--

CAMI'S IPHONE

MARISOL
--our deal.

CAMILA
I'll never forget our deal. Dad
said that I could do anything in my
life as long as I was the best at
it, and I'm going to be the best no
matter--

LEO'S IPHONE

LEO
--how long it takes.

MAX
Alright little bro, but in six
months time the money is gonna stop
coming in. I love you and I want to
support you but at some point you
gotta do it yourself.

CHATGPT (V.O.)
Here's a list of ways to grow as a
content creator specifically on
YouTube and Twitch.

CHATGPT - GOOGLE CHROME

Leo reads the last line of the list: *"See how other creators are getting viewers. Can you replicate what they are doing in a distinct way?"*

Leo CLICKS open a new tab, heads to--

YOUTUBE - GOOGLE CHROME

Leo scrolls down his feed, watching the VIEW COUNTS of the videos as he scrolls past:

"Pretending to be a Police Officer for a Day - 866k views"

"The World's Tallest Lego Structure - 640k views"

"iShowSpeed did WHAT in Lagos? - 1.1m views"

None of these catch Leo's interest. He continues scrolling.

Finally, one TITLE catches his eye.

"Beginner vs Pro Gamer. 30 days to be the best. - 142k views"

The THUMBNAIL depicts two characters from Street Fighter 6, one dubbed "Noob" the other "Pro". Leo CLICKS the video.

INT. GAMING STUDIO - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

In the video is BRANDON, a bleached blonde man with a pearly white smile plastered on his face.

BRANDON

Want to know how to go from a complete beginner in fighting games to a pro in just 30 days? Me too, that's why I hired a pro player to coach me for an entire month. Want to see how I did? The video speaks for itself.

Leo PAUSES the video and SCROLLS down to the comments. One reads: *"plz do more videos like these. good content."*

Leo CLICKS the description. It reads: *"Find bruhemoji and other pro players on MetaFy"* and links to the website. *"All progress streamed daily on my Twitch"* Leo CLICKS the link to the Twitch channel.

TWITCH - GOOGLE CHROME

Leo sees Brandon's stream has 6,000 live viewers, a respectable amount. Especially given he is streaming Street Fighter 6, the "niche" title according to Justin.

Leo opens a NEW TAB. He has an idea.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY (HOME VIDEO)

BENITO (O.S.)
Come on son! You got this!

A YOUNG BOY sprints down the pitch, in possession of the ball. An ENEMY PLAYER stands in his path, ready to block.

The young boy maneuvers the ball through the enemy's feet and out the other side. He's home free.

BENITO (O.S.)
Yes! Yes! Just like that!

The boy tears away from every other player. Only one obstacle remains, the GOALIE. The boy continues his approach without hesitation, looks the goalie right in the eyes, and FIRES the ball.

It's good! We hear the back of the net SWISH upon impact. Followed right by the ROAR of the crowd.

The ref calls the match with a shrill WHISTLE.

BENITO
THAT'S MY BOY!

We follow along as our unseen cameraman storms the pitch, the young boy runs to meet him. The two embrace, the camera moves lower and FLIPS AROUND to take a video, selfie style.

BENITO
Hey champ, how's it feel to take
home another one for the team?

YOUNG BOY
(smiling)
Another game, another win. Come on
now, you know the deal.

BENITO
That's right, because the
Rodriguez's are always...

YOUNG BOY
...the best!

The video PAUSES as they both hug and smile into the camera.

VLC - CAMILA'S COMPUTER

The same paused video. Camila's CURSOR clicks the X button to close the window. Bringing us to the--

DESKTOP

The same desktop where the background image is the same frame as the home video. Camila heads to the taskbar and opens--

HOME PAGE - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Cami types into the search bar "*Google Sheets*", hits enter.

GOOGLE SHEETS - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Cami CLICKS on a document called "*The Plan*" as it loads we see the spreadsheet is sectioned off into different parts. One part is for "*Hormones*", one for "*Bottom Surgery*" and finally one for "*Moving Out*".

All the sections have specific dollar amounts designated as goals. Cami types in a new field "*Tournament Earnings: \$125*" She puts \$25 of that towards hormones. Leaving \$100 for--

START.GG - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Camila completes her registration for Heartbeat. Goes back to the main page of the tournament, HIGHLIGHTS the prize pool.

"*10k for First Place*". Enough money to totally fill her Moving Out fund, but not enough for the rest.

Suddenly, a NOTIFICATION pops up on the bottom right of the screen, an email reads: "*You have a new request - MetaFy*".

Camila opens up a new tab and heads to--

METAFY - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Her inbox has a little 1 marker on it. She opens it to see a message request from *Leonidas66*.

His message reads: "*Hey CAM1, I have a proposition for you. How would you like to do some content with me? I'll pay you for coaching and a little extra for being in my videos.*"

Cami CLICKS the reply button. The cursor blinks, thinking.

She types: "*How much are we talking about?*", waits.

The chat box shows: "*Leo is typing...*"

He replies: "*How does \$75 a session sound?*"

Camila waits a moment to reply, she has him on the hook.

She types: "\$100 a session and I'm in."

No response. Then: "Leo is typing..." he stops.

Finally he sends back: "Deal." It's on.

CAMILA (V.O.)
Alright, first things first...

INT. CAMILA'S BEDROOM/INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

The duo sit together in a Discord video call.

CAMILA
How much do you know about this game?

LEO
As in?

CAMILA
As in: terminology, basic mechanics, number notation. Where are you at?

LEO
I don't know that's like a lot of stuff you just threw at me.

CAMILA
(frustrated)
For example, what does 'footsies' mean to you?

LEO
Foodsies...right...

Leo stalls as he opens up--

GOOGLE CHROME

--and begins searching for the term.

CAMILA
I can literally see you googling it. Just close the tab, OK?

Leo does as she asks. We see Camila try her best to put on a smile.

CAMILA
Aren't you a commentator? Forget
that. Let's watch my screen for a
little.

STREET FIGHTER 6 - DISCORD SCREEN SHARE

Cami pilots her character, RYU, back and forth.

CAMILA
Ok, so spacing is one of the
biggest concepts in this game. If
you can control the space in front
of you better than your opponent
can then you can always win.

Camila moves her character far away from her CPU opponent.

CAMILA
If I'm over here and my opponent is
trying to close the distance what
would I do?

LEO
Fireball?

CAMILA
Exactly.

Camila throws a BLUE FIREBALL at the CPU.

CAMILA
The fireball moves all the way
across the screen and holds that
space for me. The opponent can
either try to jump over it or move
in and block, but to block they
have to?

LEO
(unconfident)
Hold back?

CAMILA
Yes, hold back! The opponent can't
move forward and block. If they
don't want to take damage they have
to hold back.

Camila closes the gap with the CPU, only leaving a bit of
room between the two characters.

CAMILA

Now, if I'm here and I don't want my opponent to get in, what button am I pressing?

LEO

I don't know, something fast?

CAMILA

Fast, yes, but also something with reach. Like for example, a low kick.

RYU ducks down, shoots out his foot and retracts it.

CAMILA

When you get this close with your opponent it really becomes all about the mindgames. Here, boot up your game and I'll show you.

STREET FIGHTER 6

ANNOUNCER

FIGHT!

Leo and Camila have loaded into a real match.

CAMILA

Your only goal is to hit me. Once.

Camila presses forward with RYU, fearless in the face of Leo.

Leo tries to stop her advance with a LOW KICK. Camila reacts with a JUMP, landing right on top of Leo.

CAMILA

Too slow.

Before he can get another move out she grabs him and THROWS him into the corner.

Leo wakes up and throws a FIREBALL in an attempt to capitalize on the distance between them. Camila blocks.

CAMILA

Predictable.

Camila uses a long range MEDIUM KICK to keep Leo from escaping. He blocks the move and JUMPS out of the corner. As he flies towards Camila he extends a KICK of his own.

Leo gets closer...closer...the kick is just about to land.

Camila bursts into the air with a SHORYUKEN, a devastating invincible reversal option. Leo is knocked back onto the ground.

CAMILA
Desperate.

Leo's face gives away his mounting frustration. Camila has the eyes of a killer.

Leo rises once more, Camila right on top of him. She throws out a flurry of attacks. All Leo can do is block.

Camila smiles, she has him. RYU is surrounded by a neon AURA. Cami has activated her DRIVE IMPACT, a special move capable of hitting through block.

Leo's eyes widen but he is too late to react. He watches as his character crumples to the floor.

CAMILA
You can't just hold back y'know.

Camila uses her cinematic LEVEL 3 SUPER to finish Leo.

ANNOUNCER
KO!

The characters reset position.

ANNOUNCER
Round 2! Fight!

CAMILA
Let's go again.

Leo's character doesn't move.

LEO
What is this? Like what are you doing?

Camila turns her focus back to-

DISCORD

She looks at Leo's webcam.

CAMILA
What do you mean?

LEO

I mean, you're just embarrassing me. I don't get how this is supposed to help me.

CAMILA

OK...look, I'm sorry your feelings got hurt but this is how you learn. This is how you get better. Don't you want to be better?

LEO

I don't feel any better. I feel like a loser.

CAMILA

To be honest, right now you are kinda acting like one.

Leo looks at Camila, studies her face, makes a decision.

LEO

I think I was wrong about you.

Leo hangs up the call.

CUT TO BLACK.

FACETIME - CAMILA'S IPHONE

Camila's camera pops open as she gets a call from her sister.

EMILY

Hey girl, you less busy now? Want to talk?

CAMILA

Hey Em. I'm not gonna lie I feel really shitty right now.

EMILY

Oh, pobrecita. What's wrong?

CAMILA

I was training with this guy earlier--

Emily raises an eyebrow.

CAMILA

Stop. It's not like that. It's just for money.

Emily smiles and puts her hands up.

EMILY

OK. OK.

CAMILA

Anyway. We were training and I pushed him too hard or something and he just left. I really wasn't trying to be mean. I was just telling him the truth.

EMILY

Jeez, reminds of someone else.

CAMILA

Why does everyone keep bringing up Dad? I AM NOT Dad, OK! I'm sorry if I remind you too much of him, I already know you hate him. I know he was mean. I know he was too harsh. But you know what? I loved him, alright. He knew I could be great and he made me know it too.

Emily silently nods her head.

EMILY

Alright, sorry I went there.

Camila untenses her body.

CAMILA

No, I'm sorry Em. You didn't deserve that.

EMILY

Thank you. Look if you want to make things better between the two of you I think you should apologize to him.

CAMILA

I wouldn't even know what to say.

EMILY

Here, let's work on it together.

CAMI'S DISCORD - LATER

We FOCUS on the text cursor BLINKING. We RACK FOCUS back to REVEAL the message Camila has yet to send.

"Hey, I'm sorry for how I acted before. We can try a different way next time."

Camila's cursor moves over to the time, she CLICKS.

The time window expands. 8:43:56 PM

The seconds tick away. 57...58...59...

Right when the clock hits 8:44 Camila sends the message to Leo. She immediately moves to close the window, but then Leo comes online.

Leo is typing... He stops.

Leo is typing... Stops, again.

Leo is typing... Finally he responds.

Yeah, you were a big meanie. lol. i accept the apology. anyway, ive been smokin a bit and playing some mc if u want to come chill.

Camila's cursor blinks.

DISCORD CALL

We see the two profile pictures for Leo and Cami lighting up and moving in sync with their dialogue.

CAMILA

Hey.

LEO

Sup with it.

CAMILA

I haven't played Minecraft in forever, I don't think I even know my password.

We hear the BUBBLING of a bong rip. An EXHALE.

LEO

...Nah it's been a minute for me too. I used to play way more often. You fuck with Paramore?

CAMILA

I...love Paramore, Hayley Williams is an icon.

LEO

Here join this.

Leo sends a link to join his Spotify jam. Camila accepts.

NOW PLAYING: "ROSE-COLORED BOY". Paramore.

Leo's cam flips on. Camila responds in kind.

INT. CAMILA'S BEDROOM/LEO'S BEDROOM

The song continues over the following:

Leo stands up on his chair revealing his green PAJAMA PANTS covered in Minecraft branding. Camila laughs.

A TIME LAPSE of Leo and Camila completed locked in on the game. They lean their faces in close to their monitors. The Day/Night cycle of the game brightens and darkens their faces.

End song.

MINECRAFT

A well-crafted oaken house stands before Camila, the result of hours of hard work. Wait, HOURS?!

CAMILAS WEBCAM

Camila does a double take at the clock on her screen.

CAMILA

It's 1AM. How the fuck is it 1AM?

LEO

(laughing)

That's Minecraft for you.

CAMILA

Haha, yeah. Look, I gotta go. I had a fun time thought.

LEO

Me too. I haven't had a long one-on-one with another person in a while. Thank you.

Camila softens at this. She opens her mouth to respond--

DISCORD CALL - 2 HOURS LATER

We see how long the call has gone on by the timer.

CAMILA

--I just want to take home a big win. To prove to everybody that I can.

LEO

Exactly. I know the exact feeling. I have all this potential inside myself and if I can let it out everyone will know. They'll know I'm great.

CAMILA

There's just so much going on in my head at all times.

LEO

Bruh, same. I need to chill out more. You know what I miss? Doing mushrooms. It just opens up my perspective on everything.

Camila opens her mouth to say something, hesitates. Commits.

CAMILA

Look, I'm going to tell you something and I need you to not repeat it alright?

LEO

Alright...what is it?

CAMILA

Last year I went on this trip by myself. It was around my Dad's birthday and that's always a hard time for me. I did mushrooms out in the forest and everything just felt so clear. That's the day I fully realized I was trans. I think I always knew but nothing clicked until then. So, yeah. I'm trans.

Leo takes a second to process this.

LEO

That's so...cool. I'm really glad you shared that with me. Thank you. Can I ask why it needs to be a secret? Not that I'm gonna blab.

CAMILA

It's my mom. She loves me but since my dad passed she views me as 'the golden son' like I need to step up and be the 'man of the family' and she got into this whole thing with my sister a couple years back when she tried to come out and now they don't even talk. It's just messy.

LEO

Real. You have no idea how real that is. I have a feeling my mom is pretty similar to yours, she tries to control everything about me. Well, tried. I've been no-contact with her for a bit now.

CAMILA

So who do you have? Is your dad around?

LEO

No, he walked out on us when I was a kid...I have my brother Ma--

Leo stops himself. Camila doesn't catch it.

LEO

Yeah, just my brother.

CAMILA

Family is hard.

LEO

Yes it is.

Camila yawns.

CAMILA

Hey, it's been great talking but I really do need to go to bed now. I'll see you next session?

LEO

You know it girl.

Camila smiles at this.

LEO

See you next time.

They both close out of the Discord call. 5 hours of talking. So many words spoken, yet so much left unsaid.

BEGIN FUN & GAMES MONTAGE

NOW PLAYING: "Still Into You". Paramore.

The song continues over the following:

TWITCH - LEO'S STREAM

Camila trains Leo in a live session. She goes over different terminology with him. Mix-ups, Oki, Links.

TWITCH - WEEKLY TOURNAMENT STREAM

Leo points out a move that one of the players does, referencing what Camila taught him. Justin looks at him, impressed.

Leo interviews Camila as she wins weekly after weekly.

GOOGLE CALENDAR

June turns to July turns to August.

GOOGLE SHEETS - CAMILA'S MONEY

Camila adds up the money she is making from coaching Leo and from winning every week. She adds it all to her moving out fund.

MINECRAFT - CAMILA AND LEO'S WORLD

The oaken house from before stands even larger now. We see the whole world is more developed now. Camila and Leo have built their own little community.

DISCORD - CAMILA AND LEO'S DM

Leo sends a bunch of Spotify links for songs to Camila.

CAMILA'S SPOTIFY

Camila's LIKED SONGS fill up with various tracks recommended to her by Leo.

DISCORD CALL - SCREEN SHARE

Leo and Camila sit and watch a horror movie. They both JUMP in their chairs as something terrible pops up on the screen.

DISCORD - CAMILA AND LEO'S DM

Messages from both sides fill up the screen.

wyd?

wanna hang?

call soon?

movie tn?

DISCORD CALL

Leo and Camila are both fast asleep while a movie plays in the background.

STREET FIGHTER 6

Leo and Camila spar. He has gotten a lot better at the game.

DISCORD - CAMILA AND LEO'S DM

The cursor blinks at the end of a message waiting to be sent. A beat. Leo sends the message.

hey, did you maybe want to go get food with me after the tournament tonight? we could go to hamburger mary's or something like that. :)

END FUN & GAMES MONTAGE.

INT. HAMBURGER MARY'S - NIGHT (IPHONE FOOTAGE)

The camera comes up and we see Camila smiling, a little embarrassed. She's got her hair down, it's been styled. She also wears EYELINER.

LEO (O.S.)
Go on, do it.

Camila builds up the nerve.

CAMILA
BINGO BITCH!

Leo turns the camera to see a DRAG PERFORMER on a stage at the front of the restaurant. She's in a full face of makeup and wrapped in a tight blouse and high waisted mini skirt. She speaks into a microphone.

DRAG PERFORMER
I heard a bingo bitch! Come on
bitch, bring that card up here!

Camila heads over to the stage, presents the performer with her card.

DRAG PERFORMER
We've got a bingo! What time is it
everybody?

CROWD
(in unison)
Balls to the face!

Camila now makes her way around the restaurant. As she walks
people throw their crumpled BINGO CARDS at her.

DRAG PERFORMER
Balls to the face! Balls to the
face! Balls in the face! What do we
want?

CROWD
Balls to the face!

Camila passes by Leo. He doesn't waste the opportunity and
nails her right in the head with his bingo card.

LEO (O.S.)
Balls to the face!

Camila smiles at him as she finishes her loop and makes it
back to the stage. Everyone claps.

DRAG PERFORMER
Did you enjoy that sweetie?

CAMILA
I think so.

DRAG PERFORMER
I think so too, have you ever had
balls to the face before?

Camila shoots a glance over at Leo, embarrassed.

CAMILA
No comment.

The performer and the audience laugh.

DRAG PERFORMER
Alright darling go ahead and pick a
prize.

Camila turns her back to the crowd, considers THREE WRAPPED
PRESENTS on a table. Chooses one. As she goes to leave the
performer holds out her arms for a hug, Camila obliges.

She makes her way back to her seat, beaming the whole time.

The video ends. We pull back to see we've been watching on--

DISCORD - CAMILA & LEO'S DM

Camila types a response to Leo's recording: *tonight was so much fun.*

Leo is offline, it's late.

DISCORD - LEO

PING. Leo gets a message alert. PING, another. One message from Camila, the other from Max.

He double checks he is in offline mode then opens up the dm from Max.

hey dude, i'm gonna be back in town next week. lets hang at the weekly. we can catch up after. miss you bro.

Leo stays on the message, he HIGHLIGHTS 'next week'. He clicks on the notification from Camila.

AMAZON

Camila does some inspired late night shopping. She searches for *skirts*. Browses the options.

A simple black skirt catches her eye. It's plain but cute and most importantly cheap. *Two day delivery.*

The mouse hovers over *Buy Now*. CLICK.

PING. A discord alert noise. Camila reopens--

DISCORD

To see who it is. She's greeted with a response from Leo.

i had a really good time too.

Camila types her response:

i think we have a lot of good times together--

--when Leo begins typing again. She waits to send.

Leo is typing...

Leo is typing...

Camila selects her whole message, cuts it to save for later, and types: *dont leave me hanging.*

Leo stops typing.

A Discord call begins RINGING on the screen. Camila accepts.

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM/CAMILA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Leo and Camila both wear hoodies.

LEO	CAMILA
Hey, so I've got something I need to say--	Yo, I need to talk to you about--

They smile at each other.

LEO
Go, please.

CAMILA
...I made a decision tonight. All those performers on the stage...they were free. Free in a way that I have never been.

LEO
So what are you going to do?

CAMILA
(laughs)
You'll see at the tournament.

Leo forces a cough.

LEO
I don't know if I can make it this week. I think I'm getting sick.

CAMILA
Do you not want to see me? I thought that...

Leo begins to speak.

CAMILA
Leo I like you. Like a lot. I like you a lot and I needed to tell you and I've liked you a lot for a long time.

Leo's eyes well with newfound tears.

LEO
You have no idea how happy that makes me to hear.
(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)
 Camila, I like you so much, every
 moment we are together just feels
 right.

They smile at each other, staring through the digital
 barrier, deep into each others eyes.

CAMILA
 I can't wait to see you.

INT. SOME ARCADE SOMEWHERE - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Justin sits in the familiar commentary booth, headset on.

JUSTIN
 --and come on if you're not gooning
 to that then...
 (at camera)
 what are you gooning to?

Justin peeks his head up. His eyes widen.

JUSTIN
 Oh shittttt guys. Look, look.

Justin flips the camera around, a tried and true trick.

We see a SILVER HAired PLAYER standing in the crowd searching
 for someone.

JUSTIN (O.S.)
 If you don't know who you are
 lookin' at, let me introduce you.
 The guy with the silver hair.
 That's Max a.k.a. MAXIMUMEFFORT. He
 was the best player in the region
 until he got picked up by NRG, now
 he competes for best in the
 country.

In the corner of the screen we can see Camila and Leo
 standing face to face. Camila holds out the ends of her SKIRT
 and does a little twirl. Leo smiles as they converse.

Finally, MAX finds who he is looking for. He crouches lower
 to be 'stealthy' and sneaks up to Leo's back.

JUSTIN (O.S.)
 What is he doing with Leo? Is that-
 -

Max GRABS ahold of Leo's shoulder from behind and Leo jumps.

JUSTIN

The fuck...

Leo hangs his head, he knows who this is before he even turns around. Camila looks past and sees who it is.

Max wraps Leo in a bear hug. Camila stares on, angry and confused.

She mouths an inaudible question. Leo is about to respond when Max speaks up, loud enough to be picked up on Justin's mic.

MAX

He's my brother!

CAMILA

YOUR BROTHER?!

JUSTIN (O.S.)

HIS BROTHER?!

CAMILA

WHAT THE FUCK!

Camila catches sight of Justin's voyeurism, makes eye contact.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

Uh oh.

Camila storms off. Justin faces the camera back on himself. He wears a sheepish smile.

CAMILA (O.S.)

FUCK! OFF!

Justin looks over again, eyes tracking the action. He moves his seat over in anticipation as...

Leo plops down in the seat beside him. He looks frazzled, until he catches sight of the camera and adjusts. Game face.

LEO

Hey, Justin.

JUSTIN

(cool)

Hey.

LEO

Did you hear any of that...or?

Justin knocks on the sides of his headphones.

JUSTIN
Soundproof.

LEO
Got ya.

INT. SOME ARCADE SOMEWHERE - LATER

We move through the bracket of this tournament real fast.

CHALLENGE

MAXIMUMEFFORT advances through round after round. He drops no games.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
Max is on a tear tonight.

On the opposite side of the bracket CAM1 fights her way forward until--

JUSTIN (V.O.)
Wow! Just like that CAM1 is down and will have to try and take the tournament from losers side. An uncharacteristic loss. I'm sure CHAOSMATEUS is going to savor this win.

LEO (V.O.)
I think she--
(catches himself)
--er. Sheer...willpower will get CAM1 through.

Cami bounces back continues onward.

SPLIT SCREEN - MAX'S PLAYER CAM / CAMILA'S PLAYER CAM

Max is jovial, a smile masks his killer instinct.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
Max makes it to winners side of grand finals.

Camila is serious, her flared nostrils reveal bubbling anger.

LEO (V.O.)
CAM1 makes it through to grand finals from losers.

Both player cams slowly EXPAND until they completely fill each respective side of the screen. Time for the face off!

STREET FIGHTER 6

Max and Camila select their fighters, as the match loads in--

PLAYER CAM FOOTAGE

Max holds his fist out to Camila, waits for hers to connect. It doesn't come. Max smirks at the disrespect.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
Oof. CAM1 is ice cold.

STREET FIGHTER 6

The first match begins

Camila RUSHES IN.

She checks her range with jabs, closes the gap.

Max backs up, waits. Backs up more. He's almost to the corner.

Neither player has even landed a hit yet. Max hasn't even thrown out an attack...

Camila pressures Max in the corner but his defense is faultless. She tries a grab, he breaks it.

She's playing angry and Max knows it.

He's stonewalling her.

Camila opts for an air approach, launching skyward when--

SHORYUKEN!

Max lets an uppercut rip, knocking Camila out of the air and into the very corner Max has been occupying.

As her character recovers on the ground he crouches over her, stands back up. Crouches. Stands. Crouches. Stands.

HE'S T-BAGGING HER!

PLAYER CAM FOOTAGE

Camila's eyes FLARE, her jaw CLENCHES in pure unadulterated fury.

STREET FIGHTER 6

Camila gets up off the ground and holds away from Max, desperate to block.

He steps forward, shimmies back. Grabs Camila as she whiffs her own grab and throws her back into the corner.

Crouch.

Stand.

Crouch.

Stand.

Camila is up again and this time she won't just hold back. She uses an INVINCIBLE REVERSAL hoping to catch Max reaching.

It misses.

And not only does it miss, but...

Max was ready. He hits her with a devastating COUNTER into a full combo.

ANNOUNCER

PERFECT!

PLAYER CAM FOOTAGE

In the background of Max's cam we can see two FRIENDS of his cheering and yelling.

Camila turns her head to see the noise, shooting the two a look.

They yell louder. Camila turns her headphones up.

STREET FIGHTER 6 / PLAYER CAM FOOTAGE

Max wins the next round. The set count is 1-0 him.

His boys cheer. Camila fumes.

Max takes the next round. And the next. 2-0.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

Max just needs one more win to take this whole thing.

We go into the first round of the possible last match.

Max walks right up to Camila and taunts.

She hits him, launches into her own combo taking 30% of his life. She waits for him to get up.

As Max gets up she fakes walking back and then STRIKES again.

Another combo, another 30%.

Max in the corner now, Cami runs up and--

MAX COMES ALIVE. It's clear he was just toying with Camila before. He finds his way into her defense again.

ANNOUNCER

K.O.

His friends cheer.

Camila explodes out of her seat. Her chair SLAMS down to the floor. She grabs her controller and HURLS IT INTO THE GROUND.

Plastic pieces fly everywhere.

She yells loud enough to be picked up on the mic.

CAMILA

FUCK YOU!

She storms off camera.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT (IPHONE FOOTAGE)

The phone shakes as the recording begins. All we can see is the asphalt of the lot until it shoots up to see--

Camila fucking DECK one of Max's friends. He drops to the ground. His head meets the concrete with a dull thud.

Utter silence.

Max checks on his injured friend as the other moves toward Camila, but Leo suddenly rushes in and stands in the way.

MAX

Hey!

He gets up, shoulders past his friend and goes face to face with Leo.

MAX

Why are you defending this fucker?
Come at me Camila. No matter what
you identify as you're still a
dick.

Max called her Camila, not Carmelo. He knows her. Leo turns to Camila, confused.

She pushes past him and beelines for Max. She throws another punch, connecting with his eye.

MAX

Ah fuck!

THE VIDEO ENDS. We pull back to reveal the video is being sent on--

SNAPCHAT

It gets sent out to a bunch of different friends. We change perspectives to a different phone as it gets SCREEN RECORDED.

FACEBOOK

The video is uploaded to the site and shared in a local group.

IMESSAGE

A reddit post discussing the footage gets sent in a group chat. It gets two thumbs down reactions and one HAHA reaction.

TWITTER

A post from a prominent tournament organizer proclaims:

Due to the recent incident involving the player known as CAM1 they are henceforth banned from all tournaments for an indefinite period of time. We strive to create a positive and safe community and have zero tolerance for violence.

We PULL BACK again to see the reddit post is being reacted to on--

YOUTUBE

Where a YOUTUBER gives their oh so important thoughts and opinions on the whole subject.

YOUTUBER

Its really a shame that this happened in our community. I, for one, don't stand for violence and think this is disgusting.

The video PAUSES. We pull back AGAIN to--

TWITCH - MOZILLA FIREFOX (CAMI'S DESKTOP)

Where a STREAMER gives their thoughts and opinions on the Youtuber's thoughts and opinions.

STREAMER

I think that's a fair point. Yeah,
he makes sense.

The streamer takes a long, unhurried drink from a soda can.
He looks over to read messages from his viewers.

We see the CHAT race past on the right side of the screen.

dinoSauron: cam1 is so cringe

cringlemcdinge: That skirt is gay as fuck

xxLolaBunnyXx: im glad max is okay

Camila reads the comments as they go by. She clicks on the chat box and begins typing a message to defend herself: *max is going to be fine, he didn't even get hit that hard.*

STREAMER

Whoa, guys. CAM1 is in the chat
right now.

He waits to see how his community decides to react before he reacts.

A flood of negativity comes in, calls to be banned.

STREAMER

Yeah, bye.

The chat box abruptly DISAPPEARS. It is replaced with a singular message: *You have been banned from this stream, you can no longer chat.*

The streamer laughs.

STREAMER

Get that shit out of here.

Camila closes the tab. Sending us to--

REDDIT - MOZILLA FIREFOX

A notification sits in the top right corner of the screen.
Camila CLICKS on it. She takes a moment to digest.

Your comment was removed by the moderators of r/fighters for the reason: You suck, leave this community forever.

Camila HIGHLIGHTS the message. *Leave this community forever.*
It stings.

Camila shuts down her computer.

FADE TO BLACK.

DISCORD - LEO'S COMPUTER

Leo types a message out to Cami in their dm.

can we please just talk? i promise to hear you out. i miss you.

We see Leo has been trying to reach Camila for weeks on end. Message after message with no reply. They start off angry but as they progress Leo's attempts just become desperate.

A google calendar alert DINGS on the side of the screen. A reminder for *TRAINING WITH CAMILA* at 3pm today.

Leo CLICKS on the notification taking us to--

GOOGLE CALENDAR (GOOGLE CHROME)

Where Leo edits the event. He clicks the DELETE button. A prompt pops up. *Delete this event and all following events?*

Leo clicks OK. The event pops out of existence. It's over.

GOOGLE SEARCH (GOOGLE CHROME)

Leo types in something he has never typed before: *jobs*.

Various listings pop up, too many to sort through.

Leo refines his search: ~~*no experience jobs*~~ *entry level jobs*. Less results come up this time, less money too.

Sonic Drive-In: \$11.50/hr

Walmart: \$13/hr

Best Buy: \$15/hr

Leo clicks on--

BEST BUY (GOOGLE CHROME)

He begins to fill out an application. Scrolls down to the resume section and stops. Leo navigates to--

DOCUMENTS

Where he sifts through a whole bunch of bullshit until he lands on *Leo_Blackwell_Resume.pdf*. He opens it.

ADOBE ACROBAT

This is maybe the most atrocious resume of all time. It looks like it was put together by an actual child. Nothing that would every get anyone a job. Leo recognizes this.

We watch as the file UPLOADS into--

CHATGPT

Where Leo asks it to: *reformat this into something more professional, highlighting my strong work ethic and great attitude.*

He takes this new file, sight unseen, and uploads it to the

BEST BUY

application portal. Clicks SUBMIT APPLICATION.

DING! His application has been accepted IMMEDIATELY.

Thank you for your application LEO. In order to move forward in the process please click this link.

Leo follows the link to a subsection of the Best Buy website, it asks for CAMERA and MICROPHONE permissions. Leo accepts.

BEST BUY / INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

We see Leo for the first time in a while. He looks rough. Dark circles under his eyes, a mess in the background.

Leo recognizes this too, turning the camera so that the only thing it can see is him and the blank wall behind him.

The instructions read: *You will now be presented with a series of questions in which you will record your answers to be reviewed by our team. You will get three attempts per prompt.*

Question 1: When was a time you had to resolve a conflict with a co-worker? What happened and how did you handle it?

3...2...1

The video starts RECORDING. Leo is unprepared.

LEO
 (rushing)
 Uh...well. I...had this one time
 where...well it was me and this
 girl, uh woman. Shit.

He clicks the stop recording button.

2/3 Attempts Remaining.

Leo takes a second to compose himself. He sets his hands on his keyboard, accidentally hitting the space bar. Uh oh.

3...2...1

LEO
 So there was this one time with a woman I was working with and we couldn't see eye to eye on the issue. She thought that things had to be resolved one way and I thought it had to be a different way and she started to actually get angry at me so I walked away because I wanted to diffuse the situation so we could both calm down. When I was by myself I actually thought more about what she said and I saw the truth in it and I was actually going to go apologize to her when she came to me and...I miss her.

He stops the recording again.

LEO
 Fuck this. Fuck her.

CAMILA'S IPHONE - CAMERA ROLL / FACETIME

Camila talks with Emily over Facetime. We see a black screen with light seeping in around the edges. Emily's camera is covered.

EMILY
 Et voila!

Emily pulls away the cover and shows off FRAMED PHOTOS of her and her fiancé Gina.

EMILY
 Every table is going to have on of these on them. Little moments from our whole relationship.

CAMILA
 (checked out)
 Wow that's amazing.

As they chat Camila scrolls through her gallery, various pictures and videos. Her cat, a particularly nice looking breakfast from like two weeks ago, some selfies.

EMILY
 You alright girl? How's everything
 been with you? Don't hold out on
 me.

Camila gets to the photo she's looking for. A picture of her and Leo after their night at Hamburger Mary's.

The only photo she has of them together.

CAMILA
 I am doing...fine. I've been trying
 to take some time y'know. Refocus
 on my goals.

She holds down on the screen, it's a LIVE photo. Leo's eyes hold on hers before they look at the camera and smile.

She presses the trash button and just like that, it's gone.

EMILY
 I think that is a very good idea.
 I'm excited to see you, two more
 weeks!

CAMILA
 I can't wait.

DAVINCI RESOLVE - LEO'S COMPUTER

Leo edits a video with fervor.

GRABBING and SLIDING clips all over the place.

We see him continue this process as a time lapse. It goes by pretty fast but attentive viewers will notice Camila's face flash on the screen every so often.

We slow back down as Leo finishes. He EXPORTS the video. UPLOADS it to YouTube.

YOUTUBE - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Camila is just finishing up Leo's latest video, *My Journey to Becoming the Top Ranked Street Fighter Player*. She DISLIKES the video, opens up--

AUDACITY

Camila records an audio message to send to Leo. We see the waveforms.

CAMILA

What the fuck did I just watch on your channel?! You seriously edited me out of the video you motherfucker! I can't even...UGH! I don't even know why I ever even felt any-- fuck you dude. It's not enough for everyone else to be shitting on me, you have to go and pull this. I thought you would stand by me at the very least, but no, no one wants to defend the 'trans girl with anger issues' cause how could anyone even love her? Don't even bother replying to this. FUCK YOU!

She opens--

DISCORD

Clicks on Leo's DM, clearing away all the unread messages. Sends the voice note to him.

TWITCH - LEO'S CHANNEL

Leo streams with a smile on his face. He looks over to the chat. There's actual people. In his stream!

LEO

(reading chat)

What kind of things are you gonna do in the future? Well, I think I might still find some inspiration in fighting games in general. Maybe I could do a similar type of video with Smash or Guilty Gear.

A notification pops up on the screen. A \$5 donation.

LEO

Thank you so much Jenna...Tools for the five dollar donation. Alright let me see what--

Leo looks over to his other monitor, we can tell from his eye movement he is reading a large block of text. He mouths the words to himself as he reads.

His face contorts, sadness, anger, relief all wash over him. Leo looks back over, remembering he is live on stream.

He wipes away tears.

LEO

Chat, that's gonna be all from me for today. I want to thank everyone who showed up, all the love I've gotten. Thank you. Have a good night. Drink some water. Peace.

Leo briefly flashes a peace sign. The stream FADES TO BLACK.

But we stay. We see Leo in the stream preview window. He clicks over to--

DISCORD

Where Camila's audio message sits on the screen, automatically transcribed.

Leo clicks on the chat box. The cursor begins to BLINK but...

No message comes.

EXT. EMILY'S WEDDING - DAY (HOME VIDEO)

Various clips compose this masterpiece in DIY filmmaking:

SLOWLY FADE IN ON

Various GUESTS drop gifts off at a table. Emily lurks in the background, quietly judging the size of each present.

The table decorations are shown off. Emily and Gina kissing, the proposal, Gina holding Emily's hair back as she vomits. Emily is particularly proud of that one.

A beautiful white layer cake. On top are two bride figures, the Emily figure holds the Gina figure up in her arms (Like Titanic!)

A DJ goes absolutely stupid, mixing and spinning and...realistically just hitting shuffle on her computer. Are the turntables she has even connected?

A cardboard cutout of Leonardo DiCaprio stands in the corner, eternally smiling.

It's time for a toast! A glass CLINKS. A BRIDESMAID shakily rises to her feet to deliver the speech.

[illegible]

The man next to her reaches and takes the mic away from her, who knows how long that would have gone for.

The last clip of the video is Emily addressing the entire venue. She is absolutely shining here. Gina sits, stares deeply into Emily's eyes.

EMILY
Thank you, everyone, for being here. This is the happiest I have been in my entire life. I don't know if you guys know but Gina and I are absolutely, madly in love.

Gina is touched, leans her head in

EMILY

I want to take a moment to honor my father, Benito. For those of you who didn't know him I have to tell you he was the best of us. I carry him with me every day. Mi madre, Marisol is here. I love you mom, you being here right now...

She looks over at Camila, sitting off on her own. Crying.

EMILY
My whole family being here right
now. It is everything. Thank you.

Everyone claps.

THE VIDEO FADES TO BLACK.

DISCORD SCREEN SHARE - CAMILAS COMPUTER

EMILY (V.O.)
So that's what I have so far. What
do you think?

Emily ends the screens share, the call now shows her face as well as Camila's.

CAMILA

I think...you come off really well.
I...don't...see much of-- Gina.
Y'know.

Emily's face drops.

EMILY

Ohmygod this thing doesn't even
include Gina, I didn't even think
about that oh, I am such a bad
wife.

CAMILA

Hey, hey, hey. Calm down. Good
thing you ran it by me first. Just
have it re-edited.

EMILY

Didn't you say you knew some editor
guy? Can you ask him? It was really
expensive to get that done.

No hint of irony from Emily. Camila grimaces.

CAMILA

I'll see what I can do.

EMILY

Have you thought any more about
coming out to Mom? If there's any
time to do it I would say it's now.
While she still feels happy about
the wedding and everything.

CAMILA

...I'm working on it.

MESSAGES - CAMILA'S IPHONE

Camila drafts a text to her mother.

*Mom, I'm ~~trans~~, no longer comfortable identifying keeping
this from you, I am ~~a woman~~ not the son you want me to be.*

This isn't going well, the words just don't seem to sit
right. She deletes and tries again.

*Hey mom, you know I love you, ~~right?~~ I need to tell you
something that I've been thinking about for a while. ~~I-~~
~~promise this isn't a rash decision.~~*

Still no. She deletes the entire message and closes out of
the app. She opens up--

TWITTER

Close on a profile, who's? We can't tell. We ZOOM IN tight on the DM icon. Suddenly we shift over to the settings, BLOCK.

Are you sure?

The cursor clicks Yes.

You have successfully blocked @CAM1candoit.

The tab is closed out sending us to--

CHATGPT - GOOGLE CHROME

A response to Leo's prompt spills out from the robot's mouth.

Things you can do to get over an old relationship:

1. *Avoid Direct Contact*
2. *Block/Mute them on social media*

This line is highlighted. As we scroll down the next piece of advice is selected.

3. *Return that gift she got you, you never liked it anyway. That witch.*

Ok...

Leo scrolls down more.

4. *Reconnect with things you enjoy. Take some time for yourself.*

Leo takes this advice. Opens up--

STEAM

Scrolls through his list of games. All of his recently played ones were with Camila, he quickly blows past them. He finds a title he enjoys, double clicks and launches--

BALATRO / INT. LEO'S BEDROOM (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Leo starts a recording of himself. He looks dead inside.

Leo resumes an old game. The familiar poker aesthetic and music wash over him. He has a hand full of HEART CARDS, useless with his current build. He discards all of them.

A DING goes off, a Steam message from Justin: *Yo, check your discord.*

Leo replies: *What is it?*

Justin: *Just check your Discord. Now.*

Leo swaps windows over to--

DISCORD

Where he has one waiting DM from Justin. He clicks it.

It's a video, but not just any video. It's from **THAT NIGHT**. The fight in the parking lot, but from an angle he's never seen before.

SOMEONE ELSE WAS THERE RECORDING.

This clip shows the whole interaction in its entirety.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT (IPHONE FOOTAGE)

The camera films from an unseen vantage point.

CAMERAWOMAN (O.S.)

These guys just started yelling out of nowhere.

We see Camila approach Max and HIS BOYS.

CAMILA

What the hell was that in there? Is that how you play now, just get your dumbass friends to yell and distract me so you can win. How fucking lame. You are a pathetic piece of shit Max.

Max smirks.

MAX

Not sure what you mean. I don't think my friends cheering for me is wrong in any way. If there was an issue I'm sure one of the T.O.'s would have said something. Oh, but that's right. They didn't.

Max's goons laugh at this.

GOON #1

What he said.

GOON #2

Yeah, cry some fucking more.

GOON #3

Nice skirt too, you gay fuck.

Camila loses it at this last comment. She noticeably TENSES.

GOON #3

Oh did that upset you?

The goon pushes Camila back, the other two move in.

CAMILA

If I'm the gay one then how come
all any of you do is suck Max's
dick?

The third goon goes wild at this, THROWS a telegraphed punch that completely misses Camila. He gears up for another.

Leo pauses the video, he knows the rest.

Leo responds to Justin: *holy shit. this changes everything.*
~~why didn't she tell me this part?~~ how did you even find this?

Justin replies: *I'm on my phone like all the time dude. I see stuff.*

Leo's face shows him thinking, struggling with what to do next. He eyes the Balatro icon, he could just ignore this, do his own thing.

Leo right clicks the clip, DOWNLOADS the video.

He closes his eyes, lets out a deep sigh.

LEO

Fuck.

Leo goes to his friends list on Discord. Goes to the BLOCKED tab. Only one profile sits there.

Leo unblocks Camila. He attaches the video and begins typing a message to her.

DISCORD - LEO'S COMPUTER

A full day later. No response from Camila. Leo can't do the silence again. He clicks the video call button. It RINGS.

Rings...rings...rings.

Camila picks up.

INT. CAMILA'S BEDROOM/INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

As the call begins they both just sit there, taking each other in. The tension is palpable. Can they break this ice?

Leo takes a stab at it.

LEO

Hey.

CAMILA

Hey.

An awkward pause.

LEO

...How are you doing?

CAMILA

Why are you calling me?

LEO

Uh. Did you see the video I sent you?

CAMILA

Yeah, I saw it. What does it matter?

LEO

What does it matter? Camila, this video can get you unbanned. It's proof you were acting in self defense.

CAMILA

No shit it was self defense. I could've told you that. I was there remember?

LEO

Why didn't you say anything to me about it earlier?

CAMILA

First off, I don't owe you anything. Second, this video changes nothing. Everyone in the community already hates me.

LEO

Not everyone hates you...I don't hate you.

Camila scoffs at the notion.

CAMILA

You don't hate me? You edited me out of your stupid video, you unfollowed me on twitter and blocked me on here. What other evidence do I need? Just leave me alone.

LEO

Why did you even answer my call if you were going to be this way?

CAMILA

So I could say it straight to your face, Leo. Just let me be.

LEO

I didn't do any of that stuff because I hate you, Cami. I was hurting so bad--

CAMILA

I was hurting too.

LEO

I know that. But the difference is I didn't just ghost you. I needed to talk to you and you just disappeared. I tried reaching out so many times.

CAMILA

You didn't ghost me, but you lied. That isn't any better. The whole time I knew you, you were lying. I have been so open with you, so honest with you. More than I have been with anyone else in my life. EVER. And you betrayed that.

Leo sits with that. Camila watches him take it in.

LEO

...I'm sorry Cami. I'm so sorry I hurt you. It won't ever happen again. Please let me help you right now, at least to fix this. I can spread the word about what really happened, change the narrative. Then, if you really want to, we can be done.

Camila is crying. Leo catches it and starts tearing up himself. The ice around their hearts is melting.

CAMILA
...Thank you. I'm...sorry I
deserted you.

LEO
Thank you. Let's do this. I can't
let you give up on your dream, not
while I'm around.

CAMILA
How do we even start?

LEO
Leave that to me.

DAVINCI RESOLVE - LEO'S COMPUTER

Leo cuts together a new video. SPLICING clips of the parking lot footage together with bits of him talking to camera.

Camila watches the editing process over Discord, gives input on various decisions.

Done. The video is all cut together. They both do a little smile.

LEO (V.O.)
--and that is my case for why CAM1
should be unbanned, thanks for
watching.

DISSOLVE TO:

YOUTUBE

THE VIDEO ENDS. We pull back to see the final product. Leo and Camila's video has gained some traction. The cursor clicks the SHARE button and sends to--

WHATSAPP

Where it gets copied again. We back out to the home screen and go over to--

MESSAGES

The video is dropped into a group chat. *Check this out guys.*

IMESSAGE

The same group chat but on an iPhone now. Nasty green bubbles surround the text. The user types out *ew, who invited the android?*

TWITCH - MOZILLA FIREFOX (CAMI'S DESKTOP)

The same STREAMER from before reacts to the same Youtuber.

STREAMER
I think that's a fair point. Yeah,
he makes sense.

The CHAT flies down the right side of the screen.

dinoSauron: cam1 is my fav player

cringlemcingle: i was so wrong

xxLolaBunnyXx: max is the one who needs to be banned now

STREAMER
#FREECAM1 guys.

Everyone in chat spams #FREECAM1 with various thematic emotes. (:-(), 🐱, 🦊 and the like)

TWITTER

Tweet after tweet pops up all with #FREECAM1 in them. All the big names are doing it.

The last tweet in the series is from the same tournament organizer who determined Camila's initial ban.

Due to new information coming to light in the CAM1 situation they are henceforth unbanned from all tournaments. This includes Heartbeat, this weekend. We offer our most sincere apologies.

Camila LIKES the post, QUOTE RETWEETS it with a GIF. A black box. Text slowly fades in:

Dawn of The First Day -72 Hours Remain-

DISCORD

Cami DMs Leo.

I have a proposition for you. You've gotten a lot better these past few months. Train me for the next three days, we go to Heartbeat together and crush everyone. Deal?

EXT. LEO'S HOUSE - LATER (RING DOORBELL FOOTAGE)

Camila stands outside the door, shifting back on forth on her feet, waiting. Leo opens the door. He steps out, gets closer. They embrace in a deep hug, a long time coming. Leo invites her in.

OBS

CLOSE on the START RECORDING button. We CLICK and open into--

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Leo pulls back from the computer. He sits shoulder to shoulder with Camila.

LEO
 (to Camila)
 Alright, it's going now.
 (to camera)
 Welcome to the Heartbeat IV
 practice sessions. Day one.

CAMILA
 Let's do it.

MS PAINT

The two put together a game plan in the form of a crude mouse-created drawing. The shaky text reads:

Day 1: Shore up defense

Analyze Camila's play.

YOUTUBE

The duo watches footage from previous sets Camila played. Camila winces as she loses a match. Leo pauses.

LEO
 It's that moment where you wake up.
 You keep going for the same--

CAMILA
 (gritted teeth)
 I see it.

Camila makes a note of the moment. Grabs Leo's mouse and continues watching. She catches Leo smiling.

CAMILA
 (to Leo)
 What?

LEO
 I think you're gonna do this.

MS PAINT

Day 2: Set up offense

Deconstruct Camila's opponents.

START.GG

Camila and Leo look through the bracket for the tournament.

They follow the computer projections all the way to Grand Finals, taking account of any notable players along the path.

The computer predicts that *MaximumEffort* will be the one to win the entire tournament.

YOUTUBE

Leo writes furiously as he watches footage of Max fighting. Max doesn't lose many interactions so it's hard to find flaws.

Camila stares dead ahead at the screen, consumed by the desire to take Max down.

We ZOOM IN on the webcam footage of Camila and Leo until it fills the entire screen. Suddenly, Camila jumps out of her chair.

CAMILA
 Go back!

Leo grabs the mouse.

CAMILA
 More...more...there! Do you see it?

Leo's eyes widen as he makes the connection.

LEO
 I fucking see it! Holy shit!

MS PAINT

Day 3: Drill, drill, drill

Get. It. Right.

Camila tilts the webcam down to capture her brand new FIGHTSTICK, a controller specifically designed for fighting games.

It's like they lifted the controls right out of an arcade cabinet, joystick and all.

Camila starts tapping each button, they give off a satisfyingly loud PLINK. Very percussive. She stops for a moment, then...

Camila hits the buttons to the rhythm of the drum breakdown from "In The Air Tonight", you know the one. The actual song pipes in to match her actions.

STREET FIGHTER

Camila practices a particularly difficult combo. We see how fast and precise her hands are moving. She does the inputs over and over and yet...she can't hit it.

Leo sits with Camila, guides her through a breathing exercise to calm down and regain focus.

Camila goes back to the game and nails the combo. Then she does it again. And again.

INT. LEO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Leo looks over at Camila who stretches out her fingers, holding them tenderly.

LEO

I think that's all we can do.
You're as good as you're gonna get.
How do you feel?

Camila looks down at her hands then back to Leo.

CAMILA

What do you think? I feel like
shit, dude.

Leo laughs. An exhausted, delirious release of three days worth of tension. Camila can't help but laugh as well.

CAMILA

Thank you Leo. I mean it. For
everything. I think I have a shot
at winning this weekend and it's
cause of you.

Leo does a small chuckle.

CAMILA

Seriously. Don't downplay yourself, you have gotten so much better at the game and your understanding these past few months. I'm proud of you. Be proud of yourself.

Leo really takes this in.

LEO

Thanks.

(sly smile)

I had a great teacher...for a while at least.

CAMILA

(faux annoyance)

Hey!

They laugh together once again. Look into each other's eyes. They could kiss right now and yet...they don't.

Instead, Camila takes Leo's hand in hers.

CAMILA

I want to... Believe me I do, but...do you really think this will end well?

LEO

Who's to say? I can't know what will happen.

CAMILA

Neither can I. Look, Leo. Let's just be friends until after this tournament okay? We can try then, I promise.

Camila extends a pinky to Leo. He hesitates, about to reply, thinks better of it. Sticks his pinky out in return.

LEO

Promise.

At that moment Leo's webcam falls down, from it's new vantage point under the desk we can see one of Camila's sock covered feet resting atop Leo's.

INT. HEARTBEAT IV VENUE - DAY (WEBCAM FOOTAGE)

Two commentators sit in front of a large analyst desk on an elevated stage. In the background many eventgoers mill about.

A stark contrast from the regular wooden desk and white wall of the arcade.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

...Welcome everyone to the first day of Heartbeat IV!

MALE COMMENTATOR

It's sure to be a crazy weekend. Let's talk about what we might see here in the next two days.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

The story going into this event and, let's face it, this whole year is Max aka MaximumEffort taking down everyone in his way, sometimes literally.

MALE COMMENTATOR

For those at home who aren't in the know Max has recently come under fire for his involvement in a violent situation with another local player.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

Yes, the other big story coming into this tournament is that of CAM1. CAM1 was just recently unbanned and is undoubtedly gunning for Max and that spot in Grand Finals. CAM1 has never won a major tournament before so there's a lot riding on this one? One wonders, how are the competitors feeling right now?

LEO (V.O.)

Got it...should be coming on any second now.

INT. HEARTBEAT IV VENUE - DAY (IPHONE FOOTAGE)

The camera faces Leo from the front, a selfie perspective.

He wears a large backpack with some pulsing lights on it, a portable way to keep his stream running.

Camila appears at his side.

LEO
I think we are live.
(to Camila)
Say what's up to everyone.

Camila flashes a peace sign at the camera.

CAMILA
'Sup y'all.
(to Leo)
We gotta go, my pool's about to
start. Where's station twelve?

Leo looks around the venue at the huge assortment of gaming setups. Large NUMBERED SIGNS mark which setups belong to a particular station.

LEO
(to himself)
Three...nineteen...

Leo spots what he's looking for.

LEO
Twelve! I see twelve, let's go.

INT. HEARTBEAT IV VENUE, STATION TWELVE - DAY (IPHONE FOOTAGE)

The two pull up to see a POOL CAPTAIN in a volunteer shirt reading from a clipboard.

CAMILA
Hello, I'm here to check in.

The captain looks up from his clipboard.

POOL CAPTAIN
Hey CAM1, you got here just in
time. You're playing the winner of
this set over here.

The captain gestures to two players fighting it out on a nearby setup.

Leo zooms in on the players.

CAMILA (O.S.)
Ugh, I feel nervous all of a
sudden. I haven't played anyone in
person in like forever. What if I
can't do this?

The player on the left wins the match, fistbumps his opponent. Leo turns to Camila.

LEO (O.S.)
You take that feeling you have,
throw it in the trash, and just do
it.

He puts both hands on her shoulders.

LEO (O.S.)
I believe in you. Take a deep
breath.

Camila follows his instructions, looks relieved.

POOL CAPTAIN (O.S.)
I need CAM1 and I need Pandu to
play over on setup three!

Camila heads off to the setup.

LEO (O.S.)
Alright chat, it's just us now. Let
me let you guys in on a little
secret here okay? CAM1 is going to
win this entire thing. And I will
be bringing you guys every single
moment of it.

Leo heads towards Camila.

BEGIN POOLS MONTAGE

Leo films as Camila FISTBUMPS her first opponent.

Camila reports the match to the pool captain.

CAMILA
2-0, me.

Leo stands behind Camila as she fights the next person.

LEO
Nice, just like that...let's
fucking go!

Back to the captain.

CAMILA
2-0, me.

Another opponent, another victory for Camila. The captain sees her approaching.

POOL CAPTAIN

2-0, you?

Camila nods her head. She stands tall, full of confidence.

Camila and Leo sit and have lunch together from a vendor inside the venue. A quick refuel before the action.

While Camila keeps fighting Leo scrolls on his phone. He checks out the bracket for the tournament.

In the background we see Camila take home another match. She briefly chats with her opponent then turns to Leo.

LEO (O.S.)

Almost to top 24, good job so far.

CAMILA

Thanks. How's he doing?

Leo doesn't respond.

CAMILA

Hello? Leo? How is he doing? I want to know. You've already got the bracket pulled up, I can see it.

LEO (O.S.)

Don't worry about him. Focus on what you can control right now. Just--

Camila snatches the phone out of his hand. She scans the bracket, her face drops.

LEO (O.S.)

Don't freak out.

CAMILA

How am I supposed to not freak out?

POOL CAPTAIN

Sorry to interrupt, CAM1 they need you over on the stream setup for your next match. 5 minutes, okay?

CAMILA

Yeah. I'm just gonna hit the bathroom real quick. Excuse me.

Camila gives the phone back to Leo and bounces. Leo calls after her.

LEO
CAM1 hold on!

He looks down at his phone, at the cause of Camila's fear.
The last match before making it into top 24, CAM1 vs
MAXIUMEFFORT.

END POOLS MONTAGE

INT. HEARTBEAT IV VENUE - NIGHT (IPHONE FOOTAGE)

Leo sits in the front row of the main stage. His camera is
flipped to be on him. Many spectators sit behind him.

LEO
CAM1 is about to be on the main
stream guys. Head over there if you
want to watch the match. Say what's
up to the commentators for me. Hope
they're saying nice things.

COMMENTARY DESK

MALE COMMENTATOR
--I just can't help but feel like
if it were me on that plane it
would have ended differently.
Y'know?

Complete silence.

MALE COMMENTATOR
We've got a crazy match coming up
next.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR
Crazy indeed... It's going to be
CAM1 facing off against
MaximumEffort. Both players are
guaranteed to make top 24, both are
gunning for the whole tournament,
but one is going to have to try and
make that run from the loser's
bracket.

LEO'S STREAM

Speakers mounted above the stage start broadcasting the
commentary for the crowd to hear. Leo listens in.

MALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

We've got a poll going in the chat right now and it looks like 93% of people are expecting a win from Max here.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

Seems about right. CAM1 may have a lot of supporters right now but Max has been downright dominant this entire year. He's obviously looking to finish off strong.

Leo watches as Camila sets up on the stage. She glares at the commentary desk, sits down. Her fightstick rests on her lap.

The crowd starts going wild, raucous applause.

Max steps onto the stage.

He walks across, sits down in the chair right next to Camila. Turns his head and whispers something in her ear. She doesn't even turn to look at him, her face betrays nothing.

MALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

You can absolutely feel the tension in here.

Max plugs in his controller and signals to the tournament organizer he's ready. The two competitors sit on stage, waiting for the okay.

Off to the side of the stage the tournament organizer gives a thumbs up. The match begins.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

So it begins.

STREET FIGHTER 6

We see the official tournament stream now. The gameplay takes up a majority of the screen but each competitor has a player cam in the bottom left and right hand corners respectively.

All the noise of the arena, the crowd, the game fades away.

All we can hear now is the clicking of controller buttons. A heart BEATS slow and faint.

BOOM-BOOM.

BOOM-BOOM.

BOOM-BOOM.

We ZOOM IN on Camila's player cam, the only focus now is on how this match affects her.

Her jaw is clenched tight, her eyes scan the entire screen constantly.

MALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Max is starting off with an
incredible lead. CAM1 looks like he
is in trouble.

The heartbeat increases in tempo.

BA-BOOM. BA-BOOM.

BA-BOOM. BA-BOOM.

BA-BOOM. BA-BOOM.

Beads of sweat form on Camila's forehead.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Max has CAM1's back against the
ropes here. How is he going to make
it out of this-- Oh! He's down,
CAM1 is down two to zero.

It looks like Camila has stopped breathing. Shouting, from somewhere in the crowd, starts to cut through the daze. Camila turns, it's Leo.

LEO (O.S.)
CAM1! STOP HOLDING BACK!

Her heart races. She can't control her nerves.

BOOMBOOMBOOMBOOMBOOMBOOMBOOM--

MALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
CAM1's fighting back a bit now. I
wonder though, is it too little too
late?

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
It might just be. He's a great
competitor but right now Max is
simply the better player.

Camila winces as she hears these comments. Her will to fight leaves her completely. She begins to cry.

MALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
--And it's over! Just like that
MaximumEffort takes the set 3-0
against CAM1, sending him down to
the loser's bracket. He has got a
long road ahead of him going into
tomorrow.

SMASH CUT TO BLACK:

DISCORD - LATER

We FADE UP on a call between Leo and Camila. Footage from
Camila's fight against Max plays on the screen.

LEO
Camila...Camila...CAMILA!

Camila snaps back to attention.

CAMILA
Sorry. It's just hard to watch.

LEO
You don't have to apologize to me.
We can take a break if you want.

CAMILA
No, let's keep going.

Camila rewinds the footage.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR
It looks like CAM1 is flailing
here, he has no idea what to do.

Camila mutes the audio and continues to watch the
interaction. She sees something, goes frame by frame through
the video.

We watch as Max throws out a punch, Camila's character also
attempts an attack but gets snuffed out.

CAMILA
One frame. Can you believe it? He
beat my move there by one fucking
frame. I had him.

Just then Camila's bedroom door begins to open. Her mother
pokes her head in.

MARISOL
Carmello, I'm coming in.

CAMILA

Mom, wait.

Camila minimizes all of her open windows as her mom enters the room.

LEO'S PERSPECTIVE

We watch alongside Leo as the situation unfolds.

Marisol sits down on Camila's bed.

MARISOL

Carmello, I saw what happened today on the game, I'm sorry mi amor. I just wanted to say that no matter what I'm proud of you son.

Camila lets the statement sink in.

CAMILA

No matter what?

MARISOL

No matter what, I--

CAMILA

Mom, I'm trans.

All the air is sucked out of the room. Marisol tilts her head in confusion, shakes it in disbelief.

Leo watches on with bated breath.

MARISOL

Like...Like you're--

CAMILA

Like I'm a woman. I know you think of me as your little boy and I want you to know I love you for that. I haven't felt that way in a long time. Maybe ever.

Marisol gets up off the bed and retreats toward the door.

CAMILA

Mom, don't run. Just stay and talk with me.

MARISOL

Excuse me, I just need some time Carm--

She doesn't know what to say anymore, she can't find the words. Marisol exits.

Camila makes her way back to the computer. She pulls her Discord back up and sees Leo's shocked face.

CAMILA
Don't. Just say nothing.

LEO
...I'm so proud of you!

CAMILA
You're a creep for watching that by the way. Spying on a girl in her bedroom.

LEO
Really though, how do you think your Mom's taking it?

Camila shifts in her seat, can't get comfortable.

CAMILA
I don't know, honestly. How she reacts is up to her though. I've dreamed of telling her for so long it feels surreal to be past it now.

Camila lets out a deep, long sigh of relief.

CAMILA
That took a lot out of me man, I think I need to rest for the night. I'll see you tomorrow, k?

LEO
K. I'll see you tomorrow.

Camila yawns, she's tired but has one more thing on her agenda. She navigates to --

START.GG - MOZILLA FIREFOX

Just like in the beginning, she goes to her profile. UPLOADS a new picture. As the camera opens she lets her hair down.

The same beaming smile, but truer.

Happy with her new profile she navigates over to her final obstacle. With a few swift keystrokes she makes her new identity known.

Out with He/him and in with She/her.

DISCORD - LEO'S COMPUTER

We go back for a moment, Leo is just leaving the call after saying goodnight to Camila.

He reclines in his chair and gazes at the ceiling. Deep reflection. A new idea brings him to action. He sits back up.

He pulls out his phone and begins FaceTiming someone. It rings... and rings...

MAX

--The fucking nerve of you. What do you think you're doing calling me this late. Especially when I've got a tournament to win tomorrow.

LEO

Listen to me--
No, listen to me.
No, hey fuck you. Fuck you.

MAX

No, I'm not gonna--
I'm not listening to you.
Fuck you, gay fuck.

LEO (CONT'D)

Listen here you bigoted fucking idiot. I am not gay for liking Camila. You are not gay for liking her either. Camila is a fucking woman and you should show her more respect. Especially since she's gonna crush you tomorrow.

Leo hangs up the call before Max can reply. He exhales a sharp, quick breath. Tosses his phone across the room. He looks like he could cry.

Leo, now drained himself, scoots his chair over to his computer and shuts it down.

IMESSAGE - THE NEXT DAY

Camila sends a text to Leo:

I'm at the venue. Have your stream on when you get here. I want to show you something.

Leo replies:

Yes ma'am. He adds the little saluting emoji too.

TWITCH - LEO'S STREAM

Leo's stream blinks on, he walks towards the venue.

CAMILA (O.S.)
Leo! Over here!

Leo turns his head before he turns the camera.

LEO (O.S.)
Oh, wow.

Leo angles the camera so we can see what he sees. Camila stands out by the entrance. Her whole appearance has changed.

Her long black hair silhouettes her face, adorned with mascara and black lipstick. A black blouse pairs with a black skirt. She marches over to Leo in black combat boots.

Camila does a little twirl to show off her new outfit.

CAMILA
Well?

LEO
You look... so pretty. I mean--
well, you always look pretty-- Just
today you look...

Camila blushes, giggles.

LEO
You look great. I dig the all
black, like you're getting ready
for a funeral.

CAMILA
Yeah, Max's funeral. Speaking of,
let's get inside so I can warm up.

COMMENTARY DESK

JUSTIN
Welcome back to Heartbeat IV folks.
Today is our second, and final, day
of competition. We have an
incredible top 24 lined up for your
viewing pleasure today.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR
It's gonna be a great day, I can
feel it. Our first match is coming
up in just a few moments.

JUSTIN
We've got CAM1 vs LiteralFelon. If
I was LiteralFelon I would be
literally flailing. Ha! Am I right?

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

Here they come, up the stage and--
Oh my! It looks like CAM1 is
sporting a new look here.

(listening to headphones)

Ok, I'm getting a note from
production that CAM1 has officially
announced her transition and this
will be the first tournament where
she plays with the pronouns
she/her.

BEGIN TOP 8 MONTAGE

STREET FIGHTER / PLAYER CAMS

SUPER: LOSERS ROUND 1 | CAM1 VS LiteralFelon

Camila lands a final blow on LiteralFelon. He slumps in his
seat for a moment before getting up and going to give her a
hug.

JUSTIN

CAM1 takes down LiteralFelon, a
well fought set.

SUPER: WINNERS SEMI-FINAL | MAXIMUMEFFORT VS R1NGTON3

Max extends his hand to R1NGTON3 -- yanks it back as he
reaches for it. Total psych out.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

Ouch.

SUPER: LOSERS QUARTER FINAL | CAM1 VS RatPack

The two play their match as the commentators just ramble
about nonsense.

JUSTIN

I had this Chipotle bowl for lunch
a little bit ago. That shit was
good. Nice conversion from RatPack.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

That was a clean trade. What's in
your bowl?

JUSTIN

I stack mine up, double steak,
extra beans, extra cheese, guac--
CAM1 lands her super, taking this
round. Oh yeah, two tortillas on
the side.

SUPER: WINNERS FINAL | MAXIMUM EFFORT VS DARKENESS

Before the two play Max goes over to Darkness and whispers something in his ear. Darkness looks crushed.

LATER

Darkness watches his character lose, he stands up and heads off the stage without a word. Max sits in his seat, a sly smile.

SUPER: LOSERS SEMI FINAL | CAM1 VS Stan

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

The way that CAM1 is playing right now makes Stan look like an absolute beginner.

JUSTIN

I concur...

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

Why are you talking like that?

JUSTIN

I don't know... my stomach doesn't feel so good... CAM1... wins.

SUPER: LOSERS FINAL | CAM1 VS DARKENESS

Camila has Darkness in the corner. He has a sliver of life. Camila pushes in slowly... slowly... until she's right in his face. A simple grab is all it takes.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

Did she just walk up slowly... and grab?

JUSTIN

She really did though. That puts CAM1 in Grand Finals where she will face off against Max.

LEO'S PERSPECTIVE

Leo cheers from his seat.

LEO

LET'S GO CAM1!

At the commentary desk, Justin turns and sees him.

JUSTIN

Sounds like CAM1's got some real fans in the crowd here. We're going to take a little break before we get into Grand Finals. Don't go anywhere.

END TOP 8 MONTAGE

LEO'S STREAM - LATER

Leo stands by the side of the stage talking to Camila.

LEO

What a run, you are electric today.

CAMILA

Thanks. But it's not over yet. I'm gonna hit the bathroom. I can't have anything distracting me during this set.

As Camila walks off Justin approaches.

JUSTIN

Hey man. How ya feeling? Your girlfriend's in Grand Finals. GF in GF.

He laughs at his own joke.

LEO

She isn't my--

JUSTIN

That's great man. Look, I need to ask a really big favor of you.

(stomach gurgles)

...I am feeling pretty sick right now. So sick, in fact, I don't think I can commentate the next set.

Justin holds his stomach.

LEO

Ok, so?

JUSTIN

So, I wanted to ask if you would do it for me?

Leo stands there, dumbfounded. It's a big ask.

LEO

You want me-- I can't-- I don't even know-- There's so many people watching this.

JUSTIN

Leo. Listen to me. You know what you are doing, you've done enough commentary to at least make sense. You won't be up there alone. And to top it all off you've got hella fans in the chat, people love you. What do you say?

THE STAGE

Camila, now back from her bathroom trip, walks back onto the main stage. She looks like hell. The result of an entire day of competition in which the action comes at you in fractions of a second.

In the middle of the gaming setup sits the trophy. A deep red heart wrapped in a thin layer of gold. Camila stares at it, longingly.

She unwraps her controller, plugs it in, sits down.

Camila glares across the stages as Max arrives at the setup. He maintains eye contact with her the entire time. Camila, doesn't back down from the challenge.

Max sits, readies himself. Camila reads notes from her phone.

The speakers on the stage come to life, relaying the voices of the commentary desk.

LEO (V.O.)

I think it's about time for Grand Finals!

Camila looks up. She searches around till she finds Leo sitting at the --

COMMENTARY DESK

Leo looks back at Camila and smiles.

LEO

Who here is excited for the action to start?

An eruption of hooting, hollering and general shenanigans from the audience.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

Let's take a look at this graphic
we just got from production.

An image pulls up with the lifetime head-to-head stats
between Camila and Max. Camila is 0-11, she has never beaten
him before.

LEO

These stats look damning, but I
have to say I think we have been
seeing a very different Camila this
weekend.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

You're telling me.

Leo shoots her a look.

LEO

...Not like that. So what do you
say, you ready to get into it?

FEMALE COMMENTATOR

Let's do it. Our last match of the
weekend, to determine who brings
home the trophy, MAXIMUMEFFORT vs
CAM1!

The lights go down in the arena, the only focus is the stage.

SUPER: GRAND FINAL | MAXIMUMEFFORT (W) VS CAM1 (L)

STREET FIGHTER 6

The players navigate to the character selection screen.
Camila immediately locks in Cammy. Max deliberates, hovering
over various characters.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

It looks like Max might be
considering a... secondary? Did you
know he had one of those?

LEO (V.O.)

I... did not. I've only ever seen
him play Akuma. He must have been
working on it in secret.

Max moves his selection to Blanka, the crowd perks up at
this, cheers in approval. Max locks in the character, holds
both arms up to the fans. They scream back at him.

Camila's eyes are wide. She was not prepared for this.

The match loads in. Game one begins. Set count: 0-0

What transpires next is an ass whooping of legendary proportions. Unfit for any reader, let alone viewer. We see no footage of the match, only...

Health bars. Max's at full, untouched. Camila's... dropping.

75%...50%...25%...

LEO (V.O.)

This is hard to watch. Camila is flailing.

ANNOUNCER

PERFECT K.O.!

The first round goes to Max... the second round follows suit.

Camila looks lost. Max is stoic.

Game two begins. Set count: 1-0 Max

At round start Camila looks hesitant. Max hits with a long range poke. Camila's unfamiliarity is on full display. She grits her teeth.

Max continues to push his advantage. Camila gets stuck in her block.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)

I think CAM1's matchup inexperience is showing here.

Camila jumps away to try and gain some space.

LEO (V.O.)

It looks like CAM1 is trying to slow down the pace of the match. Maybe give her some time to look for any gaps in Max's attacks.

As Max attempts to make his way in Camila squints her eyes. She silently watches, judges the distance... and lands a perfectly spaced kick.

She gets a small combo off of it. But Max is ready for her on wakeup. He weasels his way out, lands a hit into a combo--

Another two rounds under Max's belt.

Game three begins. Set count: 2-0 Max

The first round begins. Camila anticipates a jab, Max goes low. Camila is swept to the ground.

She jumps as she gets up and is hit out of the air, falls into a level one super.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR
Chat, will it kill?

It kills. Round one goes to Max.

The second round begins. Camila strikes first with a poke, Max isn't ready for the attack and gets hit.

Camila follows up with a jumping cross-up, landing behind Max and securing a throw into the corner.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
CAM1's switching up her style, it
looks like close combat may be the
answer.

Camila has the pressure now and she won't let up. She keeps Max in the corner. Takes the second round. A true showing of fundamentals.

LEO (V.O.)
CAM1 absolutely capitalized on that
lead.

The third round begins.

Camila keeps close to him, gets a few grabs in. Max backdashes away and away some more. Camila deftly avoids his long distance options and makes it back into his space.

Her corner pressure is well polished.

The game goes to Camila.

Game four begins. Set count: 2-1 Max

We head into roun--

Max is on Camila. He pressures her aggressively, looking for any kind of challenge to stuff out.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Max coming out strong here, trying
to end this set fast.

Camila does not give in. She spots an opening in *his* pressure and pushes it.

Two rounds to Camila. Another game in the bag.

Game five begins. Set count: 2-2 Max

Round start. Both players back away, giving space, showing respect.

LEO (V.O.)
Tensions are running high. Both
players desperately want to secure
this win.

Camila fakes a jump in, Max doesn't taken the bait. Camila tries a shimmy, Max holds fast.

They both squat, crouch blocking, staring at each other.

Camila takes the time to wipe sweat off of her hands. As soon as she puts them back on the controller she jumps into action.

She closes the difference, whiff punishes Max's attack and links into a devastating combo. Camila takes the first round,

She CLAPS her hands together with enthusiasm. Max squirms in his seat, puts his head down.

This next round just so happens to be another one of those aforementioned gruesome rounds, the kind that end up with someone in a body bag.

Our focus is limited to Max's health bar. Camila chips away.

75&...50%...25%...

CAMILA WINS GAME 5.

The crowd is on their feet, as if the amazing comeback sent a jolt down every spine in the venue.

LEO (V.O.)
What an incredible comeback! I feel
drained and all I did was watch.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
We are taking another brief break
before these warriors go at it for
one more set. Be right back.

Instead of going along for the ad break we go to a --

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

High up above the stage, we can see the entire venue. The only sound however, is a lo-fi backing track.

Camila rises to her feet, staggers towards a mini fridge sitting on the table between her side and Max's.

She pulls out a full-sized can of Red Bull and chugs the entire thing in one go. She shakes her head violently as the energy courses through her.

Max gets up from his seat and walks off the stage, as he goes he pulls out his phone and starts typing.

Leo and the female commentator chat idly.

Camila paces the stage, hands on her head. She exhales deeply. Stretches. She looks like she is itching to get going again. But Max is nowhere to be found.

Camila checks the time on her phone, decides to go use the bathroom again.

As she walks off the stage a STAFF MEMBER (as noted by his neon green shirt) steps on. A tight-fitting hat is pulled down over his eyes.

The man strides over to the setup and seems to be inspecting it. Leo takes notice, starts watching closely.

The staff member presses various buttons on the two players' monitors. He checks out the wiring underneath... seems solid.

Leo nudges the female commentator and points at the man. She gives him a confused look. Leo says something into his mic.

The staff member picks up Camila's controller, he looks like he's doing something in the menu.

Off on the side of the stage, a group of legit STAFF MEMBERS (as noted by their black shirts with *Heartbeat IV* written across the chest) argue passionately.

They seem to come to a decision, head towards the stairs up to the stage as a group. Before they can make it, however, Camila reappears on the other side.

She sees the fake staff member holding her controller, recognizes him. Camila charges toward him.

She latches on to her controller and pulls but the man won't let go. His hat falls off in the shuffle. He's one of Max's goons.

Camila tries to yank her controller back again. The man repositions. They're now right on the edge of the stage.

The man pulls again, gets the controller free from Camila's grasp... and the momentum from this effort sends him falling off the stage.

He lands. Hard... on Camila's controller. He pulls it out from under him and the loose buttons scatter on the ground.

Camila leans off the stage, reaching out for her broken controller. She's on her knees. Defeated.

Leo moves to be with her but the female commentator holds him back. She signals to him: *"give her space."*

Max finally makes his way back to the stage. Leo catches sight of him, taps on his microphone a few times. Yells over to a PRODUCTION MEMBER.

Leo's microphone audio comes streaming in. The crowd murmurs in the background, quite the commotion. Leo points to Max.

LEO (MICROPHONE AUDIO)
The guy you all just saw do that on
stage just so happens to be
MAXIMUMEFFORT's friend!
(to Max)
Don't play stupid with me now, bro.

The crowd hears this and starts BOOING Max.

Camila sits, motionless. She breathes slow and deep. Puts her head in her hands.

A YOUNG GIRL emerges from the crowd, she approaches Camila. Taps on her leg.

Camila looks up and sees the girl holding a controller. Camila looks at the gift and her demeanor shifts. She accepts the controller from the little girl.

The girl holds out a fist. Camila glances down, smiles.

Camila FISTBUMPS the girl. The kinetic energy blasts us to --

SUPER: GRAND FINAL SET 2 | MAXIMUMEFFORT (L) VS CAM1 (L)

STREET FIGHTER 6

On the character select screen we see Max weighing his options on who to pick. Camila waits, having already locked in her choice.

Max decides upon Akuma. His tried and true character. The match begins to load.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR
Seems like Max is going back to basics.

LEO (V.O.)
No more gimmicks...

Game one begins. Set count 0-0

Max's playstyle has shifted. He's playing much more aggressive now. He's right on top of Camila from round start.

Camila isn't adjusting fast enough. She misjudges how much space she has and whiffs her moves. Max punishes every time.

He takes the first round with relative ease. On the player cam he lets out a little smile. Camila gives a frustrated look down at her controller.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
CAM1 needs to adapt to this new pressure if she wants to succeed.

LEO (V.O.)
She seems to be having a hard time getting used to her --
(fake cough)
new controller.

A new round, another chance. Camila tries something new.

She jumps over Max and gets behind him, throws him. We see her mouth the word one to herself.

She jumps in again as he wakes up, lands without an attack. Throws again. Two.

LEO (V.O.)
A clean empty jump from CAM1.

Max is nearing the corner. Camila does the same thing. She jumps in, Max gets up.

Three.

Max wakes up with an invincible shoryuken. Camila gets hit by it and flies away. Her eyes widen.

LEO (V.O.)
(whispers to himself)
Nice.

Max forces this advantage and converts into a kill.

The set continues on. We focus on the results of each game:

MAXIMUMEFFORT: 1 - CAM1: 0

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Max strikes first, wins game one.

MAXIMUMEFFORT: 1 - CAM1: 1

LEO (V.O.)
Camila takes her revenge, alongside
the second game.

MAXIMUMEFFORT: 1 - CAM1: 2

LEO (V.O.)
CAM1 is up two now. If
MAXIMUMEFFORT loses here it's over.

MAXIMUMEFFORT: 2 - CAM1: 2

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
Max is still fighting! We are going
to a game 10 Grand Final everyone!

Game five begins. Set count: 2-2

Tension is high. Nerves even higher. Both players are tired,
ready to give up. And yet, they have one more match to play.

The round starts. Max backs away some... and Camila attacks!

She gets in his face, counters his slow option with a fast
kick of her own. In lightning fast speed she takes the round.

LEO (V.O.)
Oh my. Ladies and gentleman
watching, we are in for a treat!

Round 2 kicks off with more of the same, Camila is aggro. Max
doesn't take any bait this time, he just sits and blocks.

He blocks and blocks as Camila pressures him. She goes in for
an obvious grab and Max turns the tides. He hits her hard
except--

No he didn't. Camila does a perfect parry on his attack. She
lands her own string, one hit into another...

LEO (V.O.)
 CAM1 has all three bars of her
 super. It looks she's gonna cash
 out here.

-- Camila misses her super and drops the combo. Max falls to the ground. Camila, still in recovery from her move, gets grabbed and thrown by Max and...

It's enough damage to kill. Max takes the round.

Camila once again looks down at her controller, cursing it.

FEMALE COMMENTATOR (V.O.)
 Ouch. You hate to miss those. I
 think CAM1 is still having some
 issues with her controller.

LEO (V.O.)
 One more round is going to decide
 this whole thing.

The third round begins.

Both fighters trade blows. Max eats a combo. Camila gets hit right back.

The players are moving more sloppily, reacting slower.

Camila's forced into the corner. Max on the approach. Then, Camila dashes forward and throws Max into the corner.

She mouths *one*.

She holds her ground and waits for Max to get up. As he rises she steps in, steps back. Max whiffs his own grab and Camila throws him right back into the corner.

LEO
 (whispers to himself)
 Two.

Max stands, on his last legs. Camila walks straight in.

Three...

Max goes for his trusty shoryuken, but this time Camila is absolutely ready. She perfect parries it. T-bags rapidly, up and down and up and down.

Then she jabs Max, and gets the kill.

LEO (V.O.)
 CAM1 did it! She is your champion
 of Heartbreak IV!

Leo's voice breaks as he yells out. The raw emotions of pride and excitement overwhelm him.

ON STAGE

Camila EXPLODES out of her seat. She looks around and takes in her moment.

The entire arena is up on their feet cheering and clapping for *her*. She won. Over 500 entrants, and she won it all.

Max sulks off the stage. No anger. No prodding remarks. Just silence.

Camila breaks into tears of joy. They stream down her face as all of the emotion comes out of her. Her mascara runs. She looks over to see...

Leo sprinting towards her. He wraps her in a bear hug, holds her. As Leo pulls back Camila takes her hands and places them on Leo's face.

All the lights seem to go down, the crowd falls silent. There's only the sound of two hearts beating.

BOOM-BOOM. BOOM-BOOM.

She draws her face close to his and --

They kiss. Deep, passionate and long overdue. It's as if they are the only two people in the room, maybe the world.

As the two lover embrace we PULL BACK. This is a clip on --

YOUTUBE

It fades to black, then...

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 Heartbeat V. Coming soon.

The screen reads: *Register Now.*

One final PULL BACK to --

TWITCH

Where Leo is watching the trailer, alongside Camila. They both look different. Leo sits straighter, more confident. Camila has her hair up.

Leo has 2,000 people watching his stream. A wall of messages goes down the screen, chatters excited for the tournament.

LEO

What do we think guys? Pretty cool, huh?

CAMILA

Anyone going should come try to meet us, we'll be there.

LEO

Alright, everyone. That's gonna be it for tonight's stream. Thanks for coming out.

Leo's stream turns off. The computer shuts down.

THE END.

NOW PLAYING: "Come On Eileen" by Dexys Midnight Runners