

The Whey of Life

By

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COLD OPEN

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAX'S OFFICE - DAY

MAX PLAIDLEY, 27 Years Old, pensive, JUDGES ROBE draped over him, sits at his desk.

Seated across him are, ARRIANY CORTEZ, 25, equal parts gorgeous and menacing, and LEROY MCKENNA, 25, perpetually with his head in the clouds and 'too cool for school'.

Max's eyes dart between the two of them. Max, JUDGE GAVEL in hand, motions to Leroy.

MAX

The floor is yours.

ARRIANY

Why does he get to go first?!

LEROY

Obviously because I have the more pressing matter to discuss.

ARRIANY

Pressing?! I'll press you into that footlocker over there.

Max hits the gavel on his desk.

MAX

Please respect the sanctity of the courtroom. Leroy, please continue.

LEROY

Thank you, your honor.

Arriany makes a 'barfing' motion.

Leroy sifts through his BACKPACK and pulls out a LAPTOP. He opens it to reveal an LED SCREEN: flickering and with dead pixels all over the place. It's seen better days.

LEROY

As you can see with Exhibit A, this laptop is no condition to enable me to carry out my tasks to the best of my abilities.

ARRIANY

Which are what exactly? Video chatting broads during work hours?

LEROY
(gesturing to Max)
Your honor...if you don't mind?

MAX
Arriany, please.

Arriany can't believe she's being "shushed".

ARRIANY
(under her breath)
This is so dumb...

LEROY
As I was saying. As the Finance
and Creative Rep of Warm Bodies
Gym, I feel like it is only
right that I have the proper
tools to carry out my day to day
tasks.
(hoists laptop higher)
This has been passed around more
than a fleshlight at a frat
party.

ARRIANY
What kind of weird ass college
parties were you going to?

Almost on cue, the laptop fan proceeds to speed up,
sounding more and more like a jet engine.

MAX
How much will this set us back?

Leroy scoops his PHONE out and scrolls to an image with a
new laptop model. He hands the phone to Max.

LEROY
Eight Hundred and eighty-nine
Dollars.

Arriany balks at this number.

LEROY
But we've got some wiggle room.

ARRIANY
If anything is going to be fixed
first...

Arriany hunches over to grab something out of shot. She
scoops up two MUAY THAI KICK PADS and places them on the
desk. Max and Leroy take a closer look - the kick pads
look like they've been gnawed on by a Great White.

LEROY

These look like they could go a couple more months.

Arriany, incredulous, grabs one of the pads and starts to hit Leroy with it. He tries in vain to wrestle them away from her.

ARRIANY

Maybe we'll get replacements if I break these over your head.

Max starts beating the gavel again but to no avail.

The sounds of the gavel banging against Max' desk slowly sync up with...

CUT TO:

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAIN ROOM - LATER

...The clanking of weights as gym goers, well the handful of them, put in the work towards achieving the body of their dreams.

Max walks ahead of Arriany and Leroy who are still arguing. Without the Judge Robe from earlier, we see Max sporting a WARM BODIES GYM T-SHIRT with the words *MANAGER* sprawled across the back.

He sees 'man-mountain' CARVILLE, 60s but with the energy and verve of a 20-something year old, doing dead lifts with a FULLY LOADED BAR.

MAX

(still walking)

At this rate, we're gonna run out of weights for you, Sir.

Carville acknowledges with a smirk.

Max walks by three HIGH-SCHOOLERS gawking at a COUGAR as she takes selfies on the treadmill.

MAX

Come on guys, at least pretend like you're working out.

The boys realize that their 'cover' is blown and start to scramble for weights within arms reach.

Max continues snaking his way across the gym until he's intercepted by:

KYLIE HWANG, 24, not a hair out of place, cute and uses it to her advantage. Sweet but not one you can easily take for a ride.

KYLIE

There you are...I need to talk to you.

MAX

Ah, would love to stay and chat but can it wait? My brain is pretty scrambled from the trial of the century we just held.

KYLIE

"Kick pad versus Laptop"? I'm familiar. But it can't wait sadly.

MAX

Let me guess, something's stopped working? Just what we need after those two boneheads dumped a bunch on my plate this morning.

Quick pan over to Leroy and Arriany who are bickering childishly.

KYLIE

Sorry to be the bearer of more bad news but we're behind on utilities.

MAX

Didn't we just pay them?

KYLIE

Kinda. That was for last months.

Realization hits, Max looks dejected.

KYLIE

(reassuring)

I could stall for a bit? Tell them that there was an error with the bank.

MAX

I think they're growing wise to that one but don't think we have much of a choice right now.

KYLIE

So, what're ya going to do?

MAX

I've got that monthly lunch with 'you know who'. Might have to call in another favor.

KYLIE
Christ. And all this on their
opening day.

Kylie motions to the outside. Max stares back, not having the faintest idea what she's talking about.

EXT. WARM BODIES GYM - DAY

Max and Kylie stand outside Warm Bodies and across the road from them is a brand spanking new facility with the GALACTIC FITNESS logo sprawled across it.

It's three times the size of Warm Bodies as cars fill up their lot by the second. Max stares blankly as we inch closer to his face.

MAX
FU-

CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: THE WHEY OF LIFE

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAX'S OFFICE

Max, Kylie, Arriany, Leroy and DUSAN PETKOVIC, late 20's but could pass off as a decade older, scruffy beard and beer-stained flannel, sit around Max's office.

We can still see remnants of the 'Courtroom' from earlier.

ARRIANY
How did you not know?

LEROY
Yeah they're literally right
across from us.

MAX
It's not that obvious! Dusan
probably didn't know either.

DUSAN
I knew.

MAX
He thinks Arnold Schwarzenegger
is still the governor of
California.

DUSAN
When they nickname you "The
Governator", how is that not a
title for life?

LEROY
 I love you buddy, but you're
 really not helping with the
 Eastern European stereotypes.

Dusan shrugs.

 ARRIANY
 So, what do we do?

Blank stares all around.

 KYLIE
 We could start by listing down
 problem areas by order of
 importance?

The blank stares start to fade, the group nods in unison. Arriany, without skipping a beat stands up and walks over to Max's WHITEBOARD.

She scribbles something down and turns to reveal in RED INK: **REPLACE BROKEN ASS MUAY THAI KICK PADS.**

Arriany puts the MARKER CAP back on.

 MAX
 Increase membership renewals.

 KYLIE
 Monthly bills.

Arriany, still at the whiteboard, stares back at the group. They stare back. With a scowl, she removes the marker cap and scribbles on the whiteboard.

 LEROY (O.S)
 Fix laptop!

We pan back to Leroy giving a shit-eating grin.

 ARRIANY
 Don't. Push. It.

 DUSAN
 Laptop? I can take a look at
 your laptop bro.

 MAX
 Alright, now we're cooking! One
 down already.

Leroy's smile evaporates. Arriany cackles.

 DUSAN
 I'll take a stab at fixing your
 kick pads too, Cortez.

ARRIANY
The hell you will.

MAX
Just let Dusan take a look at
them will ya?

Arriany looks at Max for a second, annoyed that the tables
have turned.

DUSAN
I've gotchu.

MAX
Look at us! Powering through
things. Now for the biggest
elephant in the room. What do we
do for our memberships?

The room falls silent for a beat. Kylie, eager to impress,
makes a play.

KYLIE
I saw some other gyms hire
special guest influencers for
classes. It seems like the in
thing now and could help boost
our traffic in the short term.

ARRIANY
Fine...if you guys stop beating
around the bush I'll do it.

KYLIE
(awkward)
I was thinking we'd go with
someone who's abit...

ARRIANY
What, younger? So I'm too old is
that it?

KYLIE
I was gonna say relevant but
after saying that I kinda wish I
didn't.

LERORY
She went there...

Arriany stares daggers at Kylie, who sinks further into
her chair.

MAX
I like it. Bringing some new
blood in could shake things up
around here.

LEROY

Not to dim the good vibes that
are present right now, but how
do we intend to pay for this
"new blood"?

DUSAN

Is "exposure" still the going
rate for influencers?

MAX

We still have some cash in the
reserves to pull this off.

Max looks at the time.

MAX

Good start, team. Kylie, since
you took the lead on this, can
you come up with a shortlist of
candidates?

She nods.

ARRIANY

Where are you rushing off to?

INT. FANCY AL FRESCO RESTAURANT - DAY

Max enters, and instantly looks out of place. He scans the
restaurant and sees ROBBIE PLAIDLEY, early to mid 30's,
SUITED UP and 'eye-fucking' a waitress.

Robbie spots him and waves him over. Max forces a smile
and walks over. Robbie stands up, grabs Max into a hug and
ruffles his hair.

ROBBIE

See that hottie over there? Got
her number about five minutes
ago.

MAX

That's...rad.

The Waitress takes orders at another table, bending over
slightly.

ROBBIE

I hope to get acquainted with
that view real soon.

Max scans the menu.

ROBBIE
I already ordered for us so...all
good.

Max is desperate to change the subject.

MAX
So what's new?

ROBBIE
Oh you know...more asshole clients
to deal with, can't decide on
which Tesla model to go with.
Real frustrating stuff.

Robbie dips a french fry into ketchup before sucking the
ketchup off the fry.

MAX
(grossed out)
That must be tough for you.

ROBBIE
It is baby bro. But like the
great and powerful David Goggins
says..."Stay Hard".

MAX
What does that even mean?

ROBBIE
Like...I dunno, "man up"? It's
catchier when he says it. But
enough about me, how's the biz
going?

A lump grows in Max's throat.

MAX
It's uh, it's going good.

Robbie scarfs down a bread roll.

ROBBIE
(mouth full)
Good, good. I drove past your
gym the other week and saw a
Galactic Fitness was in the
works so I thought maybe that
was fuckin' your shit up.

MAX
Oh, them? You can barely even
notice that they're there.

ROBBIE
Wanna do some shots?

MAX

Shots? I've gotta go back to work after this.

ROBBIE

Yeah so do I but you don't see that stopping me. We'll do a *few* ...like just a couple. It'll be great.

Robbie motions to the waitress he was eyeing earlier. Max looks on, powerless.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Dusan inspects Arriany's banged up MUAY THAI KICK PADS.

DUSAN

Get me some duct tape and I can get another year out of these bad boys.

ARRIANY

Duct tape? That's your best solution?

DUSAN

What's wrong with duct tape?

ARRIANY

Surely your area of "expertise" goes beyond duct tape?

Dusan ponders for a beat.

DUSAN

I can get started on these this afternoon.

ARRIANY

I'm surrounded by idiots...

Leroy walks over.

ARRIANY

Did he propose duct tape for you laptop as well?

LEROY

Duct tape? Nah Dusan said it's beyond repair. We gotta get a new one.

ARRIANY

Beyond repair?!

Arriany picks up the Muay Thai pads.

ARRIANY
THESE are beyond repair!

LEROY
Enough about the goddamn kick
pads already. Don't those go for
like 20 bucks on Amazon?

ARRIANY
Like I'd be caught dead using
one of those. I'd probably end
up shattering my forearms if I
took a kick.

LEROY
Sounds like a you problem.

Arriany's face screams contempt. Just as she considers
doing something...Kylie enters. She acknowledges the
tension.

KYLIE
Bad time?

Arriany stares ahead at Leroy. Deadpan.

ARRIANY
Nope.

Kylie doesn't skip a beat.

KYLIE
Great. So I narrowed down our
list of *Fitfluencers* to these
three.

Kylie whips out her phone as Dusan, Arriany and Leroy
gather closer to her.

KYLIE
So first up, this beefcake.

Kylie brings up an Instagram profile on her phone. It
shows user **@FLEXIBLEJESUS**, who one may summarize as a man-
buned, ripped and tribal-tattooed yoga guru.

ARRIANY
This dude looks like what you
would get if you asked A.I. to
draw what a Southern Californian
Yoga instructor looks like.

DUSAN
This post says that he sometimes
drinks his own urine to ensure
no single nutrient goes to
waste. Neat.

Kylie scans her phone.

KYLIE
Damn, it does say that.

LEROY
Pass!

Kylie pulls up another Instagram profile. Arriany reads her description out.

ARRIANY
@Perkybumyoga, British but with
a Cali twist. Whatever that
means.

KYLIE
But look at the number of likes
she gets though. Plus her
follower count isn't that huge
so that probably means she won't
charge too much.

LEROY
Which *probably* means people are
liking her 'thirst traps' more
than her actual yoga.

A look of realization dawns on Kylie.

LEROY
Sorry Kylie, pass.

DUSAN
Woah, I think we're being a
little too hasty on this.

ARRIANY
Oh shut up Dusan, you just like
the thirst traps.

DUSAN
I'm a visual creature...I'm drawn
to the aesthetically pleasing.

LEROY
When did you learn the word
aesthetically?

KYLIE
So it's a unanimous pass then?

ARRIANY
'Fraid so.

Kylie sighs. Scrolls through her phone again.

KYLIE
@FunguyWellness. He's been a
yogi and spiritual guru for
eight years now.

ARRIANY
Alright now we're talking.

Leroy flicks through some of his posts.

LEROY
He does seem to know his stuff.

KYLIE
Plus it doesn't hurt that he's
hot. Y'know, for the girls and
gays.

DUSAN
He's alright I guess. I really
think we should give ol' perky
bum another look in.

ARRIANY
What do you know, this guy
doesn't drink his own pee. I
think we have a winner.

Leroy pats Kylie on the shoulder.

INT. FANCY AL FRESCO RESTAURANT - DAY

We see multiple empty shot glass on the table. Both Max
and Robbie look fried.

MAX
Hey, I really gotta head back.

Robbie checks the phone for the time.

ROBBIE
Come on we barely hang out. Plus
you're the boss right? Who's
gonna stop you?

MAX
It's just...there's alot on our
plate right now.

ROBBIE
I thought you said things were
"all good".

MAX
They are, but y'know...it's just
logistical bullshit.

Robbie doesn't buy it. Grabs Max by the shoulder, pulls him in.

ROBBIE
We're family. You got a problem,
you come to me.

MAX
Yeah, I know. I'm good.

Max pulls away, gently. He checks his watch.

MAX
I gotta go.

Max digs for his wallet.

ROBBIE
Really?

MAX
What?

ROBBIE
Why do you always have to do
that? Can't I spot my kid
brother for a meal?

MAX
Habit I guess.

Max gets up.

ROBBIE
Whatever man. How 'bout you make
it a habit to call Mum and Dad?

Max laughs, but not a happy one.

MAX
He ask you to say that?

Robbie scoffs.

MAX
(subdued)
Later, bro.

Max leaves. Robbie sits in his own thoughts for a second before checking out the waitress again.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - RECEPTION - DAY

Dusan tears pieces of duct tape and works on fixing Arriany's Muay Thai kick pads. Max returns and is met by Kylie.

KYLIE
How'd it go?

MAX
Terribly.

KYLIE
He wouldn't lend you the money?

MAX
I cut my nuts off and handed
them to him on a silver platter
and he still said no.

KYLIE
Do you want me to talk to him? I
can be very persistent.

MAX
Nah screw him, we'll figure
something out. How's the
influencer search going?

Kylie turns more upbeat.

KYLIE
Our 'Fitfluencer' has been
found.

MAX
You came up with that didn't
you?

KYLIE
I did!

MAX
Price checks out?

KYLIE
Uh huh. Leroy okay-ed it.

MAX
Perfect.

Dusan lifts up the kick pads that he has 'fixed'.

DUSAN
Sometimes, I still find ways to
amaze myself.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - STUDIO - THE NEXT DAY

A decent turnout shows up for the special yoga class. Max,
Arriany and Kylie look on from a distance.

ARRIANY

I still think you should've got me to do it.

MAX

You'll get the next one.

DRICUS (O.S)

Kylie!

We see DRICUS, none other than @FunguyWellness, our 'Fitfluencer'. Well built, late twenties, no man-bun. He walks over to the gang and they make with the pleasantries.

KYLIE

Thanks so much for doing this on such short notice.

MAX

We're real excited about the class.

DRICUS

As am I. I went ahead and spoke to some of the students already. Hope you don't mind.

We see the yoga students scattered around the studio waiting patiently while they sip from TEA CUPS.

MAX

Kylie, did you make tea for the class?

She shakes her head.

DRICUS

Oh, that's my *pre-flow brew* that I made at home. 100% natural and organic.

ARRIANY

Try saying that three-times fast.

DRICUS

You're more than welcome to have some.

MAX

I think I'm good. Thanks though.

KYLIE

Yeah, me too.

ARRIANY

What the hell, I'll have some.

Dricus beams.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - STUDIO - LATER

Dricus' class is underway and the students are mid-flow.

Max and Kylie observe from afar. Out of nowhere, one of the students throws up. Max rushes over to help.

Another student kneels over. Like dominoes, one by one the students start to hunch over or sit down.

Dusan dashes into the studio.

DUSAN

Uhh, something's up with Cortez.

Dusan and Kylie turn to each other and zip out of the studio.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - DAX'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kylie and Dusan see Arianny flat on her back staring straight up at the ceiling.

KYLIE

What's going on?! Are you alright??

ARRIANY

I'm tripping balls, girl.

It dawns on Kylie. She bolts out of the room.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Kylie rushing back into the studio and its chaos. Yoga mats are splattered with vomit, students are dry heaving in the corner. Max is shaking Dricus by his shirt.

MAX

You got everyone high you idiot?!

DRICUS

My IG handle is FUNGUY wellness!
What else could you possibly think it stood for?

Another student hurls right by Max.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - RECEPTION - LATER

Dusan, Leroy and Arriany, with shades on, sit by reception. Max and Kylie enter the gym.

MAX

So good news...no one got hurt.
Well, apart from the projectile
vomiting.

LEROY

Is anyone suing?

MAX

First fire I put out and I'm
relieved to say that no one's
suing. If anything, Dricus is
the one who should be worried.

ARRIANY

Dricus...should've seen it a mile
away with a name like that.

LEROY

(mocking)

How're you feeling, kiddo?

Arriany flips Leroy off.

ARRIANY

Like I just purged my insides.

DUSAN

So good then?

Max cuts in.

MAX

I know we just took a big, fat
L, but we gotta think of another
plan.

LEROY

Maybe we should cool our jets
while this blows over?

MAX

There's no time!

The gang is taken aback. Kylie looks back, concerned.
Max takes a deep breath.

MAX

I'm gonna level with you guys.
We're not doing so hot money
wise.

ARRIANY
Yeah no shit.

MAX
No, I mean we're really not
doing so hot.

ARRIANY
Oh.

MAX
Which is why I really need us to
get something going.

LEROY
What's the most low-cost thing
we could do for the gym right
now?

DUSAN
Carwash.

LEROY
No.

KYLIE
How about a gym party? Like a
fundraiser.

Max points to Kylie. He approves.

MAX
Warmer.

DUSAN
How's that any different to what
I said?

LEROY
For starters, it doesn't involve
us washing cars.

ARRIANY
Yeah, we could do a little
fundraiser at the gym. Liquor
'em up and hit them with the
member sign up form.
(pauses)
Woah.

MAX
What?

Arriany brings her hands close to her face. Giggles.

ARRIANY
My hands look funny.

KYLIE

Should we have some healthy options at this party? We are a gym after all...

LEROY

Would you go to a party for "healthy options"?

KYLIE

(deadpan)

Yeah.

LEROY

My bad...forgot who I was talking to.

DUSAN

I can ask my cousin to DJ. He owes me one.

MAX

Your cousin? There's two of you?

DUSAN

We're a big family.

MAX

Okay, this is good. We're getting somewhere now.

The gang nod in approval. Arriany still obsesses over her hands.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - RECEPTION - DAY

TEXT: Day of the Fundraiser.

A BANNER that looks like it could have been drawn up by a child hangs above the gym with the words: **WARM BODIES LA 'FUN'DRAISER on it.**

Arriany stares at it.

ARRIANY

So I'm guessing you weren't an Art Major?

KYLIE

It's not that bad!

Dusan, on the phone and speaking in Serbian, walks past them. He cups the receiver.

DUSAN
(earnest)
Kylie, you didn't tell us your
baby sister and family were in
town.

Dusan speeds off and resumes talking on the phone. Arriany smirks at Kylie, who tries to think of a retort.

KYLIE
Shut up...

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAIN GYM FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

BALLOONS of varying sizes are hung around the gym and a VIP area with a makeshift 'velvet rope' made out of SKIPPING ROPES that have been tied together. True VIP Style at Warm Bodies.

We see the POV of an IPHONE CAMERA. Outside the party area is a GYMGOER doing squats. He notices the camera.

GYMGOER
Hey, could you please stop
filming? It's making me
uncomfortable.

LEROY (O.S)
Oh don't mind me! It's for the
aftermovie. I'm not even here.

Leroy looks at him through his phone screen. He circles around the gymgoer and changes the angle of his shot.

LEROY
Could you just redo that last
curl? I'm trying to get some
light to make your arms look
bigger.

GYMGOER
Go away man!

Leroy drops the nice demeanor, goes all Stanley Kubrick on his "actor".

LEROY
Look, my boss wants a kickass
aftermovie for the party and I'm
gonna give it to him. So when I
say, let's redo that curl, I
want you to GODDAMN DO IT!

The gymgoer starts to wilt under Leroy's pressure. Max swoops in.

MAX

(forced laughter)

Leroy right here has quite the sense of humor. I keep saying it's an East Coast thing but who knows where these things really originate from?

GYMGOER

What?

MAX

Neeeeever mind, please be getting back to your workout, sir.

Max drags Leroy away.

MAX

We're supposed to be bringing gym members together, not pissing them off.

LEROY

You told me to make a badass aftermovie! It's not my fault these amateurs don't wanna cooperate.

MAX

And I appreciate the effort. But maybe we could take more footage of the actual party itself? And of people who actually don't mind being recorded?

LEROY

That's so...boring. Where's the artistry in that? I'm trying to capture them in their element. Like how nature videographers do on safari.

Max sees Dusan walking in with his cousin, MATIA, a mean-mugging soccer hooligan sporting a Serbian National Team Jersey.

MAX

(hurried)

Just...dial it down a notch alright?

Max goes over to Matia and Dusan.

MAX

You must be my DJ in shining armor.

Max goes for a handshake. His outstretched hand lingers for a second but Matia just stares at it. Dusan interjects:

DUSAN
My cousin isn't really the
talkative type.
(In Serbian)
Go get set-up.

Dusan points to a FOLDABLE TABLE by the 'VIP AREA'.

Matia makes his way over and spots Arriany. He does a double take.

MAX
He's...intense.

DUSAN
(surprised)
Matia? He's one of the
friendliest people I know.

Matia spots a bug scuttling next to the foldable table. He stomps it into oblivion.

MAX
I find that hard to believe but
as long as he can DJ.

DUSAN
(confident)
Oh he can play.

We hear the rising volume of music until...

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAIN GYM FLOOR - LATER

The beat drops. House music fills the gym as the fundraiser is popping off. The gym resembles a dance floor more than anything.

Carville cracks an EGG into a glass of STOUT and downs the damn thing. The high-schoolers from earlier try to sneak some booze but are caught by Kylie.

Max is chatting and laughing with some gym members until:

THREE THUGS enter the gym. Their LEADER eyes Matia. He yells over the music.

THUG LEADER
(In Serbian)
Matia, you bastard!

Patrons are taken by surprise and turn to face the commotion. Some remain blissfully unaware.

Matia looks unfazed, TURNS UP the volume of the music. The thugs make a beeline for him and stumped patrons let them through.

THUG LEADER

Where's my money?

MATIA

What the hell do you think I'm doing? It's on its way.

The Thug Leader grabs Matia by the collar.

THUG LEADER

You're a joker aren't you?

Dusan rushes over to aid his cousin. He wraps his arms around Dusan and the Thug Leader in an attempt to make peace.

DUSAN

We Balkan brothers need to stick together! Come, let's grab a drink.

He walks over and grabs drinks for the thugs. He turns around, drinks in hands and is met with an almighty right hook.

The drinks drop to the ground and Dusan is rocked but stays on his feet. His chirpy demeanor from earlier slips. He shrugs and bum-rushes the thugs.

All hell breaks loose as Dusan and the three thugs engage in a BRAWL. Matia joins the fray as does Arriany.

Max ushers as many patrons as he can away from the brawl.

Leroy whips his camera towards the fight and grins like a kid in a candy store.

Kylie, panicked and confused, starts to hurl full CANS OF BEER at the thugs. She has a pretty decent arm on her and wallops one of them in the ribs.

Arriany holds her own as she lands stinging punches and elbows on one of the thugs. Matia sees this and looks like he's smitten.

Dusan struggles on the floor as he's manhandled by the Thug Leader. Max uses the 'velvet ropes' from the VIP Area to bind the Thug Leaders arms to his body.

MAX

(Struggling)

Everybody...Chill...The...Fuck...OUT!

A break in the action ensues. The few who stayed behind look around and survey their surroundings.

The two thugs regroup as they eye their leader still being restrained by Max. The situation remains tense.

Kylie's 'childlike' banner is now in a crumpled heap on the ground like most of the party's paraphernalia.

MAX
(to Thug Leader)
I'm only going to let you go if
you tell me you're calm. So...are
you calm?

The Thug Leader still struggles but Max holds firm, as Dusan doubles up to help him. The Thug Leader concedes.

THUG LEADER
I'm calm.

Max slowly loosens his grip. The Thug Leader rises to his feet.

MAX
(sincere)
Let's...let's work this out. No
more fighting. How much does
Matia owe you?

The Thug Leader stares down Matia who reciprocates.

THUG LEADER
Forty.

Max looks but bewildered.

MAX
Thousand?!

THUG LEADER
Dollars. Forty dollars.

MATIA
It was thirty-seven!

THUG LEADER
Interest, bitch!

Max stands in wide-eyed in silence. He's seething with rage and it's bubbling to the surface.

MAX
You ASSHOLES tore up my gym, for
forty fucking dollars!?

Mattia and the Thug Leader are taken aback.

MATIA
(whispers)
Thirty-Seven.

MAX
You know what? I'm gonna kill
the both of you! Maybe then
they'll throw my ass in jail and
all my problems will go away!

ROBBIE (O.S)
Max?

Max's rage turns to embarrassment as he looks up and sees
Robbie. Kylie looks at Max, helpless.

EXT. WARM BODIES GYM - LATER

Max and Robbie talk outside the gym.

Thug Leader, Matia and Dusan are in the background
settling their beef with Dusan playing the middle-man.

ROBBIE
Wanna tell me what that was
about?

MAX
We're just...messaging around.
Harmless little fun if you ask
me.

ROBBIE
You had a man tied up with a
skipping rope.

Matia hands Dusan cash, Dusan counts it and hands it over
to Thug Leader. Thug Leader puts up a 'three' with his
fingers. Matia gets angry and Dusan has to mediate.

MAX
And I'd do it again in the name
of fun. You shouldn't even be
here man.

ROBBIE
She called me.
(points to Kylie)
Told me there was a fundraising
going on and that I should come.

Max looks embarrassed.

ROBBIE

Why don't you trust me? We used to tell each other everything.

Max is caught off guard. Gets a little emotional but does his best to mask it.

MAX

You know that's not true.

ROBBIE

That's not true? You've been acting shady, you're talking about wanting to be locked up -

MAX

It was a joke! What? They don't tell jokes where you work?

Matia takes out another small wad of cash and hands it to Thug Leader, who is finally satisfied. They shake hands.

ROBBIE

Can't say that we share the same sense of humor.

MAX

You can say that again.

Robbie pulls out a PACK OF CIGARETTES. Lights one.

ROBBIE

He told me this would happen. You biting off more than you can chew.

MAX

Yeah?

ROBBIE

Yeah.

MAX

Well, our old man did have a knack for being right.

ROBBIE

Fuck him.

Max turns to his brother, slightly taken aback. Then grins. A good moment between the brothers.

MAX

You know I can't take your money right?

Robbie nods.

ROBBIE
Wasn't gonna give it to you
anyway.

MAX
Yeah right.

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAX'S OFFICE - DAYS LATER

Max is typing away on his laptop. Kylie knocks on his door.

KYLIE
Hey, come check this out.

MAX
About Robbie, I should've been
straight with you.

KYLIE
That can wait.

MAX
I was too proud to take his
money.

KYLIE
(grinning)
Max...you're gonna want to see
this.

EXT. WARM BODIES GYM - MAIN FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

There's a crowd of people working out. Way larger than
what we have seen. Leroy approaches Max and Kylie.

LEROY
We did it, baby.

MAX
Did what? What's going on?

LEROY
That "aftermovie" you had me
work on went viral.

Leroy pulls out his phone and shows that his edit has over
a hundred thousand views on Instagram.

The video shows a highlight reel of people having fun and
also the brawl from the Fundraiser.

MAX
People loved it?

LEROY

The masses always love a good party and scrap. We happened to combine them both.

KYLIE

We've been getting a tonne of new members too! Most of them are on the free trial sure...but it's a start!

INT. WARM BODIES GYM - RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

Arriany and Dusan are talking to gym goers. They wrap up as Max, Kylie and Leroy walk over.

ARRIANY

(to Max)

You seeing this?

MAX

Seeing, still not quite believing.

ARRIANY

Who would've guessed that some mindless violence would get this rust bucket back in business?

MAX

(To Leroy and Arriany)

At this rate, I'll be able to replace both your laptop and your kick pads.

Leroy does a small fist pump. Arriany goes behind the reception counter and pulls out a BOX.

ARRIANY

(opening the box)

About that.

Arriany reveals a brand new set of Muay Thai kick pads inside.

ARRIANY

(to Dusan)

Your cousin gave this to me.

KYLIE

Aw, it even comes with a little card.

Kylie picks the card up and reads it.

KYLIE

To most sexy Woman in Los Angeles...you fight like goddess Athena. I hear from Dusan that you wanting this. Enjoy present. Love, Matia.

LEROY

He's a charmer.

DUSAN

(to Max)

Told you he was nice.

MAX

So what was the whole thing about the forty bucks if he could buy these?

DUSAN

He has his ways.

(leans into Max)

He swiped it off a UPS truck outside a kickboxing gym.

Leroy scans his phone, something catches his eye.

LEROY

No way...

Arriany and Dusan crowd around him.

ARRIANY

The Galactic Fitness shut down!
Piping issues!

Max rushes over and scans the phone. He reads a Galactic Fitness press release on Instagram.

MAX

Galactic Fitness regrets to inform patrons that they will be shutting down...oh my god!

Max, Arriany, Dusan and Leroy celebrate. Kylie takes Leroy's phone and reads the press release.

KYLIE

(reading screen)

...For a week as we deal with a complicated piping issue.

The celebration is cut-short.

LEROY

I really need to finish reading things.

KYLIE
Hey, a week's better than
nothing atleast?

A new prospective GYM MEMBER enters the gym. Max grins at Kylie before walking over.

MAX
Welcome to Warm Bodies Gym. How
may we help you?

TAG

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Dricus shuffles around in the heat, beads of sweat dripping from his forehead.

He scours the surrounding area, spotting something. He squats down and plucks a wad of MUSHROOMS.

DRICUS
Come to Papa.

He opens a ZIPLOCK BAG and as he is about to put the mushrooms inside...checks his surroundings. He's alone.

Dricus shrugs and eats one of them. Smiles without a care in the world.