

GOING FOR GOLD

After an Olympic athlete gets controversially disqualified, she attempts to steal the gold medal she believes is rightly hers.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

KENDAL VALENTINE, a short, muscular woman leaving her prime, watches a video of herself on her phone. She is doing an uneven bar routine.

NEWS ANCHOR

Kendal Valentine was a favorite to win gold this year, but a contentious drug ban has disqualified her from the summer games. A highly controversial decision that may have prematurely ended her gymnastics career.

She clicks her phone off.

Behind her is the locker of Liu Xuan. She opens the travel bag in her locker and places a tracker inside.

INT. OLYMPIC GYM - DAY

The ROAR of the crowd booms as Kendal exits the locker room.

She walks back to her seat, behind the USA Olympic Team. Kendal flips an antique coin to her COACH; a bribe.

KENDAL VALENTINE

Thanks for getting me this pass, coach. I Know it wasn't easy.

She points to a badge around her neck that states she works with Team USA.

COACH

(catching the coin)  
Anything for you and a vintage Ban Liang coin.

The coach sees Kendal's sunken mood.

COACH (CONT'D)

Hey, I don't care what the IOC says, you deserve to be here. Breaks my heart they ruined your last shot at competing.

Kendal hugs her coach. He tries to change the subject.

COACH (CONT'D)

As a spectator, who is your money on?

KENDAL VALENTINE  
Liu Xuan 100%. She was the only  
competition I was worried about.

Kendal kicks back in her seat. The next routine starts.

INT. OLYMPIC GYM - DAY

ANNOUNCER  
Gold medalist and Olympic champion,  
from Australia, Ashleigh Mitchell!

The gold medal drapes over ASHLEIGH during the medal  
ceremony. Liu stands on the silver podium.

KENDAL VALENTINE  
Shit.

Kendal rubs her forehead in frustration. She shoots up and  
runs back into the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Kendal goes straight for Liu's locker. She grabs the bag and  
pulls out the tracker.

She surveys the room, looking for Ashleigh's locker. THERE!

She bends down and starts fidgeting with her bag.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
Um, can I help you?

Shit. Kendal freezes. More athletes flood into the room.

KENDAL VALENTINE  
Uh...

She hesitates. Thinks for a moment. Finally, she turns  
around.

KENDAL VALENTINE (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry I was in here earlier  
with my team, lost my phone...

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
Kendal Valentine! Wow, I am a HUGE  
fan! I modeled parts of my set off  
your past performances.

Relief washes over Kendal's face.

KENDAL VALENTINE

Ha, I thought some of those moves looked familiar.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL

I'm sure if that bloody stupid drug disqualification didn't happen, this would be your gold medal.

Kendal looks down at the medal, mesmerized.

KENDAL VALENTINE

You're sweet... Let me get out of your hair so you can celebrate.

She points to her phone then brushes past Ashleigh.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL

Oh no worries. Ava good night!

INT. KENDAL'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Kendal observes her laptop in bed. The screen is a map software that has a dot representing the tracker. It is still pinging at the gym.

KENDAL VALENTINE

What are you still doing over there?

INT. OLYMPIC GYM - NIGHT

The formerly packed gym is now rather empty. Kendal crouches in and sees Ashleigh, still practicing on the uneven bars.

KENDAL VALENTINE

(with admiration)

That's some work ethic.

Kendal watches her gracefully fly through the air. While she is spinning on the bars, Kendal sneaks into the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

She runs to Ashleigh's locker and digs through her bag. There it is! She pulls out the gold medal.

She stares at the dim reflection of herself in the medal; she hears the crowd cheering her name. Almost hypnotized, she snaps herself out of the daydream.

She pulls out a fake medal and swaps it with the real one.

INT. OLYMPIC GYM - NIGHT

Ashleigh lands an impressive dismount. She notices Kendal leaving the locker room and runs up to her.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
What're you doing here so late?

KENDAL VALENTINE  
Was thinking about giving the bars  
a spin. Saw you practicing though  
and I didn't want to bother you.

She clutches her jacket pocket.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
Hey, I get it. We worked so hard  
for the past four years. I'd be  
bloody devo if I couldn't compete  
either.

KENDAL VALENTINE  
It really was all I ever wanted.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
Was? Blimey, what about 2024?

KENDAL VALENTINE  
This year was my best shot.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
Says who? I'm positive you'll be  
out there showing us how it's done.

Kendal's entire demeanor changes.

KENDAL VALENTINE  
Seems I'll have my work cut out for  
me.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
Oh yeah, I won't make it easy!

She pats Kendal on the back.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL (CONT'D)  
But it's gettin that time of night.  
I probably needa be heading out.  
Good to see you again.

Ashleigh heads towards the locker room. Kendal smiles and waves bye. She heads to the exit.

INT. KENDAL'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Kendal tosses and turns in bed. She finally sits up.

CLICK. The bathroom light turns on and Kendal stares at herself in the mirror. She puts on the gold medal. It doesn't feel right, her body language looks disappointed.

She opens up her laptop, the dot a few blocks from her.

She writes a note and packs the medal up.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Kendal enters the hotel Ashleigh is staying at and marches up to the front desk.

KENDAL VALENTINE  
I'd like to drop off a package for  
Ashleigh Mitchell.

HOTEL CLERK  
And you are?

KENDAL VALENTINE  
Her biggest fan.

INT. ASHLEIGH'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ashleigh zips her bag and heads out of her room. When she opens the door she sees a package outside. She picks it up.

Her eyes widen as she opens it. A note falls to the ground. Ashleigh grabs it and unfolds the paper.

ASHLEIGH MITCHELL  
(reading the note)  
Thought I'd return this. Figured  
I'd just win my own next time.

INT. TEAM USA GYM - DAY

Kendal dismounts gloriously onto the mat. Sweat drenches her body. She sips on some water before returning to the bars.

She leaps up and clutches the bar. She swings her legs, ready to start again. Behind her is a sign that says, 'Paris 2024'.