

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - LONG SHOT - DAY

64

Bronson and Cordoba are on the bike, Bronson driving. They are scanning the view for something. They go up a high rise and look around.

POV - PANNING - HILLS - DAY

65

The PAN STOPS at a particularly steep hill.

CORDOBA (V.O.)

That one. You haven't climbed that one.

We ZOOM SLOWLY IN on "that one", a really steep hill.

BRONSON'S AND CORDOBA'S ANGLE - HILL

66

BRONSON

Do you have to?

CORDOBA

Don't you?

BRONSON

Well...not really.

But Cordoba can't believe him. He wants Bronson to be just like him and understand him.

CORDOBA

You will, though.

BRONSON (honestly
dubious)

You make it and we'll see how I feel.

Bronson turns the bike and they head back.

CUT TO:

EXT. RANCH - BRONSON, CORDOBA - CATTLE - DAY

67

They are looking over a small group of stock - ten, perhaps. They are young bulls, little more than calves. Cordoba waves a cape at them.

ANGLES - CALVES

68

We look a few of them over from Cordoba's and Bronson's POV'S.

FULL - CORDOBA, BRONSON - CALVES

69

Cordoba points to one of the calves which is particularly spirited in responding to the waving of a cape.

BRONSON (sincere, nods)

Cute little fella.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORRAL - BRONSON, CALF - DAY

70

Punctuating Bronson's previous line, he is being run over by the calf, which has barreled into him square amidships, ignoring the cape completely, and adding to the ignominy by looking playful about. (Good role for a calf.) Just having Bronson bowled over will be adequate.

ANOTHER ANGLE - FOR REACTIONS FROM BELLA, MORGANA, CORDOBA 71

Bella's eyes are shut tight. Morgana crosses a faint smile with a slight wince and the result seems sadistic, but warm. Cordoba smiles broadly. For him it had been an aforesaid conclusion - a part of the professional mystique.

ANGLE - BRONSON - CALF

72

He tries to get up and the calf comes at him again. He forgets the cape and grabs the horns, finally managing to bulldog the animal to the ground. Calf and man lie there, panting. The bull catches its breath first and trots off playfully. Bronson sits up and looks around. Cordoba is helping him up.

ANGLE - BELLA, MORGANA - FENCE

73

Bella is struggling to suppress laughter, her face in her hands. Morgana bites her lip and turns away as Bronson walks morosely by, cape over his shoulder and dust all over his head.

He isn't capable of participating in the moment. He stops.

BRONSON

There's a first time for everything.

He walks on. We HOLD on Morgana and Bella as they watch him go, and both their faces soften. They both like him.

CUT TO:

EXT. STEEP HILL - BRONSON, CORDOBA - DAY

74

Bronson watches Cordoba get ready for another try.

BRONSON

Nothing personal...but I have to tell you the truth.

(beat)

You and me are definitely not trying to prove the same things.

CORDOBA

Bronson...if you're lucky, that bull will show you where to find the beginning of your fear.

(beat)

After that we'll talk about things to prove.

CORDOBA - BRONSON'S ANGLE

75

He roars off to give the impossible hill one more shot, and pretty near makes it. He comes within a hundred yards and then dumps.

ANGLE - BRONSON

76

watching the motorcycle resurrect and return, bringing Cordoba. Then he's looking at the hill, not Cordoba. POV SHIFTS TO ISOLATE HILL.

CUT TO:

EXT. INSIDE CORRAL - OLD ROMAN - DAY

77

We watch the magnificent animal moving around the corral.

BRONSON'S ANGLE - OLD ROMAN, CORDOBA, MORGANA

78

examining the bull. Bronson is intense, a little up-tight.

CORDOBA (indicates bull)
He's in good spirits. Mating season,
I think.

BRONSON
I better try him tomorrow.
(indicates around)
I've used up enough hospitality around
here.

CORDOBA (understands,
but...)
I was hoping you would stay until we
climb the hill.
(beat)
You have the only motorcycle.

Bronson ponders it, then nods. Okay. Why not.

CORDOBA
Anyway...I have another thing or two
to show you before you try Old Roman.

Bronson wonders what, but Cordoba's face indicates no
particular import.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE CORRAL - BRONSON, CORDOBA - DAY

79

Cordoba is giving Bronson some last minute coaching. The
ranch hand is standing by behind the fake bull.

CORDOBA (with the cape
- over-demonstrations)
You want the bull safe? Pass wide.
(beat)
You want him close, pass close.
(beat)
He will do what the movement of the
cape tells him to do.

He hands Bronson the cape, and nods to the ranch hand. The ranch hand pushes the fake bull. Bronson executes a Veronica, then a Natural, then a Paso de Muerto - clumsy, but adequate to survive. It goes on, with Cordoba shouting fine points (according to RESEARCH), until the ranch hand is too tired to continue.

79
CONT'D
(2)

BRONSON (to Cordoba,
surprised at something he's
feeling)

I thought it was a real bull for a
minute.

(beat)

I think I'm ready.

Cordoba has, during the scene, made a surreptitious signal to the ranch hand, behind Bronson's back. The ranch hand wasn't all that tired. As Cordoba talks to Bronson, the ranch hand sets himself behind the "bull".

CORDOBA

Almost. There is one more lesson
to learn.

BRONSON (anticipating)

What's that?

The ranch hand charges into Bronson from behind, knocking him to the ground. When Bronson recovers from the shock, he's springing to his feet, somewhat incensed.

CORDOBA (once Bronson
subsides)

You are still a long way from knowing
when to turn your back on a real bull.

Bronson looks him hard in the eye, but the point's been made. At last he nods.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORRAL - OLD ROMAN - DAY

80

The beautiful animal is prancing and spirited, lurching around the corral. We ESTABLISH SPECTATORS.

ESTABLISHING SPECTATORS - REACTION INTERCUTS

81

According to location, either standing at the corral fence or in a homegrown set of bleachers around a ranch show ring. There are Cordoba, Morgana, Bella and whomever else we may establish as part of the indigenous population, permanent and transient. This is obviously an event.

LONGER ANGLE - ESTABLISHING - CORRAL

82

In the center of the corral is Bronson, watching Old Roman move around the "arena". Bronson's stance is correct and firm. He does his dutiful "Aha's" at Old Roman, stepping toward the bull a step at a time, setting the cape, trying to draw a charge. Old Roman paws the ground.

CLOSE SHOT - OLD ROMAN - EXTREME LONG LENS FOR PERSPECTIVE

83

The bull slowly settles down, and faces us squarely.

EXT. CORRAL - DAY

84

Bronson has the cape ready. This is Bronson's major effort. It's a short charge and Old Roman pulls up for lack of commitment.

FULL SHOT - INTERCUT TO ACTION AND REACTION - EXT. CORRAL
- ET AL - DAY

85

Old Roman charges Bronson at last. It's wide and the pass is little more than a casual sweep-by.

Cordoba smiles at the safety of the move. Bronson's face says he didn't think it was all that safe. He's braced for the next one.

CORDOBA (calls out
above whatever crowd SOUND)
Bring him in closer!

VARIOUS ANGLES - THE BULL

86

pawing the ground, building up to a charge, but not wanting to charge.

REACTIONS - BELLA, MORGANA, CORDOBA

87

INTERCUT their suspense, waiting for the bull to do something.

ANGLE - BRONSON

88

doing his best to attract the animal's attention.

ANGLE - RANCH HAND - CORDOBA IN B.G.

89

The ranch hand has Cordoba's eye and indicates the bull in POV INSERT being very inert about the whole thing.

ANOTHER ANGLE - RANCH HAND

90

He gives a WHISTLE and a signal to a couple of WRANGLERS standing over the corral fence nearby. One of them picks up a rope and neatly lassoes the bull's horns, snubbing him to a fence, while the other goes to the barn to get something.

ANGLE - BRONSON

91

puzzled, wondering what's going on.

ANGLE - BARN

92

FOLLOWING the wrangler who brings a roll of tape, a little black box, and what looks like a small transmitter of the radio controlled model airplane type.

COVERING BRONSON

93

Wondering what it's all about, he crosses to Cordoba.

BRONSON (indicates action)

What are they doing?

CORDOBA (no anticipation
of distress)

Placing a remote prod.

(beat)

The latest thing.

BRONSON

What's a remote prod?

93

CONT'D

(2)

CORDOBA

An electric shocking device. To make the bull charge?

BRONSON (distressed)

He won't charge without it?

CORDOBA

Not likely.

(beat)

What's the matter.

Bella and Morgana have come up, wondering what they're talking about. Morgana looks at the ring.

ANGLE - THE BULL

94

The wranglers place the device on the bull's haunches and release him from the snub, leaving the ring themselves. The bull is obviously agitated, trying to buck, then shake loose the attached prod. Then he subsides, a bit used to it.

ANGLE - THE WRANGLER

95

indicates he is ready.

ANGLE - BRONSON, CORDOBA, MORGANA, BELLA

96

at the corral fence. The three look at Bronson.

CORDOBA (personally
offended by Bronson's balk)

He wasn't a fighting bull. He wasn't
bred to charge!

(beat)

How did you think it would be done?!

BRONSON

Nobody mentioned electric prods.

CORDOBA

Would you prefer banderillas? Or
the pic?

He obviously wouldn't. Hadn't thought about it much, in fact.

96
CONT'D
(2)

Morgana looks at Cordoba in almost amused surprised.
Bella's look at Bronson is almost adoring.

MORGANA (gloating)

Bronson...if you want that bull to charge you're going to have to use the prod.

Bronson hands the cape to Cordoba and starts to walk away. We FOLLOW as Cordoba stays close by, trying to keep his ear, somehow affected by what Bronson has done.

ANGLE - FOLLOWING CORDOBA, BRONSON

97

CORDOBA (persuading)

The bull doesn't feel anything.

BRONSON (indicates bull)

He tell you that?

CORDOBA

I've spent more time with bulls than you have with people. I know what they feel!

BRONSON

I don't even know what PEOPLE feel!
Not for sure.

CLOSER ANGLE - BRONSON, CORDOBA

98

Cordoba is flabbergasted! Bella and Morgana catch up. Others are watching.

(NOTE: Though we will not illuminate the explanation till later, Cordoba is reacting to Bronson doing a thing he wishes he could do, and can't - walk away from the game. He is a compulsive, where Bronson is not, and he can't deal with the self-contrast.)

CORDOBA (as though
Bronson were insane)

You could have done it. You can STILL do it. Go back. They are all laughing at you!

BRONSON (heck with
"they")
I thought it would mean more to the
bull than a hot seat.
(beat, saddened)
What kind of thing is THAT?!

98
CONT'D
(2)

Morgana and Bella fall in behind.

MORGANA (lighthearted
needle)
My hero.

BRONSON (more serious,
indicates toward corral over
shoulder)
It wasn't for me. None of it.

Cordoba and Morgana fall behind as they realize by his
silent walk that he means it. Bella stays alongside.

ANGLE - BELLA, BRONSON - WALKING

99

BELLA
Embarrassed?

BRONSON (honestly)
Nope.
(beat; indicates O.S.)
It wasn't for that bull, either.

BELLA (comic shrug)
Another day...another triumph.

Nobody laughs much, and she lets her attempt at levity
subside. Then, reaching deep for it, she summons a real
empathy and attempts to touch him with it.

BELLA (continues,
really wants him to believe it)
To me it WAS a triumph, Bronson.
(beat)
It was me who got the bravest man
around. The honest one. That's you.

They walk off together.

BRONSON (tired; going
away)
Is that week up yet?

99
CONT'D
(2)

BELLA
Not quite.

They go.

FADE OUT.

END ACT FOUR