

couple dings in the body, but loaded under the hood.

CRASH PUNCHES HIS TAPE DECK -- Sam Cooke's "You Send Me".

ANNIE BITES HER FIST watching Crash leave.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANNIE'S BEDROOM -- DAY

The sounds of lovemaking in a darkened room lit only by a few candles.

ANNIE

Yes, yes, yesmmmmyes...

(beat)

Oh my...

(several beats)

Oh, that was just fabulous, Crash.

Several beats of silence.

NUKE

Crash?

He flips on a lamp near the bed.

NUKE

You mean Nuke. You said "Crash".

ANNIE

I didn't say "Crash". I said Nuke.

NUKE

You said "Crash".

ANNIE

Honey, don't ever listen to a woman when she's making love. They'll say the strangest things.

NUKE

You said "Crash".

ANNIE

Would you rather me be making love to him, using your name, or making love to you, using his name?

Nuke considers this fabulous logic.

NUKE

Yeah maybe you're right.

ANNIE

You see how nice things are when we go slow?

Nuke sighs; and lets his head sink in the pillow.

NUKE

Mmm, hmmm.

(beat)

You shoulda seen how many people came to the airport to see me off. When I got drafted first it was the happiest day of my Father's life.

(beat)

He likes baseball more than I do...

ANNIE

You can learn to like it.

NUKE

I wanted to be the host of Dance Fever, somethin' like that...

ANNIE

Y'know if you make it to the Bigs you could still become the host of

Dance Fever. Baseball's a good stepping stone for things like that.

NUKE

God, I never thought of that.

ANNIE

(sweetly)

There is a lot of things you never thought of, sweetie -- now get some rest for tonight's game.

Nuke rests his head on Annie's shoulder. His eyes are wide open and full of nervous energy.

CUT TO:

EXT. DURHAM BASEBALL PARK -- DUSK

NUKE ON A PAY PHONE -- In his uniform. Players warming up in the background as the ground crew prepares the field.

NUKE

Hello? Dad? This is Ebby.

(beat)

Yeah, I know, I know -- you got the Durham papers yet? Well I been a little wild...

(defensively)

These hitters down here are better than the ones in high school...

(trying to change subject)

How's Mom? Yeah? Well I am trying hard... I am bending my back... you're not coming down' here to visit just yet, are you?

(beat)

Can I talk to Mom?