

# **Dangerous Curves®**

**The Terri O'Connell Story**

**WGA Registration Number: 1845362**

**By Laney Dunbar/Terri O'Connell**

**TREATMENT**

**September 2017**

## **OVERVIEW:**

**Dangerous Curves** is a compelling, stylized, action adventure based on extraordinary, first in world history event. It is a “Real Life Story” that shocked and set the world of sports, and pop culture on its head in the late 90’s, and that controversy and intensity continues on today. **Dangerous Curves** is the compelling and dramatic life of Terri O’Connell, who was boldly and emphatically tagged as a real life “Female Rocky”, and a “Great American Story” by producers and media alike as her life story became known around the world. (The subject is Terri O’Connell, AKA world class and champion professional male race car driver J.T. Hayes)

O’Connell, or Terri O’, as she is called by fans around the world, is a beautiful model, author, artist and professional race car driver who not only set the world on its head when her life story careened and crashed into the international media during the late 90’s, she raised the bar of controversy and shock to a higher level in the controlled world of high stakes professional motorsports. In 1999 she dramatically and passionately revealed, at insurmountable risk to her career and her life, that she was the first and only person in history to compete in any professional sport both as “a male and as a female!” That’s a 5’6”, 119 pound, 34-24-34 beautiful woman, who broke all stereotypes for macho and brave, male and female race car drivers, and anyone dealing with complicated and controversial gender issues. But no one knew then, the real twist and turns of her compelling life story; no one knew the real story behind the headlines; no one knew just how dramatic, chilling and courageous her life had really been! No one, not even her closest friends or family!

This powerful and astonishing action-adventure biopic maps out the true, against all odds, life of America’s most compelling individuals. It is a dynamic life story, ironically set in the most oxymoronic way; living, breathing and challenging the status quo in the complicated, and socially entrenched deep South, and more ironically, in the midst of macho professional sports. It involves motorsports specifically, which is the last true bastion of male dominance and intimidation where one can lose their life at any moment. Add to this mixture Southern religious bigotry and high stakes national politics sparked by a crooked business partner running for Governor trying to take her down, and you have a volatile recipe that is ready to blow up in your face at any moment.

O’Connell’s challenging life ultimately transcends into an international adventure with enough twists and turns to fill ten action-adventure dramas. There is the idyllic, but daunting, childhood as early years are filled with daily battles to keep this young child alive because of a near fatal chronic illness, always surrounded by a loving and doting family, friends, and church, including the strong and compassionate Grandmother Sarah. Terri’s idyllic life was clearly built on the strong and rural idea of hard and steady work draped in the cloak of God's saving grace and legacy, driven by her handsome and talented father, Jim.

However, by her early teens, Terri’s idyllic Southern life turned ugly and complicated, quickly transitioning into high speed car chases through the crowded streets of her picturesque home town with her now angry and alcoholic father hot on her trail, and with her in drag. Her dad was hell-bent on catching and harming her. Their once loving relationship had turned into constant turmoil surrounded by antagonistic confrontations that drove the family apart and pushed Terri into a deep and dangerous depression. Yet she strove to survive, and her racing career is was thriving in spite of the turmoil. But it’s only a matter of time before all of this dissension blew up in their faces, life’s dangerous curves and dark tragic social clouds loomed on the horizon.

## **Act I**

*The movie opens with Terri walking down pit road at the Daytona International Speedway, masses of media in tow, heading to her 200 mile per hour stock car to finish unfinished business. She is in the midst of making world history. After all the pageantry and*

*media frenzy, she climbs into her race car, straps in, pulls her purple helmet over her long flowing hair and prepares for battle on the high banks. As she pulls up on the track, the camera is playing through her eyes, she begins to reminisce, to fade back into history, back to the dramatic life she had lived, and survived. The movie then begins to fade back into time ... back to 1982 and an even more dramatic race, a race for her life, a race for her dignity.*

**1982 thirty years earlier** ... Corinth, Mississippi, is a small and rural town in Northeast Mississippi bred on moonshiners and overzealous Baptist preachers. It's early summer. We find Terri (JT Hayes) a youthful looking 18 year old is down at his dad's tool and die business around 7:00 in the evening and he is in the back bathroom, near the back of the shop, and is applying makeup to his androgynous face; lipstick, eyeliner and mascara to his long full eyelashes, while fixing his long shaggy hair into a more feminine style, and then slipping into a cute and trendy peasant dress. All this while he is nervous and anxious and on high alert for any movement at the locked front door of his dad's business. He was living dangerously and praying no one would discover what he is doing, and had been doing for years. He had always been careful, but he also knew he was living right on the razor's edge. If he was to get caught doing this his life would be over! There would be a scandal and his family would disown him even though they clearly knew that he was different and he was not a normal boy, not even close. The years of doctors, psychologists, personal doubt and depression had all come to a head. This is something his parents so desperately did not want. As far as that goes, Neither did JT, but the need, the desire, the longing to be feminine overwhelmed him. He was desperate and now, at a crossroads, it was becoming more and more dangerous, and he was becoming more and more careless!

Then, in a flash, JT hears someone at the door, trying to get in but he has the door locked from the inside just to buy himself some time. The person outside is getting desperate and with a feeling of desperation and fear, JT knows it's probably his dad who had come back down to the shop to work. In a flash, there is crashing of a window in the front office and whoever is out there is now crawling through the window. In a panic, JT rushes back to the bathroom, grabs his back pack and male cloths and hightails it out through his escape route, the big back door, opened just a crack for him to slip his skinny white ass through. He knew he was in the race of his life, not one on the track where he had already racked up hundreds of wins all over the nation, but a race for his dignity, a race to escape his father's disdain and disgust, which by now was surely fueled by his alcoholism. His dad was probably drunk, and that meant, his dad was probably angry ...

JT quickly slings his backpack into his yellow Nissan pickup, jumps in and begins to aggressively back out of the gravel entrance to the shop. As he backs onto the small two-lane blacktop road he frantically puts the truck into first gear to escape. Looking in his rear view mirror, he sees his dad blasting around the corner in his big Dodge van, virtually on two wheels, with fire in his eyes, tires squealing, and hell bent. He was mad as hell.

The race is on! The two of them take off through town, Terri darting in and out of side streets trying to shake his dad but Jim is staying within striking distance. Then Terri, still in full make up and his cute dress, makes a daring right hand turn onto the main highway and the two of them race down the blacktop at over 100 miles per hour dodging traffic and almost crashing into each other. Just as they come upon a busy crossroads with the main highway leading out of town and into the darkness, JT makes a daring and dangerous move, hanging a hard right onto a county side road, rushing across the road barley missing oncoming traffic, off and into the ditch, then back up on the road. He shifts gears and takes off out of town, onto the county roads, out into the darkness attempting to escape his enraged father.

Jim, traveling at over 100 miles per hour in the big van right on JT's tail, cannot make the abrupt turn and travels on down the main highway. Ironically, JT has barely escaped the harrowing wrath of his father, and the humiliation that would surely come, or something worse. At least he is safe for a few hours which is time enough to think, to get a plan to avoid the inevitable and to remove the makeup and women's clothes ...

### **Flash back ... Establishing the early years**

At this point, as JT drives out into the darkness on the hometown back roads, he is stressed, embarrassed and frightened. He becomes reflective and begins to think back on his life. He begins to think back to a dramatic moment. This reflective moment back in time is when he was just a child, sick and fighting for his life.

It's an ER scene in Nashville where JT /Terry (age 5) has a near death asthma attack and ruptured appendix while his Dad is there racing. His Mom and Dad, along with Jim's two best friends Larry and Jerry, rush him to the Nashville hospital (**show them racing through the streets and pulling up at the hospital emergency room**) and the ER ... the staff rushes him into the OR - crashes through the doors - Doctors frantically working on Terry, his Mom crying and his Dad and his two friends looking worried and consoling Terry's Mom! This is their only child - and the holder of the Jim Hayes legacy.

In the OR, there is a dramatic scene with all the doctors and nurses frantically working on Terri, trying to save his little life. The Doctor yells out to his team to save this child, screaming that he can't tell this mom that her only child is dead!

Soon the Doctors come out and tell everyone it was a very close call, but Terry pulled through ... everyone shows a sigh of relief and Jim and Kate embrace ... (scene with Jim and Kate with the Doctor and him reassuring them)

### **Two months later ...**

Then that scene transcends / fades into visuals and a collage of scenes two months later (**Christmas with a full on Christmas scene at the Hayes house**) when Jim, buys Terry his first go-Kart at the Sears in Memphis and has specially positioned under the Christmas tree with a big red bow wrapped around the steering wheel as well as a new slot car set. Everyone is gathered: The proud Papa, an excited but fragile child, and a worried and complaining mom. Kate is out in the Kitchen preparing Christmas dinner, and Jim's best friends, Larry and Jerry, are drinking coffee, munching on muffins and hitting the egg nog. They are egging Terry on and taking over the slot car set while little Terry is whining and complaining to his mom that the men won't let him play with his slot car set.

Later that afternoon the film will show Terry riding his shiny new go Kart out in the front yard, going around and around the house with all the men beaming with pride. Then there is a daunting moment when Terry gets brave, goes faster and faster and turns it over as the men egged him on to go faster. Kate, Terry's mom, is shown reaming the men out for egging him on and almost killing him ... (comedic moment with Kate showing she has grit and the men know Kate would kick their asses over little Terry)

The conversation throughout the day has been about Terry's health ... The three men quickly sprint up the yard, right between Terry's house and his grandparents house where he is upside down, with the go-Kart on top of him and the engine screaming wide open ... Terry is kicking and clawing trying to get out from under the kart and by now, his dad Jim has grabbed him and gotten him out and is checking him over to see if he is dead or alive. Terry has dirt and grass all over him - in his pants, in his shirt and in his mouth ... and his racing goggles are half on and half off his face. The three men are breathing a sigh of relief knowing that if he had gotten hurt, his mom would kill them all ...that's when Kate, Terry/JT's mom shows up on the scene in a panic and begins to scream at the men that they are going to get her child killed, to stop egging him on!

The men, just stand there taking Kate's heat ... knowing not to say a word, but they are about to burst out laughing the entire time. When Kate goes in the house, with Terry in tow and still scolding him, they all burst out laughing and pat themselves on the back. Terry's dad, Jim, realizes that little Terry, fragile as he is, appears to be a chip off the old block, and is living up to the Jim Hayes legacy!

Then the men get his little go-kart and rolls it back in the race shop smiling from ear to ear ... (**Producers note: We will build that idyllic family dynamic here ... grab the audience's heart strings ...**)

**Cut and fade back into Terry/JT riding around the back roads trying to figure out his next move ... with his dad, his family, his racing and, with his girlfriend Annie! This moment is pensive, and leaves the viewers wondering what is going to come next between Terry/JT and his father. Would there be a confrontation the next day ...**

### **As the movie moves forward ...**

The shocking story then carries you into dramatic racing action as her racing career moves faster and faster. She is consumed with death defying fiery racing crashes and months in the hospital recuperating, all while she struggles mightily with her confused gender and androgynous appearance, along with the continued bullying in her home town and chronic pain suffered in the racing crash. Terri is dealing with all of this drama while trying to never let anyone from her home town or involved in motorsports know what is really going on behind the scenes. By the time she is in her mid teens, in the midst of her blustering career, she can no longer hide the obvious, her gender issue is profound, heartbreaking and inevitable and her destiny looks bleak and devastating.

Always the fighter, Terri continually tries to do what people expect by living up to her father's legacy, her mom's expectations for marriage and grand children ... as life pressures continue to grow into a crescendo of destined melt downs, extreme mental stress or worse. Throughout this period there are the gained and lost love affairs with girls from Terri's home town with Terri just going through the motions to please everyone else, and a shocking marriage to a worldly lesbian that only temporally covered up her gender issue, a marriage that ended in controversy, ill feelings and embarrassment. And, of course, through all of this, her gender issue becomes known in her home town and she becomes her conservative, judgmental Bible Belt hometown's biggest scandal, driving her complicated relationship with her loving, but confrontational mother off the cliff time and time again ... this temperamental relationship is one for the ages.

Moving forward, as Terri reaches her early twenties, of course all of this family drama, is playing out alongside career killing, mean-spirited racing politics, surrounded by and manifested by macho good ol' boys and one specific villain from her home town who is hell bent on getting her anyway he can. Then there are the egotistical, powerful, high level racing executives unhappy and angry about the salacious and runaway rumors about her gender challenges, always trying to prevent her from progressing up the professional ladder. From the time she is ten years old, into her mid twenties, her life is in constant turmoil, doubt and danger entangled with her androgynous appearance and her complicated gender challenges. Home town bullies, racing bullies and confusing, hurtful and stressful family dynamics are a constant companion in Terri's daily life.

In spite of the rumors, bullying and blacklisting, her world class driving talent is unquestionable, her warm, witty and inclusive personality is infectious, and somehow, by the grace of God and unrelenting tenacity, she manages to scratch and claw her way to the very top levels of motorsport, competing and winning from coast to coast, beating the very best in America. She even makes it to NASCAR's top series, Sprint Cup, in spite of the odds and all out assault on her character and career. And even though she made it to the top of her profession, the dark rumors and salacious tales surrounding her controversial life, in the midst of judgmental puritanicalism, are never far behind. They are always lurking, waiting to pounce, waiting to strike, waiting to take her down.

All of this drama, all the hurtful rumors, all the deceit, plays hard on Terri's emotional well-being. She thinks about suicide constantly, and at times is an emotional wreck, crying for days at a time. But, she somehow always seems to regroup, to bounce back, even at the darkest moments, always rising to stand in victory lane time and time again in the rough and tumble world of professional motorsports.

## Act II

Adding to her challenges and the hurtful rumors, she discovers a trusted racing friend had read her diary and shared it with the racing community, totally humiliating and destroying her. Emotionally battered and distraught, alone and without hope, she is left broken and laying flat on her back weeping uncontrollably on a hot sidewalk, with the scorching California sun bearing down on her fragile tear-soaked face, weeping and screaming out loud. She is wanting to kill herself as passer bys watch and stare in shock and horror. Ironically, it's Father's Day, she is three thousand miles from home, alone, distraught and broken - in need of comfort, and understanding, and the lost love of her estranged father back in Mississippi. When she finally manages to gain some measure of control over her emotions, and still weeping, she calls home to tell her dad she loves him, to make amends and find compassion. Drunk and still angry over her gender issue and unable to forgive her, he hangs up on her and she crashes back into her emotional breakdown on the scorching sidewalk once again and looks to be at the end of her emotional rope. Through the long and lonely night, on the verge of suicide with every whisper of breath, she barely survives the next three days of ever-present crying and struggling to not kill herself, in search of resolution ... even in search of absolution for her broken life, and her broken heart.

**At night, before he goes to sleep, he always breaks out his diary, something he has been doing for years for his psychologist back in Memphis. It's therapeutic and releases his anxieties. His deepest secrets are in that diary, and he guards it with his life.**

Back in San Jose she meets a cool guy at the race shop one day who is a well- liked and well- connected hot rod and race car painter on the California racing circuits. And he likes JT, "THE NEW HOT SHOE" on the California race circuits. J.T tells him he needs a place to hang his hat because he was wearing out his welcome with his team owners. So, OJ offers him a bedroom at his house. JT thinks OJ is cool ... he has lots of great, back in the day, racing stories, and takes him up on his offer. They shake hands and that afternoon, after working on the race car, he gets his bags and moves in at O.J's.

They get along swimmingly, grill some steaks, and hang out in O.J's paint shop. (Secretly, J.T. is quite the artist also) Some of O.J's buddies come by, and all is good on the golden coast. On the weekends J.T. heads out on the road up to Chico and Calistoga, down to Hanford or Santa Maria to race and usually returns to O.J's by Monday morning, where he hits the bed for a few hours of sleep and then heads over to the race shop to work on the race car. For a month that is the routine, like clockwork, and at night, he and O.J. grill and hang out in the paint shop. All seemed great, until the last week of July, and then all hell breaks loose. Destiny has now found Terri in California hiding in plain sight as JT.

That Monday when J.T. pulls into O.J's driveway, at 7:00 AM, tired and exhausted from the weekend on the road racing, he sees O.J. sitting out on the front porch steps, smoking a cigarette and looking myopic. He also notices that all of his bags and clothes were out on the porch neatly stacked as well, and he wonders, what in the hell is up, knowing that this is not a good sign.

As he gets out of his van, J.T., trying to be cool and nice says, "Hey man, should have been with us this weekend, kicked their asses up in Chico ... Uh, what's up dude? (pause) Is something wrong? What's my clothes doing out on the porch?" O.J. just stands up, pitches his cigarette to the lawn, looks at J.T. with a death stare and says, "You need to get your shit, and get on down the road!" He

never stops staring at J.T. and J.T. knows he is in dangerous territory and not to push it so never saying one word back to him, he just walks past O.J., gets his bags and clothes, walks back to his van, pitches them in the back, gets in. He backs out and drives off down the road. All the while wondering, but suspecting what was up. Had those old rumors finally infiltrated the golden coast racing scene, have they arrived front and center and with vengeance and hatred?

From there, J.T. drives around San Jose for a few hours pondering his next move, knowing that if O.J. had been tainted, it was a safe bet most everyone else had also. By noon, he was dog-tired and got a room at a Motel 6 just down the street from the San Jose speedway and crashes out, praying that his world is not going to crash down around him once again. And, it's his birthday. What a shitty way to turn twenty two years old. As the scene begins to break out, the camera pans in on him, now in his women's PJ's, with his diary, putting his heart-breaking thoughts down on paper. Only hours before, he had stood in victory lane, spraying Champaign and celebrating with his crew and thinking that he would be celebrating his birth day the next day. But here he is, three thousand miles from home, alone in a motel, and wondering just how much damage had been done to his reputation, and probably to his career. A tear rolls down his cheek, and he begins to fall asleep, and to dream about better days in his youth and the scene breaks!

### Three months later ...Chico Speedway, Chico, California

BY October, the racing season is winding down and the big World of Outlaws Sprint Car circuit is on the West coast. By now, most of the people on the West coast racing scene aren't speaking to JT including his team members. The atmosphere is cold and silent and he is feeling the chill and wondering what the hell is up, feeling deep in his bones that those old rumors about his sexuality, his gender issue, has once again caught up to him.

Now, at the last race of the season up in Chico, JT is really feeling the heat or the chill, the social climate is worse than ever. Virtually no one will speak to him, not even his crew, and by now he has had enough of this bullshit. So, with only ten minutes before the start of the big race, JT is sitting on the front of his race car, getting ready to put his helmet and safety gear on and climb into his car for the event. He sees a crew member (John) from another team who is still speaking to him, riding down pit row on an ATV. He immediately jumps up and quickly walks out on to pit road and steps right in front of John, who has to slam on the brakes to keep from running over JT, and slides right up to his feet barely stopping in time! JT quickly leans forward, grabs the handle bars and looks John dead in the eye and says, "John, I want to know what the fuck is going on ... I know you know. (pause) No one will speak to me and Kaeding's (driver who JT has an ongoing rivalry) bunch are harassing the hell of me. What the fuck is going on damn-it? (pause) I haven't done anything to be treated this way. Something's up, by God, (pause) I know you know!"

In the background there is flurry of activity with crews moving race cars to the starting grid. The track announcer is yelling over the loud speaker for drivers to get in their race cars and also his crew are now screaming at him to hurry and get in his car. There is high tension, and high stakes are in the air, and JT is demanding ... but dreading the answer to his question.

Slowly and reluctantly, John finally responds but he doesn't look JT in the eye. You can tell he doesn't want to have this conversation, but then he looks up and says, "Look man, I like you. (pause) You're one hell of a good racer, one of the damn best. (pause) uh, uh, Well I hate to have to tell you this but, well ... O.J. read your diary man! (pause) Damn, he read the damn thing, and then went over to Kaeding's race shop and told all those asshats what was written in there.(pause) Of course, you know they told everyone they could. You know they did.(pause) Sorry man, you don't deserve this shit. Hell, no one does! It Sucks man! (pause) Seems you left it lying beside the couch one night. Karma will get him - I'm sure of it". Then looking up says, "Can't tell you to not worry about this crap but, (pause) just go have a good race, kick their asses. That's the best revenge. Because the rest of it, (pause) well that shit ain't gonna change, man, and you know it. (pause) Not with these assholes, it just ain't".

Thirty seconds passes by, but it seems like an hour. The tension is overwhelming. JT stands there holding the handlebars and looking at John with stunned disgust, all while the flurry off activities picks up in the back ground. And by now, JT's crew is screaming at him to get his ass in the race car, "It's time to go JT ... come on get your skinny ass in the car!"

Then JT says to John, looking dead at him with anger in his eyes, "Screw OJ ... that lying sack of shit, (pause) screw him!"

With his crew yelling at him to hurry, he turns and runs over to his racer, puts on his helmet and gloves and climbs in the race car, hurriedly buckling the seat belts. **(His hands are now shaking from the rawness he is feeling)** and in a flash his crew rolls him out to the grid, the car is fired up, and he is on the track lining up with 25 other badass racers from all over America getting ready to do battle driving one of the most dangerous and intimidating racing machines in the world. No measure would be given to friend or foe on this evening, not even to themselves.

He soon took his place in the fifth starting spot, trying to maintain some sort of resolve for the task in front of him. But, the emotions of knowing that most everyone in that race, at that track, knew what was in his diary has him reeling inside. Thinking, no wonder no

one would speak to him, no wonder, his manhood is destroyed. The manhood, the bravado needed to compete at this level, the manhood to hold the asshats at bay. Now that is shattered, he is screwed!

As the cars roll around the track, they get the two lap signal from the starter, and suddenly, JT throws up violently in his helmet and his racer. Vomit has spewed all over the inside of his visor and tears are now flowing uncontrollably. In the car, inside his vomit filled helmet, JT is screaming to the top of his lungs in total hurt, pain and humiliation, and trying to gain control of his emotions, it's time to start this damn race!

Then the green flag drops to start the race. JT somehow finds his composure, gets his game face on, and starts to charge after the front four competitors. Three laps rush by in a flash and as JT is heading down the front straight, off into turn one the two racers right in front of him, only inches off their bumpers going 160 miles per hour, crash into one another and JT, unable to avoid contact with them crashes hard into the two other competitors and they all begin to tumble and barrel roll down the track. Finally they all come to a smoldering heap of totaled out race cars in the middle of turn two, and immediately the safety crews start rushing to the scene of the crash. It looked really bad, it looked bad as hell!

Fortunately JT's car comes to rest right side up, and by the time the safety team arrives he is already climbing out of the mangled racer with a look of pain and disgust. Once out, he never even looks at the other two racers who are beginning to get out of their totaled cars while their crew guys are beginning to shout obscenities at one another, each blaming the other for the stupid fourth lap crash!

JT never glances, calmly walks straight back to his pit (**with one of his loyal crew guys in hot pursuit yelling, "JT you alright?" "Hey man ... you alright?"**) At his race hauler, he sits down on the floor of the trailer, lays back and tries to catch his breath, still downing all his driving gear ... and vomit still dripping from the inside of his helmet and spattered all over his uniform, just trying to catch his breath. And feeling disgusted as hell!

Laying there, flat on his back, staring out through his vomit splattered visor with his crew guys, and now a paramedic trying to get his helmet off, JT begins to think, screw this shit ... I need to get the hell out of here. Thinking his racing career is probably over anyway because of fuck head OJ.

As he lay there, it's as if he is having an outer body experience, almost in a dream state. In seconds, he hears the crew talking to him, but it's faint and muffled. All he is thinking about now is getting back home, getting the hell out of California. He then thinks ... "Well, if I'm hurt this time at least I HAVE MY MALE UNDIENES ON THIS TIME!". Although prophetic, it was prophetically true. As the paramedics gather around trying to get him to respond and checking for broken bones, the camera begins to pan back, with a wider view of the scene, and the flurry of activities surrounding the track and then breaks. Leaving the audience to sit in stunned wonderment and thinking, what now, what else can happen to this human being, this resilient but broken human being? Little do they know, **the real drama has** just begun!

Then, as if her hurt and drama couldn't get any worse, she calls home to wish her dad a Happy Father's day, who she has been estranged from since coming to the West coast, but in a moment of tragedy, he hangs up on her several times as she continued to call back time after time. There in the midst of the hot Sunday sun, alone and hurting over three thousand miles from home, she falls to the side walk in an emotional breakdown weeping and screaming out loud calling her Father's name, as a growing crowd looks on in horror and disbelief at this broken human being lying on the ground. The scene is horrific and heart breaking. That evening, she struggles to find her heart; she cries and weeps most the night, fighting off suicide and deep seeded depression, and missing her family, especially her dad.

But soon, at the darkest of midnight, the guardian angels appear and a new and brighter morning seeps into the depressing room, the depressing mental room she has been living in ... bringing light, resolution and clarity, and more profoundly, absolution for both Terri and her dad which is drawing ever closer. New horizons, new history changing horizons are now in the air draped with challenge, chances with death and hopeful opportunities to fix this quagmire she is living in. But the always looming drama is circling above, ready to pounce at any given opportunity.

Two weeks later, resolute, reaffirmed and determined, she is back in her hometown, making amends with her parents and determined to resurrect her NASCAR career that only weeks before looked to be over, and a better plan "A" to find resolution with her gender challenges. Three months later, in one of the most inspiring comebacks in sports history, she has earned a spot in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Goodwrench 500 and her career, in spite of the odds and rumors is back on track. Once again, she has arisen from the ashes of

devastation, humiliation and near death, to prove her worth as a professional racer; she is back on track challenging the high speed on track's dangerous curves, and the real dangerous curves encompassing her personal against all odds life.

And, with drama always in the midst of her life, later that year, there is the "BIG DRAMATIC RACING CRASH" that is split seconds away from being fatal, all while raw explodeable, exotic racing fuel flows over her body as she lay bruised, shaken and trapped in her crumpled racer after a violent end over end crash in Arkansas. This night, this moment becomes the wakeup call to finally fix her traumatic life. That night, as she drives back home, with her parents sleeping peacefully in the back, headed to Daytona to meet NASCAR sponsors, she makes the gut wrenching decision to finally make right what was wrong at birth by having corrective biological surgery, to finally fix her heart wrenching life once and for all.

### **Act III**

One year later, after more gut wrenching drama in her home town and with her father, all alone after her corrective surgery on a cold Colorado day in March, after walking away from fame, fortune, family and friends, she restarts her new life in total anonymity in Charlotte, North Carolina, broke, alone and no job but with the hope of a new and better life ... unfortunately, probably one without racing.

However, the now slender, modelesque beauty with long flowing strawberry blonde hair, always one to think outside the traditional box, and after only a few months of getting back on her feet after corrective surgery, and working at a local department store selling hand bags just to make ends meet ... she took her beauty, charm and ambition, and became the new "it girl" and entrepreneur in the VIP and male dominated world of big time professional motorsports (NASCAR) and looks to be on the fast track back to fame and fortune once again, but this time as a beautiful woman.

Then, as she worked day and night, slowly getting her life back on track she conceives and starts a new and historic apparel business in NASCAR, but as always before in her star crossed and traumatic life, something devious intervenes to get her off track, and in the most devastating and profound way. Just when she is getting her life back on track and finally happy, she is sexually assaulted and raped by a big time power hungry racing executive, and then ripped off by a wealthy U.S. Congressman who at that time was running for Governor of a Southern state in a racing apparel business deal gone bad, leaving her broke, homeless ... and suicidal. The big time world of business, in professional motorsports is filled with misogynistic and sexist pitfalls, and even though her wits, charm and beauty drive her forward, she realizes she might be in over her head and begins to sink back into depression and doubt, and once again, suicide is creeping back into her daily life. Adding to her devastation, only a month later her life is threatened by a redneck in her home town who was unappreciative and offended by her new look and life when she returned home for a needed holiday visit with her now loving family and closest friends, only to be saved by a new boyfriend and modeling agent in Charlotte, giving her hope that the darkest dawn could possibly turn into a brighter day and future.

But, it didn't take long for her to realize that something was wrong when the front desk clerk checks for reservations and there is no one booked under her name. He checks again, and then again, but to no avail and Terri is now starting to worry. Shocked and discouraged but still hopeful, it's just a mistake. She then heads back to the bar where she tells Bill the situation, and he takes control and goes to check it himself but returns in a few minutes with the bad news. Somehow it looks as if his secretary had forgotten to book her a room, and even worse, the hotel is booked solid.

Terri stands there looking at Bill, trying to not look panicked, or pissed off. Then, he makes a suggestion, "Hey look, if you're comfortable with it, you can just get your bags out of your car, and you can stay in my room, I have a suite, I'll catch the roll out couch, and you can have my bed, its private and won't be a problem".

Now, Terri is just standing there frozen in place and her mind is rushing with all the "what if's". First off, she is broke; she has \$30.00 to her name and was going to get some cash from Brit the next day out at the track to tide her over and to get back to Charlotte. She has no credit left on her credit card so getting a motel or hotel somewhere else is out of the question. And its freezing outside so sleeping in her SUV is out of the question too, and the hotel will not let her catch a nap on one of their sofas in the lobby. Plus Brit is shackled up with all his crew guys thirty miles away in a cheap motel and there is no way she is driving down to the speedway and knocking on Lake and Reesa's motorcoach door at one in the morning and having them ream her out. They are already mad at her over her missing payments to the Congressman from buying him out eight months ago.

As she stands there processing this dilemma, the clock is ticking and by now Bill is really assuring her it is the best decision to just catch his room, and he will not be any trouble what so ever.

So knowing better, but out of options, she accepts his invitation, but talking to herself all the way out to her SUV to get her bags and back that this is a good idea, and this is a bad idea. The concern is ever present on her face and her demeanor.

In five minutes, Terri and Bill, along with NASCAR Skoal Bandit driver Rick Mast are riding up the elevator and no one is talking. Rick, smiles, gets off on the fourth floor, with Terri and Bill exiting on the fifth.

When Bill opens the door to his room and they walk in, Terri quickly sees there is no suite, and only one queen size bed and her heart is sinking, sinking fast!

Bill doesn't seem fazed by his lie, and misleading her, and quickly tells her to make herself comfortable and then goes in the bathroom to freshen up. Terri, now freaking out but knowing she had to keep her cool just stands there, still holding her overnight bag and thinking, Damn it, this is not going to work out well no matter what I do.

She knows that Bill has her over a barrel, she needs his backing and financing to keep her company afloat, and if she just turns and leaves, what is he going to think, and where will she go?. It's a quagmire, a hell of a quagmire. Bill has political power in the sport, and he would not bat an eye black balling her if she doesn't watch her step.

As just a few seconds pass by, Bill comes out of the bathroom and tells her she can put her things in there and if she needs to get comfortable to take her time. Without responding, and not giving him eye contact she goes into the bathroom, shuts and locks the door where she stands frozen looking at herself in the mirror, freaking out on what her next move should be.

After a few minutes she knows she has to go back out there and face him, and make a decision on how to deal with this awful situation. So she sets her bag on the floor, straightens herself and slowly opens the door and steps out to face Bill. As soon as she takes two steps out Bill is right there waiting in his robe and immediately grabs her, wrapping his arms around her body and begins kissing her neck and saying, "I've wanted to be with you since the first time I saw you at the club, I want to make love to you now, right now." Then he swirls her around and in a flash he has her on the bed and laying on top of her, trying to get her top off.

Terri is frozen, unable to move, unable to speak!

From there Bill has his way with her, he rapes her and when he is done, he rolls over and acts like he has done nothing to harm her, he is myopic and distant. Terri is silent, silently weeping and has turned on her side, away from him and dying inside.

She never sleeps; she stares at the wall and silently weeps until morning, till daylight.

By 7:00 AM, Bill is up, showered and dressed and heading out the door to catch a helicopter out to the speedway with his boss and track owner Bruton Smith. As he is walking out the door, he tells her to just make yourself home, take a shower, catch the breakfast buffet and I'll maybe see you at the track in Bruton's Suite, I'll put your name on the guest list.

Terri never responds, just turns and looks the other way. As she lays there devastated and humiliated over what had transpired with Bill, she can't stop the tears from flowing out of her eyes, and knowing that she would never be the same. She is ashamed of herself, and wondering why she just didn't turn and leave once she realized what he was up to. As the camera pans back to see her laying curled up in the bed and staring at the wall, the camera begins to fade and then the scene breaks, leaving the audience in shock, angry at Bill and feeling empathy for Terri and wondering, will this be the straw that finally breaks her back, her fragile will?

As the days pass by, over the next few months she eventually regroups and looks to the future, but with a piece of her heart and dignity torn apart.

Eventually she finds common ground in a warm love affair with her new boy friend, and new exciting opportunities as a regional model. However, never one to find straight safe roads for long, the dangerous curves appears once again at the worst possible time. And this time, the dangerous curves turn ugly in the most hurtful and salacious ways when she is outed in Charlotte by two arrogant men she had casually trusted and confided her past life with. Once again, her dramatic life is turned upside down in the midst of the Bible belt and NASCAR. This leads to hard decisions having to be made, she is now in a death match fight for her dignity and her safety. What would those decisions be, to run and hide and restart her life a new once again in a different city with precious anonymity, or to just kill herself and be done with the drama and pain. Or is it to stand and defend herself, to confront the haters, to stand up for herself and tell the world the real and compelling story surrounding her life, to finally be free of the secrets, the constant worry of someone always finding out her past life. And to get back to her first love, to just maybe, restart her driving career, to get back in the game, the game that damn near killed her too many times to count, but also embraced her with victories and an identity,



and somewhere to always return home to in the darkest hours of her life. Only time and courage would tell, and the courage would have to be at a premium in these high-speed, high-stakes world of constant and unrelenting dangerous curves. The test of her true will, her true resolve, is now in play as never before! What would her decision be?

For several months Terri is in turmoil over having to confront these new set of heart wrenching decisions. She, her boy friend and her agent spend the entire time playing out the pros and the cons of whether to go public with her story, beating the tabloids to the punch. Her boy friend confronts the two men who outed her, and she has her own moments in confronting them. Ultimately, Terri finds reflection and meaning to telling her story to the national press as she and Jonathan sit on her bed, as he strokes her back with Terri telling him a heart breaking story about a haunting dream she had endured for most of her life as tears stream down her face. That dream, and the exhausting circumstances she was now living trying to once again outrun the rumors she had been fighting for most of her life, finely leads Terri to life changing decision of going public with her amazing life story.

Two days later, her life story hits the newsstands and from that point forward, the national and international press ran a firestorm campaign covering her one in the world history life story. The entire world was in shock over her controversial revelations, including motorsports biggest power players, and the man who had raped her only two years before. As the movie fades out in the midst of the media fire storm surrounding her life, the film soon transcends back into the opening scene with Terri in her race car, looking through her helmet visor preparing to restart her inspirational driving career. As the scene plays out, Terri is in the midst of a reflective, even poetic expository narration surrounding her life, her trials and tribulations and her future, which is to take no prisoners, to always be true to your heart and to never, ever let the dangerous curves prevent you from following your dreams.

Fade out and credits roll with a compilation of vintage film showcasing Terri AKA JT Hayes racing from back in the day and a series of family and racing photos.

Dangerous Curves is a journey of human and family dynamics unlike any in world history, and it involves local and regional good ole boys, dangerous racing action, high level-hard core executives, and hell bent national politicians ... littered with international celebrities and a life story no one could make up in a million years ... not in two million years.

Dangerous Curves is a real life combination of "Rocky", "Rudy" ... "Erin Brockovich" and "The Divine Secrets of the YaYa Sisterhood" book ended with the high speed action of "Days of Thunder" and "Rush". Dangerous Curves is a real life action adventure of "True Grit" on steroids and fueled by nitro methane constantly lighting a storm of controversy, empathy and unbelievable real life circumstances. Dangerous Curves, with Terri O'Connell at its heart is a true and soulful story centered on resolution and absolution, a story of a fathers love challenged by the times, a mother unwilling to accept mother nature's fate, regions and religion hell bent on destroying a fragile soul, and a biological anomaly that no one wanted, understood or knew how to deal with. All complicated by big time hard core professional motorsports and a culture unsuited to deal with the likes of Terri O'Connell! Ultimately Dangerous Curves is a real life story of heart break turned upside down and on fire sliding down a speedway at 200 miles per hour, and then into acceptance, compassion and success ... and happiness. But only after a lifetime of unbelievable life altering, death defying challenges. It's a story of a compelling character spitting in the eye of fate, unwilling to go down without a fight. Dangerous Curves is *Transparent* on steroids going 200 miles per hour upside down and on fire!

Dangerous Curves ultimately transcends into the ultimate beating the odds story where tragedy and failure look destined to prevail only to have O'Connell resurrect and reinvent herself time and time again in the most unreal, astonishing and inspirational ways. Ultimately, through tenacity, resiliency and gut wrenching courage, and some very strong and persistent guardian angels ... she fought and won the right to restart her national championship winning racing career in the midst of the most profound resistance. Dangerous Curves is a story of the heart. It's a story of danger and dangerous curves in the truest sense of the human condition, both in her personal life, and in her professional life.

O'Connell is a historic and transitional character unlike anyone ever in history and clearly, where there is danger, there - is - drama!