

Grace (Carly Schroeder) fights for the ball.

Characters

Write your initials next to the character you're going to read. **Starred characters are major roles.*

- ☐ *NARRATOR 1 (N1)
- ☐ *NARRATOR 2 (N2)
- ☐ *NARRATOR 3 (N3)
- ☐ *NARRATOR 4 (N4)
- ☐ *GRACE BOWEN, 15-year-old aspiring soccer player
- ☐ *BRYAN BOWEN, Grace's father
- ☐ *LINDSAY BOWEN, Grace's mother
- ☐ MIKE BOWEN, Grace's little brother
- ☐ COACH COLASANTI, head soccer coach
- ☐ PETER, soccer player and a family friend
- ☐ KYLE RHODES, mean soccer player
- ☐ MR. CLARK, assistant soccer coach and Grace's teacher
- ☐ JENA WALPEN, Grace's best friend
- ☐ MR. ENRIGHT, principal of Columbia High School
- ☐ CONNIE BOWSHER, chair of School Board
- ☐ MR. RICE, member of School Board

BASED ON THE MOVIE GRACIE
OUT ON DVD THIS MONTH.

Gracie

ADAPTED FOR SCOPE BY KRISTIN LEWIS

SCENE 1

N1: It's 1978 in South Orange, New Jersey, a time when only boys soccer is offered in most schools. The soccer-loving Bowen family attends the annual end-of-the-season soccer banquet at Columbia High School. The oldest Bowen son, Johnny, has recently died in a car accident. Johnny was a star varsity soccer player.

COACH COLASANTI (at the podium): I couldn't close this evening without a few words for a boy who is not here: Johnny Bowen. This boy was an extraordinarily gifted athlete, and the best all-around human being I've ever had the honor of coaching. In his honor, I'm retiring the Number 7. No one can, or ever will, fill Johnny's shoes.

N2: Johnny's dad, Bryan, walks to the podium. His eyes are red from crying. Coach Colasanti hands him Johnny's jersey.

BRYAN: This means a lot to our family. Johnny loved you guys, he loved this game, and more than anything, he wanted to beat Kingston and make our town proud! We didn't win that game this season, so go out next year and beat them. You can make his dream come true!

N3: Everyone applauds, but Grace sits silently in her seat. She and her big brother Johnny were very

close. Even though no one took Grace's love for soccer seriously, Johnny always played with her.

SCENE 2

N4: Later that night, Grace is lying awake in her bed. She goes into Johnny's room. Nothing has been touched. Trophies, plaques, team photos, and soccer posters adorn the walls. Grace lies down on the bed, as if Johnny could still be her anchor, her protector, and her fan. Comforted, she falls asleep.

N1: The next morning, Grace wakes up in Johnny's bed. She notices Johnny's soccer ball and suddenly has an idea. She runs downstairs to the kitchen where the family is.

GRACE: I have an announcement! I know how to beat Kingston! I'm going to take Johnny's place on the team, and Dad's gonna coach me!

N2: Everyone except Grace's mom, Lindsay, starts laughing. Grace runs out.

LINDSAY (to Bryan): You had to laugh?

N3: Bryan follows Grace into the backyard. It's raining.

BRYAN: Gracie, sweetheart.

GRACE: You wouldn't laugh at Mike . . .

BRYAN: Because he's a boy.

GRACE: Watch this!

N4: Grace steps onto the grass in the freezing rain and picks up a soccer ball. She gives the ball a

IN MEMORY OF HER SOCCER STAR BROTHER, GRACIE MUST FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO TAKE HIS PLACE ON THE BOYS TEAM. INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY.



Above: Coach Colasanti (John Doman) holds up Johnny's jersey. Below: Columbia High School's varsity soccer team.



perfect kick into the goal.

BRYAN: Good, but not good enough.

GRACE: That was right in the upper corner!

BRYAN: But with no goalkeeper, no one blocking. Your Grandma could've knocked it down with her handbag.

N1: Grace is furious. Peter joins them in the backyard.

BRYAN (to Peter): Go one-on-one with Grace.

PETER (*reluctantly*): OK.

GRACE: Don't go easy.

N2: Bryan tosses Grace the ball. She runs at Peter and prepares to shoot, but Peter knocks her over easily.

BRYAN: Try again.

N3: Grace tries to score again and again, but Peter keeps knocking her over.

LINDSAY (*coming out of the house*): That's enough!

GRACE: I can do this!

BRYAN: It's simple. You're not tough enough. Those guys will **obliterate** you!

N4: Bryan holds the ball over his head while Grace tries to reach it. She can't. Tears streaming down her face, she pushes him in frustration.

N1: Bryan drops the ball and tries to hug his daughter, but she's too upset. She runs away.

SCENE 3

N2: Grace sits in the back of her American History class, staring into space, not paying attention to Mr. Clark's lecture. The bell rings, and students file out.

MR. CLARK: Grace, could you stay a moment? Your exam was blank. What should I do? Fail you?

N3: Grace looks **vacuous**.

MR. CLARK: I'll overlook this, but you have to step up for the next one.

GRACE: I have to go.

MR. CLARK: Do you want to talk to someone about all this? I knew your brother. You could talk to me.

GRACE: May I go now?

SCENE 4

N4: Grace decides to train herself for soccer. She wakes up at 6 every morning to do crunches

and jog to school.

N1: One morning, Coach Colasanti finds her in the boys' weight room.

COACH: The weight room doesn't open until 8, and it's for boys.

GRACE (*out of breath*): Are those written policies, or just common practice? The girls' gym doesn't have weights. I could be here early. No one would know.

N2: Coach Colasanti pauses. He admires Grace's **audacity**.

COACH: I can't break rules for you.

SCENE 5

N3: Lindsay and Bryan find out that Grace is on probation for cheating on a test.

When Grace comes home that day after working out, Bryan and Lindsay are waiting for her.

LINDSAY: We saw Principal Enright today.

BRYAN: You're flunking history.

GRACE: So, I'm grounded?

BRYAN: I didn't say that. Not yet, anyway.

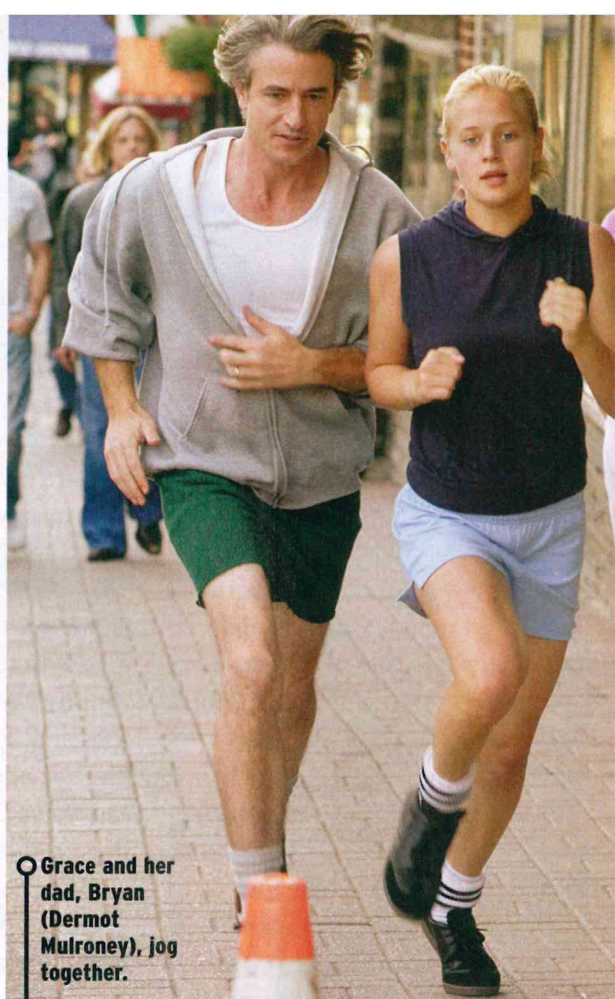
GRACE: Well, let me know when you decide something.

N4: Grace goes upstairs. Lindsay and Bryan don't know what to do. Finally, Bryan goes to Grace's room, where Grace is lifting hand weights.

BRYAN: If you're going to act like a kid, that's how I'll treat you. Show me your homework.

GRACE: I haven't done it.

BRYAN: Then do it.



Grace and her dad, Bryan (Dermot Mulroney), jog together.

GRACE: I can't. I didn't bring my books home.

BRYAN: That's it. You're grounded. If your grades don't come up, you'll go to summer school.

SCENE 6

N1: The next day, Grace comes home to see Peter, Mike, and Bryan playing soccer in the yard. The soccer ball rolls past her, and she steals it.

N2: Bryan and Peter steal the ball from her, but Grace just steals it back. She kicks the ball and scores a goal.

BRYAN (*ignoring Grace's triumph*): OK, back to work.

N3: Grace goes into the kitchen. Her leg is bleeding.

LINDSAY: Take this bandage. You need shin guards.

GRACE: You never cared when I

played with Johnny.

LINDSAY: Johnny protected you.

PETER (*walking in*): Friday we meet up at the old stadium for pick-up games. It's an invitation, Grace.

SCENE 7

N4: At the old stadium, the varsity team kicks the ball around, getting ready to play. Cheerleaders sit in the stands. Grace approaches with her friend, Jena. Grace is grounded and isn't supposed to be going anywhere except school.

JENA: What did you tell your parents?

GRACE: Nothing.

JENA: If you're going to go out there, go.

N1: Grace walks onto the field, and the boys stare.

PETER: Grace, you made it!

KYLE: This is a joke. She can't play.



Bryan (center) and Peter (Joshua Caras left), help Grace train for soccer tryouts.

PETER: Gracie's going to play.

KYLE: Fine.

N2: They start playing, but Grace's teammates refuse to pass her the ball, even when she's open. Finally, Grace gets the ball. She cuts down the field, knocking Kyle over on her way to the goal.

N3: Kyle is mad. He gives a nod to a teammate, who runs after Grace

and kicks her in the ankles. She falls, and Kyle mocks her.

N4: Grace runs off the field.

SCENE 8

N1: Grace and Jena go to the beach without permission and are gone for the whole day. Finally, Bryan finds them. He's enraged.

BRYAN: Grace?

GRACE: You can stop pretending you care.

BRYAN: What were you thinking?

GRACE: Like you really want to have a conversation—

BRYAN: I do!

GRACE: Talk.

N2: Bryan wants to say something, but he can't find the words. They drive home in silence. They walk through the front door. Lindsay, who's been waiting up and worried, tries to give Grace a hug, but Grace goes upstairs to bed.

SCENE 9

N4: It's early in the morning, and Bryan has dragged Grace to Coach Colasanti's office. Grace doesn't know why.

BRYAN (*to Coach Colasanti*): Grace wants to play varsity soccer.

COACH: That's terrific, but Columbia doesn't have a girls team.

BRYAN: That's why she's trying out for the boys team.

COACH: I can't have a girl playing on a boys team.

BRYAN: There's no law against it.

COACH: She could get injured.

BRYAN: So could any boy.

COACH: I'm not risking the success of my team for one girl. We have the team this year to win the whole thing.

BRYAN: Grace could help you get there. Have you seen her play? We're not asking for special treatment, just a tryout.

COACH: You'll have to petition the School Board.

N1: Bryan and Grace leave the office.

GRACE: What was that about?!

BRYAN: You want to play, so let's petition the Board.

GRACE: It's too little, too late, Dad.

BRYAN: You'll do summer school in the morning and train in the afternoon. We've got two months.

GRACE: Why now? Where were you when I begged you? Where have you been my whole life? Everything's always been about Johnny, about your boys! You never loved me!

BRYAN: Gracie!

GRACE: No! I'm not good enough!

BRYAN: You think anyone gets good on their own? I coached Johnny.

GRACE: Johnny was a natural!
BRYAN: Johnny was a boy! Gracie, I honestly don't know if you're good enough. Let me help you.

SCENE 10

N2: School is out, and Grace gives her father a chance. She goes to summer school in the morning, and practices with her dad in the afternoon. She's focused, relentless.

N3: Bryan shows Grace how to be tough and to push herself harder than she thought she could. Meanwhile, they wait to hear from the School Board on whether or not Grace can try out for the team.

N4: Peter starts training with Grace too. One evening, they are in Grace's backyard practicing when Bryan walks in.

BRYAN: OK, Gracie, let's see you win the ball.

N1: Bryan tosses the ball out, and Peter and Grace go for it. Grace gets it.

BRYAN: Peter, you're not helping anyone.

GRACE: What did he do?

BRYAN: He *gave* you the ball.

N2: They repeat the exercise, only this time Peter doesn't go easy on Grace and he gets the ball.

BRYAN: Gracie, get in there. Be aggressive! Believe you can take the ball.

N3: They keep practicing into the evening. Grace is exhausted but determined. She finally gets the ball and scores a goal.

N4: When they come inside, Mike is setting up dinner on TV trays.

MIKE: Dad found this home movie with **Pelé!**

N1: On the screen, the famous soccer star Pelé is knocked off his feet by an adversary, but Pelé uses

the guy's aggression against him, springs back up, steals the ball, and scores.

MIKE: Sweet!

BRYAN: Pelé wasn't tall or fast, but he had it up here [*points to his head*] and here [*points to his heart*]. He made the impossible possible.

N2: They play the video of Pelé in slow motion.

BRYAN: In every game, there's this moment when one player can change everything. The moment of grace. It's where you got your name, Grace.



Grace refuses to be intimidated by the other soccer players.

N3: Grace looks at her dad. She didn't know this.

BRYAN: It's how I felt when you were born, like I could do anything.

SCENE 11

N4: One afternoon, Grace is dribbling through the house in a pair of new soccer cleats her dad gave her. She's better than ever. She comes into the kitchen and finds Bryan sitting in a chair, looking odd.

GRACE: What's wrong?

BRYAN: The letter came today. They're not going to let you play. **GRACE:** What? No! How could they turn me down?

BRYAN: Grace, you're in great shape.

MIKE: Dad talked to Coach Colasanti, and Coach said you can play field hockey!

GRACE: Field hockey?! You never thought I was good enough! You never thought I could do it!

N1: Grace runs out of the room.

LINDSAY: You set her up!

BRYAN: I was keeping her out of trouble.

LINDSAY: She thought your coaching her was real.

N2: Lindsay goes into Grace's room, where Grace is sitting on her bed feeling sorry for herself.

LINDSAY: This isn't you, sitting here when you could be fighting back.

GRACE: But you don't want me to play.

LINDSAY: No, but this isn't my choice. Know what I wanted to be? A surgeon.

GRACE: You?

SAY IT! Pelé — Peh-LEH

LINDSAY: Yes, so now I'm a nurse, because that's as close as I could get. If you want to limit yourself, fine. But don't let other people do it for you.

N3: Grace decides to appeal the Board's decision. She writes a letter, and the Board agrees to hold a hearing.



Connie Bowsher (Leslie Lyles) tells Lindsay (Elisabeth Shue), Grace, and Bryan about the Board's decision.

SCENE 12

N4: In the school auditorium, Chairman Connie Bowsher sits at a table on the stage with Mr. Rice and other School Board members.

N1: Principal Enright, Coach Colasanti, Mr. Clark, Jena, Peter, members of the varsity soccer team and their parents, the cheerleaders, and the Bowen family sit in the audience. Grace reads her appeal at the podium. **GRACE:** . . . and finally, Title IX, the federal mandate, requires equal access to sports for girls. Thank you.

N2: The board discusses Title IX. In the 1970s, no school in the state had a girls soccer team, because it wasn't considered a "girls sport." **PRINCIPAL ENRIGHT:** We offer girls gymnastics, field hockey,

softball, tennis, badminton, swimming, and track and field. All of these sports could use a skilled athlete like Miss Bowen.

KYLE: Everyone will be afraid to play hard. They'll be worried about her breaking something or whining. She can't run as fast or kick as hard. I don't want to

lose because of her . . . and just because she's Johnny's sister and he died doesn't mean she should play!

BOWSHER (to Coach Colasanti): How many openings are there on the team?

COACH: I'll take the best four or five from the tryout.

BOWSHER: Define "best."

COACH: I look for speed, passing ability, ball control, and toughness.

BOWSHER: Are these abilities a girl could demonstrate as well as a boy?

COACH: I've never seen it.

BOWSHER: Theoretically, then.

COACH (reluctantly): Theoretically.

MR. RICE: If Miss Bowen is good enough to claim a spot on the team, why not let her play?

COACH: There's the problem

of the locker room, showers, changing into uniforms.

BOWSHER: Thank you everyone for sharing your thoughts. The Board will take Miss Bowen's appeal under consideration—

LINDSAY (standing up): Wait! I'd like to say something.

BOWSHER: Please, Mrs. Bowen, go ahead.

LINDSAY: All of you must be asking, if you were in my place, would you let your daughter play on a boys team? Boys play hard. She could get hurt. But I see her going out in the cold, in the rain, in the dark. She won't give up—she's fierce—she has a dream that's bigger and more important to her than any dream I've ever had.

N3: After the appeal, the Bowen family anxiously waits outside while the Board deliberates. Finally, the doors open, and Bowsher appears.

BOWSHER: The Board split, and I had to cast the final vote. I have a daughter too.

LINDSAY: Gracie, we tried.

BOWSHER (grinning): Don't be so quick to toss in the towel!

BRYAN: She gets to play?

BOWSHER: She gets to try out.

GRACE: We won!

BOWSHER: Well, it's up to Coach Colasanti to decide if you make the team.

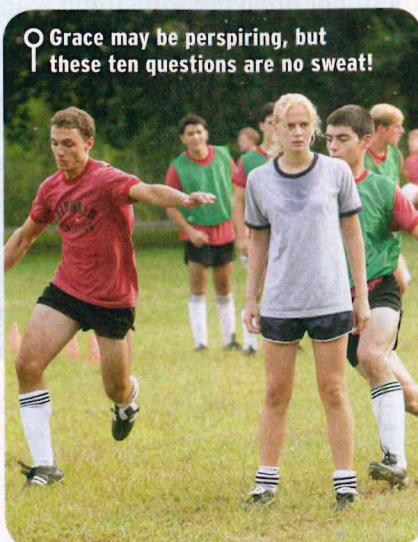
BRYAN: She'll make it!

THE END

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Will Grace make the varsity team and help Columbia beat Kingston in Johnny's memory? Check out the film on DVD or the book by Suzanne Weyn!

No-Sweat Test Prep



Grace may be perspiring, but these ten questions are no sweat!

NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THE PLAY, IT'S TIME TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!

1 What happens first in the play? (sequencing)

- (A) Peter steals the soccer ball from Grace.
- (B) The Bowens attend a soccer banquet.
- (C) Grace falls asleep in Johnny's room.
- (D) Grace fails a history exam.

2 What item does Grace see that gives her the idea to try out for the soccer team? (detail)

- (A) the kitchen table
- (B) Johnny's jersey
- (C) a trophy
- (D) Johnny's soccer ball

3 In Scene 2, why does Bryan hold the ball over his head so Grace can't reach it? (inference)

- (A) to make Grace jump higher

- (B) to help her build strength
- (C) to make a point
- (D) to be silly

4 Why does Bryan refuse to acknowledge Grace's talent at first? (character motive)

- (A) He thinks she'll never be good enough to play against boys.
- (B) He's busy watching old soccer movies.
- (C) He doesn't like soccer anymore.
- (D) He thinks her soccer hobby is just a phase.

5 Why does Peter invite Grace to the old stadium for a pick up game? (inference)

- (A) to see her lose
- (B) He realizes that she's a good player.
- (C) Lindsay told him to invite Grace.
- (D) to replace Johnny

6 How is Pelé similar to Grace? (compare & contrast)

- (A) Pelé is from New Jersey.
- (B) Pelé is a female soccer player.
- (C) Pelé gets knocked over and runs off the field.
- (D) Pelé didn't have physical advantages over his opponents, but he could still beat them.

7 What is the real reason Bryan coaches Grace? (plot)

- (A) to keep her out of trouble
- (B) to get himself in shape
- (C) to pass the time
- (D) to make Lindsay happy

8 When she was young, what did Lindsay want to be? (detail)

- (A) a professional athlete
- (B) a nurse
- (C) a member of the School Board
- (D) a surgeon

9 Which of these is NOT a reason Kyle doesn't want Grace on the team? (reading for information)

- (A) The boys will be afraid she'll get hurt.
- (B) It's unfair that she should get to play just because Johnny died.
- (C) She can't run as fast as the boys.
- (D) She is too short.

10 Which of the following words does NOT describe Grace? (analyzing character)

- (A) determined
- (B) fierce
- (C) tough
- (D) whiny



The U.S. Women's National Team celebrates a goal.

Leveling the Playing Field

WITHOUT TITLE IX, SPORTS WOULDN'T BE THE SAME



In the movie *Gracie*, the lead character reads the law called

Title IX to convince the school board to let her play soccer. This one piece of legislation changed not only sports at public schools, but the whole world of sports!

Consider this: Without Title IX, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) wouldn't exist. And the Women's National Team wouldn't be tearing up soccer fields at this month's World Cup in China!

SCHOOL RULES

In 1972, Title IX was created to give girls the same number of opportunities as boys in school activities. Previously, far more money had been spent on boys than on girls, especially when it came to sports.

But as Gracie's character learned,

the law wasn't always enforced.

Gracie is based on the real life of actress Elisabeth Shue, who plays Gracie's mom in the movie. Because of Shue and the efforts of other determined young athletes, girls' participation in high-school sports increased from 295,000 in the early 1970s to more than 2.8 million today.

But it doesn't stop there.

As a growing number of athletically-skilled girls were graduating from high school, colleges started sports programs for them. This, in turn, led to the creation of professional league sports.

Thanks to Title IX, women now train from a young age, just like men, so pro teams have a lot of talent to draw from. Maybe that's why the Women's National Team has two world cups and an Olympic gold medal under its belt!

—Kristin Lewis

Game On!

HISTORIC MOMENTS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS

- **1973** Tennis pro Bobby Riggs says any male could beat a female in tennis, so Billie Jean King, one of the first pro female players, challenges him to a Battle of the Sexes and wins!
- **1986** Lynette Woodard is the first woman to play on an all-male basketball team, the Harlem Globetrotters.
- **1990** Jodi Haller is the first woman to pitch in a college baseball game.
- **2000** At the Olympics in Sydney, Australia, women compete in the same number of team sports as men for the first time.

Title IX gave these talented athletes a chance to go pro.

