

A MILE AWAY

Genre: Coming-of-Age Drama

Tone: Gritty, Grounded, and Emotionally Resonant

Setting: Contemporary (Present Day), Los Angeles, Long Beach, Gardena, California, Tempe, Arizona

Comparable DNA: Friday Night Lights, Fruitvale Station, King Richard

Feature Treatment

They were six boys who learned to run before they learned to dream – racing each other through sun-burned streets, schoolyards, and empty tracks across South Los Angeles. **Devon, Johnny, Joaquin, Isaiah, Eldridge (El), and Christian** grew up side by side, bound by speed, rivalry, and a belief that their destiny might be measured in meters.

Christian was different. A gifted 400-meter runner, disciplined and focused, he carried himself like someone who already knew where he was going. His college meets would be on TV or in the news, regularly. Olympic whispers followed him quietly. Among the six, Christian wasn't just fast – he was inevitable.

Then, one night, everything stops.

A tragic **car accident takes Christian** without warning. There is no final race. No farewell lap. Just grief, silence, and the hollow absence of the one who was supposed to make it big. The neighborhood mourns a future that never arrives. The track becomes a place they avoid.

Time passes. Pain hardens. Life presses in.

Devon, Johnny, Joaquin, Isaiah, and El eventually get back to some of their routines – yes even the track – not chasing dreams, but escaping memories. What begins as routine training turns into something else: a shared realization that Christian's journey didn't end with him. **They begin running for him.**

As a mile relay team, they rise together, training across Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Gardena, earning national attention and **chasing qualification for the U.S. Olympic Trials.** Each runner carries his own burden. Devon becomes the stabilizing leader. Johnny runs with anger he can't fully name. Joaquin perfects the details no one notices. Isaiah anchors with talent and pressure. El stays ready, loyal, and unseen – the embodiment of persistence without promise.

Just as the team nears Olympic contention, tragedy echoes again. **Johnny is arrested** following an off-track incident, shattering momentum and exposing the fragile foundation beneath their unity. With Johnny suspended and their

qualification in jeopardy, **EI is thrust into the relay**, forcing the team to confront old resentments and hard truths about loyalty, sacrifice, and who gets left behind.

When their longtime coach falters, guidance comes from an unlikely place. **Caleb**, a quiet neighborhood figure long ignored, steps forward. A former Olympian himself, Caleb knows the cost of greatness and the weight of unfinished races. He trained them without mercy or nostalgia, reminding them that running for someone else is heavier – but truer.

Across beaches in Long Beach, empty tracks in Gardena, and city streets still echoing Christian's memory, the team is stripped down and rebuilt. Johnny fights to reclaim himself. EI steps into purpose. Each runner learns that honoring the dead doesn't mean standing still – it means moving forward together.

The journey culminates in Tempe, Arizona, at **Arizona State University**, where the final qualifying meet unfolds beneath the desert sun. One mile. Four legs. Five men. And one presence felt in every stride.

A Mile Away is a gritty, emotionally grounded sports drama about grief, brotherhood, and legacy – about how some people finish the race, and others make sure it's run.