## SHOWING OFF FOR REAL



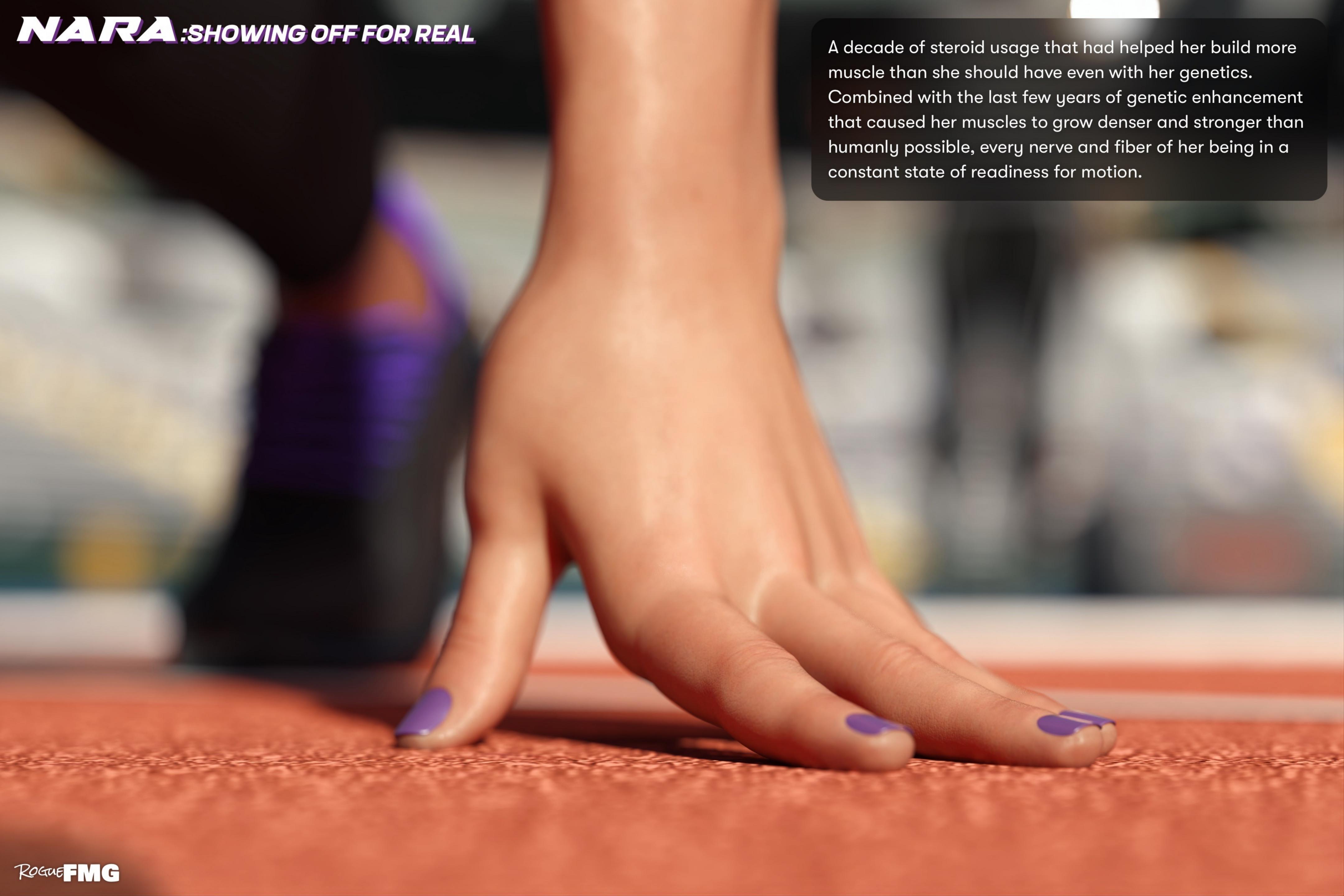
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That was as good as Nara was going to get for the pre-race chatter, confirming they were all ready to go. Looking at the trigger beside Rei, Nara gave the signal to the supervisor to start the countdown. They'd all agreed on a 5 second count in advance so that everything would be precisely even. This was purely skill against skill for this race. Even Nara's chemical Advantages wouldn't help her here.

## ALTA:SHOWING OFF FOR REAL

Athena and Rei were both as if not more enhanced than Nara. Both women were younger than her by five or six years. Nara, only twenty five, wasn't old, but the two younger women had the advantages of youth, and relatively more years of genetic enhancements pumped into their bodies. Both were marvels of human potential and pharmaceuticals.

There was no time to think about how evenly matched the pair were with her. Nara focused on her breathing and heart rate, sucking in as much air as her expanded lung capacity could hold, forcing it into her body, trying to make sure her muscles had enough oxygen for the anaerobic sprint she was about to do, her massive heart quickly speeding up.



## A FLA :SHOWING OFF FOR REAL

Her leg muscles stood out taut as she settled into her final starting position, waiting for the sound of the gunshot that would start off this race between the trio of friends. This race would be measured to the thousandth of a decimal place. Nara was ready, her feet pressed so hard against the starting blocks that the metal was creaking, her firm top stretched tightly against her chest. Nara let out the excess breath, and...

















