

ENRIQUE

I know, I know. It's best for the team if you watch from the sidelines this time.

Enzo nods and Enrique motions for him to join his teammates on the field.

EXT. STADIUM DAY

As Enzo jogs through the tunnel towards the field the sound of the crowd becomes louder. As he takes his first steps onto the field he looks around the entire stadium and is overwhelmed by the amount of fans.

LUIS

Just block it out kid.

Luis kicks a ball to Enzo. Enzo shakes his head as he snaps out of his trance.

Enzo dribbles the ball out to the middle of the field and joins his teammates in their warm-up drills.

Coach Enrique steps out onto the pitch and the home fans take notice. They begin to boo loudly and start specific chants against him. Despite the personal nature of the crowd's jeers, Enrique remains calm. He starts to coach his players in their warm-ups.

Meanwhile, on the sideline the referees jog and stretch to prepare for the match ahead of them. MARIO, the head referee, looks uneasy as he sees the fans shout at the coach. DANI, another referee, notices Mario's apparent discomfort. Dani is roughly the same age as Mario.

DANI

You alright?

MARIO

Yeah. Big crowd today.

DANI

Yeah, this is probably the biggest game I've ever officiated.

MARIO

Might be the biggest for me too. These fans seem insane.

DANI

You just have to block it out, focus on the game.

MARIO

Of course.

The officials continue stretching and look on as the players from both teams warm up.

CUT TO:

I/E. STADIUM DAY

The players now wait in the tunnel to walk out onto the field. Mario stands in between the two teams. Players and refs alike look straight ahead out the tunnel with stern faces. The sounds of the crowd take on a strange echo in the tunnel.

Mario takes the first steps forward as the officials lead the two teams onto the field. The crowd CHEERS wildly as the players walk onto the field and line up.

Jose, who is starting the game, looks over to Enzo on the bench. The two nod at one another. Suddenly, the stadium becomes silent and the BRAZILIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM begins to play. Most in the stadium sing along, Enzo appreciates the song in silence.

As the song ends, the players clap and the opposing teams shake hands with one another as well as with the officials.

Luis and the CAPTAIN of the home team go and speak to the referees. Mario addresses the two of them.

MARIO

Let's keep it clean today, Okay?

Luis and the other captain glare at one another. Neither says anything.

Mario places the ball down at the center circle. The sun is beginning to set as two players from the home teams step up to take the kickoff. Mario looks down at his watch and back up. He blows his whistle and the match kicks off to roars from the crowd.

CUT TO:

EXT. STADIUM SUNSET

The sun sets over the stadium and city. The city streets are as good as empty. The only sound comes from the stadium.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. STADIUM NIGHT

The bright stadium lights now light up the field. Now that the game is in the second half, The grass that was so meticulously prepared for the match has begun to wear away to dirt in some places.

The two teams are level with 30 minutes left in the match. Mario blows his WHISTLE and runs over to a player from the home side and pulls out a yellow card to a chorus of boos from the crowd. A player from Enzo's team, Rafa, rolls around on the ground in pain. Mario motions for medical staff to come attend to the player.

Coach Enrique shakes his head and curses under his breath. He looks over to the bench and makes eye contact with Enzo for a moment. Enrique looks back to the injured player on the field and then back at Enzo. He motions for Enzo to come over to him.

ENRIQUE

Get warmed up kid, you're going in the game.

Enzo nods and jogs up and down the sideline. The crowd continues to boo loudly. Enzo has only begun stretching when Enrique waves him over urgently once more.

ENRIQUE (CONT'D)

We need you out there now kid!

Enzo begins to walk over to the halfway line to be subbed onto the field.

ENRIQUE (CONT'D)

Just focus on the game kid. Don't worry about the fans or anything else. Just play.

Enzo nods. His teammate limps slowly off of the field as the entire stadium boos. Enzo runs out onto the field, but stumbles near the center of the pitch and is met by jeers from the crowd.

Enzo is visibly nervous as he makes a few mistakes from the start. His first touch sends the ball out of bounce. But Mario wrongly calls the throw-in for Enzo's team anyway. This upsets the crowd even more. They have not ceased booing for ten minutes now. Mario shivers.

Enzo and his teammates use the jeers as fuel. As the match goes on Enzo plays better and connects with several passes to his teammates. He narrowly misses two chances. Enrique encourages the team from the sidelines.

ENRIQUE (CONT'D)
That's it Enzo! Keep it up.

But the defender that marks Enzo is incredibly large and physical and makes it difficult for him. It is the same player that injured his teammate.

Enzo looks up at the scoreboard and the game clock is at 90. The ref signals that there will be three more minutes left to play of added time.

Suddenly everything goes silent as Enzo blocks the noise of the crowd out of his mind. Jose plays a beautiful pass to Enzo right through the defense and Enzo finds himself one on one with his defender. Enzo tries to move around him but loses the ball. Enzo falls while the defender reaches his hands up in the air.

Mario blows his whistle and points for a penalty kick. The noise of the crowd returns as they are booing louder than ever. Enzo is visibly shaken up as Luis steps up to take the penalty kick. Luis scores easily. Moments later Mario blows the whistle three times to signal the end of the game.

Enzo and his teammates do not wait around too long to celebrate and begin to head off of the field. Suddenly, the stadium lights go off. The field suddenly becomes lit by the red light of flares being thrown onto the pitch. The crowd is incredibly angry and the security staff is out-matched by the mob. Fans begin to pour onto the field.

Enzo and his teammates begin to run towards the tunnel.

Enzo looks back one last time to see the face of Mario glowing in red light. Mario has a panicked expression on his face. Two two lock eyes from across the field for a brief moment. But the mob encloses around Mario and he disappears.

Jose pulls Enzo into the tunnel.

JOSE
Come on man we have to get the Hell
out of here!

The team approach their bus which is covered in garbage and tagged with spray paint.

INT. BUS NIGHT

Enzo takes his seat and stares out the bus window. Some fans make it out of the stadium and throw glass at the team bus.

The bus driver peels out of the stadium as quickly as a bus can peel out. There is silence on the bus for a few blocks. But it soon becomes broken in celebration of the victory.

LUIS

Boys, we did it! We beat those bastards!

The team cheers aside from Enzo who is still shaken up.

ENRIQUE

I'm proud of you boys. I think we can play a lot better than that but we still pulled out the win.

Enrique looks at Enzo.

ENRIQUE (CONT'D)

Some of you young kids really showed up today too. Let's keep this momentum going at training on Monday.

The players clap. Jose looks over at Enzo, who he is sitting beside.

JOSE

I just have to know, was that really a foul?

Enzo shakes his head.

ENZO

He didn't touch me.

FADE TO:

EXT. TEAM TRAINING COMPLEX NIGHT

Enzo and Jose get off of the bus and walk to their apartment in the darkness. They live only a couple blocks from their team's training facility.

The sounds of distant sirens and dogs barking are heard as the two walk up to their apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT NIGHT

Enzo and Jose enter their modest apartment. Enzo slumps into their futon.