

TREADMILL

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

The scene of utter tranquility contrasts with any birth we've ever scene. The DOCTOR, nurses and parents-to-be smile with plastered-on cheerfulness as the MOTHER, lying on the bed, enters into the final moments before delivery. The doctor is in position to catch the baby.

DOCTOR  
Good. Good. The baby is crowning.  
Can you give me a good push?

MOTHER  
All right.

She bears down a little.

DOCTOR  
That's it. Very good. Just a few  
more like that.

Bears down.

DOCTOR (cont'd)  
Very good. One more and we should  
have it.

Again.

DOCTOR (cont'd)  
Oh my. Very good.

Again. The baby flies out and the doctor catches it.

DOCTOR (cont'd)  
Good job. It's a... boy.

The baby starts CRYING as the doctor holds it up for the mother to see. She smiles broadly and dad rushes over with a hug.

MOTHER  
He's beautiful.

The doctor hands the ball of pink NOISE to a nurse, who whisks him into another room.

MOTHER (cont'd)  
Can I watch?

The doctor thinks a moment, then grins.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DOCTOR

I think that would be okay. Let me  
get this old placenta here first.  
Can you give me one more push?

She does and the placenta slips out onto a metal tray.

DOCTOR (cont'd)

There you go. Easy as pie, huh? How  
you feeling?

MOTHER

Just fine.

He stands.

DOCTOR

All right, then. Follow me.

She pops out of bed and the doctor ushers her into the next  
room.

INT. INFANT CARE ROOM - DAY

As the doctor, mother, and father enter.

DOCTOR

Okay, stand right here.

The three stand facing an electronic console with blinking  
lights and computer screens. In an area of the room behind  
the console, the NURSE has set the SCREAMING neonate in an  
isolette and is attaching electrodes to his temples.

When she finishes, she comes back and sits at the console.  
She makes some adjustments, checks the baby's vitals on a  
monitor. Then, she spins around to the doctor, smiling as  
always.

NURSE

We're all ready, doctor.

DOCTOR

Proceed.

The group watches intently as the nurse turns some dials. A  
meter starts to show increasing voltage with an accompanying  
upward-sweeping TONE. At the maximum voltage, she turns to  
the group briefly, smiles, and then presses a green button.

ANGLE ON CRYING BABY as we HEAR a loud THUMP followed by a  
brief, but violent electric discharge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The baby's body convulses, contorts and actually appears to levitate a few inches over the bed. Then, it flops back down, like a small baggie of Jell-O - no more CRYING.

As the baby lies flat on his back, a stream of urine shoots out of him three feet in the air.

RESUME the group. The doctor turns to the parents and they share a small chuckle.

CLOSE ANGLE ON the baby as he sleeps.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLEVELAND'S GARAGE - MORNING

TITLE: 35 years later

The baby is now CLEVELAND ISSUEFOUR, a bland tow-headed man with thick glasses. He starts his car, as the garage door opens behind him.

EXT. ISSUEFOUR HOME - MORNING

Cleveland's home is third in a series of extremely neat, middle-class cookie-cutter houses. All the garage doors open at precisely the same moment and a fleet of nearly identical cars back out. The cars pull into the street and move forward single file.

INT. CLEVELAND'S CAR

As he drives with his usual lack of expression. He SNAPS the radio on.

RADIO (V.O.)

Good morning, Titterness. It's just a beautiful 84 degrees out. Forecast is for more clear skies and highs in the mid-90s today. Top story this morning, will the Titterness Titans continue their winning streak tonight when they take on the Axolotl Owls in Fontasa Stadium? The Titans have only a very slight advantage going into the game-

The car cell phone RINGS. Cleveland picks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLEVELAND

Hello.

MAZY (V.O.)

Cleveland honey, you forgot your  
raincoat.

CLEVELAND

(Looking at the sky)

Honey, I did it intentionally.

MAZY (V.O.)

But you always take your raincoat.

CLEVELAND

Well, I haven't recently. Not since  
the last time it rained.

MAZY (V.O.)

I see.

CLEVELAND

I tend to have the most need for it  
when it rains or there's the  
probability of rain.

MAZY (V.O.)

I just thought it was odd that  
you'd leave it here because you  
always seem to take it with you.

CLEVELAND

Not that odd, really. Not that odd.

A Beat.

MAZY (V.O.)

Do you want me to drop it off at  
the office?

CLEVELAND

No, thank you. I'll be fine.

MAZY (V.O.)

What about your lunch? Did you  
remember that?

CLEVELAND

I have it right here.

MAZY (V.O.)

What should I do with your  
raincoat, then?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLEVELAND

Just leave it there. If I need it  
I'll give you a call.

MAZY (V.O.)

All right. Don't forget about the  
game tonight.

CLEVELAND

I won't.

MAZY (V.O.)

Have a nice day.

CLEVELAND

You too. Love you.

MAZY (V.O.)

Love you too.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

ANGLE ON the Titan and Owl lines as they get in position  
before a play.

PLAYER 1

Hike.

The Owl quarterback takes the snap. He gets in position to  
pass, but is rushed from the right. He turns left to run  
laterally with the ball. The defense breaks through the line  
and faces the quarterback. He attempts to run around them,  
but is tackled to the ground from behind.

The play was textbook, well rehearsed, by the numbers, but  
the players show no enthusiasm or disappointment. The  
offensive strategy lacks all cleverness. Defense knows what  
is going to happen. Their uniforms are clean.

TACKLING PLAYER

(To Quarterback)

You okay?

QUARTERBACK

(Smiling, as he picks  
himself up)

Sure. Thanks for asking.

He dusts himself off.

TACKLING PLAYER

No point in anyone getting hurt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He pats the quarterback on the butt and goes back to his team.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM STANDS - NIGHT

The stands are full as Cleveland squeezes down a row holding a paper tray filled with hot dogs and drinks. As he passes each person, he repeats...

CLEVELAND

Excuse me.

He hands Mazy a drink and hot dog, then sits. The people he was blocking are not bothered in the least.

CLEVELAND (cont'd)

Did I miss anything?

MAZY

I believe so, but I'm not sure what.

The guy behind them, PETE, overhears Mazy's response and LAUGHS.

PETE

(to Cleveland)

Women sure don't understand football, do they?

CLEVELAND

Not like men do. That's for sure.

Mazy smiles and shakes her head.

PETE

Did you see Coppermine intercept the ball on the 30?

CLEVELAND

Yeah.

PETE

What about Clark's pass attempt?

CLEVELAND

I left just after that.

PETE

Okay. The Owls got the ball on the next play.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLEVELAND

How?

PETE

Clark kicked it.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM FIELD

ANGLE WIDE as the Owls kick off. The Titans move forward. Someone catches the ball, and the two teams jog easily toward each other. The ball is downed near the 50. The crowd displays appropriate spirit. Again, the game has all the tension of a soggy noodle.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(Over the PA, little  
enthusiasm)

Titans tee-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, mugs, blankets, and bumper stickers are available in the team store on the first level. While you're there, try a tasty Titan turnover - a sweet meaty treat covered in a flaky crust. Mmm mmm.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM STANDS

Pete continues...

PETE

Finally, Dirksen faked a pass and attempted an end run but was downed at the 33 with no gain.

CLEVELAND

Thanks for the play by play. Sounds like a pretty even match out there.

PETE

Yes, but I feel our team has more spirit, don't you?

CLEVELAND

Of course they do. I'll always prefer the Titterness Titans over the competing team.

(To Mazy)

How's the hot dog?

MAZY

I could use some mustard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLEVELAND

Here you go.

Handing her a few packs.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM FIELD

As a Titan catches a long pass and runs with it. The Owl defense displays appropriate effort to try to stop them, but the receiver glides easily past the goal line. He drops the ball, raises his arms and smiles appreciatively as the throng gives a polite CHEER. The Owls appear dejected, but not for long. They soon join the APPLAUSE.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Show your team spirit with a Titan DVD, featuring two-hours of riveting game highlights, available at the team store or online.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM STANDS

As Mazy applies her mustard.

CLEVELAND

I got some catsup too.

MAZY

Mustard will do, thank you.

CLEVELAND

I thought you liked catsup.

MAZY

Not at night. I don't like catsup at night.

CLEVELAND

Why is that?

MAZY

I don't know.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM FIELD

As the Titans easily make the point-after and the crowd CHEERS.

EXT. FONTASA STADIUM STANDS

PETE

Boy, those Titans are something,  
huh?

CLEVELAND

They sure are.

PETE

They've got this game in the bag.

CLEVELAND

Say, you want a hot dog?

PETE

Sure. Name's Pete.

Cleveland hands it to him.

CLEVELAND

Nice to meet you. I'm Cleveland.  
Want some mustard?

PETE

Catsup, please.

CLEVELAND

My wife here likes mustard, but not  
catsup.

MAZY

No, I like catsup, just not at  
night.

PETE

That's funny, I'm the other way  
around. Like catsup at football  
games, which are typically played  
at night.

CLEVELAND

No kidding. And you like mustard in  
the daytime?

PETE

What's that?

CLEVELAND

Do you like mustard in the day?

PETE

No, I don't like mustard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLEVELAND

How do you like your hot dogs in  
the daytime then?

PETE

Oh no, I only eat hot dogs at  
football games, which are typically  
played at night. Nothing like a hot  
dog when you're watching the  
Titterness Titans.

CLEVELAND

(Toasting with his soda)  
I'll second that.

SLIM, the guy sitting next to Pete, chimes in.

SLIM

Say, all this talk about hot dogs  
has made me hungry.

CLEVELAND

You want one?

Cleveland must have ten of them.

SLIM

Couldn't hurt.

CLEVELAND

(Handing him one)  
Name's Cleveland.

SLIM

Thanks. I'm Slim. Got any  
mayonnaise?

They LAUGH.

SLIM (cont'd)

What's so funny?