

THE LAST STAND

By Felix Carcone

Nowadays

FADE IN: Ext - Day

CAMERA GRADUALLY GRADEN, revealing a huge and full sport stadium. The sun reflects on the metal of each structure, and we can hear the cheering crowd, wild and loud, came to attend this famous athletic championship.

SHOTS FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES. While the sound of the crowd drops a bit, like a filter on the screams, the *voice off* from the main character appears, revealing his thoughts, and his story. Slowly, the young champion, qualified today for the grand finals, tells us his last reflections before the departure of the 300m.

Main Character - voice off:

“Here we are. I’m finally in front of the precipice. Strangely, now I can remember when I was running like a crazy animal, but animated by a happy innocence when I was a child, in the forest which surrounded the house. A violent surge, liberating fly.”

CROSSFADE - SCENES OF FLASHBACKS. We can see the child running throughout a forest and fields, light filtered by the trees. SLOW MOTION SHOTS in the cornfields, great sun in the background.

CAMERA FOCUS ON THE BOY’S FACE, his smile illuminates the screen. In background, the sound of his breath, slow and energetic, concentrated. We feel the ambition, deep and true.

Main Character - voice off:

“I never run as a sportive, at least from the perspective of my mind. I was more a scared boy decided to hunt his own ghosts. Running always proved me that I could be faster, stronger, like the nature around me, beautiful and much more colourful.”

Speaker's voice - resonating through a mic:

“And noooooow, please welcoome, the amazing champions of the day, thee runneeeers!!!”

CAMERA MOVES TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHAMPIONS, and the crowd doubles it screams and applause. All the competitors enter the stadium and settle each in their respective places on the court. The tension and the adrenaline start to rise up in the air. The participants look at them with a deep and intense regard.

CLOSE SHOT, on the veins of the champion. Low heartbeat sounds in the background. The young man looks quickly behind, trying to find his family on the stands, but they are too far, lost in the immense sea of people. As he is placing himself in position (CLOSE SHOT ON THE FEET), we still can hear his voice, looking for redemption:

Main Character - voice off:

“It has always been difficult for my father to accept my choice, even if I proved quickly as a teenager that my ambitions were right. However, after few years he showed a beginning of comprehension, which reassured everyone in the family, especially my mother. Today, more than ever, it is the time to share this powerful moment with my people. But here in the court, I will be alone, a single fighter, facing his fears, exactly like the child did many years ago in the forest.”

“The presence of the other guys never changed something; it was always a lonely campaign, where I found every time my own story. When I run, I see the kaleidoscope of my life, scrolling slowly in my mind. The time stops and the only link I have with this earth are my feet, hitting the ground in a continuous beat. Today is the occasion for myself to reach the dignity I’m looking for so many years. Winning is not the question, the only goal is to arrive as fast as I can to the final line. Allowing my body to express, and leaving behind those ghosts forever.”

CAMERA FLIES ABOVE. In a sudden silence, the crowd wait deeply for the flashing departure of the candidates. Curved like lions ready to pounce, they look for the starting shot, the sound of the chase, and the sound for their own fight.

CAMERA STAYS IN THE MEN’S EYES, and then slowly reveals the 300m of the court, like an infinite road seen from there. While the presenter warns athletes of departure, the men’s body suddenly rise, like suspended. The young man tells his last words before the race:

(CLOSE PROFILE SHOT FROM HIS FACE)

Main Character:

“Let’s go my friend, frees you from these chains.”

Speaker’s voice:

“Reaaaaaaaaadyyyyyy...”

When the shot is fired, all the athletes suddenly fly away in a torrent of footsteps. Heartbeat increases, blood flows in the bodies, and an intense heat is spreading on the ground.

As the young man said, time stops and camera looks at him in a powerful slow motion. His face now is completely distorted, and we could almost think he is going to decollate, feet in fire.

Some meters between the arrival, a last conscious thought illuminates the runner: it is now or never. In an extraordinary final effort, the young man deploys his last shred of energy, accompanied by a stunning cry of ambition. While he reaches the line, his body stops suddenly like a lifeless machine and the winner falls in the ground, down on his knees.

CAMERA FOCUSES ON THE MAN. When he raises his head and slowly regaining his senses, he begins to rehear the cheering crowd, passionately screaming his name. After realising the situation, a flow of emotion courses his spine and some tears appear in his eyes. When he finally stands up, it's the apotheosis in the public, and we hear a final thought, illustrated by the smiles of the young man and his family:

Main Character – voice off:

“Finally, today I learned how much strong is the power of the human determination, and how much this subtle and never ending light guided me all my life, illuminating each shadows with a hopeful glow, showing me the invisible as the stars reveal forms in the night. Freedom can be found...
And I am free now.”

END