

EXTRA INNINGS

by

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The sound of a CHEERING CROWD.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Welcome back.

FADE IN:

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

Sun shines down on a beautiful major league ball park filled to capacity with SCREAMING FANS: smiling families, scantily clad women, out-of-shape men drinking beer from plastic cups, etc.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
It's been a heck of a ballgame. The home team looked good as dead but have rallied for two runs in the ninth. They need just one more run to tie this thing up.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

CLAIRE BANKS (40) takes a picture of her eight-year-old son BILLY. He sits with his chin in his hands.

CLAIRE
Smile, Billy.

Billy doesn't turn. Claire puts the camera down.

CLAIRE
You don't like the game?

Billy shakes his head, "no".

CLAIRE
Then why the sad face?

Billy turns to his mother. Looks absolutely crushed.

BILLY
I wish Daddy were here.

CLAIRE
I know, honey. He'd be here if he could.

Claire looks down at a wedding ring on her finger. Turns it. Glances at the empty seat beside her. A sad look.

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

EDDIE BANKS (40) sits on the bottom bunk in his prison cell staring at the concrete wall across from him.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Your father had to leave the country for an important business trip. If he missed it because of us it would have made him very angry.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Claire rubs Billy's back.

CLAIRE

You know what he's like when he's angry.

Billy wipes tears from his eyes. Nods.

CLAIRE

He'll see a game with us some other time.

BILLY

Promise?

Claire musters up a convincing smile.

CLAIRE

Promise.

Claire kisses her son on the cheek, tussles his hair.

CRACK!

The crowd CHEERS at the unmistakable sound of a baseball hitting a bat.

BILLY

Base hit!

Billy jumps up and down excitedly. Claire joins him.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

It's a play at the plate! The BASERUNNER slides home underneath the CATCHER's tag. The UMPIRE waves his arms.

UMPIRE

Safe!!

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

The crowd goes wild. High fives. CHEERING.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And the game is tied on a clutch base hit by Reggie Clark! It's now first and third with two men out.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Billy hugs Claire in her seat. Another sad smile as she glances at the empty seat beside her.

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

An ARMED GUARD watches Eddie as a PRIEST reads him his last rites. Eddie just keeps staring at the wall.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Two and two with a man on third. A base hit will win the game...

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The PITCHER stares at the BATTER from the mound. Winds up. He fires the ball to the plate.

The batter swings and misses! He SLAMS the bat head angrily on the ground.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And it's strike three as Martinez goes down swinging! That's going to do it for regulation.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Billy slumps down in his seat next to Claire. The crowd GROANS around them as they return to their seats.

Claire looks at her disappointed son.

CLAIRE

Wow! Overtime! How exciting!

BILLY

It's baseball, Mom. It's called extra innings.

CLAIRE

That's right. I know you wish your father were here but it's a good thing he isn't. He hates overtime.

(gruff voice)

"Life's too short".

Billy rolls his eyes. Smiles at her impersonation.

CLAIRE

Hey do you remember the first time you guys played catch? He was so worried you were going to break a window.

BILLY

Daddy broke the window!

CLAIRE

That's right. Daddy broke it and then he tried to blame it on you!

She tickles him. Billy LAUGHS. Claire smiles but the smile quickly fades.

CLAIRE

Your father's good at telling stories.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

ARMED GUARDS escort a shackled Eddie down the hallway.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

He's so handsome and charming. It's hard to tell when he's telling stories.

INT. ELECTROCUTION CHAMBER - DAY

GUARDS strap Eddie into the electric chair.

The helmet is strapped to his head.

The WARDEN steps forward once Eddie is secured.

WARDEN

Edward Solomon Banks. You are hereby sentenced to death by the state of Pennsylvania. Do you have any last words?

Eddie turns his eyes toward a GROUP OF PEOPLE seated behind a glass window in a viewing room.

RICHARD (45) sits in a wheelchair near the front.

Eddie gives Richard a creepy grin, then breaks into song:

EDDIE
*Take me out to the ballgame...
 Take me out with the crowd...*

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The hitter swings at a pitch and stings it over the head of the first baseman into right field.

EDDIE (V.O.)
*Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack...
 I don't care if I never get back...*

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Claire and Billy cheer excitedly with other fans.

EDDIE (V.O.)
*Let's root root root for the home team...
 If they don't win it's a shame...*

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eddie levels a shotgun at Claire, who is naked in bed.

EDDIE (V.O.)
For it's one...

Eddie pulls the trigger. BLAM!

EDDIE (V.O.)
Two...

Eddie turns the shotgun to Richard, sans wheelchair, who cowers in bed beside Claire's bloody body.

BLAM!

Eddie turns and leaves the room.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A third gun shot illuminates a second floor window.

EDDIE (V.O.)
Three strikes you're out...

INT. ELECTROCUTION CHAMBER - DAY

EDDIE
... at the old ball game!

A crooked smile.

Eddie turns his eyes back to the Warden.

The Warden stares at Eddie with disgust.

EXT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

The warden exits the chamber. Looks at a GUARD standing by a large switch as the chamber door is shut.

WARDEN
Do it.

The guard flips the switch.

INT. VIEWING ROOM - DAY

Richard and others watch Eddie fry.

Eddie's body jerks, wiggles, convulsing...

... then stops.

Smoke rises from the helmet strapped to Eddie's head.

Eddie is very much dead.

EXT. SCOREBOARD - DAY

There are several zeros after the ninth inning showing on the scoreboard. The tie hasn't been broken yet.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Welcome back as we head into the twelfth
inning. Each team has had their share of
chances to end the game but neither has
been able to capitalize on them.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Claire and Billy watch the game. Billy is half asleep.

MAN'S VOICE
Claire Bear. You saved me a seat.

Claire turns to see Eddie. He has a cotton candy in one hand. A cup of beer in the other.

CLAIRE
Eddie...?

BILLY
Daddy!

Billy jumps up excitedly out of his seat. He squeezes past Claire and hugs his father. Grabs the cotton candy.

BILLY
You came! Was your trip cancelled?

Eddie looks at Claire and raises an eyebrow.

Claire stares back at Eddie. She looks shocked.

CLAIRE
I didn't think you'd be here.

Eddie looks even more shocked than Claire.

EDDIE
I didn't think I'd be here.

Eddie looks out at the park. The fans. Inhales.

EDDIE
This must be heaven.

Eddie glances at the surrounding seats. Grins.

EDDIE
Richard couldn't make it?

Claire glares back at Eddie with daggers in her eyes.

CRACK!

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And there's a long fly ball!

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

Everyone stands up in their seats.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

An OUTFIELDER chases after the ball. It's heading for the wall. He leaps at the wall and catches it!

The crowd GROANS.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(dejected)

And it's caught at the wall. And this game just refuses to end. Fans must be wondering if some greater power is at work here. I know I am.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Eddie hurls his cup of beer to the concrete floor.

EDDIE

Goddamnit!

A FAT GUY sitting in front of them turns around angrily. His shirt is covered in beer.

FAT GUY

Asshole! What the fuck!

CLAIRE

Billy. Get in your seat.

Billy does so as Eddie gets in Fat Guy's face.

EDDIE

You wanna go little piggy?

Eddie SNORTS like a pig. A crazed look in his eyes.

Fat Guy holds up his hands, wanting no part of Eddie.

Eddie sits down angrily in his seat.

Claire glances down at his hand.

His knuckles turn white as he squeezes the arm rest.

EDDIE

Life's too short.

Claire looks up at Eddie's face. Gulps.

FADE OUT.