

3RD AND GOAL

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. RAMEY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Several pictures are displayed on the mantle:

-- Helen in front of a waterfall.

-- Sam on a college football sideline, clipboard in his hands.

-- Helen and Sam on their wedding day.

-- Helen standing with her very pregnant 17-year-old sister Sally. Neither looks happy.

HELEN RAMEY (late 20s), motherly natured, stands with her husband SAM RAMEY (30), a football coach's persona. Both tote a look of disbelief.

SALLY HARRIS (17) lingers before them with a 2-week-old baby girl in her arms. Tears roll down Sally's cheeks as she gazes at her daughter.

Sally kisses the infant's head. Arms trembling, she hands the baby to Helen. Helen gratefully accepts the little bundle, but her heart breaks for Sally at the same time. So does Sam's.

Unable to stand strong any longer, Sally flees the house.

Sam gives Helen a look, then chases after Sally. He disappears from sight.

Helen watches the doorway with unease as she cuddles her new baby.

Sam returns, moving much slower. He closes the door and offers Helen a slight shake of his head.

Helen releases a troubled breath. Sam moves to Helen's side and lays an arm around her shoulders. Tears, both happy and sad, leak from Helen's eyes.

Helen sniffs back the tears and smiles at their new daughter. Sam beams over the precious addition to their family.

CLOSE ON: The baby girl's face.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTHRIDGE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The stands are filled with excited college FANS watching one helluva game. Scoreboard reads: Northridge - 20, SYU - 24. Nine seconds left in the 4th quarter.

SUPER: 22 YEARS LATER

The Northridge offense breaks from a huddle and moves out to their opponent SYU'S 40-yard line. The QUARTERBACK is confident as he takes his position behind the center.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - DAY - SAME

Two ANNOUNCERS sit at mics before the large windows with a perfect view of the field.

ANNOUNCER #1

What an impressive season this has been for Northridge!

ANNOUNCER #2

Ramey's gotta` be feeling the pressure as we move into the final moments of this spectacular ballgame!

EXT. NORTHRIDGE FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The quarterback glances side-to-side down the line. The cheering and yelling from the stands drowns out his cadence.

At the snap, both teams collide like armies. The quarterback steps back, scans the field. He spots MICHAELS, his main receiver, hauling ass downfield, looking back mid-sprint.

The quarterback throws long, right before an SYU LINEMAN crushes him. He immediately rolls over to see...

The football sailing through the air. Four hands enter the frame. They belong to Michaels and his SYU COVERAGE.

Michaels miraculously makes the catch. Ball tucked, he bolts for the end zone. Maneuvers through a minefield of opponents in route. It's poetry in motion.

The REF holds up both arms. Touchdown! The fans go wild.

From both knees, the quarterback raises his arms in victory.

SYU's coaching staff and players are deflated. Northridge celebrates from both the field and their sideline.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - DAY - SAME

The announcers are as excited as the fans.

ANNOUNCER #1

My oh my oh my! Just when you
thought it was over, Ramey delivers
a 40 yarder to Michaels, putting
Northridge up by two and in
position to seal this thing!

EXT. NORTHRIDGE SIDELINE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The sideline shares a celebratory uproar. COACH BRAXTON
closes his eyes in gratitude for a sweet well-earned victory.

The offense arrives as Special Teams head out. The
quarterback removes his helmet, only this isn't your typical
football player. A ponytail falls free.

This is JENNA RAMEY (22), a pretty girl under all the
protective gear, a born natural who knows this sport well.

LOWER STANDS

Sam, more than two decades older but looking great for his
age, remains collected while boasting a gratifying grin.

SARAH LINTON (22), glasses complimenting her natural beauty,
high-fives fellow FANS around her.

FOOTBALL FIELD

Northridge kicks the point after. It's good. More raucous
cheering from the stands. This one's over.

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH - DAY - SAME

The announcers are on their feet.

ANNOUNCER #1

History has been made here today as
Northridge defeats #1 ranked SYU 27-
24!

EXT. NORTHRIDGE FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Players from both teams swarm the field. Cameras and
REPORTERS mix in. Coach Braxton shakes hands with SYU's
COACH.

SYU COACH

That's some quarterback you've got
there, Bill.

Braxton looks over at Jenna with admiration.

BRAXTON

Don't I know it.

The media charges Northridge players. Flashbulbs pop. Microphones are shoved forward. Video cameras roll.

Jenna removes her scrunchie. Allows long hair to fall shoulder-length. We now see how beautiful she really is under the dirt and sweat of a football uniform.

MIKE TYLER, ESPN jacket, steps to Jenna, microphone ready. He motions to his CAMERAMAN to start filming.

TYLER

Mike Tyler... ESPN, here with Northridge quarterback, Jenna Ramey. Jenna, congratulations. You displayed some terrific talent here today.

JENNA

Thanks, Mike.

TYLER

I've watched you overcome some major obstacles during your time here at Northridge. Convincing a group of guys to follow a woman on the field, that's no easy task.

JENNA

You're telling me.

A few teammates pat her back. They adore Jenna.

TYLER

How does it feel to lead your team to their first bowl game win ever?

JENNA

Um, incredible! SYU's a tough team and I have nothing but the utmost respect for them.

TYLER

Now that you have gone as far as you can in football, what's next?

The question blind-sides Jenna. Before she can answer, two Northridge players arrive to whisk her away on their shoulders.

TYLER

Guess we'll have to wait for that answer. Mike Tyler, ESPN...

The PRESIDENT of the Northern Conference arrives with the trophy and hands it to Jenna. She raises it high in the air, surrounded by her coaches and other teammates.

The image slows down and segues into...

INT. ESPN STUDIO - NIGHT

... a frozen image on a TV screen behind two COMMENTATORS.

COMMENTATOR #1

I'm telling you, this woman has turned the college football world on its head. Let's talk about Ramey.

COMMENTATOR #2

She's had a remarkable season, I'm not disputing that. But that's where this Cinderella story ends.

COMMENTATOR #1

Why? Because she's a woman?

COMMENTATOR #2

Precisely.

COMMENTATOR #1

Not only did she hit for 24 of her 32 pass attempts, she ran for 118 yards and threw two touchdown passes against the #1 ranked team in the country. Add that to her season numbers. Any male player with stats like that would be in contention for a first round draft pick.

INT. WALLACE MANSION - MEDIA ROOM - NIGHT - SAME

The ESPN Sports broadcast continues on a 70" plasma TV in this lavish space.

COMMENTATOR #2 (ON TV)

I've talked to a lot of scouts and every one has said that she has no chance of making it in the NFL...

The TV is muted.