

Hillsborough

written by

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INT. 1985 FORD SIERRA - DAY

The driver's door gets closed, a hand turns on the radio.

COMMENTATOR #1

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,
today, April 15th, we expect a
quite cloudy day...

The copilot's door opens and SMASHES. EDDIE (10) a ginger skinny boy gets in the car. His father HARRY wearing Stone Island (mid 30s) an average slightly overweight, slightly bald man, turns to him.

HARRY

(Angry)

Yo! You can't smash the door like
that lid.

EDDIE

(Ignoring)

Oi, dad.

HARRY

(Angrier)

Come ed! Tie your seatbelt. We're
running late.

Eddie ties his seatbelt. Harry STARTS the car and LIGHTS UP a cigarette. The two of them stay in silence, as they listen to the radio.

The screen freezes.

NARRATOR

Harry has attended to more than 500
games, you can tell for the way he
is lighting up that fag and his
beat up Stone Island sweat. For
Eddie is the first time, he's
smiling, Harry isn't.

The screen defrosts as Harry keeps smoking and starts driving. "Message in a bottle" by The Police starts to play, as they start their journey. Initial credits roll. With a montage showing parts of the BORING GREY landscape.

CUT TO:

INT. 1985 FORD SIERRA - CONTINUOUS

COMMENTATOR #1

On other news, today is the
FA Cup semi-final
between Liverpool and Nottingham
Forest...

EDDIE

You know, I've been actually liking
the latest songs of Madonna.

Harry makes a disgusted face. The screen freezes.

NARRATOR

Madonna was having her best year
ever. More than ten million sales.

Images of Madonna fall into Harry's face.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Harry hates her.

As Harry shakes his head the creen defrosts and the images go
away.

HARRY

(Making fun of Eddie)
Oi, you didn't tell me you were
becoming a puff, now shut up,
they're saying the lineups.

COMMENTATOR #2

The lineup for Liverpool is:
Grobbelaar in goal, taking care of
him, in the center Ablett and
Hansen. Staunton. Nicol. Houghton.
McMahon. Whelan. Looking to cash
some assists John Barnes and in
front of goal: Peter Beardsley and
John Aldridge.

HARRY

You should listen to boss music,
like The Police.

EDDIE

(Ignoring)
Oi, I can't believe Rush ain't
playin'.

HARRY

He's gettin' old.

EDDIE
Just like Sting.

Harry slaps the back of Eddie's head firmly, but without hurting him.

HARRY
(acknowledging)
You ain't that dumb, oi?

Eddie laughs and sees the entrance sign to SHEFFIELD.

EDDIE
(Excited)
Dad, we're here!

HARRY
Oi, you can tell for the fucking traffic.

EDDIE
(Nervous)
The match is only in thirty mins!
Are we gonna be on time?

HARRY
Take it easy, lid. I'm trying to listen the pre.

FADE TO:

EXT. CROWDED PARKING - LATER

In the middle of a jam-packed parking lot, the Red Sierra can't seem to move amid the THRONG and the OTHER CARS. Harry and Eddie step out of the car.

It's crowded, so they start pushing their way into the entrance. It's so packed, Eddie cannot see the sky. He holds onto his dad's arm. It's shoulder-with-shoulder, asphyxiating.

The crowd pushes them forward. Eddie catches a glimpse of the perimeter gates, which is quickly obstructed by anxious FANS.

EDDIE
Dad, we're late!

CHANTS are heard and RED FLARES fill the space with RED SMOKE.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHEFFIELD STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

EDDIE
(excited)
Dad! We should join.

HARRY
Do whatever you want.

Harry grabs Eddie's hand as he keeps pushing to get closer.
Eddie keeps quite for a little, but then starts singing
You'll Never Walk Alone with the rest of the fans.

EDDIE
When you walk through a storm
Hold your chin up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of a storm
Is a golden sky
And the sweet, silver song of a
lark.
Walk on, through the wind,
Walk on, through the rain,
Though your dreams be tossed and
blown.
Walk on, walk on with hope in your
heart,
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone!!!

HARRY
(Proud)
Oi, you know your parts, lid.

Eddie laughs.

EDDIE
(Nervous)
The match is starting in ten mins.

HARRY
Don't worry we're already here.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Harry and Eddie are getting pushed against the turnstiles.
There are hooligans yelling and cursing.

POLICEMAN #1
Yo, keep it easy mate!

HOOLIGAN #1 (O.S.)
(Reacting)
Fuck off.

Two policemen start beating up the hooligan as other hooligans join in. The crowd tries to give them space, everyone is getting pushed. Harry and Eddie get thrown to the turnstiles.

HARRY
(Worrying)
Eddie, get behind me.

GATEGUARD
C'mon lads!

Harry takes out the TICKETS.

EDDIE
Wow! Can I take mine?

HARRY
Just be careful.

Eddie grabs his ticket, but as he had butter hands the ticket just slides through his fingers.

HARRY (CONT'D)
(Angry)
Piss off!

Eddie gets down trying to get his ticket, but it's too late, there's already people stepping on it.

GATEGUARD
Just get in!

Harry and Eddie get past the turnstiles, but the place is even more crowded, they start moving to the central tunnel, they're not walking, they're getting pushed.

EDDIE
I'm gonna be in Hillsborough!

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Between the crowd Harry and Eddie pop up. Near them, ROGER MARSHALL (mid 40s) the police officer in command of the line.

Roger can't stop yelling instructions to the attendants, but is chaos.

Everyone pushing in direction to the central tunnel. Chest too chest. Harry and Eddie approach him, they are RED and SWEATY. Eddie looks like he's about to pass away using his father hand to support himself.

HARRY

Sir, there's still people outside
and in here we're getting pushed
around.

Because Roger's indifference Harry rises his tone.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Don't you see I have a son!

ROGER

(indifferent)

Sir, we are opening gate C to speed
up the line, just keep moving to
the tunnel.

Screen freezes.

NARRATOR

The tunnel should had been closed
to move the crowd away of the
central stands, and by the way,
gate C shouldn't be opened, it's an
exit gate.

Real life VIDEOS of Roger Marshall on the match day are shown.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Roger Marshall was highly
unprepared. Just as his boss.

An IMAGE of David Duckenfield with his name on it is shown.

Roger gives a little push to Harry defrosting the screen.
Harry can't do more but to obey. Frustrated he takes Eddie's
hand stronger and starts moving froward into the tunnel.

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

It's pretty DARK in there. The only thing Eddie can see is
his father. It's BOILING HOT as even breathing gets
complicated. While they keep moving with the mass someone
pushes Eddie. He falls to the ground but the throng keeps
moving.

Harry turns to protect his son, pushing the aggressor to make space, so Eddie can stand. The aggressor, the HOOLIGAN (early 20s) with a BEATED face and BLOOD on his teeth turns around.

HARRY
(Tired and frustrated)
Not this fuckers again.

HOOLIGAN #1
(Having a laugh)
Oi, wanna throw some punches you
bastard?

The rest of his friends start laughing behind him.

Screen freezes.

NARRATOR
Remember him?

An images of the past scene with the hooligans is shown.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Well they got through gate C, and
what's their problem? They are
hooligans.

Cool photographs of hooligans slide.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
(Speeded up)
Hooligan are known worldwide as
football fans of British
nationality who cause disturbances
or carry out acts of vandalism.

Screen defrosts.

HARRY
(Getting in a fight
stance)
Watch out he's a little kid... and
we can't fight in here.

There's clearly no space to fight, they can't even walk freely or stop to talk. The hooligans start to imitate chickens. Harry takes Eddie on his arms and tries his best to speed up through the throng. They are almost at the exit, but breathing is getting harder and there is no moment when Harry is not feeling the pressure of at least one person.

FADE TO:

EXT. HILLSBOROUGH STADIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Eddie already on Harry's shoulders is amazed. The darkness of the tunnel turns into LIGHT. The stadium in front of him is ENORMOUS, full of fans SCREAMING and SINGING, it's breathtaking.

Harry and Eddie hear the WHISTLE. Just in time.

Harry looks to move forward, but it's impossible. The mass still there, and it's even more suffocating than outside of the stadium.

HARRY

Hey lid, do you mind if we stay on the back.

Eddie doesn't answer, he's still amazed.

Harry stays in the back, trying to stay away from the CHAOS. Suddenly Harry starts seeing black, feeling like he was inside a cloud. His heartbeat slowing down. He hears the YELLS for help that come from the front.

EDDIE

(amazed and unaware)

Look Dad! Beardsley is gonna score.

The shot hits the bar and crowd pushes forward. Harry is standing, but he isn't fully conscious. He's trying to stay in the back as even MORE FANS get into the stadium.

STRANGER (O.S.)

Oi lad, need some help?

Harry snaps back to reality. A man is stretching his arm from west stand above them.

HARRY

Take the kid!

Eddie looks confused.

HARRY (CONT'D)

C'mon lid, take his hand. I'm gonna go next.

The stranger grabs Eddie's arm and brings him to safety.

EDDIE

(Crying)

Dad!

Now is Harry's turn, he stretches his arm as much as he can, but the crowd is taking him to the front. He can only see Eddie as he starts to pass away. Eddie watches how his father slowly disappears between the throng.

Screen freezes.

NARRATOR

And... That was the last time Eddie
saw his father, with him other 96
died.

The End.