

WADDELL PERRY

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. PENN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- DAY

A CLASSIC IVY LEAGUE-STYLE CAMPUS IN THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY OF PENNSYLVANIA, REEKING OF ACADEMIC TRADITION. ABOVE THE ARCHED STONE ENTRANCE IS INSCRIBED: "P.I.S.T. EST. 1896"

INT. CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

WADDELL PERRY, THE NERDY BUT FIERCELY COMPETITIVE PRESIDENT OF P.I.S.T. WALKS BRISKLY DOWN A CORRIDOR WITH TIM FOX, LATE 20'S, CASUALLY ATHLETIC.

Start
SCI →

WADDELL

For over a century The Penn Institute of Science and Technology has been second to none in the studies of quantum and theoretical physics but how many people know that? I'll tell you how many. Not enough. I'm sick of sucking hind teat to MIT and Caltech. I want something that will finally put Penn Institute on the map. That's why I wanted to meet you, Tim.

TIM

I'm not following.

WADDELL

Of course not, because you're not a Penn Institute grad.

HE OPENS A DOOR AND USHERS TIM INTO:

"COACH"

17

INT. A FOURTH FLOOR OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

EMPTY EXCEPT FOR A LARGE DESK COVERED BY A WHITE SHEET. A BUILT-IN BOOKCASE IS ON ONE WALL AND TURRETS FLANK THE ENTRANCE, ONE WITH A STEEP WINDING STAIR, THE OTHER WITH A CAGED DOOR. A CARVED INSCRIPTION LIKE THE ONE WE SAW OVER THE ENTRANCE HANGS ON A WALL. TIM LOOKS AROUND, BEWILDERED.

WADDELL

Research tells me what fills coffers today and makes people passionate about college and it isn't physics. It's football! The attention it receives, the money it rakes in, is obscene! And I want some of it.

TIM

You want a football team here??

WADDELL

And I want you to coach it.

TIM LOOKS AROUND, TRYING TO TAKE THIS IN.

↓
WADDELL (CONT'D)

~~This was the office of our founder,~~
~~Eli Millory. Unoccupied since his~~
~~death. It would be yours now. That's~~
~~how important this is.~~ Football's the one thing those other egghead school's don't have! Imagine the boost to our morale. We won't just be PIST anymore. We'll be PIST and proud!

2/7

TIM

But why me?

WADDELL

You're a proven winner! And I'm not only talking about your stellar record at Pennock High. I'm talking about your name. Tim Fox? Son of Hayden Fox? That right there puts us on the map. Your dad's a coaching legend! It's in your DNA! It's in your genes!

TIM

(SMILES) You know I'm adopted, right?

WADDELL

Thanks to Newton I know the acorn doesn't fall far from the tree. I'm offering to make you the youngest head coach in college football. Tell me that wouldn't fuel your rockets.

TIM

No, it definitely would.

WADDELL

And think how proud your dad would be. In fact, is this mad? What if you could talk him out of retirement and into becoming your head assistant?

3/7

TIM

Is that what this is about? Not that I don't love my dad, don't get me wrong. ~~He's been a big figure in my life. Not as big maybe as the statue they erected of him outside the stadium they named for him, but big, you know? He casts a long shadow.~~

WADDELL

This would be your team. Your dad was just an idea.

TIM

I appreciate that.

WADDELL

Well, maybe more than just an idea. It may be a really good idea. But it's your call.

TIM

Let me think about it.

WADDELL

Sure. Actually, it's not that it's a good idea. What it is, Tim, is it's my idea. (QUICKLY) But it's your team.

WADDELL SMILES. SO DOES TIM, ALBEIT WITH SOME TREPIDATION.

BLACKOUT

END COLD OPENING

"END
S.C.I

4/7

HAYDEN

Did I ask if he was married and had a little girl? (OBVIOUSLY) No. I asked, "How you doing?" I thought that covered it. When did all this happen?

TIM DOESN'T KNOW. WADDELL RE-ENTERS.

WADDELL

Sorry to bother you again --

HAYDEN

Hey, no bother. (DRAPING AN ARM OVER HIM) You said if we need anything you're our guy, right?

WADDELL

(EAGERLY) What do you need?

TIM

A tutor. We just met a kid who might be a player for us if he had the scores to get in here.

WADDELL

What's his area of interest?

HAYDEN

Football we hope.

WADDELL

I meant his academic interest.

Besides scores an applicant needs an approved field of study.

Start
Sc II →

5/7

HAYDEN

Waddie, Waddie, if you want a football team you can be proud of you're going to have to help us here.

WADDELL

Tell me what you need.

HAYDEN

You need to lower your standards.

TIM

~~No you don't. That's not what we're talking about.~~

HAYDEN

~~That's what I'm talking about.~~

WADDELL

(EAGERLY) How would we do that?

TIM

~~You're not doing that. Your standards are what make this a great school.~~

HAYDEN

~~If all you want is an education. I thought we were reaching for something higher here.~~

TIM

We're trying to build something they don't have, not destroy what they do have.

6/7

WADDELL

(EXCITED) So this is football talk!

HAYDEN AND TIM BOTH LOOK AT WADDELL.

TIM

~~No. This is philosophy, which we'll
talk about later. You came back for
another reason.~~

WADDELL

~~Oh, yes. I forgot there's a professor
here who'd like to be considered for a
coaching position.~~

HAYDEN

~~Does he teach blocking and tackling?
'Cause if not...~~

WADDELL

~~He teaches mathematical analysis but
he loves football.~~

HAYDEN

~~I love pizza but I'm not asking Papa
John for a job.~~

WADDELL

~~He wants to volunteer.~~

HAYDEN

~~Yeah, well, tell him thanks, but~~

TIM

(AT HAYDEN) Tell him we'll meet him.

HAYDEN LOOKS AT TIM. WADDELL LOOKS AT EACH OF THEM, NOT SURE WHO'S LEAD TO FOLLOW.

|| END

7/7