

DEATH PENALTY

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content warning: very strong language and extreme violence

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1 INT. CELL - NIGHT

Fade in.

Machine gun fire

-- wakes Isaac Mangwiro (20's) asleep on a dirty mattress on a concrete floor.

It takes his eyes a while to adjust.

He gets up, tired.

He's intrigued at the England football kit he's wearing, and amazed at his brand new Nike trainers!

He notices a cockroach on the floor, on his back, his legs wiggling frantically, dying.

Isaac flicks it over. It scuttles across the floor and under a gap in the door.

He feels his way around the cell in the dark, and follows the cockroach to the door.

He tries to open it. He can't.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

It echoes like a dungeon.

ISAAC
(in Swahili, English subtitles)
Help! Help! Help!

Footsteps.

Isaac holds his breath and listens.

Footsteps get closer. Keys jangle.

A letter box slides opens. A Guard looks in.

ISAAC
(in Swahili, English subtitles)
Water, please. Please.

The huge Guard, grenade-for-brains, dressed in army-issue combats, bomber jacket and baseball cap, unlocks the door and enters the cell, pointing an Uzi at Isaac.

Isaac falls to his knees, hands in prayer.

GUARD
Get up!

ISAAC
(English)
Please. Please...where am I?

GUARD
You're in Oz, Dorothy.

The Guard kicks him and drags him out of the cell.

2 INT. UNDERGROUND RAILWAY - NIGHT

The Guard marches Isaac along a dimly lit tunnel, kicking him forward and pushing him with the tip of his Uzi, towards a steel door.

GUARD
Jog on!

He throws Isaac through a door into --

3 INT. THE DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

An abandoned railway arch converted into a TV studio.

Three spotlights shine down on --

a football penalty box and penalty spot painted on a black floor.

On the penalty spot - a football.

Fixed into the back wall are white steel goal posts.

Between the goalposts - a Goalkeeper squints and looks at Isaac, poised, ready for the shot.

XCU - a tiny earpiece behind the Goalkeeper's ear.

Advertising screens surround the arena.

BANG! The door closes.

Isaac notices red neon indicators of CCTV cameras around the walls.

One single camera, above the goal, buzzes as it rotates and

points down at Isaac.

Above the camera, a huge digital countdown clock says '10'.

Isaac stares up into the camera, at --

4 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi, 70's, baseball cap, dark VR glasses, headphones and mic. zooms between computers in her electric wheelchair

Screens, lights, speakers, dazzling technology - think air traffic control room.

From a huge wall-mounted plasma screen Isaac stares up at her.

Crypto currencies flash across the screen in neon green under SCORE and SAVE.

The onscreen countdown clock is set to '10'.

Fifi flicks a switch and zooms in for a close-up on Isaac.

Whenever with Fifi we see him as if through VR glasses, her POV.

In her headphones, a digitized crowd cheers.

Commentator SFX play.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
Fresh off the dinghy!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
Straight out of a storage container!

The crowd cheers.

Isaac stares up into camera.

Fifi watches Bitcoin bets beep and flash under SCORE and SAVE in neon green.

Fifi flicks a switch.

5 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

A GONG!

The digital clock in the arena starts to countdown:

#10

The Guard receives a message in his earpiece.
He points his Uzi at Isaac, then the ball.

GUARD
Shoot!

#9

Isaac picks up the ball.

#8

GUARD
Shoot!

Isaac moves towards the penalty spot.

#7

The Goalkeeper gets ready.

6 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches Isaac approach the penalty spot on screen.

#6

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
He's young, but he's dangerous.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
One of the best attackers in the game.

Fifi checks the bets under SCORE / SAVE.

7 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

Countdown: #5

Isaac looks at The Guard.

The Guard takes aim.

Isaac looks at the clock: #4

Eye contact with the Goalkeeper.

#3

The Goalkeeper's eyes are cold, focused. It's a battle, now.
Player to Goalkeeper.

8 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi checks the crypto currencies flashing on her screen in
neon green.

"SCORE" flashes green.

FIFI
(into her mic.)
Score.

NO MORE BETS flashes red.

9 INT - DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

Countdown clock: #2

Isaac runs up --

-- #1

Isaac shoots to the left.

The Goalkeeper dives the wrong way!

Isaac *scores!*

10 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi flicks a switch.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
Goooooooooooooooooal!!!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
What a shot! He's up for a fight!

On screen Bitcoin bets blink, flash, and beep in neon green.

11 INT. ARENA - NIGHT

The Guard ushers Isaac out of the arena.

The Goalkeeper gets up and makes eye contact with Isaac.

Isaac sees his eyes are not hostile but *friendly*.

12 INT. ISAAC'S CELL - NIGHT

The Guard lets Isaac in the cell and locks the door.

Isaac snuggles under the heavy, prison blanket, thinking about what just happened.

Outside, a motion-sensored light comes on.

Footsteps.

The food slot in the cell door slides open with a clang.

The Guard passes Isaac a bottle of water and a box of chicken.

Isaac savages the chicken, sucking the meat from the bones.

Machine gun fire stops his chewing.

Seconds later, something heavy is dragged past his cell.

Isaac, scared, falls back on his mattress and idly makes a stickman out of the chicken bones on the cell floor.

13 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

The Guard kicks Isaac into the arena.

GUARD
In! Move!

Isaac makes eye contact with the Goalkeeper.

14 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches Bitcoin bets beep and flash on screen in neon green as Isaac approaches the penalty spot --

15 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

-- with the ball, now blood-stained.

Isaac makes eye contact with the Goalkeeper - are you friend or foe?

The Goalkeeper flicks his eyes up at the camera, very quickly, as if to say 'We are being watched.'

16 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi is busy flicking switches.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
Well this is a real test.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
But will he pass it?

On screen Bitcoin bets beep and flash in neon green.

17 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

GONG!

The countdown clock starts --

#10

Isaac places the ball on the penalty spot, takes one step back, looks across at the Guard, then burns his eyes into the Goalkeeper's.

#8

18 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches, hands busy on the controls --

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
Does he have the backbone?

Bitcoin bets flash across the screen, beeping and flashing in neon green.

19 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

#5

Isaac takes a deep breath, steps back a few paces --

#4

Isaac starts his run, slowly, towards the ball - eyes fixed on the Keeper.

20 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi leans forward, her eyes fixed on the screen.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
Most important shot of his life.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
Big, big moment.

NO MORE BETS flashes red.

21 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

#2 Isaac swings his right leg back...

22 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi checks the bets.

SCORE flashes green.

FIFI
(into her mic.)
Score.

23 INT. ARENA - NIGHT

#1

Isaac shoots right. The Goalkeeper dives *left*.

Isaac scores!

In Fifi's headphones, computerized crowds cheer.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
What a scorcher!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
Keeper had no chance!

Fifi watches crypto currencies beep and flash and transfer to her dark web bank account.

24 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

As Isaac does a crazed, victory war dance around the arena.

The Guard opens fire into the roof with his Uzi.

Isaac stops dancing, scared, as --

25 EXT. WAR ZONE - DAY

Images and sounds of the war zone he escaped from flash through his mind.

26 INT. ARENA - NIGHT

The Guard kicks Isaac at gunpoint out of the arena.

Isaac turns to make eye contact with the Goalie again - friend or foe?

27 INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

The Guard pushes Isaac back in his cell.

28 INT. ISAAC'S CELL - NIGHT

Isaac is fed more chicken.

He sits down and scoffs it.

When he's finished, he arms the stickman on the floor with a chicken bone.

He pretends the stickman is a soldier and he's arming it with a rifle.

As he places the rifle / bone in the stickman's arms he hears

... .. *Machine gunfire*

Is he imagining? *No*. It's *real*.

A light comes on.

Something heavy is dragged past his cell.

Isaac lies down to see under the door.

A bloody, groaning, teenage boy locks eyes with Isaac. He tries to speak but chokes on blood trickling from his mouth.

It is Isaac.

Is he *dreaming*?

Hallucinating?

He looks into his own, dying eyes.

Isaac takes the stickman's chicken bone rifle and sharpens it on the concrete floor.

He scratches the sharpened bone across his wrist, and digs deep, almost drawing blood...

29 INT. ISAAC'S MIND -

The face of Isaac's three year old daughter --

ISAAC (V.O)
(singing)
Jesus is risen, tell the world,
akeema, akeema, aye ay ay...

The little girl laughs - her angelic eyes shining with love.

30 INT. ISAAC'S CELL - NIGHT

The Guard opens the door.

Isaac stops self-harming and hides his wound... and hides *the bone*.

GUARD
Get up. GO!

The Guard tries to push him out of the cell.

Isaac *resists*.

GUARD
Go! Move!

Isaac tries to rush past The Guard behind him and run away from the arena, trying to escape.

GUARD
Where are you going, Dorothy?

The Guard kicks him and smashes his head with the gun.

Isaac falls, his head gashed, bloody.

Isaac cowers into the corner, begging for his life --

GUARD
Come on. We're off to see the wizard.

The Guard grabs him and drags him, beaten, out of the cell.

XCU - the chicken bone stickman's rifle is missing.

31 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

The Guard forces Isaac into the arena.

32 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches --

On screen, Isaac, bloody, battered, prepares to take his penalty --

33 INT - DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

The Goalkeeper watches Isaac with sympathy in his eyes, although Isaac is too bruised, dazed and beaten to see.

34 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fixi watches her Bitcoin bets beep and flash --

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.0)
Is he one hundred percent?

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.0)
There are questions over his fitness.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.0)
He's still recovering from injury.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.0)
Can he stay alive?

Fifi's eyes fix on the Bitcoin bets beeping and flashing under SCORE and SAVE --

35 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

GONG! The countdown clock starts:

#10

Isaac picks up the football.

36 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches, flicking switches.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.0)
This won't be S'ese to score

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.0)
Coppola goals already.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.0)
Tough act to follow.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.0)
Penalty no.3.

On screen, Bitcoin bets beep and flash.

Rocky Riyadh \$10 SAVE

37 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches on screen as Bitcoin bets beep and flash in neon green --

Jeddah Jedi \$15 SAVE

38 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

#4

Isaac walks towards the penalty spot.

His inquisitive eyes sear into the Goalkeeper's.

Friend or Foe?

The Guard keeps his Uzi aimed at Isaac.

#3

Isaac places the ball --

39 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches as on screen bets beep and flash in neon green, under SCORE, then SAVE, then SCORE, then SAVE.

40 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

Isaac places the ball slowly, carefully, on the penalty spot, eyes on the Goalkeeper.

#2

Isaac's eyes ask the Goalkeeper: *which way are you gonna dive?*

41 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches Bitcoin bets beep and flash under SCORE and SAVE.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
Can he stay alive?

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
It's sudden death!

Neopolitan Gansta ₪5 SAVE

Fifi flicks a switch.

SCORE flashes green.

42 INT. ARENA - NIGHT

#1

Isaac crouches to pull up his sock, and retrieves the chicken bone.

The Guard aims his Uzi.

GUARD
Shoot!

Isaac runs up --

43 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

A late bet flashes across the screen:

Billionaire Boy ₪20 SCORE

Fifi's eyes light up at the huge bet.

'SAVE' flashes RED.

FIFI
(into her mic.)
Save!

44 INT. ARENA - NIGHT

Isaac shoots left.

45 INT. ARENA - NIGHT

The Goalkeeper dives left and SAVES the shot, punching it onto the goalpost.

The ball bounces out.

Isaac runs forward and scores on the rebound!

46 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi is furious.

In her headphones, crowds cheer.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.0)
Who's the daddy!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.0)
He's the captain now!

Fifi zooms in close on The Guard and furiously types code.

47 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

Isaac does his crazed, manic, victory WAR dance around the arena --

The Guard, one hand on his Uzi trigger, the other on his ear piece, receives a command:

FIFI (V.0)
Terminate.

As Isaac manically skips around, shouting, screaming and singing, he *stabs the Guard in the eye* with the chicken bone.

48 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches stunned.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.0)
What a blinder!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.0)
Razor sharp!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.0)
What a Knight!

Computerized crowds cheer!

49 INT - DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

The Guard collapses, holding his bleeding eye.

FIFI (V.O)
Terminate.

Isaac grabs the Uzi and riddles the Guard with bullets.

The Guard's blood spatters Isaac's face.

Isaac stares into the eyes of the terrified Goalkeeper - now a scared, bound, gagged PRISONER OF WAR -- and suddenly Isaac is back at --

50 EXT. ISAAC'S MEMORY - JUNGLE - DAY

Sounds of screams and machine gunfire.

Isaac, in soldier uniform, points an Uzi at a PRISONER OF WAR, on his knees, hands in prayer, pleading for his life.

51 INT. DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

Isaac points the Uzi at The Goalkeeper, on his knees, hands in prayer, pleading for his life --

Isaac turns the gun away from the Goalkeeper and shoots up the arena, destroying first the clock, then the spotlights, and finally, takes aim into the CCTV camera at --

52 INT. CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi - in her headphones, crowds cheer.

On screen, Isaac, lit only by the ultraviolet light of the CCTV camera, points the Uzi up into the lens at her --

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
Jabbed it home!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
Just what he *need*--

53 INT - DEATH PENALTY ARENA - NIGHT

Fifi's text to speech command plays in the Guard's earpiece.

FIFI (V.O)
Terminate!

Isaac opens fire into the CCTV camera.

54 INT - CONTROL ROOM, BAHRAIN - NIGHT

Fifi watches Isaac open fire straight into camera.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
What a shot!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O)
What a shoot-out!

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O)
It's sudden death!

Fifi's screen BLACKOUTS.

55 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - NIGHT

Isaac escapes along the disused underground system, taking out guards as he goes, followed by the Goalkeeper.

The Goalkeeper slips. Isaac helps him up.

56 EXT. BARNES RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Isaac rises out of the railway station entrance in his white, bloodstained England kit, armed with his Uzi, pulling the Goalkeeper with him.

57 EXT. DERELICT LONDON STREET - DAY

Isaac marches past a STOP traffic sign, followed by the Goalkeeper, and disappears into the woods.