

## Scene Context:

After sleeping with Tom for the first time and opening up to him about his family situation, Noah decides to challenge his fear and attend an AFL game to watch Tom in action, but is shocked at the level of violence that Tom shows on the field.

5C INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM – CONTINUOUS

A CHYRON appears above Noah's dancing doona:

Tom: "Hey handsome, I missed you today. Everything ok?"

Noah flings his doona off and SIGHS.

SMASH TITLE: ROUND 9: ENTERTAINMENT

He sits up and ponders the text. Does he wanna go there?

Noah moves from unsure to determined, and begins typing.

NOAH (V.O.)  
I went to the game yesterday.

PRE-LAP: A BLARING AFL siren.

5D EXT. EMPTY FOOTBALL STADIUM – DAY

Noah sits in an empty stadium, removing the last of his red nail polish. A windbreaker hides his usual sense of fashion. He looks directly into the camera.

NOAH

But I went for me - not for you.  
Because I thought about what I  
said. About not feeling safe. And I  
thought that was stupid. So I went.

Noah puts on a plain beanie, completing his transformation.

NOAH

Just to prove that I could.

5E INT. TOM'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tom bolts upright as Noah's words flash up on Tom's phone.  
Three dots pulsate to indicate another message is coming.

PRE-LAP: The cacophony of AFL CROWD NOISE during a game.

5F EXT. EMPTY FOOTBALL STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Noah shifts uncomfortably, trying not to take up much space.

HOMOPHOBIC FAN #1 (O.S.)

Get off him, ya fucken homo!!

Noah leans away from the direction of the slur, shocked.

NOAH

But you need to know something.

HOMOPHOBIC FAN #2 (O.S.)

Can't even kick, the poofter!!

NOAH

I didn't, Tom. I didn't feel safe.  
Everything just felt... wrong.

5G INT. TOM'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS

A CHYRON appears above Tom:

Noah: "I felt wrong."

Tom swallows hard as another three dots pulsate.

PRE-LAP: The ROAR of fans reacting to a brutal collision.

5H EXT. EMPTY FOOTBALL STADIUM - LATER

NOAH

And when you took that hit and fell  
to the ground, you know what..?  
I actually felt sorry for you.

5I EXT. AFL OVAL ON GAME DAY - AFTERNOON

Towards the edge of an empty football oval, Tom crashes violently into the ground as rival NATHAN LITCHFIELD (28) pounces on him. An invisible crowd ROARS. The whistle is REPEATEDLY BLOWN.

Litchfield leans into Tom's ear and whispers an insult, inaudible to us.

Litchfield pushes off Tom.

Tom's eyes flash with anger as he leaps up from the ground.

5J EXT. EMPTY FOOTBALL STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

NOAH

Until you hooked into the guy.

5K EXT. AFL OVAL ON GAME DAY - CONTINUOUS

Tom grabs Litchfield's jumper, flipping him over violently so that Tom is now towering over him.

A cacophony of WHISTLES, BOOS and CHEERS masks further verbal abuse by Litchfield.

Tom lifts Litchfield off the ground. They briefly tussle before Tom jumper punches him.

5L INT. TOM'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tom rubs his forehead, visibly concerned.

A CHYRON:

Noah: "Your own teammates had to pull you off him."

TOM

(quietly to himself)

He called me a faggot.

5M EXT. EMPTY FOOTBALL STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

NOAH

But I suppose that makes sense when violence is seen as entertainment.

5N INT. TOM'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS

A CHYRON:

Noah: "Thing is, Tom... that's not a show I'm gonna binge."

Tom's lip wavers.

50 EXT. EMPTY FOOTBALL STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

NOAH

And that's alright. That's okay.  
I don't *hate you*, if that helps?  
(sadness washes over him)  
But I'm not sure we can be friends.

5P INT. TOM'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Tom curls his knees up against his chest. The dam bursts;  
Tom's face floods with tears.

A CHYRON:

Noah: "I'm not sure we can be anything."

Tom's eyes fix upon the photo of his child-self holding his  
first premiership cup.

5Q EXT. EMPTY FOOTBALL STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

Noah removes his beanie. His hair shakes out flamboyantly.