



Epilogue

One day later...

We hear a voice. "Our next speaker needs no introduction; however, I will give one anyway."

It's an MSU graduation ceremony. The place is packed with graduates, family members, students, and football fans.

The graduates are all in caps and gowns.

Everyone on stage is in full dress. Doctoral Gown, Velvet Tam, Metallic Tassel and Hood.

The speaker continues his introduction. "Our Speaker has indeed made our University proud. He personifies, "mind body and soul" what it means to be a football player. As a Spartan, he was the only football player to be elected captain three years in a row. After graduating, he was drafted into the NFL and became an All-Pro defensive tackle for 5 consecutive years. Three years before his retirement, he signed the highest paid contract of a lineman in the history of the NFL. Tonight, he has been awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Social Science. And today he announced his new plans to go to Notre Dame Law School in the Fall. Ladies and gentlemen, please give a big round of applause to a living legend, Mr. Maxwell Bentley!"

The crowd gives Max a standing ovation as he smiles big. He looks in the corner and sees Coach Davis standing and clapping as loud as he can.

He gives Max a "thumbs up."

Max smiles big as he holds up his "now famous" flashlight keychain.

He waits until the crowd settles as he opens the briefcase.

He looks at the crowd with deep love in his eyes. "I thought long and hard about what I wanted to say to you all today. First, I want to thank God and this great University that gave me so much. I want to thank my dear parents Al and Beatrice and all my brothers Al and sisters Nancy, Beatrice, Diane, and Beth...my beautiful wife Carrie and those here in this celebration of the Spartan family. I want to thank Coach Davis, my teammates, and the football program for putting up with me. But most of all I want to talk about a Coach named Duffy Daugherty and an equipment Manager, Bee Beasley... and especially I want to talk about this pack of messy papers called "the PLAYBOOK."

The crowd started clapping again. It quickly turns into another standing ovation.

He points to Big Ben, who is also in the front row, and mouths the words, "You started all this!"

Ben returns a 30-yard fist bump. Max does the same.

He looks at Coach D again.

He is still standing and joyfully clapping.

The legendary coach slowly shakes his head "yes" and mouths the words "choose both!"