

GERRIE

While this motion picture is based on the life story of Gerrie Coetzee, certain names have been changed to protect identities, certain characters composited and certain incidents fictionalised or adapted.

1. INT. HOSPITAL ROOM DAY

Title: JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL, SOUTH AFRICA. 17 AUGUST 1976.

Young GERRIE COETZEE (21 years old) waiting in bed, prepped for operation. Tense, tries to appear cool, both hands hidden beneath sheet. His father FLIP and mother MEISIE enter. FLIP hides his concern macho style, MEISIE lovingly shows hers, overdoing cuddles and kissing while not touching his hands.

GERRIE
(uncomfortable but subtle)
Ma.

FLIP
For fuck's sake, Meisie.

MEISIE
(sadly to God)
Dear Lord, you promised he was
going to be a good husband. What
happened?

GERRIE
(gently)
I'm orright, Ma.

MEISIE
What's wrong with you? You'll be
orright when you stop listening to
your father. You're killing
yourself.

FLIP
What bought you the new TV? Money
from heaven?

GERRIE fed-up with the bickering, just closes his eyes.

2. INT. OPERATING THEATER DAY

GERRIE opens his eyes again. On operating table now. Bandaged right hand on side table. SURGEON starts cutting off bandage as ANAESTHETIST prepares to knock out the patient.

SURGEON
 (weak joke)
 This where you carry the concealed
 weapon?

GERRIE smiles quietly.

ANAESTHETIST
 (hasn't seen the hand open
 yet)
 I'm from Boksburg, whole bleddy
 town watched the fight, doc knows
 we want the Bomber fixed up right,
 back in action.

SURGEON
 (he's seen the hand
 before, still cutting
 open the bandage)
 Well, with a bit of luck the Bomber
 could still make world champion.

GERRIE just smiles. The cutting stops: The twisted, broken
 right hand lies revealed. ANAESTHETIST gives SURGEON a
 shocked look. GERRIE picks up on this.

GERRIE
 (quietly)
 We should make that a lot of luck.

SURGEON nods to ANAESTHETIST: It's time.

ANAESTHETIST
 (covers, gives GERRIE the
 gas mask)
 Orright, here we go. For you we
 don't count backward, we do it
 knock-out style: One, two, three,
 four...and out.

Close up: GERRIE going under. Music up: "Thula Baba", a soft
 heart-breaking choir version.

3. INT. COETZEE BOXING GYM DAY

Main titles under "Thula Baba".

Young GERRIE skips. Hits the pear ball. Does push-ups. Spars
 in the ring against WHITE BOXER 1 while FLIP and his brother
 FIELIE watch intently. GERRIE is knocked down. FLIP furiously
 screams at him, FIELIE jokingly tries to placate FLIP. GERRIE
 just smiles gently.