

(A)FORREST GUMP, BY W. GROOM
CHAPTER 1

LET ME SAY THIS: TO BE AN IDIOT IS NOT BOX OF CHOCOLATES.
People laugh. They should be kind to idiots. But I live an interesting life.

I was born an idiot. My IQ is near 70. But I'm smarter than people think.
I can think things OK. But when I say them or write them they are not OK.

Some days ago, the man said to me, "Forrest, do you want to get some money?" I
said, "Yes." It was hot. I worked with dirt¹. He gave me a dollar.

I was angry. I took the dollar and said "thanks". I felt like an idiot.

When I was born, my mom named me Forrest. It is because of General Nathan
Bedford Forrest. He was a great man; he started up the Ku Klux Klan. That is my name.

My mom is a good person. Everybody says that.

My daddy died when I was born. He worked on the ships. One day a big box of
bananas fell down on my daddy and killed him.

I don't like bananas. Only banana pudding. I like it.

When I was little, my mom talked to me a lot. She let me play with everybody.
But then some boys hit me, and my Mom didn't want me to play with them again. I
played with the girls. They ran away from me.

Mom sent me to a usual school. In a year the school sent me back. I didn't listen
to the teacher, looked at the birds or shouted.²

But the next year I was in another school, it was strange. The kids couldn't eat or
go to the toilet without help. I stayed in that school for five or six years. It wasn't so bad.

When I was sixteen I was very big and tall.

My life changed. One day a car stopped near me. The man asked my name. I told
him. He asked about school and football. I didn't play football.

Three days later, they came took me from my school.

The man in the car took me and Mom to the new high school. There, an old man
asked me lots of questions. They really wanted me to play football. The man in the car
was a football coach³, Fellers.

¹ Dirt – грязь, земля, грунт

² To shout - кричать

I started to play football.

I didn't know how to play.

I went to class. One lady taught me how to read. She was really nice and pretty. Miss Henderson was her name.

In other class there was Jenny Curran. She told me that she remembers me from my first class. She was older now, with pretty black hair, long legs. She had a beautiful face.

Coach Fellers was not happy with my football.

One day changed my life. In the cafeteria I sat next to Jenny Curran. And one guy took some milk and poured⁴ on me. I jumped up and ran out.

Next afternoon, I met this guy and his friends. I was scared⁵. They said: "You're stupid". He hit me. I cried. And I ran. I ran as fast as I could. Coach Fellers saw it.

That afternoon at the football practice, they gave me the ball. They wanted me to run. They all ran after me. I run fast as I can. Coach Fellers was very happy.

I became popular after that. My team was nicer to me. We had our first game and I was scared. They gave me the ball and I ran over the goal line two or three times.

I read better with Miss Henderson. I took books home and read them. I didn't do the tests well. But I liked books.

I sat next to Jenny Curran in the cafeteria again. I didn't have problems. But in spring I met that guy again. He called me "stupid" again. Jenny Curran saw it. That guy hit me and I hit him on the head.

That night the guy's parents called my mum. I told her everything. She understood me, but she was worried⁶.

After that I started playing football better.

That year we became the best football team. My mum gave me two pairs of socks and a new shirt on my birthday. And she bought me a new suit⁷. I wore it to get the All State Football award⁸. First suit in my life.

³ A coach - тренер

⁴ To pour – лить, наливать

⁵ Scared - испуганный

⁶ Worried – взволнованный, обеспокоенный

⁷ A suit - костюм

⁸ An award - награда