

100%

**PILOT
"B.E.E.F."**

by

JOE THERRIEN KELLY

joetherrienkelly@gmail.com

This pilot comes with a **PLAYLIST** (linked here)

You don't have to listen to it, it's just for fun.

ACT 1: **BALANCE**

INT. A YMCA BASKETBALL COURT.

A completely average person looks directly into the camera. They could be anywhere from mid-twenties to mid-thirties. They could be anybody. They could be me. They could be you.

You're holding a basketball.

SUPER: JUNE 10th, 2017. Twelve days before the NBA draft.

YOU

Hi. I'm doing this live stream to prove to any owners that I'm legit and am officially declaring myself eligible for the 2017 NBA draft. I sent an email to info@nba.com but haven't heard back.

YA BOI

(from behind camera)
How long are we gonna be doing this-

YOU

Till we go viral, I don't know. To prove this is really live I'm going to be responding to your comments and playing this live news stream here.

You pull an old T.V. cart into frame.

REPORTER

Trump said Friday he is "100 percent" willing to testify under oath to contradict portions of former FBI Director James Comey's Senate testimony-

YOU

Okay, yeah Comey testimony here-

You turn around and walk to the three point line. There are about a dozen mesh sacks of basketballs scattered around.

YOU (CONT'D)

Here we go.

You shoot without jumping. *Swish.*

YA BOI
Ah! Bro? What the hell?

YOU
What do the comments say?

YA BOI
Uh, your cousin said "what's up"

YOU
What's up cuz.

You pick up another ball and shoot it. *Swish.*

YA BOI
Whoa-

YOU
Keep going.

YA BOI
Uh- your mom asked where we are-

YOU
We're at the YMCA.

Swish... swish, swish, swish, swish-

100K by Antwon swells while we watch you make shot after shot.

INT. "FIRST TAKE" STUDIO.

STEPHEN A. SMITH and MAX KELLERMAN share a split screen.
They're both screaming.

STEPHEN A. SMITH
LET ME VERY, VERY, CLEAR. YOU CAN'T
BE AN ALL STAR IF YOU RECORDED 0
REBOUNDS ALL YEAR. YOU CAN'T BE AN
ALL STAR IF YOU RECORDED 0 ASSISTS
ALL YEAR. YOU CAN'T BE AN ALL STAR
IF YOU'VE NEVER HAD A STEAL OR A
BLOCK. YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IN THE
NBA.

MAX KELLERMAN

BUT STEPHEN A.- HE HASN'T MISSED A SINGLE SHOT ALL SEASON, AND IF HIS TEAM MATES AND LEAGUE PERSONNEL ARE TO BE BELIEVED, HE HASN'T MISSED A SHOT IN PRACTICE.

STEPHEN A. SMITH

YEAH WELL... FUCK 'EM.

INT. YOUR APARTMENT.

Your AGENT mutes the T.V.

You watch Stephen A. and Max Kellerman's mouths flap in silence. You don't need to hear them to know what they're saying about you.

AGENT

You know how much money you've made ESPN since the summer? We should be getting royalties.

SUPER: February 16th, 2018. Two days before the NBA All-Star Game.

YOU

They're roasting me

You're sitting on the couch with YA BOI. You look the same as before the draft- except now you're wearing a white NBA sweatband, like AI, which is fitting, cause you're talking about practice.

YA BOI

You should be at practice.

YOU

I'm not going to practice.

YA BOI

What?

YOU

It's not even the real All-Star practice.

YA BOI

You need every type of practice you can get bro.

AGENT

We're doing a spot for the
California Bread Advisory Board.

YOU

I'm gonna be the new face of bread.

YA BOI

Stephen A. and all those dudes are
saying that same shit every night.
I know it pisses you off.

YOU

Yeah.

YA BOI

So what're we talking about?

Your agent wraps his arm around your shoulders. Everyone
seems to want to touch you lately.

AGENT

You don't need to practice. You
don't need to rebound. You don't
need to steal, or block, or
dribble. You don't even need to
fucking jump.

YOU

I dribble. I've dribbled.

YA BOI

Bro. Listen to me. I'm ya boi.

You stand up and give ya boi a dap. It's obvious that it's a
"see ya later" dap and not a "you right" dap.

YOU

I'll hit the gym tonight bro. I
promise.

AGENT

Let's get that shmoney!

INT. YOUR OLD APARTMENT.

You're sitting on your laptop staring at a BuzzFeed article.
No sweatband, so we know this is the past.

"This Guy Makes 806 Three-Pointers In A Row, What Happens
Next Will Give You Chills"

You refresh the page. The top comment is still just: "Fake."

SUPER: JUNE 11th, 2017. Eleven days before the NBA draft.

YOU
What do I gotta do?

GIRLFRIEND
(off)
Honey? Guess what!?

YOU
What?

Your GIRLFRIEND enters. She's excited.

GIRLFRIEND
I GOT INTO MED SCHOOL! USC!

YOU
Oh shit- The Trojans. They're gonna
be nasty this year.

GIRLFRIEND
What're you doing? Let's celebrate!

YOU
This is perfect. The Lakers have
the second pick- so I might be
staying in LA anyway.

GIRLFRIEND
What?

YOU
The draft.

GIRLFRIEND
The draft? What about the draft?

YOU
What do you mean? You saw that live
stream I did right?

GIRLFRIEND
I was at work.

YOU
I can't miss.

GIRLFRIEND
What're you talking about?

YOU
Basketball. I can't miss. Every
shot I take goes in.

GIRLFRIEND
I've seen you play basketball. You
can miss.

YOU
Not anymore.

GIRLFRIEND
What are you even talking about?

YOU
I can't say. Or else- just trust
me. I'm going to get drafted.

GIRLFRIEND
You need a job.

YOU
First pick makes, like, 15 mil.

GIRLFRIEND
You're too old to be drafted.

YOU
What?

GIRLFRIEND
You're only eligible the first year
out of school.

YOU
No... what?

GIRLFRIEND
You need to get serious. I'm trying
to- to build something here.

YOU
Ineligible...

GIRLFRIEND
I'm sorry.

You shut your laptop.

INT. BREAD COMMERCIAL SET

SUPER: February 16th, 2018. Two days before the NBA All-Star

Game.

A woman does your make up while a man dressed as a GIANT PIECE OF BREAD reviews his sides next to you. You've got your sweatband on. You're always wearing your sweatband in the 2018 scenes. It'll help orientate the audience.

The director approaches. A weasely looking guy.

DIRECTOR

Alright fellas. So this is gonna be an easy shoot. We're selling bread here. *Even Better Toasted*. That's the slogan.

YOU

Where do you want me shooting from?

DIRECTOR

Oh you're not shooting. You're gonna be playing D on Kyrie.

KYRIE IRVING enters, holding a basketball.

YOU

What?

DIRECTOR

Yeah. And he toasts you. Then he's gonna pass it to the bread and the bread's gonna dunk. Then Armie Hammer's voice comes in- "Bread... Even Better Toasted."

YOU

Why isn't the bread playing defense?

DIRECTOR

The California Bread Advisory Board doesn't want the bread to be depicted negatively. He has to be the hero.

You look to your agent. He just rubs his fingers together like: "\$\$\$"

YOU

Fine.

CUT TO:

Kyrie is bringing up the ball.

KYRIE IRVING

I've got some theories about you.

YOU

I bet you do. You sure that balls
got enough air? Not too flat?

*Hesi step, crossover, bounce-pass through your legs to the
giant piece of bread-* the GPOB drops the hammer and dangles
from the rim.

YOU (CONT'D)

*&%#

DIRECTOR

Let's get another one.

Kyrie checks the ball with you.

KYRIE IRVING

You're about to witness the
strength of a plant based diet.

YOU

Is it true you play the saxophone?

KYRIE IRVING

Call me Stan Getz buckets-

Kyrie is absolutely slimey with the ball- you try to keep up
but you're only a man. You trip over yourself and fall
awkwardly onto your shooting hand.

KYRIE IRVING (CONT'D)

Why did you even come out to LA
man? You're an All-Star?

YOU

I just jacked up my wrist bro.

GIANT PIECE OF BREAD

You sure it's not your ankles?

YOU

I'm done. I need to have this
looked at.

You storm off the set.

LOOK AT WRISTS by FATHER, ILOVEMAKONNEN, and KEY as we cut
to-

EXT. STEETBALL COURT.

SUPER: JUNE 18th, 2017. Five days before the NBA draft. Not like that matters. You're ineligible.

You're wearing flip-flops and jeans- shooting under the lights.

Swish. Swish.

Your girlfriend is standing under the net and tossing the ball back to you.

GIRLFRIEND

...How did you learn to shoot like this?

Your phone rings.

YOU

Hello?

DOC RIVERS

Is this you?

YOU

It's me.

DOC RIVERS

Doc Rivers here. We saw that video you posted and we're interested.

You turn and throw the ball away over your head. *Swish.*

YOU

I don't know if whoever runs the info@nba.com account got in touch with you but I sent a follow up email apologizing for wasting your time. I'm not eligible.

DOC RIVERS

The draft? You're a free agent. You can sign anywhere. Can you come by tomorrow?

YOU

Are you serious? Yes. Absolutely.

DOC RIVERS

Great, we'll send you the details.

Doc hangs up.

YOU

That was the Clippers. I'm a free agent! I can sign anywhere! They want to meet with me!

GIRLFRIEND

What about the cracker factory?

YOU

Babe- it's the Clippers. The NBA. With the money they'll offer me I'll buy the cracker factory.

GIRLFRIEND

I just don't want you to get your hopes up again.

YOU

Plus they're an LA team.

GIRLFRIEND

That's true.

YOU

I love you.

GIRLFRIEND

I love you too.

You kiss under a giant banner advertising the CHEESE-NIPS STREET-BALL TOURNEY SPONSORED BY CHEESE-NIPS.

ACT 2: EYES

INT. USC MEDICAL CENTER.

SUPER: February 16th, 2018. Two days before the NBA All-Star Game.

You walk up to the front desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh my god aren't you-

YOU

Yes. I hurt my wrist. I'm looking for my girlfriend.

EX

Ex-girlfriend.

The girl you were just kissing under the Cheese-Nips sign back in June is now your EX. She's wearing maroon scrubs and has a backpack slung over her shoulder.

YOU

Hey.

EX

Nice headband.

YOU

I'm in town for the All-Star game.

EX

I was just leaving. I have class.

A small crowd has begun to gather around you. *"Is it really him?" "He's not even tall." "He smells like bread"*

YOU

Can we talk?

EX

About what?

You want to scream, YOU! ME! US! EVERYTHING! ANYTHING! I MISS YOU!... you look at the growing crowd staring at you.

YOU

I hurt my wrist. My shooting wrist.

EX

So? I think we both know that won't matter. Shoot lefty.

YOU

Babe-

EX

Don't.

DIAMONDS by DANGER INCORPORATED

She pushes her way through the crowd.

A pen and paper is forced into your hand. You sign autographs. Your wrist is, and has always been, fine. You watch her go.

INT. CRACKER FACTORY OFFICE.

SUPER: JUNE 19th, 2017. Who cares about the NBA draft? You're a free agent!

You storm into your girlfriends dad's office. She's still your girlfriend at this point, and her dad is the manager of this cracker factory.

GIRLFRIEND'S DAD/YOUR BOSS
Hey! How's my favorite almost-son-
in-law?

YOU
I'm great.

GIRLFRIEND'S DAD/YOUR BOSS
Great.

YOU
I quit.

GIRLFRIEND'S DAD/YOUR EX-BOSS
What?

YOU
I'm going to the NBA. I'm a free
agent.

GIRLFRIEND'S DAD/YOUR EX-BOSS
Is this some sort of April Fools
prank?

YOU
It's June.

GIRLFRIEND'S DAD/YOUR EX-BOSS
I see.

YOU
I'm going to the Clippers. I'm
going to play with Blake Griffin
and Chris Paul. The three of us are
going to bring years of Clippers
glory! We're gonna be California's
team again. Lob City baby!*

*This scene takes place on June 19th 2017.

GIRLFRIEND'S DAD/YOUR EX-BOSS
Son, the Clipper's were never
California's team.

YOU
You can take this cracker factory
job and you can stick it way, way,
WAY up your ass. All the way in.
Don't spill a crumb. I'm going to
the NBA!

GIRLFRIEND'S DAD/YOUR BOSS
You ungrateful little-

ON THE BEAT by The B.B. & Q BAND as we cut to:

INT. STAPLES CENTER.

SUPER: February 17th, 2018. NBA All-Star Practice.

You're on Team Steph (why did they call it Team Stephen?)

The whole team is shooting around with some media people.

You stand with DAMIAN LILLARD, KLAY THOMPSON, and KYLE LOWRY.

KYLE LOWRY
So how do you do it?

KLAY THOMPSON
I heard you sold your soul to the
devil, like Faust.

DAMIAN LILLARD
Klay, man... you're such a herb.

YOU
I didn't sell my soul.

Swish.

DAMIAN LILLARD
Where'd you play your college ball?

You try to dribble through your legs but the ball bounces off
your foot.

KYLE LOWRY
You got people out here going
stupid, trying to mimic what ever
mythical shit you're on.

KLAY THOMPSON
You seen LeBron's shoes? He got 'em
from a Malaysian Bobohizan. They're
imbued with spirits.

You retrieve your fumbled ball and shoot it. *Swish.*

DAMIAN LILLARD
Too bad all you do is shoot.

YOU
You mean score. All I do is score.

Swish.

On the other side of the court STEPH CURRY is staring at you. He's squeezing a basketball, as if trying to pop it. Frustrated, he hands it to DRAYMOND GREEN, who pops it for him and hands the deflated ball back. They don't like you.

CALL TICKETRON by RUN THE JEWELS as we smash cut to:

EXT. A RUN DOWN L.A. HIGHSCHOOL. DAY.

SUPER: JUNE 19th, 2017. TWO HOURS AFTER YOU TOLD YOUR BOSS (AND GIRLFRIEND'S DAD) TO STICK HIS CRACKER FACTORY JOB WAY, WAY, WAY UP HIS ASS.

YOU (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I thought you guys played at the
Staples Center?

INT. THAT HIGH SCHOOL'S GYM.

You stand with Doc Rivers and STEVE BALLMER on one half of the court. On the other half, a high-school gym class is playing dodge-ball.

DOC RIVERS
The Sparks have a game right now.

YOU
I see. So... should I just start?

STEVE BALLMER
Wait.

Doc and Steve are both staring at the far end of the gym. You look too...

Finally, J.J. REDICK enters with a small posse.

STEVE BALLMER (CONT'D)
J.J., glad you could make it.

A high-schooler spits on J.J. as he passes.

HIGHSCHOOLER
You suck J.J.!

J.J. REDICK
So this is the guy?

YOU
Wow! J.J. Redick! I'm a huge fan.

DOC RIVERS
Do your thing kid.

You start to shoot. *Swish. Swish. Swish. Swish.*

J.J. REDICK
So he can shoot.

STEVE BALLMER
He does more than shoot. He can't
miss-

J.J. grabs the ball- then checks it with you and takes a
defensive position.

YOU
Ok-

-He's on you immediately. You hold the ball behind your back
and hook it over your head from behind. *Swish.* He gets the
ball and hands it to you.

J.J. REDICK
Make it take it

YOU
Big mistake-

You start to dribble. "Big mistake." He charges at you and
smacks the ball out of your hands. Doc catches it and throws
it back to you.

You check it with J.J., who fakes right and goes left,
leaving you on the floor.

The high-schoolers all laugh at you.

J.J. REDICK
Pro-tip: When you're trying to
scare someone into taking less
money, bring someone scary.

J.J. and his posse exit, with Ballmer chasing after them.

STEVE BALLMER
J.J. wait!

You're on the ground watching them go. Doc Rivers just looks
at you.

DOC RIVERS
Nice hook.

YOU

You just brought me here as a bargaining chip?

DOC RIVERS

The fuck you think this is? Like Mike?

ACT 3: **ELBOW**

INT. YOUR OLD APARTMENT.

SUPER: JUNE 19TH, 2017. TWO HOURS AFTER YOU GOT COMPLETELY PLAYED BY THE CLIPPERS ORGANIZATION.

You're lying in your bed, wearing huge headphones, and staring at the ceiling.

You're listening to ***DUST IN THE WIND by KANSAS***.

You're crying.

Your girlfriend enters.

GIRLFRIEND

Are you listening to Dust in the Wind?

You pause the music and take the headphones off.

YOU

No. It's 21 Savage.

GIRLFRIEND

Honey, I'm sorry the dream you've had for one week didn't work out.

YOU

They did me dirty. I feel like Anthony Bennett.

GIRLFRIEND

Anthony Bennett?

YOU

The Cavs first pick in 2013. They barely gave him any minutes and gave up on him after one year.

GIRLFRIEND

I know who Anthony Bennett is.

YOU

Yeah, you're dating him.

GIRLFRIEND

My dad told me he'd give you another chance at the cracker factory.

YOU

I can't go back there.

GIRLFRIEND

Have you thought about trying to teach again?

You turn away from her and curl up into a ball in your bed.

YOU

I close my eyes, only for a moment and the moments gone.

GIRLFRIEND

There's an opening to teach phys ed at the high school. I filled out this application for you and scheduled an interview for Thursday.

You close your eyes: in a FLASH you see the high schoolers laughing at you get blended by J.J. Redick.

Your girlfriend places the application on your bed.

GIRLFRIEND (CONT'D)

It would mean a lot to me if you went.

YOU

Fine.

She walks out of the room. When she's gone you crumple up the application and throw it into the trash on the other side of the room.

Swish.

COCKY by 21 SAVAGE, A\$AP ROCKY, GUCCI MANE as we cut to:

INT. STAPLES CENTER.

SUPER: February 18th, 2018. NBA All-Star Game.

You're warming up, even though you don't need to. DRAYMOND GREEN walks up behind you.

DRAYMOND GREEN

BOO!

YOU

Jesus- you scared me bro.

DRAYMOND GREEN

Nervous?

YOU

I feel pretty good.

Swish.

DRAYMOND GREEN

I would be nervous.

YOU

Yeah, well, I'm not you.

STEPH CURRY shimmys over.

STEPH CURRY

(to the theme of *Audition [The Fools Who Dream]* from *La La Land*)
Here's to the Draymond Green!

DRAYMOND GREEN

Hey Steph.

STEPH CURRY

That's Mr. Curry you punk ass.

DRAYMOND GREEN

Yes sir.

STEPH CURRY

What's up sharp shooter?

YOU

Just getting loose.

STEPH CURRY

Bet.

Steph chews on his mouth guard while he stares at you.

The lights in the arena dim.

ANNOUNCER

And now to perform the new national anthem, acclaimed singer, songwriter, and viral star, from Harrisburg, Illinois, Mason Ramsey!

An EDM beat pulsates around the arena as the Yodeling Walmart boy steps up to the mic and starts belting out the country's new national anthem.

Across the court you spot LEBRON JAMES. He's wearing wooden sandals with delicately embroidered silk straps. Next to him stands the BOBOHIZAN, an ancient looking Malaysian woman dressed in ornate ritualistic garb.

The song ends, and the crowd goes wild.

MASON RAMSEY

Yee Haw! LET'S HOOP BOYS!

A WHISTLE blows, we cut to the first quarter:

Steph dribbles down court. You stand in the corner with RUSSELL WESTBROOK and ANTHONY DAVIS double-teaming you.

The rest of your team essentially plays 4 on 3. Steph is easily able to get the ball to a wide open KEVIN DURANT and the Slim Reaper slams it home. (Remember when he wanted people to call him "The Servant?")

Russ gets the ball and in-bounds to Kyrie. Everyone starts to jog up-court, leaving you standing wide open in the corner.

LEBRON JAMES

STAY ON HIM!

LeBron's wooden sandals clack loudly as he runs off down the floor.

Davis reluctantly stays back with you.

ANTHONY DAVIS

This is so fucking stupid.

YOU

So with the unibrow, is it just one of those things where you started getting all this national attention at Kentucky with it, so then you couldn't just shave it cause everyone would be like, "yo"

ANTHONY DAVIS

It'd be like when Jason Alexander started wearing a toupee and everyone was like "Bro, you're George fucking Costanza."

YOU

So true.

On the other end of the court, Russ misses a jumper and GIANNIS ANTETOKOUNMPO grabs the board. You take off towards half-court, creating a split second of free space between you and Davis.

It's all you need.

Giannis throws the ball to you and you catch it and flick it backwards over your head before Davis can get on you.

Swish.

LEBRON JAMES

Damn it Anthony! Ya' bum!

Ya Boi cheers from court side. He's sitting next to CHADWICK BOSEMAN and MICHAEL B. JORDAN.

Chadwick flashes you the "Wakanda Forever."

You're feeling good.

Across the court you see Steph telling Giannis something. Giannis is apologizing.

You're suddenly not feeling so good.

INT. YOUR OLD APARTMENT.

SUPER: JUNE 22ND, 2017. THE NBA DRAFT.

"The NBA Draft" is crossed out and replaced by:

YOUR INTERVIEW TO TEACH GYM.

That stays for a moment, then:

SHE TOTALLY DID THIS ON PURPOSE.

You're wearing a suit and watching the draft on T.V.

ADAM SILVER

With the first pick of the 2017 NBA Draft, the Philadelphia 76ers select: Markelle Fultz, from the University of Washington.

You watch Fultz thank god and walk up to the stage. Your girlfriend walks in.

GIRLFRIEND

I'm really proud of you for doing this.

YOU

Fultz sucks.

GIRLFRIEND

Do you have everything you need?

YOU

Yeah.

You pat the briefcase on your lap.

GIRLFRIEND

Wanna review any interview questions? If you were a fruit, what kind of fruit would you be?

YOU

An orange. What you see is what you get.

GIRLFRIEND

You're supposed to say grape cause you're a team player.

YOU

I'm gonna be fine.

GIRLFRIEND

I love you.

YOU

I love you too.

She gives you a kiss on the cheek.

INT. YOUR OLD CAR.

You get in and look at your girlfriend in the window. Then at your open briefcase. Inside are shorts, a tee-shirt, and squished pair of Air Jordan Retro Grape 5s.

You're not going to the interview.

EXT. STEETBALL COURT. LATE DAY.

The same street-ball court where you got the Clippers call, except now there's a considerable crowd gathered around.

It's the CHEESE-NIPS STREET-BALL TOURNEY SPONSORED BY CHEESE-NIPS.

You've changed into your ball clothes and walk towards the sign-up table.

TOURNEY REP

Hello.

YOU

Hey I wanna sign up.

TOURNEY REP

Sure there's a few slots left. It's 21, 1s and 2s.

YOU

This'll be quick. Are there any scouts here?

TOURNEY REP

I wouldn't be surprised if a few showed up.

YOU

Good.

CUT TO:

EXT. STEETBALL COURT. DUSK.

You're on a team with a bunch of random street-ballers wearing red CHEESE-NIP pinnies, against some other dudes wearing blue CHEESE-NIPS pinnies.

The dude on your team wins the tip- you grab the ball and shoot immediately.

Swish.

BLUE PLAYER

Lucky shot.

You get back on defense and cling desperately to your player. He doesn't get the ball but someone else lays it in.

You call for the inbound and shoot immediately. *Swish*. The crowd goes wild.

An old bald guy watches with piqued interest from the stands.

CUT TO:

EXT. STEETBALL COURT. NIGHT.

You're holding the Cheese-Nips trophy. Players from all teams are gathered around you taking pictures and asking if you're the guy from that video. The interested old bald dude pushes through and shakes your hand.

INTERESTED OLD BALD GUY

Hey there. My name is Rod Baker.
I'm a scout for the 76ers. That was
amazing.

YOU

Shouldn't you be at the draft?

ROD BAKER (INTERESTED OLD BALD GUY)

And miss the Cheese-Nips Streetball
Tourny sponsored by Cheese-Nips? No
way in hell.

YOU

Fair enough.

Your phone rings. It's your girlfriend.

ROD BAKER

I wanna fly you out to Phily and
give you a work out. You
interested?

YOU

Phily?

It's still ringing. You haven't picked up. You know she's gonna ask about the interview. About why you've been gone so long.

ROD BAKER

We can set you up on a flight
tomorrow.

YOU

Yeah. It would be an honor.

Your phone keeps ringing as you shake hands.

CELL BOOMIN by MAXO KREAM and FATHER

INT. STAPLES CENTER

SUPER: February 18th, 2018. NBA All-Star Game. Half-time.

You storm into the locker room and throw your Gatorade against the wall.

YOU

What the hell was that? I got one
look the whole half! Which I
scored, by the way-

Your team is silent. They won't even look at you.

YOU (CONT'D)

Joel? Coach?

Mike D'Antoni lifts his head, he moves to speak but stops when Steph walks in, doing a slow clap. His towel is draped over his head like a Star Wars villain.

STEPH CURRY

Great half boys. Great half.

YOU

Yo bro, whats your problem?

STEPH CURRY

What's my problem? What's YOUR
problem? Upset we won't just sit
back and let you run up the score
while we do all the work?

YOU

What're you talking about?

GIANNIS ANTEOKOUNMPO

You didn't play a single defensive
possession.

YOU

This is the All-Star game! No one
plays defense-

STEPH CURRY

We don't know you. We don't trust
you. We don't like you.

YOU

I'm shooting at 100%! You're just
gonna not pass to your best player?

The team all start objecting.

STEPH CURRY

Hear that? He thinks he's the best player?

YOU

No, listen-

STEPH CURRY

I just talked to LeBron. I told him not to worry about covering you down in the wing, cause we're not passing to you anymore.

YOU

This is ridiculous.

STEPH CURRY

If you wanna play, you have to play D. And we're gonna expose your bitch ass.

YOU

What? Mike- you hearing this?

MIKE D'ANTONI

It's a team sport...

STEPH CURRY

I don't know how you got so good at shooting. But I know it wasn't hard work. You don't belong here, and we're gonna show the world.

***SIMON SAYS by PHAROAH MONCH*.**

ACT 4: FOLLOW THROUGH

INT. WELLS FARGO CENTER, VIP BOX.

SUPER: JUNE 23RD, 2017. WELLS FARGO CENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

You sit at a big table with Rod Baker and most of the 76ers front office. Head coach BRETT BROWN, President of Basketball Operations BRYAN COLANGELO, etc.

BRETT BROWN

We think you belong here in Philly.

BRYAN COLANGELO

With Markelle joining us, and Ben finally ready to play- we believe the time has finally come to finish... The Process.

ALL (EXCEPT YOU)

The Process.

YOU

This is all very exciting- but I don't even have an agent.

AGENT

Yo.

You hadn't even noticed the greasy dude next to you.

BRYAN COLANGELO

Don't worry about that- we've provided one for you. We'll help you secure everything you need here in Philadelphia. Everything.

YOU

I see. So what're we talking?

BRYAN COLANGELO

\$543,471 for one year. It's the minimum salary for players with no Prior NBA experience.

AGENT

It's the best I could get- they won't budge.

YOU

Don't you work for them?

ROD BAKER

Look kid, no one's looking at you. All you can do is shoot. Luckily we need a shooter.

BRETT BROWN

We were close to a deal with J.J. Redick when Rod found you, but if we can sign you for-

YOU

You want me over Redick?

BRETT BROWN

Yeah. The idea is, we sign you for one year and if you're the real-

YOU

I'm in.

BRYAN COLANGELO

You're in?

YOU

Where do I sign?

Your agent slides a contract over to you. You sign it.

AGENT

We're gonna make a lot of money together, bro.

BRETT BROWN

The fans are gonna love you.

INT. STAPLES CENTER.

SUPER: February 18th, 2018. NBA All-Star Game. Second Half.

"BOOOOO!!!!"

You're standing in the corner- but no ones covering you. Team Steph is down on the other side of the court getting dominated 5 on 4.

The crowd isn't having it. "Take him out!" "Play some defense you jabroni!" "Bread boy!"

You look back at Ya Boi. He's giving you a thumbs up. You look at Chadwick Boseman and flash him the "Wakanda Forever." He shakes his head and looks away.

KD fouls Kyrie on a wide-open lay-up, he goes to the line for two.

You jog over to the sideline.

MIKE D'ANTONI

Had enough kid?

YOU

Take me out. This is humiliating.

MIKE D'ANTONI

Dame, you're in.

Damian Lillard checks in as you plop down on the bench next to AL HORFORD.

YOU
This is bullshit.

AL HORFORD
Why don't you try?

YOU
What?

AL HORFORD
Why don't you even try playing defense?

YOU
Because I can't. I'm gonna get destroyed.

AL HORFORD
But you want the respect of your team mates?

YOU
I love basketball. I love the NBA. It's been my dream to be here since I was little- but now that I'm here... it's like a monkey's paw or something. I'm an All-Star but all my heroes think I'm an imposter.

AL HORFORD
In the DR we have an expression "El que quiere moños bonitos tiene que aguitar halones"

YOU
What?

AL HORFORD
It means, like, if you want a pretty ponytail, you have to pull it.

YOU
Dude... what?

AL HORFORD
You're an amazing shooter. Best I've ever seen- best anyone's ever seen- but that's not enough.
(MORE)

AL HORFORD (CONT'D)

In the end, the most talented person will always lose out to the person who works harder.

YOU

Damn.

AL HORFORD

Your talent got you here. But your hard work will keep you here. You can't take anything in this life for granted, or you'll lose it.

INT. YOUR OLD APARTMENT.

SUPER: **JUNE 24TH, 2017.**

You walks into your apartment with the briefcase you left with two days ago, wearing a bunch of 76ers gear.

YOU

Honey?

Your girlfriend is sitting at the kitchen table, she's got an orange NIKE SHOEBOX on her lap, but you don't notice.

GIRLFRIEND

How was Philadelphia?

YOU

It was amazing. I wanted to wait to tell you in person but... I'm a 76er.

GIRLFRIEND

Congratulations.

YOU

You don't seem excited.

GIRLFRIEND

You don't want to work at my dad's cracker factory? Fine. Whatever. But after I set up that interview for you, for you to just completely blow it off-

YOU

Babe- You're saying you'd prefer for me to be a *gym* teacher? I just signed with a real NBA team-

GIRLFRIEND
In Philadelphia!

YOU
So what? You don't trust the
process?

GIRLFRIEND
I just got into med school here.
Our whole life is here! I've been
working my ass off to get into USC-
all the while I've been carrying
your lazy ass along with me. I cook
for you, I clean up after you, I
take care of you. I got us this
apartment, I got you a job- all so
we could be together here. I've
given everything I have to you!

YOU
Hold on- just take a breath.

Your girlfriend stands up and dumps out the contents of the
shoe-box...

A gold, ancient looking **OIL LAMP** clanks down onto the table.

You're silent.

GIRLFRIEND
You've never worked for anything a
day in your life.

YOU
How did you-

GIRLFRIEND
You know what we could have done
with this? Together?

YOU
I can explain-

GIRLFRIEND
Don't. I'm done doing all the work.
I'm done being taken for granted.
I'm done.

She gets up and walks to the door.

YOU
Wait, please.

She stops-

EX

The Cavs didn't give up on Anthony Bennett. He just sucked.

She walks out.

You're alone with the lamp.

You can fix this. With just a little rub and the right words...

No. You've already used one. You can win her back with out it. You use a hand-towel from the kitchen to carefully pick up the lamp and place it back in the shoebox.

You pull out a white NBA headband from the swag-bag the 76ers gave you and put it on.

STREETS OF PHILADELPHIA by BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

INT. STAPLES CENTER

SUPER: February 18th, 2018. NBA All-Star Game. Fourth Quarter.

TEAM LEBRON: 143 TEAM STEPH: 142

A whistle blows: Time out Team LeBron.

You walk up to D'Antoni in the huddle.

YOU

Put me in. This is too close. I'm only making like 500k this year. That 100k prize is actually pretty enticing to me.

STEPH CURRY

If you want in you have to d up.

YOU

I'll do it, but you gotta let me shoot as well so we can win this thing.

STEPH CURRY

Fine.

MIKE D'ANTONI

Excuse me, but I'm the coach of this team-

STEPH CURRY

Don't you dare open your mouth to
speak to me, Mike.

YOU

Who do you want me on?

STEPH CURRY

LeBron.

YOU

Oh Stephen, you a messy little
bitch.

STEPH CURRY

Let's see what you got sharp
shooter.

You take the court with Steph, JAMES HARDEN, KD and Al.

Al gives you an encouraging nod.

Over in Team LeBron's huddle, he notices you take the floor.

LEBRON JAMES

They're putting him back in! He's
mine. He's all mine. High
Priestess, give me another
blessing.

LeBron kneels before the Bobohizan, she speaks in a tangaa'
kadazan dialect.

BOBOHIZAN

(subtitles)

I keep telling you, my job is to
appease the rice spirit during
harvest festival! I know nothing of
this game!

LEBRON JAMES

Your language is beautiful. Thank
you.

LeBron adjusts his wooden sandals and takes the court.

YOU

I got 23!

LEBRON JAMES

You got nothing. I'm going to
literally eat you.

YOU
Let's see it **Big Taste.**

LEBRON JAMES
Your mother sells fruit snacks on
the L train.

Harden in-bounds the ball to Steph, LeBron is on you like a gnat.

Steph tries to get you the ball but LeBron pokes it loose and brings it down the court.

Even in his wooden shoes, you're no match. He spins around and jams the ball backwards while staring at you.

TEAM LEBRON: 145 TEAM STEPH: 142

Harden prepares to inbound the ball. You run around like a mad-man trying to lose LeBron but you can't do it. Suddenly Al steps in with a killer pick and gives you an inch of separation.

Harden threads you the ball and you jack it up-

LeBron gets his hand up and hits your arm as you release...

Swish.

TEAM LEBRON: 145 TEAM STEPH: 145

And 1.

You go to the line. No ritual or build up, the ref hands you the ball and you casually toss it up...

TEAM LEBRON: 145 TEAM STEPH: 146

YA BOI
LET'S GO!

You get back on d. KD inbounds the ball to Kyrie but LeBron calls for it.

LEBRON JAMES
TRAITOR! GIMME THE ROCK!

Kyrie passes it to LeBron. You get low and wait for him at the top of the key.

The clock ticks down. 7,6,5...

He looks at you and drags his finger across his neck.

You gulp.

He leans in and starts to drive, you step back-

4,3,2-

LeBron pulls up to shoot in your eye- But he stumbles! The strap on his malaysian sandal SNAPS!

Various Malyasian spirits escape from the enchanted sandals- LeBron loses his footing-

The ball flies awkwardly out of his hands and HITS you directly in the FACE.

1... BUZZZZZ!

YA BOI

That's a block! That's a block!
Count it!

The crowd goes wild, chanting YOUR NAME!

Al Horford pats you on the back.

AL HORFORD

Your first NBA block. Feels better
when you pull your own hair, eh?

Blood drips down the front of your face from your completely broken nose.

YOU

I feel amazing.

AL HORFORD

I hope you learned a lesson-

YOU

I'm ready to work for it. I've got
a new goal. I'm going to win
Defensive Player of the Year.

AL HORFORD

Uh...

Off your stupid, bloody, smile...

EUROLEAGUE by PAUL WILLIAMS

END OF PILOT