

JALEN VS. EVERYBODY

by

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FADE IN:

INT. COUNTDOWN SET - **MARCH 12, 2017**

JALEN is working the NBA Countdown Bulls-Celtics post-game show with SAGE STEELE and MICHAEL WILBON (**real footage we'll incorporate**). They sign off and we hear:

PRODUCER (O.S.)
We're clear. Great show everyone.

We CUT FROM the glossy 3-CAMERA studio look to a MOCKUMENTARY hand-held style as we see behind the scenes of the operation. Jalen immediately sneezes.

JALEN
I've had to sneeze for a half-hour.

He and his co-hosts start to un-mic. Wilbon turns to Jalen.

MICHAEL WILBON
Funny line about Derrick Rose.

JALEN
(smiles, modest)
Honestly, I don't even remember what I said, I'm just making this up as I go along.

Jalen heads out of the studio as his assistant BECKY (20s) falls in step next to him.

JALEN
(under his breath)
You hear that?

BECKY
I told you the Derrick Rose joke was funny.

JALEN
Yeah, but I don't trust your comedy taste. You told me to see 'Bad Moms'.

They exit the studio into...

INT. ESPN HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

They walk-and-talk as Becky updates him on his schedule.

BECKY
Denise called to remind you about Sam's soccer game tomorrow.

JALEN

I know, I'm the assistant coach of her team.

(shakes head)

Soccer. Of course my daughter has to pick the most European sport.

BECKY

Actually, soccer originated in the Middle East.

JALEN

No kidding? Write that down, maybe I can use it on the show.

She types it into her iPad as MICHELLE BEADLE approaches.

MICHELLE BEADLE

Nice show Jalen, wasn't watching.

JALEN

Beadle, you still work here?

They laugh as they pass each other. Becky's phone rings. Without looking, she hands it to Jalen.

JALEN

(into phone)

Hey Moms, hey Grammie.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. MOMS HOUSE - DETROIT - SAME

Jalen's MOMS (60s, put-together) is on the couch. Behind her, GRAMMIE (80s, spitfire) stands at the kitchen counter, making an elaborate fruit salad.

MOMS

Good show, baby. Your eyebrows looked great.

GRAMMIE

(calling out)

Ask him where he got that shirt!

Jalen looks down at the shirt he's wearing, a button-down with shiny silver pointy tabs on the collar.

GRAMMIE

He looks like the only black guy at the rodeo!

MOMS

Just a couple things today.
(references a notepad)
On the half-time show you looked
down too much when you were listing
stats, remember to glance up...

JALEN

(into phone)
Okay, yeah, that makes sense.

They arrive at Jalen's cubicle. He hands the phone to Becky, slides the door shut and starts to change (his head visible above the partition). As Becky puts the call on speaker we see Jalen take **a wrinkled, unopened letter addressed to him out of his pocket and put it in his bag.**

MOMS (THROUGH SPEAKERPHONE)

--and raise your chair a bit, Sage
Steele looked taller than you...

JALEN

Uh huh, yup, will do.

Becky hits 'mute' on the phone, so throughout the following we still hear Moms talking but she can't hear them.

JALEN

You make that dinner reservation?

BECKY

Yes, two people at Index for 7:30.
I called Angela and gave her the
details, she'll meet you there.

MARCELLUS WILEY (O.S.)

I hear that place is popping.

REVEAL MARCELLUS WILEY in his cubicle a couple of rows over, also changing (his head also visible above the partition).

MARCELLUS WILEY

Sea bass is supposed to be amazing.

JALEN

Good to know. Thanks, Marcellus.

Marcellus nods as Jalen emerges from his cubicle, now in a casual shirt. He and Becky start to walk, on the move again.

JALEN

(to Becky, re: Marcellus)
Heard he's asking for a second
parking spot in his new contract.

BECKY

Why does he need a second spot?

JALEN

Man drives a Yukon.

MOMS (THROUGH SPEAKERPHONE)

...oh and I didn't get that thing
you said about Derrick Rose?

Jalen takes the phone from Becky and takes it off speaker.

JALEN

(into phone)

You didn't? It was a joke. About
how we have the same last name.

(a little defensive)

Wilbon thought it was funny.

INT. 'JALEN & JACOBY' STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

They walk in. JACOBY is there, getting ready for the show.

JACOBY

You hear Marcellus is asking for a
second parking spot? Meanwhile, I
have to park behind the dumpsters.

JALEN

(into phone)

Jacoby says hi, Moms. I gotta go,
bye Grammie, love you.

Jalen hands the phone to Becky and we STAY WITH HER as the
studio door closes. The 'On Air' light comes on and we hear
the beginning of the 'Jalen & Jacoby' show. Then:

MOMS (FROM PHONE)

How you doing, Becky? You find a
boyfriend yet?

BECKY

(into phone, realizing
Jalen didn't hang up)

Oh no, Ms. Rose, I'm gay.

MOMS

(beat, then)

Well, he's out there honey, don't
give up, okay bye bye.

As Moms hangs up we...

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. 'JALEN & JACOBY' STUDIO/ESPN HALLWAYS - LATER

Jalen and Jacoby exit the studio, post-show, still talking.

JALEN

...why shouldn't the Fab Five have a statue on the Michigan campus?

JACOBY

I'm just saying, the scandal--

JALEN

Come on "scandal". Some poor kids accepted some cash, it wasn't 'Erin Brockovich'. We made Michigan part of the national conversation, show us respect by immortalizing us in bronze, like Han Solo.

JACOBY

Han Solo was frozen in carbonite, not bronze, and he was just a guinea pig so Vader could test the freezing process before he used it on Luke, how is that respectful?

JALEN

White people stay knowing about 'Star Wars'.

(then)

Whatever, Sam and Natalie will think it's cool.

JACOBY

You have your girls all week?

JALEN

Denise is dropping them off later. We're gonna chill, make quesadillas, play Madden...

Becky approaches.

BECKY

Mr. Styles' assistant just called, he's flying in from New York this week and wants to have dinner with both of you.

JACOBY

Oh god. Oh no.

JALEN

What?

JACOBY

The president of the network wants to have dinner with us!

JALEN

So?

JACOBY

So he's going to cancel our show.

JALEN

Jacoby, stop.

JACOBY

I'm telling you, I can feel it in my bones. Like how Chewbacca knew Lando was going to turn Han over to the Empire.

JALEN

I bet you've never seen 'Soul Plane' even once.

Jalen shakes his head and walks off.

INT. INDEX RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The restaurant is packed. Jalen and his girlfriend ANGELA (20s, Latina, ambitious) are at a table.

ANGELA

...so I styled this sick look for Amar'e, a whole yacht captain-slash captain of industry thing? And the magazine killed it. Said they wanted something more "urban".

JALEN

What's that mean?

ANGELA

They want him in a bomber jacket, leaning against a chain-link fence, drinking a Sprite.

A couple of FANS pass by the table.

FANS

What's up Jalen?!/Fab Five forever!

JALEN

What up, doe? Appreciate the love.

A WAITER approaches and sets down a glass of champagne in front of Angela and a scotch in front of Jalen.

WAITER

A champagne flip and a scotch.

JALEN

Flip's over here, my friend.

WAITER

Oh, sorry about that.

He slides the champagne to Jalen and the scotch to Angela. They AD-LIB thanks as he exits. Jalen takes a sip.

JALEN

Not ashamed.

She laughs. Her phone DINGS and she checks it.

ANGELA

Sorry, I need to leave a comment on my friend's Insta real quick.

JALEN

No problem, I have stuff to do too.

He takes his phone and types 'good soccer plays' into Google.

ANGELA

Oh, Sam just posted a Snapchat!

JALEN

(smiling)

Oh yeah? Let me see.

She shows him. It's a video of his daughter SAM (14) and two friends, posing for "sexy selfies". His smile falls.

JALEN

What is that face she's making?
Who taught her to make that face?

ANGELA

Kylie Jenner.

JALEN

But Sam's only 14.

ANGELA

Kylie Jenner's only 19.

Mind blown, Jalen tries to process this as Angela takes her phone back. She scrolls through Twitter.

ANGELA

A lot of people are tweeting nice things about you on Countdown.

JALEN

That's nice, but you know I don't pay attention to any of that stuff.

INT. JALEN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Jalen sits on the toilet, on his phone, reading all of that stuff. CLOSE ON: the screen, as he scrolls through the comments on Twitter. He sees one: *'Good thing @JalenRose is better on ESPN than he was guarding Kobe -- 81 points bruh!'*

JALEN

Shut up @Hennessey415.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Jalen plays Madden Football with his daughter Sam while his younger daughter NATALIE (9) eats a cupcake on the couch.

JALEN

See, but what you don't know is that Aaron Rodgers refuses to lose.

SAMANTHA

Um, check the scoreboard, Dad.

JALEN

That's called the rope-a-dope. I'm lulling you into a false sense of secur--

One of her players intercepts his pass.

SAMANTHA

Ohhhh!! Down goes Frazier! Down goes Frazier!

JALEN

(fuming)
I got the bad controller.

NATALIE

Daddy, can I have another cupcake?

JALEN

If your mom asks, you had fruit.

Natalie happily runs into the kitchen. Jalen's phone DINGS: it's an Instagram of Sam, making the sexy Kylie Jenner face in front of the TV with the Madden game on it. Caption: "*Down goes Frazier! Down goes Frazier!*"

JALEN

When did you take this?? I've been sitting next to you the whole time!

Sam does a victory dance. Off Jalen...

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - NEXT DAY

Jalen (in an 'Assistant Coach' shirt) stands on the sidelines with his ex DENISE (40, the person we all want to be when we grow up) and Natalie, watching Sam play. Jalen notices Sam and her teammates have their jerseys tied in a side-knot.

JALEN

How long have they been wearing their jerseys like that?

DENISE

A few games now. They're winning so they think it's good luck.

JALEN

I don't like the way this is going.

DENISE

What do you mean, what way?

JALEN

This, this way, with her.

DENISE

You mean growing up?

JALEN

(muttering)

Kylie Jenner needs to get her claws out of my 14-year-old baby.

NATALIE

(perks up)

What about Kylie Jenner??

JALEN

Read your book.

NATALIE

(confused)

I don't have a book.

JALEN

There's a copy of my autobiography
in my duffel bag.
(off her look)
Go on.

Natalie slowly starts rummaging through his duffel bag.
Jalen turns to Denise.

JALEN

Did you know Sam's a ninja?

DENISE

Metaphorically, or...?

JALEN

She can take pictures and post them
on social media at inhuman speeds.
Like Nosferatu.

DENISE

He was a vampire, but okay.

JALEN

And look, she sent me this text, I
swear, *while* she was on the field
in the middle of this game.

Jalen shows Denise his phone: it's a text from Sam with just
a link to the Nobu website.

DENISE

Oh yeah, Nobu sushi. Her and her
friends are obsessed with going. I
already told her no, so I'm sure--

JALEN

No way, she's not going to Nobu. I
didn't have sushi until I was 35.

DENISE

(studying him)
Are you trying to be strict all of
a sudden?

JALEN

What, I can be strict.

DENISE

Last time you had the girls you
bought them jet skis.

JALEN

A WaveRunner. To share.

ANGELA (O.S.)
Hiii, sorry I'm late!

Angela approaches, delicately picking her way through the grass in stilettos.

NATALIE
Angela!

ANGELA
Hi, Natalie!
(they hug)
Denise, you look fantastic! You do something different with your hair?

DENISE
Um, I washed it?

ANGELA
Well, you look stunning. Like a...
(trying to think of the best compliment)
...a black Gwyneth Paltrow.

DENISE
(beat)
Okay, well, you all have fun!

Denise walks off.

INT. ESPN STUDIOS - LATER

The girls follow Jalen down the hall, extremely bored.

NATALIE
Why do we have to come to work with you?

JALEN
Come on, this is ESPN studios, people would kill to be here!
(then)
Also, Angela has to work too and there's no one to watch you.

Samantha's phone DINGS. She checks it and smiles.

SAMANTHA
Dad, so me, Jessica and Brianne were talking about Nobu and--

JALEN
No Nobu. I earned sushi, you don't just get sushi.
(MORE)

JALEN (cont'd)

And don't just text me a link to a website. All your texts to me need to have a beginning, a middle and an end.

Sam and Natalie both look taken aback.

NATALIE

Whoa.

SAMANTHA

Why are you being like this?

JALEN

Like what?

SAMANTHA

All strict, like Mom.

JALEN

I can be strict! I'm not just "fun dad". Y'know what, read this.

He hands them each an ESPN Magazine from a nearby stack.

JALEN

I'm going to quiz you later.

Jalen exits.

NATALIE

(reading magazine cover)
'Welcome to Boston, Loozah'.

INT. MAKE UP/HAIR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jalen enters. A make-up lady, CAROL, touches up TIM DUNCAN.

JALEN

(surprised)
Tim Duncan.

TIM DUNCAN

Jalen, what's up, how you doing?

JALEN

Good, thanks. What's up with you?

TIM DUNCAN

Guesting on SportsCenter. Figured now that I'm retired, I'd see what this broadcasting game is about. Learn from the best, like you.

JALEN
Alright, glad to have you.

TIM DUNCAN
Appreciate it. Bye, Carol.

Carol waves as Duncan exits. Jalen looks unsettled by this.

CAROL
Isn't he just the sweetest?

JALEN
He is. He's also said five words
in twenty years of playing, but
sure, give him a job talking.

Jacoby enters, freaked-out. He points in the direction
Duncan just went.

JACOBY
You see??

JALEN
I saw.

JACOBY
That's no coincidence. I told you,
Styles is up to something.
(intense whisper)
Maybe Duncan's our replacement.

JALEN
Maybe Duncan's my replacement.
There's only one former NBA player
on our show and it's not you.

They hear laughter from the hallway. They look out to see
Tim Duncan talking with Sam and Natalie. Tim calls out:

TIM DUNCAN
Yo Jalen, take these girls to Nobu,
I got a roll named after me there!

Jalen shoots Sam a look, who just smiles innocently.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. JALEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jalen and Angela watch Tim Duncan on SportsCenter.

ANGELA
He's really good.

JALEN
He just sits there with his big
saucer eyes not saying anything!

ANGELA
Yeah, so when he does say something
it makes it super meaningful.

Sam walks in, texting on her phone.

JALEN
What are you doing?

SAMANTHA
(not looking up)
I don't understand the question.

JALEN
No phone until you're done with
your homework. In fact...

Jalen takes her phone.

SAMANTHA
Hey! What are you doing??

JALEN
No phone for the rest of the week.
You're too dependent on this thing.

SAMANTHA
Why are you being like this??

JALEN
Because you're posting too much!
Too many "selfies".

SAMANTHA
Well, if you don't like it, don't
follow me!

JALEN
I have to follow you so I know what
it is I don't like!

Exasperated, Sam stomps off to her room.

ANGELA

What's going on with you?

JALEN

What? It's my job to be tough.

ANGELA

Since when?

JALEN

Since now. When I have them,
they're gonna learn discipline.
I'm not having Sam turn out like
every stripper I've...
(off her look)
...read about in magazines.

ANGELA

Which magazines are those?

JALEN

(beat)
Men's Health.

Natalie enters, face-timing with Moms and Grammie on an iPad.

NATALIE

Grandma and Grammie called!

ANGELA

Hi, Ms. Rose, Grammie!

MOMS (ON IPAD)

Angela, looking pretty as usual!
(craning her neck, trying
to see Angela's hands)
Ah, nope, no ring yet.

JALEN

Moms!

GRAMMIE (ON IPAD)

We don't know what you're waiting
for. A black president came and
went and you're still single.

Jalen's phone rings. He looks: it's Becky.

INT. JALEN'S CAR - LATER

Jalen drives, the girls are in the back, sullen. He talks to
Jacoby on his bluetooth speaker.

JACOBY (V.O.)
So you didn't talk to Styles?

JALEN
No, his assistant called Becky and told her he wants me to go to San Antonio to work the game.

JACOBY (V.O.)
But why??

JALEN
Great question, why don't you call and ask him to explain his thinking? Meanwhile, I'll be dropping the girls off at Denise's, then heading to the airport.

He glances down and **we see the same unopened letter from earlier** in his bag on the passenger seat.

JACOBY (V.O.)
God, I wish I hadn't cut out carbs.
I could eat a whole loaf of bread.

EXT. DENISE'S HOUSE - LATER

They walk up the front path, carrying their bags. Sam turns to face him and holds out her hand, a thin smile on her face.

SAMANTHA
Can I have my phone back?

JALEN
Hey, what did I say--

SAMANTHA
Mom's house, Mom's rules.

Reluctantly, Jalen gives her back her phone. A car pulls into the driveway. Denise gets out, holding a to-go Starbucks cup, dressed in a HORSEBACK RIDING OUTFIT.

DENISE
Hey, I came as soon as I got your message.

JALEN
(re: her outfit)
What's going on?

DENISE
Oh, I was riding. Horses.

JALEN
Since when do you ride horses?

DENISE
For a little while now.

JALEN
(notices her to-go cup)
Owen?

REVEAL 'Owen' written on her cup, a smiley face in the 'O'.

DENISE
I was on a date. He ordered the,
uh, the coffees.

Jalen nods. Sam walks in the house. He calls after her:

JALEN
Goodbye Sam, I love you!
(hugs Natalie)
Bye, baby, love you, see you soon.

NATALIE
Bye, Daddy.

Natalie exits. Jalen and Denise stand there, awkward.

JALEN
Riding horses with Owen. Sounds
like a book about autism.

DENISE
You can go whenever.

JALEN
Thank god.

Jalen hustles out of there.

INT. AT&T CENTER - SAN ANTONIO - **MARCH 13, 2017**

Jalen works the game (**real footage that we'll incorporate**).
TIME DISSOLVE TO: Later, after the game. Jalen packs up his
stuff when his phone rings: it's Moms and Grammie.

POP (O.S.)
Jalen!

He looks up to see the coach of the San Antonio Spurs, GREGG
POPOVICH, approaching. He hits 'ignore' on his phone.

JALEN
Coach Pop. Great game.

POP
Surprised to see you working it.

JALEN
It was last-minute. Dropped my daughters at their mom's and jumped on a plane.

Jalen's phone rings again and he ignores it again.

POP
When my kids were young, I was on the road 9 months a year. Every time I came home I felt like a stranger, like I was always one step behind.

JALEN
(nods)
Like Steve Nash on defense.
(then)
It's especially tough because me and their mom aren't together, so I feel like when I do have them the pressure's on to--

This time it's Pop's cell that rings.

POP
Sorry, one second.
(answers)
Hello?
(beat, to Jalen)
It's for you.

Pop holds out his phone. Confused, Jalen takes it.

JALEN
Hello?

SPLIT SCREEN: with Becky.

BECKY
Sorry. They forced me to do it.

She presses a button on her phone and her side of the SPLIT SCREEN IS REPLACED with Moms and Grammie.

MOMS
Why are you ignoring our call?

GRAMMIE

We can tell because it goes to voicemail after half a ring. Learned that on CNN's Tech Corner.

JALEN

Moms, Grammie, I'll call you later.

MOMS

Real quick, don't hold the microphone so close to your mouth--

He hangs up and we END SPLIT SCREEN. He hands Pop his phone.

JALEN

Sorry about that.

POP

It's fine. I was on my way out anyway, you want to grab a drink?

JALEN

That'd be great. I'm so glad to talk to a father who gets it.

INT. DIXIE CHICKS CONCERT - NIGHT

Pop and Jalen are in the stands, holding drinks. Jalen is clearly uncomfortable, surrounded by DRUNK, WHITE COUNTRY MUSIC FANS. The following is shouted over the concert noise:

POP

...kids subconsciously crave consistency! So even though you're not there all the time, when you are, they'll know what to expect!!

JALEN

(nodding)
I can't hear you!

He gives Pop a thumbs-up, who returns it. Jalen looks around: the only other black person is a SECURITY GUARD.

JALEN

You know the only other black person here is working.

The Guard raises his cell phone and starts filming Jalen.

JALEN

What's he doing?

CELL PHONE FOOTAGE GOES VIRAL - MONTAGE

In a SERIES OF STYLIZED QUICK CUTS we see the journey of that cell phone video... Several media outlets (Deadspin, XXL, Bleacher Report) post it under various headlines: 'Jalen Rose Goes Country!'/ 'Far Cry From Detroit'/ 'Is This Why Jalen Rose and Chris Webber Are Still Feuding?' We FOLLOW the video as it's reblogged and reposted again and again.

INT. 'JALEN & JACOBY' STUDIO - DAY

Jalen and Jacoby are mid-show.

JALEN

Look, I don't like the Dixie Chicks but if I *did* like them, what's wrong with that? Why are people so quick to judge every little thing?

JACOBY

(beat)

So you do like the Dixie Chicks?

JALEN

No! But I could if I wanted to!
"Wide Open Spaces" wasn't bad!

EXT. 'JALEN & JACOBY' STUDIO/ESPN HALLWAY - LATER

Becky waits as Jalen and Jacoby exit the studio.

BECKY

Mr. Styles' office called, he wants to change dinner to drinks instead.

JACOBY

(nods, calm)

Cool. I'm gonna start packing up my half of the studio.

He starts to head back inside. Jalen stops him.

JALEN

There's no difference between dinner and drinks.

JACOBY

Yes, there is. You don't cancel someone's show then eat a meal with them. You do it quick, over drinks, then meet someone else for dinner and talk about the poor bastard you just had drinks with.

Jalen's phone rings. He answers.

JALEN
Denise, I can't talk ri--

DENISE (THROUGH PHONE)
You need to come down to school.
Our daughter's been sent to the
principal's office.

JALEN
(frustrated)
I knew Sam needed discipline.
What's she done now?

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Jalen and Denise are sitting across from PRINCIPAL GALVIS.
Jalen looks shocked.

PRINCIPAL GALVIS
Your daughter is harassing the
boys, threatening them with kisses.

REVEAL a nervous Natalie, sitting next to them.

JALEN
No disrespect, but Natalie's only
9. Is "threatening" a bit of an
exaggeration?

PRINCIPAL GALVIS
(looking at her notes)
She chased Bobby H. around the
handball court, screaming "if you
don't kiss me I'll kill you".

JALEN
Got it.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Jalen, Denise and Natalie walk towards the parking lot.

DENISE
Go wait in the car.

Natalie slinks off. Jalen watches her go.

JALEN
Playing defense against one and got
torched by the other. Pick-and-
rolled by my own daughters.

DENISE
(shakes head)
And I already spoke to her about
this, too.

JALEN
What? You already spoke to her?

DENISE
Her music class teacher told me she
kept trying to kiss one of the boys
who plays flute, so I--

JALEN
(disgusted)
A flautist? They're all lips! Why
didn't you tell me?

DENISE
Because I can't tell you every
little thing that happens.

JALEN
That doesn't seem little!

DENISE
Jalen, you're not here all the time
there's gonna be stuff you miss.

JALEN
I'm not here all the time because I
have to work. Or do you think
music class just pays for itself?

DENISE
I work too. Or do you think my
jewelry business is just for fun?

JALEN

It might be fun for you, I don't know!

DENISE

I'm just saying, you're not always here and I'm with them 24-7.

JALEN

Maybe that's the problem, maybe that's where they're learning this behavior, like that old commercial!

DENISE

What old commercial?

JALEN

You know, the one where the white dad's like, "why are you smoking pot" and the white kid's like, "I learned it from watching you"!

DENISE

You didn't have to say 'white', I could've guessed from the dialogue.

JALEN

Maybe Natalie's acting like this because you're setting a bad example, going on all these dates, getting coffee with Owen with a smiley face in the O!

DENISE

Oh, so now me going riding and getting coffee is the problem?

JALEN

Since when do you ride??

DENISE

I have my own life, Jalen. Because I'm an adult, I can do what I want. Like you. But unlike you, the girls know they can count on me to be where I say I'm going to be.

JALEN

They know they can count on me too.

DENISE

Which you is that? What is it this week again, the "hard-ass" dad?

They're interrupted by Jalen's phone ringing. It's Becky.

DENISE

Let's not pretend you're not going to answer that.

She walks off. Upset, he watches her go.

INT. COUNTDOWN SET - **MARCH 15, 2017**

It's the glossy 3-CAMERA studio look of NBA Countdown. Jalen works the Milwaukee Bucks-Los Angeles Clippers pre-game show with Michelle Beadle and CHAUNCEY BILLUPS.

JALEN

...so yeah, a lot of people don't know that soccer originated in the Middle East.

Beadle and Chauncey don't really know how to respond to this. It's clear Jalen isn't having his best night.

MICHELLE BEADLE

Thank you, Jalen. Well, we're getting close to tip-off on Bucks-Clippers, live at Staples Center.

CHAUNCEY BILLUPS

Speaking of, I hear Staples is honoring Kobe Bryant with a statue outside the main entrance.

JALEN

As they should. Like I've said, nothing says respect like being immortalized in bronze.

MICHELLE BEADLE

The Lakers just released an official artist's rendering of what the statue will look like.

CUT TO: a detailed drawing of A BRONZE KOBE SHOOTING OVER A BRONZE JALEN. Jalen's face falls. It's very uncomfortable.

JALEN

Nah.

MICHELLE BEADLE

Looks like, uh, it's a moment from Kobe's career high 81-point game.

CHAUNCEY BILLUPS

The detail is amazing. They really captured your expression of being... unable to guard him.

MICHELLE BEADLE

(uncomfortable beat, then)

Okay, let's go to Doris Burke on the Clippers sideline.

We CUT TO our MOCKUMENTARY STYLE as we see DORIS BURKE on a monitor. Jalen checks his phone. CLOSE ON: the screen, filled with Twitter notifications (which POP UP in balloons around Jalen, a la "Mr. Robot", "Search Party", etc).

JALEN

What the hell...?

Beadle and Chauncey look up from their phones. From their faces you can tell they know what's happened.

CHAUNCEY BILLUPS

Uh, I guess your girlfriend is in some sort of Twitter war?

JALEN

Twitter war? With who?

MICHELLE BEADLE

Blake Griffin.

Jalen goes to Angela's page and sees the whole exchange:

@blakegriffin32: when getting posterized isn't enough, @kobebryant statue-izes @JalenRose!

@AngelasLashes: @blakegriffin32 too bad there will never be a statue at Staples of you, Greatest Flop-Artist of All Time!

@blakegriffin32: @AngelasLashes good thing i don't pay attention to hos.

@AngelasLashes: @blakegriffin32 guess you ignore your momma then.

JALEN

Jesus, Angela!

Jalen looks at Doris Burke on the monitor, still reporting from the sidelines. Behind her, we see A PISSED-OFF BLAKE GRIFFIN ANGRILY TYPING ON HIS PHONE. This leads us into...

TWITTER WAR STORY GOES VIRAL - MONTAGE

In another SERIES OF STYLIZED QUICK CUTS we see the story get picked up by the same media outlets: 'Jalen Rose's Girlfriend Gets Into Twitter War With Blake Griffin' / 'Girlfriend of Jalen Rose, Man-tending!' / 'What Does Chris Webber Think About Jalen Rose Girlfriend's Feud With Blake Griffin?'

INT. JALEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

An upset Jalen talks to Angela.

ANGELA

I'm sorry I was defending you!

JALEN

You called his mom a ho!

ANGELA

Technically, he called me a ho first and I related it back to his mother but whatever.

JALEN

This isn't a game, this is my job. Now I have to go explain to the president of the network why my girlfriend caused a media frenzy!

ANGELA

(kind of into it)
Really? You think it's a frenzy?

JALEN

Look how happy you are.

INT. INDEX RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

Jalen and Jacoby sit at a table. Jacoby's leg jumps up and down non-stop as he nervously chews ice.

JACOBY

If he asks me to dump you from the show, I'm not gonna do it.

JALEN

What?

JACOBY

Don't worry, I got your back. You're my--

JALEN

Don't say it.

JACOBY
(not what he was going to
say)
...bro.

FRANK STYLES (60s, Jerry Jones type) arrives.

MR. STYLES
Sorry I'm late.

Jalen and Jacoby AD-LIB GREETINGS as they shake hands, etc.

MR. STYLES
Thanks for doing drinks, I've got a
family thing later. My daughter is
in a play...

JACOBY
I love plays! In college, I was
Pablo in "A Streetcar Named--

JALEN
(jumping in)
Mr. Styles, I want to apologize.
For all the distractions I've been
causing lately.

MR. STYLES
Jalen, there's no need. I believe
there's no such thing as bad press.

JALEN/JACOBY
(in unison)
Really?

MR. STYLES
Well, I mean of course there is,
don't shoot a dog or anything. But
I enjoy instigators. I think it
keeps things interesting for
everyone. Like Kanye.

JACOBY
Or Britney Spears.
(off their looks)
Or just Kanye.

MR. STYLES
I wanted to tell you both in person
that you're doing a great job on
your show. I love it, my whole
family loves it, change nothing.

Jalen and Jacoby share a relieved smile.

MR. STYLES

Just have Tim Duncan on as a recurring guest.

JACOBY

(under his breath)
Knew it like Chewbacca.

JALEN

But... we don't have recurring guests on the show.

MR. STYLES

I know, but I think you can make an exception. Duncan is green, sure, but his potential is unlimited. He reminds me of you Jalen, when you were first starting out.

JALEN

(high-pitched)
Does he?

MR. STYLES

I think you'd be a great mentor. Show him the ropes. For the team.

JALEN

(beat)
Sure. For the team.

Jalen and Jacoby both force smiles. Styles gets up.

MR. STYLES

Order me a Blue Label rocks, I'm going to hit the restroom.

The guys AD-LIB assent as Styles crosses off. When he's out of earshot, their smiles drop.

JACOBY

Tim Duncan as a recurring guest??

JALEN

This is the NBA all over again, making you groom your own successor!

JACOBY

Man is the cruelest animal.

VOICE (O.S.)

Jalen!

He looks to see KOBE BRYANT, sitting in a corner booth, waving him over. Jalen smiles and waves back.

JALEN
(to himself)
Great.

Jalen walks over and they greet each other warmly.

JALEN
Hey, how you doing, Kobe?

KOBE
I'm good, I'm good. Just taking it easy, buying a lot of old cars.

JALEN
Cool cool.
(then)
So I don't know if you saw that Twitter thing about your statue--

KOBE
(dismissive)
Nah, man, I'm never on there, I don't pay attention to that stuff.

A WAITER approaches.

WAITER
A drink, Mr. Bryant?

KOBE
Vodka martini with olives, please.

WAITER
How many olives would you like?

Kobe turns and stares directly at Jalen.

KOBE
(deadly serious)
81.

Kobe and Jalen stare at each other for a long beat. Finally:

WAITER
Really?

KOBE
No, just 2 olives.
(gesturing, to Jalen)
That was for him, he gets it.

INT. JALEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The doorbell RINGS. Jalen opens it, to find Denise, Sam and Natalie. The girls have their bags with them.

JALEN

Natalie, go to your room, I'll be in to talk to you in a minute.

SAMANTHA

I got my belly-button pierced.

JALEN/DENISE

What?? / You did what?!

SAMANTHA

I totally didn't, but in comparison Natalie's thing doesn't seem that bad now, right?

JALEN/DENISE

Go. / Not funny.

Sam leads Natalie down the hall. Jalen turns to Denise.

JALEN

I'm sorry. For all those things I said earlier, I didn't mean it.

DENISE

I should've told you about what happened at music class. I'm sorry I didn't.

JALEN

(beat, then)

Is this getting harder?

DENISE

What?

JALEN

All of it. Things are just changing so fast and I can't... between work and the girls I feel like I'm always failing at something. No matter what I do, it never seems to be enough.

DENISE

Welcome to what working mothers have been dealing with since the beginning of time.

JALEN

So how are you so good at it,
what's the secret?

DENISE

Just be honest and try your best.
(beat)
And wine.

They share a smile.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

A sullen Natalie sits on her bed. Jalen enters and sits down next to her, **holding the unopened letter addressed to him we've spotted throughout the episode.**

NATALIE

What's that?

JALEN

A letter.

NATALIE

From who?

JALEN

My father.

NATALIE

(confused)
I thought you said you never met
him.

JALEN

I didn't. He sent it to me three
years ago and I never opened it.

NATALIE

How come?

JALEN

Because there's nothing in it that
could make up for all the years he
missed. The birthdays, my games...
and he didn't only miss the good
stuff, he missed all the stuff.

NATALIE

Why don't you just throw it away?

JALEN

I keep it as a reminder. Of what I
don't want to be.

(MORE)

JALEN (cont'd)

I'm not perfect and I make mistakes, but I'm always trying, I'm trying harder than anybody I know.

(re: letter)

To be better than this.

She smiles. They hug.

JALEN

I love you.

NATALIE

I love you, Daddy.

JALEN

Now why are you kissing all these boys, what's going on?

NATALIE

(shrugs)

They fine.

Jalen bursts out laughing.

NATALIE

I mean, not all of them, some are gross. But some of them are...

She does a little shoulder-shimmy.

JALEN

Where'd you get all this swagger?

NATALIE

Mom.

JALEN

(beat, nodding)

You right.

EXT. HALLWAY/SAM'S ROOM - LATER

Sam is on her bed, on her computer. Jalen (still holding the letter) walks into the open doorway. She looks up.

SAMANTHA

(re: letter)

What's that?

JALEN

A letter from my father.

SAMANTHA

(confused)

You said you never met him.

JALEN

I didn't. He sent it to me three years ago and I never...

(sighs)

Y'know what, I just said all this to your sister, I'm tired. You want to go get some dinner?

Sam breaks into a huge smile.

INT. TOMMY'S HAMBURGERS - NIGHT

Jalen, Angela, Natalie and a disappointed Sam are at a table.

SAMANTHA

I thought we were going to Nobu.

JALEN

I'll tell you right now, that hamburger is better than any sushi you'll ever have in your life.

Angela takes out her phone.

ANGELA

Let's take a picture for Instagram.

JALEN

No, no posting pictures, I don't want their mom to see. We agreed Natalie is supposed to be grounded.

NATALIE

(happy, re: her burger)

The chili stained my mouth red!

SAMANTHA

Um, I think Mom's gonna find out.

She points to a table... where a patron is filming them on a cell phone. Jalen sighs.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. JACOBY'S BACKYARD - DAY

Family BBQ. Jalen and Jacoby stand with beers, watching their kids, Angela and Jacoby's wife MELANIE (30s, African-American) all hang out. All of them are on their cell phones, showing each other things, laughing, texting, etc.

JALEN

Who are they texting all the time?

JACOBY

Not me. My son still hasn't put me in his contacts, every time I call I come up as a phone number.

Sam poses for a selfie, doing the sexy Kylie Jenner face.

JALEN

(calling out)

Sam, no! No Kylie Jenner face!

(then)

Can you believe these words I'm saying?

JACOBY

At least they listen to you. I'm always the only white guy in the room even in my own house, you think anyone listens to me?

REVEAL Tim Duncan standing next to them, dressed in shorts and flip-flops, holding a beer.

TIM DUNCAN

I'd listen to you, bro.

JALEN

(under his breath)

Why'd you have to invite that guy?

JACOBY

(under his breath)

The boss loves him, be cool.

TIM DUNCAN

Yeah, Jalen. Be cool.

END OF SHOW