

UNTITLED NBA PROJECT

"Pilot"

Written by

Casey Johnson & David Windsor

Directed by

John Fortenberry

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ACT ONE

1 EXT. SFO - INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL (ESTABLISHING) (D1) 1

WE SEE THE SFO SIGN and two NEWS VANS next to...

2 INT. SFO - INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL - DAY (D1) 2

In a TRACKING SHOT we move through the international terminal. It bustles with usual airport activity.

As we near customs, it starts to get really crowded. There are REPORTERS with cameras and hundreds of BASKETBALL FANS in Golden State Warriors' garb, surrounded by yellow and blue balloons. And is that... a contingent of FOREIGNERS holding signs?

AIRPORT REPORTER

He's here!

Suddenly, the crowd surges forward, knocking a MINI BASKETBALL out of a LITTLE BOY'S hands. We follow the ball and the boy chasing after it down the arrival ramp.

They both come to a stop at a pair of the most enormous feet you've ever seen. The boy cranes his neck. The CAMERA SLOWLY PANS UP, and up and up... and up. The Little Boy looks up at him in amazement.

LITTLE BOY

Wow. You're so tall.

3 INT. BASEMENT - MORNING (D2) 3

We're on the sleeping face of JASON FELDMAN. On his bedside table is a photo of him with a beautiful girl in Africa. He's jolted awake by a loud BUZZER. He pops up to see his mom, BONNIE folding laundry at the other end of his "room", which is really his parents' basement.

BONNIE

Hey, Sleepyhead. I'm doing whites.
Hand me your underwear.

Jason lays there for a beat, then reluctantly starts taking off his underwear under the covers.

A4 EXT. JASON'S PARENTS' HOUSE (ESTABLISHING) A4

4 INT. JASON'S PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING (D2)

4

Bonnie makes eggs as her husband, BOB FELDMAN (50) reads the sports page. Jason enters texting on his phone.

Note: throughout we will see texts appear on screen as a bubble next to the person sending or receiving them. This text is from Jason to "Bridget" and reads "Did the NYT Crossword in 20 min. BOOM!"

BONNIE

Are you texting Bridget?

JASON

Yeah. I mean, I know she's dating someone else, but we have a really deep connection that doesn't just go away.

BOB

(checking his feet)

Hey Doormat, I think I have something on my shoe. Can I wipe it on you?

BONNIE

Bob.

BOB

What? He's chasing after some girl who's already dumped him.

BONNIE

She didn't dump him. She's having new experiences. You need to encourage him.

BOB

Really? Okay, fine. Hey Jason: live here in my basement for the rest of your life. Love having you. Stay at a job that only pays you eighteen-hundred dollars a year. Living the dream.

JASON

When I lived in Africa, I met people who survive on two hundred dollars a year. So compared to those bushmen, I am crushing it.

BOB

Do those men still live in their parents' bush?

BONNIE

You can stay in our bush as long as you want.

BOB

I'm done. I'm going to work. Hopefully I'll get hit by a bus.

5 INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - CLASSROOM - LATER (D2)

5

Jason sits with a bored college student, TODD, who holds an "Intro to African Languages" textbook.

JASON

This is the third time you've taken this class. Just say anything in Lingala and I'll pass you. "Hello, my name is Todd." *Hello, my name is Todd.*

TODD

Is this gonna be on the test?

JASON

Todd, this is the test.

A WOMAN pokes her head into the classroom.

WOMAN

Jason? You have a phone call.

6 INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SHITTY OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (D2)

6

Jason's on the phone in this shitty office.

WOOGIE (ON PHONE)

Jason Feldman? Woogie Randall with the Golden State Warriors. I have a job to discuss with you. I need you down at Oracle Arena right now.

JASON

But I just made fork holes in a Lean Cuisine and I can't refreeze it.

WOOGIE (ON PHONE)

There's a man standing in your doorway. Nod if you see him.

Jason turns. There is a MAN in his doorway. Jason nods.

WOOGIE (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

Good. That's Chad. He'll bring you to my office. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, Jason. You don't want to pass it up. Get in the car with Chad.

Chad exits. Jason pulls out his phone and texts to Bridget:
"Potentially being murdered by a man named Chad. Stay tuned."

7 OMITTED

7

8 EXT. ORACLE ARENA - NORTH ENTRANCE - LATER (D2)

8

The car pulls up to the front of Oracle Arena. WOOGIE RANDALL, General Manager of the Warriors, approaches. He's 50, smooth, confident, and well-suited -- the opposite of Jason in his stained sweatshirt and worn-out sneakers.

WOOGIE

You're Jason.

JASON

Yup.

WOOGIE

Lord have mercy. How much do you know about basketball?

JASON

I got Air Jordans for Hanukkah once. I also saw *Kazaam*.

WOOGIE

Walk with me.

9 INT. ORACLE ARENA - SOUTH RAMP - CONTINUOUS (D2)

9

Woogie starts towards the arena. He talks as fast as he walks and Jason struggles to keep up. The following will play like an Aaron Sorkin walk-and-talk on crack...

WOOGIE

We needed to get stronger in the post, so I spent an assload of money on an untested center from the Congo as the second pick of the draft.

JASON

Which one?

WOOGIE

Which what?

JASON

Which Congo. There are actually two. The DRC, and the Republic of Congo.

Jason ogles the players' fancy cars. Woogie notices.

WOOGIE

Don't touch.

10 INT. ORACLE ARENA - TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS (D2)

10

Jason follows Woogie who quickly leads him into the arena.

They're still on the move...

WOOGIE

We're a week away from our first game
and Moseki's not fighting for the
ball, he's not learning the plays, and
I heard he cried in the shower. You
know what a naked seven foot man
crying in a shower looks like? Well,
now my entire team does.

They pass by a huge barrel filled with Gatorade.

WOOGIE (CONT'D)

Don't touch.

11 OMITTED 11
12 INT. ORACLE ARENA - COURT - CONTINUOUS (D2) 12

Woogie and Jason walk onto the actual court. It's
impressive.

WOOGIE

Mo's last translator got deported for
smuggling African parrots in his
luggage. That is not a metaphor,
there were birds in his suitcase. So
I'm left with you, the only other guy
in the Bay Area who speaks this
nonsense language.

One lone PLAYER intensely shoots three after three.

JASON

Is that--

WOOGIE

Derek Gates. Two-time MVP.

JASON

I was going to say the guy from the
Subway commercials.
(sings jingle)
Five dollar foot loooong.

Woogie keeps walking. Jason follows.

WOOGIE

You'll be with Moseki 24-7. You'll live with him, go on the road with him, do anything he wants except transport rare birds across state lines. I'll pay you a hundred and fifty thousand a year.

JASON

Are you joking?

WOOGIE

Fine. Two hundred.

They pass the WARRIOR GIRLS in sexy practice uniforms.

WOOGIE (CONT'D)

And don't touch.

Jason does his best not to look as he follows Woogie into:

13 INT. WARRIORS LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS (D2)

13

This is the epicenter of an elite basketball team and right now, it feels like a party. MUSIC BLARES, half-naked basketball PLAYERS crack jokes with one another.

WOOGIE

Here we are kid. Word of advice, keep your eye-line above the waists or you're going to be pretty depressed come morning.

Jason is a munchkin among these giants and bumps into a GIRL in a Warriors' polo. This is MARTY (20s), cute but intense.

JASON

Did I hit your boob? I'm so sorry. I know how much that can hurt.

MARTY

(to Woogie, re: Jason)
What is this? Why is it here?

WOOGIE

New translator.

MARTY

This guy speaks Congo?

JASON
It's actually Lingala, which is a
Bantu language.

MARTY
(feigned interest)
Ohhh, Bantu. Okay. Good to know.

She walks off.

WOOGIE
C'mon. Let's meet Mo.

Jason follows Woogie through the chaos until we find:

MOSEKI "MO" GOSEGO, a sweet faced but enormous African,
sitting alone at his locker.

WOOGIE (CONT'D)
Mo? This is Jason.

Mo stands up. He is the largest human being you've ever
seen. Jason has to crane his neck to look up at him.

JASON
Whoa... You're incredibly tall.

MO
*You're adorable. I want to put you in
my pocket.*

WOOGIE
You ready to talk to reporters? Good.

JASON
What? Now?

Woogie motions for a group of five REPORTERS to come over.
Before Jason can react, the Reporters are upon them.

REPORTER #1
Mo, from what we've seen in practice,
you're playing tentatively. Any
reason for that?

Jason turns to Mo, looks back, realizes the Reporters are
looking at him. He asks Mo the question in Lingala.

JASON
Why are you playing tentatively?

MO

*Tell them I'm still getting used to
the system.*

JASON

He's still getting used to the system.

Jason is now in an Albert Brooks-esque flopsweat. A camera man shines a BRIGHT LIGHT in his face.

From Jason's POV, we see a series of rapid fire questions:

REPORTER #2

Coach has said he isn't sure how many minutes you'll see.

REPORTER #3

Is it because of your conditioning?

REPORTER #1

You gonna be ready for opening night?

Mo looks to Jason to translate, but Jason is completely lost. He sees everyone staring at him: the Reporters, Woogie, Marty the boob girl. He grabs a nearby trashcan, his head goes out of frame and he PUKES in it.

A long beat, his head comes back up. Finally:

JASON

He'll be ready.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

14 INT. ORACLE ARENA - HALLWAY - LATER (D2)

14

Jason and Mo walk through the arena.

MO

Did they even interview you for this job?

JASON

(to himself)

I wouldn't exactly call it an interview. More like a kidnapping...

Jason's phone CHIRPS and a text appears on screen next to him. It's from Bridget and reads: **"Saw the clip of you puking. LOL. Congrats on the new job."**

JASON (CONT'D)

Look at this. Bridget texted me. She saw me throw up on TV and was impressed.

MO

Bridget?

JASON

She's how I know Lingala. We joined the Peace Corps right after college.

15 EXT. CONGO - NIGHT - FLASHBACK (FB D99)

15

Jason and BRIDGET wear Peace Corps t-shirts and stand near a bonfire tended by several native Congolese.

JASON

I can't wait to spend the next two years building toilets together.

BRIDGET

Now that we're here, let's not limit our experience to just each other. I think we should see other people.

JASON

Other people? We're the only other people!

BRIDGET

(horrified)

That's racist, Jason.

Bridget walks off, linking arms with a Congolese guy.

16 EXT. ORACLE ARENA - PLAYER PARKING LOT - PRESENT (D2) 16

MO
That sucks, man.

JASON
Yeah, it did-- Wait, you speak English?

MO
Little. In Congo we have a satellite dish and we're all obsessed with "Game of Thrones".

JASON
I'm the only person not watching that show.

MO
I'm like Hodor and you're the little cripple boy.

JASON
I don't know what that means, but I just got a job paying me a boatload of money and we are going to make the Sharper Image my bitch. Which car is yours? The Tesla? They say it's like driving an iPad.

Mo walks up to Jason with a moderately crappy bicycle.

MO
No car. Craigslist.

17 EXT. ORACLE ARENA - LATER (D2) 17

A WIDE SHOT of Mo riding his bike in front of the arena and Jason jogging awkwardly behind him.

18 EXT. DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK - LATER (D2) 18

Mo walks his bike. Jason is exhausted. Mo greets every single person they see, practicing his English.

MO
Hello. Hello. Hello.

They stop in front of a high end, modern apartment building.
It is total luxury - glass, marble, cool chandeliers.

JASON
You live here? You can definitely
afford a car.

19 INT. MO AND JASON'S APARTMENT - DAY (D2)

19

Jason and Mo enter the stunning (but unfurnished) apartment
with an incredible view of the San Francisco Bay.

JASON
So this is how the other half lives!
(then, re: view)
That's what I'm talking about! I
finally have something to look at with
my telescope! Wait, why don't you
have any furniture?

MO
*I send all my money home to support my
family. But the apartment came with
this sweet bed.*

He motions to a pool table where the dining table should be
that has a sheet and a pillow on it.

JASON
That's not really a bed, though.

GUY (O.S.)
That's what I keep telling him.

Jason spins around to see a guy in a CREAMYBERRY UNIFORM.

JASON
Who the hell are you?!

STEVE
I'm Steve. From Creamyberry. Mo came
in for yogurt, said "hello" and we
totally hit it off.

MO
Hello.

STEVE
Hey, Mo.
(then)
(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

He told me he leaves his doors
unlocked and I could come over any
time. Anyway, the view is banayners.
I finally have something to look at
with my telescope.

Mo holds his hands up-- see?

JASON

You don't just invite strangers over.

MO

*He's not a stranger, he's Steve. He's
going to take me to Alcatraz.*

Jason looks to Mo, then back over to Steve.

STEVE

I've got an extra ferry ticket if you
wanna roll with. Entourage!

Steve starts raising the roof. Mo starts raising the roof.
Jason shrugs, then starts raising the roof too.

A20 EXT. ORACLE ARENA (ESTABLISHING) - THE NEXT DAY (D3) A20

20 INT. PRACTICE COURT - DAY (D3) 20

Jason is on the sideline while Mo practices with the team.
It's not going well. Mo is getting pushed around. He's not
as quick or as physical. He misses a pass then gets knocked
to the ground by his defender. No one helps him up. Derek,
the star veteran we saw shooting threes, is frustrated.

DEREK

C'mon, Butter! Power Triple! Have
you even looked at the playbook?!

The COACH, DON DAVIS, barks at Mo.

DON DAVIS

Butter, fight for the ball.
(looks at Jason)
If only we had someone whose job it
was to tell him to fight for the ball.

JASON

Oh. Mo is "Butter". Why?

DON DAVIS

Because he's soft. He's got no fight.
He cried in the shower, did you hear
about this?!

(MORE)

DON DAVIS (CONT'D)
So get out there and tell him I need
him to post up on offense and hold
down the paint on defense.

JASON
That doesn't make sense to me in English.

DON DAVIS
Just go!

JASON
Okay, fine.
(to himself)
Say it don't spray it. Geesh.

On the court, the most amazing athletes in the world move
with speed and precision. And here comes Jason, not at all
athletically gifted, huffing and puffing, trying to keep up.

JASON (CONT'D)
*He wants you to hold the pole. Or the
post.*

MO
The what?

There's a change of possession and the ball goes to the other
end of the court. Jason follows.

JASON
*Also, he wants you to do something
about the paint.*

MO
What does that mean?

JASON
I don't know! That's what he said!

As Jason runs by Coach Davis...

JASON (CONT'D)
I tried the reciprocal verb extension
but the subject has to be plural!

As Jason continues flailing, Coach Davis BLOWS HIS WHISTLE.
The players stop as he walks onto the court quietly. He
looks at Jason. It's intimidating.

DON DAVIS
(motioning)
This is the paint.
(guarding a player)
This is how you hold down the paint.

JASON

Oh, I think I have it now. Let's take
it from the top.

(off Coach's glare)

Five, six, seven, eight--

Coach Davis BLOWS the whistle again, this time ending practice.

DON DAVIS

Alright, enough. Practice is over.

Derek is frustrated.

DEREK

This is a joke.

21 INT. PRACTICE COURT - COURTSIDE - CONTINUOUS (D3)

21

Jason and Mo cross in. Jason hands Mo a towel.

JASON

That didn't go well. *Do you know
they're calling you Butter?*

MO

*Jason, relax. As long as they don't
call me a Kenyan, I'm fine.*

JASON

(laughs)

Kenyans.

Mo says something in Lingala. Jason laughs even harder at their inside joke that we don't translate. Marty hands Mo a smoothie and crosses to some other players. Mo notices Jason look at her.

MO

You like Marty?

JASON

Oh, you know, she seems cool, but
Bridget and I are still kind of a--

MO

(calling off)

Marty!

Mo points at Jason, then exits with the other players. Marty approaches Jason.

JASON

Heyyy. Remember me? Nailed you in
the boob?

(starting over)

So, what's up, you're the smoothie
girl?

MARTY

Yes I am. I'm the smoothie girl.
Today's special is mango tango.

Just then, Coach Davis approaches.

DON DAVIS

Marty, how's it look for Dixon?

MARTY

I palpated his hamstring, we'll keep
hitting it with EMS but he's going to
be day to day. Also, this jack-ass
thinks I'm the smoothie girl.

DON DAVIS

Did you see him run? He's got bigger
problems than that.

(turns to Jason)

My "African Phenom" is playing like a
friggin' ballerina. When I yell to
Mo, you translate every word: loudly,
clearly and quickly. Got it?

Coach Davis crosses off.

JASON

There is no mango tango.

MARTY

I'm the assistant trainer. And that
wasn't a smoothie, it was a high
calorie protein shake. Mo's gotta
bulk up to run with these guys. If
you're going to live with him, that'll
be your job. So really...

JASON

I'm the smoothie girl.

MARTY

Bingo.

She exits. Jason watches her go, intimidated but intrigued.

22 INT. WARRIORS WEIGHT ROOM - LATER THAT DAY (D3)

22

Jason walks in where players are laughing, gathered around Mo who wears a silly hat, pink wristbands, and a baby Bjorn with a stuffed pink elephant. Derek and the other players get their picture taken with him.

JASON

Hey, Fellas. What's going on?

MO

They gave me this hat and want me to take care of this elephant. And I think they want me to sing.

JASON

They want you to sing what?

DEREK

His college fight song. It's a ritual we do here for the rookies. I did it back in the day. Tyler did it. Andre didn't do it because no one wants to hear his ass sing.

ANDRE

Your wife did. Last night.

Several players laugh.

JASON

Aww, snap!

(everyone stops laughing)

Anyway, Mo didn't go to college, so I don't think he has a fight so--

Mo starts singing a SOLEMN SONG which Jason jumps in to translate.

JASON (CONT'D)

This is in a dialect I don't know well... but it's something about how they have to be strong... because life is really hard... there's not a lot of fresh water... but there is a lot of AIDS.

Mo stops, full of pride. The players are silent.

MO

Do they want to hear the second verse?

JASON

Do you want to hear the second verse?

DEREK

No man, that was sad.

Jason turns to Mo and shakes his head "no". The other players laugh and start to cross off and Jason follows after them. Mo disappears into the other room.

JASON

Excuse me... Mr. Gates? It's really funny making Mo wear the elephant and sing. Personally, I love hazing. The one year I played Little League, my coach made me play with a pink mitt. And that was some real hazing because the coach was my dad. But do you think Mo gets what you're trying to do? Maybe you can give me a heads up before you haze him, and then I can explain it to him?

DEREK

Yeah, okay, that'll work.

JASON

Really? Great!

23 OMITTED

23

24 INT. ORACLE ARENA - COURT - LATER (D3)

24

It's completely empty, except for Jason who is duct-taped to the backboard. Jason struggles to get out, then gives up. A CLEANING PERSON sweeping the court spots Jason.

JASON

Excuse me... do you know if there's a game today?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

25 INT. JASON'S PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT DAY (D4) 25

Mo and Bob sit at the kitchen table eating brunch. Bonnie notices Mo looking at his food.

BONNIE

Mo, do you like your fri-ta-ta? Say it. Fri-ta-ta.

MO

Fri-ta-ta.

BOB

Bonnie, he needs to learn words like "rebound" and "fast break" and "this is my good friend Bob Feldman".

Bob leans in next to Mo, smiles and takes a selfie, then turns to Jason.

BONNIE

Let me make you a care package.

Bonnie crosses over to the counter. Bob notices Jason packing his bag.

BOB

You're really going to do this? Be this guy's translator?

JASON

That's right. Your little doormat is growing up into a full-sized area rug.

BOB

Look, this is exciting. You brought home a real NBA player. We took pictures, he got us tickets, we introduced him to brunch...

REVEAL Mo is eating happily.

BOB (CONT'D)
One question: what's plan B?

JASON
What? No, there's no plan B. I don't need one.

BOB
I'm just saying, basketball is a tough sport. You're sensitive, you're emotional. And I hate to say it, but you're kind of a Momma's Boy.

JASON
I am not. Tell him, Mom.

BONNIE
He's not a Momma's Boy.

BOB
For God's sake, when the boy was in eighth grade you two had *Ally McBeal* nights!

JASON
(wistful)
Ally!

BONNIE
(wistful)
Wonderful program.

BOB
Jason, I'm worried. You're going into a land of men and I'm just not sure you're one of them yet.

JASON
Well, I'm sorry I'm not "the son" you always wanted. I'm sorry we don't drink beers and play poker and burp together.

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

And I'm sorry you don't see what was so special about *Ally McBeal*. It was very ahead of its time!

BOB

But you don't know anything about basketball and he doesn't get the offense!

JASON

Then I'll figure out basketball and Mo will learn the offense. And he's not going to cry. And I'm not going to cry. And we're gonna get strong. We're going to get tough. And by the end of it, we're going to be some bad, bad mammer-jammers! C'mon, Mo.

Mo stands, taking a casserole dish with him.

MO

Fri-ta-ta.

Patty Smyth's "WARRIOR" begins to PLAY OVER:

26 INT. MO AND JASON'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER (D4)

26

A fired-up Jason sits Mo down, handing him an iPad, a playbook, and two hand grippers.

JASON

You've got homework to do. First, memorize the playbook, and then watch these videos of the Detroit Pistons from the 1980's. I googled "tough basketball" and apparently they were very nasty. I also got you these hand squeezers. Can't hurt. When I get back, there's going to be a quiz.

Jason heads out as we begin an awesome MONTAGE.

27 EXT. ORACLE ARENA - PLAYER PARKING LOT - START MONTAGE (D4)

27

Jason finds Marty as she gets out of her car.

JASON

I need you to teach me about basketball.

She rolls her eyes. Jason follows her like a puppy.

- 28 INT. PRACTICE FACILITY - VARIOUS - MONTAGE (D4) 28
- 29 -- In the training room, Marty tapes up a naked player's quad 29
and explains the game. Jason takes notes, his head blocking
the player's crotch. He tries not to look.
- 30 -- Marty and Jason play two-on-two against a couple of 30
defense mannequins. Jason averts one, then gets taken out by
the other.
- 31 -- Marty diagrams a play on a dry-erase board. Jason takes 31
the pen from her and turns it into a smiley face. She shakes
her head no.
- 32 -- Marty makes a smoothie. Jason tastes it and gags. 32
- 33 -- Jason attempts a free-throw and misses by a mile. 33
- 34 OMITTED 34
- 35 -- As Jason tries another free-throw, Marty helps him with 35
his form. He tries to smell her hair. She elbows him hard
in the boob and he goes down.
- 36 -- Jason attempts another free-throw. This time it goes in 36
and he celebrates like a madman. Marty walks away
unimpressed but he doesn't care.
- 37 INT. MO AND JASON'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER (D4) 37

Jason enters the apartment.

JASON
Alright, pop quiz time!

The apartment is empty. The iPad and playbook are on the counter where he left them. Jason can't believe it.

- 38 INT. MO AND JASON'S APARTMENT - DAY (D4) 38

Jason sits in a beach chair, waiting, angry. Mo and Steve enter both wearing ALCATRAZ SWEATSHIRTS and eating clam chowder from bread bowls.

JASON
Where the hell were you?

MO

*We went to Alcatraz! They have soup
in bowls of bread. Bread bowls!*

JASON

I know what a bread bowl is!

STEVE

Chill, man. We got you a keychain.

Steve tosses Jason a souvenir keychain with a photo of him and Mo in a jail cell.

JASON

We had a plan. The first game's tomorrow and you're still getting your ass kicked up and down the court.

MO

I'm not worried.

JASON

But you should be worried! Everyone thinks you suck.

Mo takes a step towards Jason. He's huge, towering over Jason. As he speaks, his subtitles tilt down towards Jason and vice versa.

MO

I suck? That's not what all the agents said when they started sending gifts to my house. Now my Mom has satellite radio and loves America and Howard Stern.

Steve recognizes "Howard Stern" in their conversation.

STEVE

Baba Booney!

Mo steps even closer. Jason has to look almost straight up to keep fighting.

JASON

I can't believe I'm busting my ass and you're running around Alcatraz!

MO

Really? Has it been tough for you, Jason, all the hard work you've put in for the last forty-eight hours? Do you need to rest?

JASON

Screw you. I'm trying to do something here. I finally decided to prove my father wrong, but I can't because I'm tied to a seven foot stick of butter!

This lands with Mo.

JASON (CONT'D)

Do you need me to translate that, Mo?

He doesn't. A disappointed Jason exits into his bedroom.

STEVE

Geez, I thought Alcatraz was going to be the most depressing part of the day.

39 INT. MO AND JASON'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT (N4)

39

The apartment is dark. Jason rolls his suitcase out of his bedroom. Mo lies on his pool table "bed". Jason approaches.

JASON

Well, I'm gonna head back to my parents and prove my dad right about me for the ninetieth time. It's taco night, so that should cushion the blow. Good luck.

He hears a SAD MOAN and stops.

JASON (CONT'D)

Are you crying?

MO

I don't understand this country. In my country, even though life is hard, basketball is fun. It brings people together. Here, where everything is good, people want me to be tough, to "fight." When you've seen what I've seen, you know basketball is just a game.

JASON

It is just a game. But if you play it right, you can change people's lives back home. Think about your sisters, your father, your village...

MO

My cows.

JASON

Your cows! Put them all in your mind and fight for them. You have a chance to be a hero, for a whole country.

MO

Like Vin Diesel.

JASON

Sure, okay. Like Vin Diesel.

MO

But it's a lot of pressure for a twenty year-old.

JASON

You're only twenty? This whole time I thought you were, like, mid-thirties.

MO

No, I'm just very tall.

JASON

Listen, Mo, I get it. You're a forty year old-looking-twenty year old a million miles away from home who misses his family and his cows. No wonder you can't focus on basketball.

(then)

I have an idea.

40 INT. MO & JASON'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER (N4)

40

Jason and Mo look at a computer. A WINDOW on screen is open and we see the face of a COW in the Congo.

MO

Polka Dot, you've gotten fat! This is Jason.

JASON

Hello cow.

Mo puts his arm around Jason and nods, pleased.

MO

Now we sing to keep them productive.

JASON

You sing to your cows to keep them productive? Alright, cool. Let's rock this.

As they begin to sing Mo's SAD LOCKER ROOM SONG...

41 INT. ORACLE ARENA - THE NEXT NIGHT (N5)

41

The arena is packed. The Golden State Warriors and the Phoenix Suns warm up on the court. Jason stands by at the ready. Bob and Bonnie are in the stands. Bonnie wears a WARRIORS JERSEY with number one and the name FELDMAN on the back. She waves at Jason.

TV ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Here we are at the first game of the year in Oracle Arena for what is sure to be an exciting season. An interesting note, our starting five does not include the rookie from Africa, Moseki Gosego, even though Warriors fans have been dying to see him play.

The REF blows the WHISTLE ending warmups. As Jason heads for the bench, he stops at Coach Davis.

JASON

Mo's fired up. He's ready to play.

DON DAVIS

End of the bench.

Jason and Mo sit at the end of the bench. The teams take the court, the fans are on their feet and:

42 INT. ORACLE ARENA - VARIOUS - GAME TIME - NIGHT (N5)

42

--Tip off. Derek Gates gets the ball and controls the opening play. Jason and Mo sit at the end of the bench.

--As the first quarter winds down, the Warriors are up by five. Jason and Mo still sit at the end of the bench.

--A time-out. The Warrior Girls do a sexy routine right in front of Jason who tries not to look at them.

--Third quarter. The Warriors are starting to lose. Jason notices someone a few rows back enjoying a giant popcorn.

43 INT. ORACLE ARENA - WARRIORS BENCH - NIGHT (N5)

43

Fourth quarter. The Warriors are losing by fifteen. Jason is now eating popcorn. Coach Davis calls a time-out.

DON DAVIS

Gosego!

TV ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

The wait is over. Looks like Moseki Gosego is going to get in the game.

Mo rips off his sweats. The crowd sees this and a chant starts to slowly build, "Mo. Mo. Mo."

JASON

Remember who you're playing for.

Mo nods. As Derek comes off the court, he turns to Jason.

DEREK

Look at that. You got some popcorn to go with your Butter.

JASON

How's he ever going to prove himself if you don't give him a chance?

Everybody looks at Jason, surprised.

DEREK

Don't talk to me, Duct Tape.

MO

Why does he call you Duct Tape?

JASON

He calls me Duct Tape because he taped me to the backboard, I lost some arm hair. And a lot of pride. It's no big deal.

DON DAVIS

Gosego! Let's go!

MO

(simmering)
He taped you to a backboard?

Mo's eyes go from Jason to Derek. He steps out onto the court. The chanting crowd is louder now. Everyone is excited to see him play. "Mo! Mo! Mo!"

But instead of taking his position, a determined Mo walks right up to Derek...

TV ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
And in his first NBA game, Moseki Go--

...and PUNCHES DEREK in the face.

TV ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
--Ohhh my God! Did that just happen?!

It did. And it's total pandemonium. The Warriors bench clears, but they don't know who to go after. Even the refs don't know what to do.

As Derek tries to pick himself up, Mo stands over him. Jason runs over and begins translating as Mo yells:

MO
I don't care if this is the NBA.

JASON
He says, "I don't care if this is the NBA!"

MO
I don't care if you are my teammate.

JASON
"I don't care if you are my teammate!"

MO
You don't mess with my friend.

JASON
"You don't mess with my friend!"

Jason and Mo share a look.

DON DAVIS
What the hell are you doing?!

JASON
You told me to translate loudly,
clearly and quickly. Got it?

Mo and Jason, our badass odd couple, stare down at Derek. It's weirdly intimidating. Marty looks on, bemused.

44 INT. ORACLE ARENA - STANDS - CONTINUOUS (N5)

44

Bob and Bonnie watch in shock. A FAN next to them sees Jason yelling at Don Davis.

FAN

Who in the hell is that bozo?

BOB

That's my son, Jerk.

BONNIE

Awww, Bob--

BOB

Don't move your pilates machine into the basement just yet. I'm sure he'll screw this up somehow.

He smiles to himself, secretly proud of his son. Bonnie clocks it.

45 INT. WARRIORS LOCKER ROOM - LATER (N5)

45

The locker room is quiet. Jason sits at Mo's locker by himself when Marty enters from the trainers' room.

MARTY

His hand's definitely not broken, but he needs to keep icing it.

JASON

Think I need to look for a new job?

MARTY

Oh, yeah. Definitely. But you really put it on the line. I was impressed.

JASON

Really? Well, umm... its been a weird week, so, what the hell. Let's go on a date.

MARTY

No.

JASON

Probably for the best.

Woogie sticks his head in the locker room.

WOOGIE

Tell Moseki I'm fining him ten thousand dollars. The press is going to want to talk and it's gonna be a bloodbath, so get ready.

JASON

I'm not fired?

WOOGIE

That was, hands down, the most disastrous first week on the job. But you are literally the only person in this time zone qualified to do this. I'm stuck with you.

Woogie exits. Jason turns to Marty.

JASON

You heard him. I'm irreplaceable.

MARTY

That's not even close to what he said.

JASON

But you're smiling. Which means I had a shot. Maybe from far away, like a three-pointer. Basketball term! See, I'm learning!!

She exits, hiding a smile on her face.

46 INT. TUNNEL OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOM - LATER (N5)

46

Jason waits outside the locker room as players stream out. Mo comes out of the locker room in his warm-ups.

JASON

Okay. So you just knocked out your star teammate. Might be a few questions. Ready?

MO

(smiles)

*You're the one doing the talking.
What do I care?*

They start to head down a long corridor toward the press room. Mo stops.

MO (CONT'D)

*Jason. When I came here, the last
thing I expected was to make a friend.*

Mo starts choking up.

JASON

(near tears)

Don't you go. If you go I go.

Jason grabs the hem of Mo's jersey and wipes away a tear.

JASON (CONT'D)

Alright. I'm good. Let's do this.

Bad-ass HIP-HOP starts to play as they head towards the press room. We go into SLO-MO as they open the doors. It's packed with REPORTERS and CAMERAS and FLASHING BULBS. Mo puts his giant hand on Jason's small shoulder and they head in together.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

47 EXT. ORACLE ARENA - PLAYER PARKING LOT - DAY (D6)

47

Mo and Jason walk out of the arena when Mo starts laughing.

MO
Jason. Look.

Mo points to Derek and some other players walking up to Derek's MASERATI. Derek opens the door -- it's completely filled with popcorn.

JASON
Oh no. What did you do?

MO
Hazing!

JASON
They haze us. We don't haze them!

Derek spots Jason and Mo and starts towards them.

DEREK
You're dead, Duct Tape!

Mo and Jason take off running towards Bonnie's car. Derek is gaining on them when we hear:

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)
Everybody back off!

REVEAL Bonnie, getting out of the driver's side.

DEREK
Who are you?

BONNIE
I'm their mother! Boys, get in the car.

MO
Your mom is cool.

As Jason and Mo get in the car, Jason shakes his head. What has he gotten himself into?

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW