

**That's Got His Own**

Written by

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EXT. STREET OUTSIDE A BAR - NIGHT

BB MARTIN, 20, a tall black man is leaning face-down on a police car with his hands cuffed behind him and the red/blue siren-light pulsing on him. COP approaches.

COP

You know there's a bench warrant out  
for you?

BB

No.

COP

Says here you've violated probation.

BB

Give me a break, man.

COP

You BB Martin?

BB

Yeah.

COP

Get in the car.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

ANITA, 41, a black woman serves dinner while her four children sit at the table with two white missionaries STUCKY and HINCKLE, wearing white shirts and ties.

ANITA

If y'all go hungry its your own  
fault.

CUT TO: LIVING ROOM.

STUCKY

Let's review the commandments one  
more time.

ANITA

Don't lie, or steal, or murder.

STUCKY  
And the modern rules?

ANITA  
No alcohol, no tobacco, no drugs, no sex...

STUCKY  
Are you gonna be able to follow this?

ANITA  
...no fun. Honey, I've been living that since I turned thirty-three.

HINCKLE  
You're awesome, Anita. But Stucky's got some bad news-his two years are up and he's going home to Idaho.

ANITA  
I know. I got you a little something.

ANITA walks out of room and returns with a present. STUCKY opens it to see a Golden State Warrior basketball jersey XXL with number 33 and the name Martin.

STUCKY  
BB's jersey! Thank you. I can't wait to see him ball.

ANITA  
Never been an elder like you. You raised in da hood?

STUCKY  
Blackfoot, Idaho.

ANITA  
What you going to do back home?

STUCKY  
College doesn't start till January. I guess I'll try and get a farm job.

ANITA  
The Lord looks after his children.

HINCKLE

I'm sure out there somewhere's a  
tractor just waiting for you.

CUT TO: Later

STUCKY hugs each of the children and walks out the door as he  
wipes a tear.

ANITA

Bye now.

Children turn on TV to a basketball game. It's halftime and two  
COMMENTATORS discuss news around the league.

COMMENTATOR 1

And although it's just preseason,  
some NBA players have already hit  
midseason form. Golden State Warriors  
forward BB Martin was arrested  
outside of a tavern for allegedly  
starting a fight and for intoxication  
and possession of alcohol. Martin,  
twenty, is still under age.

COMMENTATOR 2

I'm beginning to sound like a broken  
record, but ever since the league  
began drafting these boys out of high  
school, the quality of play has  
decreased and the league's image has  
gone in the toilet.

Anita shuts off the TV, sits on the sofa, and buries her head  
in her hands.

INT. STUCKY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Phone rings, STUCKY, in pajamas, answers.

STUCKY

Hello. Yeah?

SPLIT SCREEN with ANITA on phone

ANITA

It's BB. He got himself arrested again and last night I thought about those commandments—I never taught him like I should. His cousin was staying with him but he's a brother with the devil. I prayed like you say to, and asked God what to do, and God said to call Elder Stuckey.

STUCKY

You want me to pray for him?

ANITA

No, I want you to watch my BB full time. I'm willing to pay.

STUCKY

I'd like to help but I going home.

ANITA

Listen Stucky, this is the temporary job you're looking for. I'm talking five thousand a month for five months. Twenty-five thousand and another twenty-five if they want him back. But I got to know today.

STUCKY

I'm flying home tomorrow.

ANITA

Meet me in Oakland Friday. Stuckey, please say yes and I'll make the details.

STUCKY

Whoa, you've caught me off guard. I'll have to pray about...

ANITA

God told me you'd say that. He's been preparing you for this. I call back after you talk to him. (Hangs up.)

HINCKLE

Well?

STUCKY

Anita just offered me a fifty thousand dollar babysitting job.

EXT. OUTSIDE STUCKY APARTMENT to NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND - DAY

BEGIN TITLES

SONG: Blood Sweat and Tears (BS&T), *And When I Die.*

STUCKY hugging Hinckle goodbye in tears. Two un-named MISSIONARIES load his two suitcases into a car.

STUCKY sits in back seat and they drive by a basketball playground where black teenagers are playing hoops at the neighborhood playground with chain nets.

END TITLES

INT: FOYER BY OFFICE - DAY

STUCKY waits in a chair by the SECRETARY desk and hears muffled shouting from the office. He smiles nervously at the SECRETARY, who smiles back. Intercom sounds.

GIBBONS

Send in Mr. Stucky.

STUCKY enters office.

STUCKY sees BB, wearing sweats from after practice and ANITA with her hair done wearing a new dress, sitting beside GIBBONS in a suit, and COACH Cordell, 40.

GIBBONS

STUCKY, we've decided it is in everybody's best interest to put BB on injured reserve. It will give him time to work things out—a minimum of two weeks.

COACH

You'll be practicing with the team, but not suiting up or traveling with us next week.

BB  
I'm not hurt.

GIBBONS  
I think you have back spasms.

BB  
That sucks.

ANITA  
You watch your tongue, young man. I'm putting my foot down. I sent Bryan back this morning.

COACH  
BB, You've got talent. That's not the question. You need to focus.

GIBBONS  
Here are the ground rules. Mr. Stucky holds all the money and pays the bills. Mr. Stucky does all the driving. Mr. Stucky has limited power of attorney. And finally, Mr. Stucky is not to let you out of his sight for even five minutes. He will stay in your condo. He will travel with us when you come off I.R. He will watch you take a shit if it comes to that.  
Understand?

BB  
I ain't gonna be regulated.

GIBBONS  
I'm afraid you have given us no alternative.

ANITA  
Baby, don't throw it all away.

ANITA stands up. GIBBONS hands STUCKY the keys to the car. CORDELL hands him two practice schedules.

ANITA

Stucky, here's the cell phone. Change the number and call me. Same with the home phone.

(To BB)

One more thing, BB, we've all talked it over, and we think it would be best if you quit taking home groupies.

BB

But Mama, I never...

ANITA

Don't fight me on this—Stucky has the rules.

(To STUCKY)

I've got to catch a plane, but I want you to know that I'm putting my baby in your hands.

Anita hugs Stucky

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

STUCKY and BB walk to car, a yellow Porsche convertible.

STUCKY

No freaking way!

BB

What? Never seen classic wheels?

STUCKY

This isn't a car—it's a pimpmobile.

They get in car and STUCKY squeals the wheels as he drives.

BB

How you know my mama?

STUCKY

Been in Alabama the last two years.  
Church missionary.

STUCKY reaches in suit pocket and hands him nametag.

BB

Elder Stuckey. What kind of name is  
Elder?

STUCKY

It's a title. I don't go by it  
anymore, at least not since  
yesterday.

BB

What then?

STUCKY

Sounds to me like I'm in charge so  
you can call me "Boss."

BB

Red light!

STUCKY slams the brakes, narrowly missed another car, and  
pauses.

BB

Dawg, the green light means you can  
go now. Where you learn to drive?

STUCKY

Blackfoot, Idaho. Look I'm a little  
rusty after two years on a bicycle  
but I've been driving since I was  
ten, legal since fourteen.

BB

Okay, Idaho, take a right.

STUCKY

Say, I've been wondering what BB  
stands for? Billy Bob? Big Butt?

BB

Mama called me BB after BB King.

STUCKY

Who?

BB  
Turn left. You is from Idaho.

STUCKY  
You know the no-girls rule wasn't my idea.

BB  
Yeah, well that means no girls for you, too.

STUCKY  
Not a problem.

BB  
You gay?

STUCKY  
No, it's just as a missionary we were celibate.

BB  
You like girls?

STUCKY  
I used to. It's just after two years...

BB  
Yeah, I know, you're a little rusty.

INT. - BB APARTMENT

BB and STUCKY, carrying suitcase, enter the apartment and meet LEESHA, a white young woman wearing exercise sweats and make up.

STUCKY  
Hello

BB  
She's ah, um, a friend of Bry's.

STUCKY  
Pleased to meet you. I'm David Stucky, Blackfoot, Idaho.

STUCKY extends his hand to LEESHA.

LEESHA

Leesha.

STUCKY

I'm Bry's replacement. I heard Anita was here this morning—did you uh see her? Well, I'm afraid you can't be here. New house rules.

LEESHA looks to BB who looks away.

LEESHA

(Feigning tears)

BB, you know I have nowhere to go.

STUCKY

You cook?

LEESHA

Not much.

STUCKY

Think you could go get us some food?

LEESHA

I'm not a delivery boy.

STUCKY

Please. I'm starving.

STUCKY takes wallet out of his suit pocket.

STUCKY

Maybe pizza? Or Chinese?

BB

I'm going to take a shower.

BB walks over and turns on stereo to rap station, then exits.

STUCKY

Of all the...

STUCKY walks to stereo and turns station to country western.

STUCKY

Here you go. Get a couple of pizzas.

STUCKY places three hundred-dollar bills on the table, then another hundred for every instruction.

STUCKY

And some extra cheese.  
And those dessert thingies.  
And something to drink.  
And take your time.  
Don't rush right back.  
Or I'll be disappointed.

LEESHA

Let me get some things first

LEESHA picks up the bills and stuffs them in her bag, then grabs a jacket and forces a smile as she passes STUCKY and slams the door. STUCKY opens refrigerator.

STUCKY

Let's see what we have here.

EXT - MANGAGER'S DOOR IN THE CONDO - NIGHT

STUCKY knocks and MANAGER, 60, answers door.

STUCKY

Hi, I'm Dave Stucky, your new neighbor in number thirty-six with BB Martin. I'm just trying to get acquainted.

MANAGER

You got your hands full. Where you from?

STUCKY

Eastern Idaho. God's country. Winters cold enough to freeze the balls off a pool table. Not like here, mild very mild. Do you have an onion I could borrow?

INT. BB APARTMENT - NIGHT

BB enters the kitchen wearing shorts and rubbing his head with a towel. STUCKY dishes hash onto two plates

BB  
That smells good. Where's Leesha?

STUCKY  
Still getting pizza, I guess. But you're lucky I can cook soul food.

BB  
Soul food?

STUCKY  
Chop onions up and fry them with hamburger. Add rice and water and cube of bullion if you have it, cover it and cook till it's burnt on the bottom. Then serve with sour cream.

BB sits and starts to dig in.

STUCKY  
Wait, we have to give thanks.

BB  
Oh, right.

STUCKY  
Would you like to?

BB  
God is love. Bless this grub. Amen.

BB eats. STUCKY frowns.

BB  
Dees eats be bad! You gay?

STUCKY  
Don't ever say that again.

BB  
I'm just playing wid ya.

BB takes another bite.

BB  
We shoulda prayed for Leesha.

STUCKY  
Who?

BB  
The Ho went to get the pizza.

STUCKY  
She'll be all right.

BB  
She gone, huh?

STUCKY  
Yup.

BB  
For good?

STUCKY  
Yup.

BB  
You asshole.

STUCKY  
Just following instructions—your  
mother said...

BB  
You mutha! I don't need no white-ass  
babysitter!

STUCKY  
Fine. Then I'll just be your partner.

BB  
You don't have the boobs for it,  
faggot!

STUCKY  
You mean you don't have the balls.

BB  
Oughta whup yo ass!

STUCKY  
Think you can?

BB  
Shieee.

STUCKY pushes the plates aside and puts his elbow on the table,  
hand up.

STUCKY  
Arm wrestle?

BB  
Huh?

STUCKY  
No sense getting put on the I.R. for  
a real injury.

BB  
You mutha.

STUCKY  
Okay, on the count of three. You  
count.

BB  
Uno, dos, three!

STUCKY pins BB.

BB  
You tricked me.

STUCKY  
Whatever.

BB  
Let me get a good grip this time.  
One, two, three.

STUCKY pins BB.

BB  
I must have hurt that one in practice  
this morning. Try the left arm.  
Ready. One, three!

STUCKY pins BB.

STUCKY  
Dude, you need to work on some  
weights.

BB  
Honky.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

STUCKY kneels at his bed in prayer, wearing pajamas with patterns on them. He hears a door close quietly and gets up and follows.

CUT TO: SWIMMING POOL GATE AT CONDO.

BB sits on a lawn chair and watches STUCKY trying to climb the gate, then laughs, walks over and unlocks the gate.

BB  
Nice 'jamas. You gay?

STUCKY  
I told you not to say that.

STUCKY grabs BB's arm.

BB  
Help! The honky faggot is attacking  
me.

STUCKY pushes him in the pool, but BB holds tight to his arm and they both tumble in.

STUCKY  
(Whoop) I haven't been swimming for  
years. I'm a little rusty.

BB  
No water in Idaho?

STUCKY

Missionaries aren't allowed to swim.

MANAGER walks through pool gate.

MANAGER

You're making too much noise. It's  
after hours.

BB

C'mon.

STUCKY

My bad. I didn't know the rule. I'm  
new.

MANAGER

Idaho, right?

STUCKY

Yes sir.

MANAGER

Cute pajamas.

INT. BB APARTMENT - DAY

Alarm clock sounds. STUCKY, wearing white shirt and slacks,  
shows up by BB's king-size bed.

STUCKY

Six thirty! Rise and shine. This is  
the first day of the rest of your  
life.

BB

(Groans)

BB stands and looks into a mirror at his ruffled hair, no  
shirt. He stumbles into the kitchen and sits at the table where  
STUCKY is waiting with a notepad.

STUCKY

Here's the schedule.

BB  
Dawg.

STUCKY  
Practices are at ten when you don't have games.

BB  
Dawg.

STUCKY  
I talked to Coach Cordell last night. More strength conditioning and stretching. Weight lifting after practice. Tape for a couple of hours each night.

BB  
Leave me alone. Go clean the house or sumpun.

STUCKY  
Clean house. Yes, I sense your metaphysical mind at work. You imagine cleansing yourself of the impurities so you can focus.

BB  
Sumpun like that.

STUCKY  
Good. I know just where to start.

BB follows STUCKY to the bedroom and starts throwing bags, suitcases, trash, etc. out of the closet. STUCKY finds flasks of vodka and whiskey.

STUCKY  
Ah-hah! Contraband.

BB  
My chronic!

STUCKY enters kitchen going through drawers and cupboards tossing stuff into a wastebasket.

CUT TO: Kitchen

BB sits across the table from STUCKY with bottles of booze between them.

STUCKY  
Abstinence from mind-altering substances is a prerequisite.

STUCKY takes bottles of vodka, whiskey, bourbon, etc., and starts pouring them down the sink.

BB  
You crazy! We could at least give them away?

STUCKY  
What? And ruin other people's lives?  
You need to show love for your fellow man. Bring the beer over.

BB grabs a six-pack in each hand like a basketball and walks to the sink and starts opening and pouring. He watches, and when STUCKY turns to get another load of bottles, he sneaks a swig of the beer and quickly returns to pouring.

They return to the table. STUCKY picks up a brown bag.

STUCKY  
Please tell me this is oregano?

BB  
Word up. Basil or sumpun.

STUCKY takes the bags into the bathroom and shakes them into the toilet and flushing.

BB  
You killing me, man. I'm busting.

STUCKY  
Where you think your going?

BB  
Out. NBA ballers need their space.

STUCKY

Well, All State Idaho linebackers  
have their responsibilities.

STUCKY stands in the hallway to the door, and blocks BB as he tries to go left, tries to go right.

BB

I see you working man. Watch this.

BB goes right, is blocked by STUCKY, quickly pivots and puts STUCKY behind him, then pauses.

BB

(in mock commentator voice)

'Martin burns his defender and takes the lob and slams it down—the crowd goes wild!' Foot work, Dawg. I learned that at the McDonald's camp.

STUCKY

Really? Well I learned this in Pee-Wee football.

STUCKY wraps his arms around BB and lowers his shoulder and drives in into the wall. The lighter BB groans and falls to the floor.

STUCKY

(in mock commentator voice)

Ooh, another vicious hit by the linebacker Stucky, and they're bringing out the stretcher.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

STUCKY, in brown suit, follows BB to his locker. BB sees the one next to his is open and cleaned out.

BB

Hell.

STUCKY

What's it mean?

BB

They waived Eddie.

BB hangs his head.

STUCKY

You're lucky it's not you. It will work out for him. Always does.

(change of demeanor)

I wonder if they would let me use the locker?

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Practice drills and scrimmage. BB guards the all-star player, DENNIS, and in three cuts he is knocked down, has the ball stolen, and is stuffed on.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

BB pumps iron. STUCKY keeps track on a clipboard.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

BB

I never shot five hundred free throws in my life.

STUCKY

You even made three hundred and twelve.

BB

Idaho, where's my wheels?

STUCKY unlocks the door to a metallic Buick sedan.

STUCKY

Right here.

BB

My Porsche, Idaho. Where's my Porsche?

STUCKY

The pimpmobile is back in the pimp cave. I got a good deal on trade in.

BB  
You shitting me, right?

STUCKY  
Always wanted a Buick. It's almost new, only seventy thousand miles.

BB  
Shiiiee.

STUCKY  
Anita agreed when I called her. Tiger Woods drives one.

BB  
Shiiiee, Idaho. Tiger drives one on TV! Not in real life.

INT. BB APARTMENT - NIGHT

BB lies on couch while STUCKY inserts tape into player.

BB  
This is the longest day of my life.  
Bry gone. Eddie waved. Porsche gone.  
Can't ball worth shit.

STUCKY puts a video in the player.

STUCKY  
Now, we break down film. Look, look at this spin move. Divac is the best at it since James Worthy. You could be better.

BB  
What you know about basketball?

STUCKY  
See that little jerky motion before he twirls-watch in slow motion. He's holding the ball out and then brings it in and whoosh!

STUCKY looks over to find BB asleep.

INT. BB APARTMENT, COUCH IN LIVING ROOM - DAY.

Alarm clock sounds. STUCKY approaches BB who has slept on the couch all night.

STUCKY

Rise and shine.

BB

Moan. What's that noise?

STUCKY

Handel's Messiah. You need some uplifting music to fight discouragement.

BB

Put on Snoop Dog, dawg.

STUCKY

No rap music. It has been documented to cause crime in laboratory animals. From now on, it has to be uplifting, like the Tabernacle Choir or Alan Jackson.

BB

No way, dawg. At least give me Coltraine.

STUCKY

I talked it over with Anita. Besides that, we decided you need a mission statement.

STUCKY looks at his notepad.

STUCKY

How's this? BB Martin, your life mission, should you choose to accept it, is to serve the Lord as a basketball player and an ambassador of righteousness.

BB

Where you from? The moon?

STUCKY

Actually, Blackfoot is not that far from Craters of the Moon. That's an Idaho joke. Craters is this big lava flow a hundred miles long where Apollo astronauts practiced. Ever heard of it?

BB

Dawg, it's Sunday. There's no practice till two.

STUCKY

Church starts at ten—it's the one thing I get out of this deal. We can't be separate, so you have to come with me. If you find a church, we'll alternate Sundays.

BB

Dawg.

STUCKY

Do you have a shirt and tie?

BB

Do I look white to you?

STUCKY

I'll see if I have an extra.

STUCKY goes to his closet that is full of nothing but white shirts. BB tries one on but the sleeves are too short, so he rolls them up to his elbows.

INT. LDS CHAPEL - DAY

BB and STUCKY sit on back row and listen to a middle aged CHURCH WOMAN at the pulpit.

CHURCH WOMAN

In conclusion, we grow close to Jesus by following the commandments.

The congregation halfheartedly sings. STUCKY walks out during the hymn and BB follows him.

CUT TO: INT. FOYER OF CHAPEL

BB  
That was a lame tune. You okay?

STUCKY  
Sorry, it's just this was supposed to  
be my homecoming?

BB  
(confused)  
I thought they didn't know you?

STUCKY  
I mean back in Blackfoot. This was  
supposed to be the Sunday I stood  
before the church and told them about  
my mission.

BB  
So what were you going to tell them?

STUCKY  
Stuff. Be good. Go on a mission.  
Alabama's a great place.

BB  
Right. Hey man, it sucks you not  
being in Idaho. Could they call and  
put you on the speakerphone?

STUCKY  
Not the same.

Enter VICTORIA, 20, a black woman in a conservative dress and no jewelry.

VICTORIA  
Hi. Are you new in the ward?

BB  
I just visiting.

They follow VICTORIA into a multipurpose room that doubles as a gym, but for Sunday has chairs in one corner as a makeshift classroom. CHURCH WOMAN stands in front and drones. Victoria sits on one side of BB while STUCKY sits on the other.

BB

(Whispers)

What she talking about-ward? She said  
she seen me in the ward.

STUCKY

She means the church here.

BB

Y'all got a warden too?

As the CHURCH WOMAN drones, BB sneaks a glance at VICTORIA sitting next to him, then at the basketball backboard.

DREAM SEQUENCE: A basketball arches toward the hoop as an arm reaches up and blocks it. A whistle sounds and we see a REFEREE in a zebra shirt spit a whistle out of his mouth and face the scorers' bench.

REFEREE

Foul on number 33. Goaltending and we  
shoot one free throw.

BB looks at his jersey as if he is surprised the foul is on him. The REFEREE signals time-out, and BB watches the team dancers run on the floor. VICTORIA is one of the dancers and she tosses her head as she prances by him, finds her position on the floor and starts to dance to - hymn music.

BB wakes from the dream to find the class singing a hymn and VICTORIA looking pious and modest.

EXT. - CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

BB and STUCKY exit the church.

BB

Three meetings. No wonder y'all going  
to heaven.

STUCKY

You don't see that in Idaho or  
Alabama.

BB

What?

STUCKY

Mormon church full of Mexicans and  
Tongans

BB

Don't see blacks neither.

STUCKY

Victoria was black.

BB

Right-Black Mormons.

STUCKY

Lots of them-didn't you see them?

BB

Them was Jamaicans.

STUCKY

Whatever.

BB

This one lady, I think she was your  
warden's wife, she asked me if I was  
some kind of investigator. I told her  
I was on the same side of the law as  
they was.

INT. BB APARTMENT - DAY

STUCKY stands in his suit holding the telephone.

STUCKY

Hi Dad. Yeah, it's going okay. Yeah,  
went to church. Not the same. Same  
lessons, yeah. Yeah, a couple of  
girls tried to kidnap me but I  
slipped 'em. Hi, Mom!. Yeah, I'm  
taking vitamins. Yeah, it wasn't long  
enough. She asked about me huh? Well,  
I wish I could have seen her  
Thursday. Hi, Mike!

BB enters dressed in sweats with a bag.

BB  
Time to blow out.

STUCKY  
Gotta go. They'll fine us if we're late.

EXT. OAKLAND STREETS- DAY

STUCKY drives BB in Buick through Oakland streets filled with graffiti. He points at the white-spire church on the hill.

STUCKY  
That's the Temple.

They stop the Buick at a light and see a dozen Raider fans dressed in black, face paint, Darth Vader helmets, etc.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Warrior players scrimmaging. STUCKY sitting in the bleachers, watching in his suit and loosened tie. COACH motions BB to enter the scrimmage for DENNIS. Slow motion shot of a rebound and outlet pass. BB turns and takes off running.

INSERT: STUCKY reading the scriptures in the empty stands.

BB and teammate PEPPER take turns shooting free throws at a side basket.

BB  
You fronting me too?

PEPPER  
Shiiee, BB, I got yo back.

BB  
Dey busting me to the I.R.

PEPPER  
That wack. Y'know Kid, you need to be smarter wid da folks.

BB  
You got beef?

PEPPER

You been here two years just bo  
jangling? First rule. Bring the party  
to yo crib. Nobody get arrested in  
their crib.

BB

Peeps got Sergeant Friday trying to  
regulate me.

PEPPER

Yeah, word is that Idaho's getting 50  
bills of your money.

BB

Shiiiee. I need to lose him.

PEPPER

Use your brain, kid. Distract him.

EXT. - PARKING LOT - DAY

STUCKY and BB walking out of practice,

BB

I hear you want fifty grand of my  
money.

STUCKY

What's wrong with that?

BB

Cuz I'm the one making it. After  
taxes I get half a million--and you  
want ten percent?

STUCKY

What do you suggest for a salary?

BB

Nothing. Just hanging with me is  
salary enough.

STUCKY

I do my job, you pay me.

BB  
Then start doing it.

BB bolts, dodges through cars and hops in PEPPER's BMW. STUCKY chases after him. STUCKY finds BB in the passenger seat, and bends down to catch his breath. BB rolls the window down.

BB  
Dawg, you may be good at stopping the dive play, but you just can't keep up with a wide receiver.

STUCKY  
Did I ever tell you what I learned from Mrs. McIntosh's third grade class?

BB  
Let me guess: Failure?

STUCKY  
No...this!

STUCKY reaches in the window and grabs his ear.

BB  
(Screams)(TO PEPPER)  
Roll up the window!

Window starts to roll up and STUCKY grabs BB's other ear with his hand and pulls BB's head through the window.

BB  
No! Roll down the window!

PEPPER rolls rear window down and hops out of car to confront STUCKY who still holds BB's ears. BB struggles and curses.

PEPPER  
Let him go or you're going down.

STUCKY  
Give it your best shot.

PEPPER takes a full swing and STUCKY ducks partially. PEPPER hits STUCKY on the top of the head and hurts his hand. STUCKY still holds on. PEPPER grabs him from behind. DENNIS enters.

DENNIS

(Laughs) We'll I'll be damned. Idaho be holding a beamer by the ear.  
Pepper, let it go. Idaho, relax the ear. Now BB, you best step out of the car. Idaho is going to apologize now.

STUCKY

Sorry BB, I was just earning my pay.

DENNIS

There. We're good. Now go wid Idaho.

BB

Yes, boss.

BB and STUCKY walk to the Buick.

STUCKY

Just so you know, my pay is the difference between the Buick and the pimpmobile that you can't drive anyway because your license is revoked.

INT. - DOWNTOWN CAFETERIA - DAY

STUCKY, BB, and VICTORIA serve hot dogs and French fries as poorly dressed men, women and children file in front of them.

STUCKY

Vee, thanks for finding us this place. I mean, this is a good gig-don't you think, BB?

BB

Yo.

VICTORIA

I think Crystal is nice. What do you think?

STUCKY

She's sizzling, like a steak on the grill. Ah, excuse me, just an expression. So, where are you from?

VICTORIA

Palo Alto.

STUCKY

Cool. Where's that?

VICTORIA

About an hour south of here. Ever heard of Stanford? My Dad is a professor there.

BB

Brothers are professors at Stanford?

STUCKY

Why didn't you go there?

VICTORIA

Actually, I was adopted.

BB

You never live in da hood?

VICTORIA

No, I never "live in da hood." My hood had a nanny, piano lessons, ballet lessons, and soccer camps.

CRYSTAL walks up to check on them. STUCKY never takes his eyes off her the rest of the scene.

CRYSTAL

What tha dilly yo?

STUCKY

Just chillin. Did BB tell you we'd like to put in eight hours a week?

CRYSTAL

Jesus he da man. Rev'rand Cee just prayed for some hep for me. Then you all show up.

VICTORIA

I'm afraid I can't put in the time  
they do, but maybe once a week.  
Ya'know, school.

CRYSTAL

You go to the CC?

VICTORIA

Actually, Berkeley. Pre-Med.

CRYSTAL

Straight up! I love a sister that  
takes care of herself. You go to  
church?

VICTORIA

Yes.

CRYSTAL

I knew it. Only way out is the  
church. BB, you coming to church  
Sunday?

BB

How many meetings?

CRYSTAL

Just the sermon at eleven.

BB

We'll be there.

INT. BB APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

BB and STUCKY sit at the table with bibles open.

STUCKY

God created man and woman in the  
image of God. What does 'image of  
God' mean to you?

BB

We are not the same as animals. We  
can plan and carry things out.

STUCKY

Right. Now my church believes we are his children very literally. He looks just like us, only he's somehow better and more powerful.

BB

I believe that too. See, God, he one of da bruvias.

STUCKY

Very funny. Well, that wraps it up. I'll hang up the laundry while you do some stretching.

BB

Bro, I'll hang it out for you.

STUCKY

Thank you, man. You're changing, I can see it.

BB picks up laundry basket and heads out the door. STUCKY stays at table reading the Bible. After a while he yells out:

STUCKY

BB, you don't have to blow each one dry.

STUCKY walks to the yard to see the basket still full of clothes and BB gone.

STUCKY

Got me that time.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

STUCKY sits at the locker in sweatpants as BB enters.

STUCKY

You're late. They'll fine you, you know.

BB

I don't care.

STUCKY

I don't smell any grass or booze—so  
did you have fun?

BB

Jus' being free of you is fun.

STUCKY

You haven't learned anything—you are  
what you do. Your job is here so be  
here. Someday they may lock you out.

BB

What's that supposed to mean?

STUCKY

You make your own bed. You reap what  
you sow.

BB

What you talking?

STUCKY

Wherever you go, there you are.

INT. WARRIORS BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Practice scrimmage. BB guards DENNIS and he is knocked down by an elbow. As DENNIS dribbles around him, BB trips him and DENNIS yells. DENNIS and BB both rise and face off.

DENNIS

What was that shieet?

BB

You fronting me every play!

COACH steps between the two of them and faces BB.

COACH

What are you doing? Look I don't care  
what problems you have, if you injure  
one of my players, you're dead meat,  
and I mean I'll do it myself.

BB

Why don't you tell him to...

COACH

Did you hear me, rookie?

BB

I took that shiiiee as a rookie and  
it's wack!

DENNIS gives some distance and smirks.

COACH

Run it off. Fifty laps.

BB running with STUCKY watching from the bleachers. DENNIS speaks as BB runs by.

DENNIS

Schooled ya, boy.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

STUCKY waits for BB to dress. BB looks with anger in the mirror as he buttons his shirt. Several PLAYERS enter, PEPPER stops by his locker.

PEPPER

Dawg, chill. You just tripping  
against the man.

BB

Damn straight.

PEPPER

What you doing for eats? Let me take  
you to this seafood place.

STUCKY

Ah, BB needs to get back and break  
down film.

PEPPER

Gotta eat. You can come, too. Show  
you there's no hard feelings.

BB

(To STUCKY)

Cut me some slack.

PEPPER

Idaho, call this number and ask for a table and use my name. See you there in about an hour.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

BB and STUCKY sit at a table and eat little crackers, DENNIS enters with three women dressed provocatively.

PEPPER

There you are. BB this is Michelle, Nora, and Leesha.

LEESHA sits by PEPPER, MICHELLE, 22, by STUCKY, and NORA, 22, by BB.

PEPPER

Have you ordered?

BB

Yeah, my bad.

NORA

So what's hot on the menu?

STUCKY aims a cell phone camera at NORA.

STUCKY

Say John Deere!

Flash picture of her with jewelry, lipstick, and low cut blouse.

BB

Oysters.

STUCKY aims a cell phone camera at MICHELLE.

STUCKY

Say oysters.

Picture taken.

NORA

Is it true what they say about oysters?

BB  
Cut me some slack, Blood.

STUCKY aims a cell phone camera at LEESHA.

STUCKY  
Say Grand Tetons!

LEESHA  
Hello, Idaho.

Picture taken. STUCKY pushes button and puts cell phone in pocket.

PEPPER  
Are you two tight?

STUCKY  
We've met. Leesha, BB was very disappointed about the pizza.

LEESHA  
Sorry, BB. Traffic.

BB  
No problem. Idaho fixed me up with some soul food.

LEESHA  
Kinky.

BB  
That didn't come out right.

DENNIS  
So Nora, tell us a little about yourself.

NORA  
I'm a big fan. I love the way the players jam, and how they get so sweaty by the fourth quarter.

BB  
Never looked at it like that.

NORA

I love a guy who can really ball and  
scores a lot.

Cell phone rings-STUCKY pulls it from pocket of suit.

STUCKY

(speaking on cell phone)

Hi...we're at a restaurant...seafood.  
Just some friends of friends.

BB

Who dat?

STUCKY

Another hot filly wants you.

STUCKY hands him the cell phone.

BB

(deep voice)

Yo mama.

Mama! Yeah...but we didn't invite...but  
they just showed up...but we just  
ordered...okay mama.

STUCKY

Excuse us ladies, BB need to get a  
little fresh air.

LEESHA

(to NORA)

I'm telling you, Idaho is one of  
those pretty boys.

At the cook's counter, BB looks at the plates of seafood.  
STUCKY motions to the waitress, then hands her a hundred.

STUCKY

We just got a call and have to run.  
Could you just give our dinners to  
those ladies over there at our table?  
Thanks.

INT. DOWNTOWN KITCHEN - DAY

Mashed potatoes are dished onto a cafeteria tray, BB's hand holds the spoon.

STUCKY

Community service has a certain flavor to it.

BB

Two hundred fifty hours. It make me feel like a slave.

STUCKY

I thought the Warriors were cutting your checks?

BB

You know what I mean.

STUCKY

You mean you're in bondage of sin.

BB

I mean you and all those whiteys are my bosses: Coach, GM, Judge, you, especially you, all regulating me.

STUCKY

You're in trouble because of what you did. I don't want to know the details.

BB

Good.

STUCKY

But it had something to do with raping statues. Am I right?

BB

The statues gave their consent.

STUCKY

So, bondage of sin. Don't worry, we all have it. I'm a sinner too.

BB

Yeah, I see the way you look at  
Crystal. Hmmm? Hmmm?

STUCKY

(blushing)

I never take a second look, man.

BB

That because you never look away. You  
gonna burn in hell, Idaho. (Laugh.)  
You gonna be one baked potato.  
(Laugh) You are what you eat.

EXT. STREET IN OAKLAND - DAY

Riding in the Buick, STUCKY driving and BB with a basketball in  
his hands.

BB

Dawg, I' got a new move I want to try  
out on you. I call it THE JUKE.

STUCKY

I've seen that move—you travel every  
time.

They stop at red light with traffic around them.

BB

Yeah, but you never seen it like  
this.

BB tosses the ball at STUCKY, opens car door, and exits just  
before light turns green.

BB

Later, honky.

STUCKY shakes his head and drives off in disgust. BB dodges  
traffic, slips down a street and ducks in a store. He looks out  
window to see if he is being followed, and is approached by two  
young men in suits.

MISSIONARY 1

Aren't you BB Martin?

BB pulls sunglasses out of his pocket and puts them on.

BB  
No.

MISSIONARY 1  
What a sense of humor. BB, I heard this rumor that you sometimes go to the fourteenth ward. Is that true?

BB  
No.

MISSIONARY 1  
That's not what Victoria Pruitt told me. You know her?

MISSIONARY 2  
Leave him alone.

BB  
Yeah, I know her. Man, you guys are tripping. Why you hang out in twos?

MISSIONARY 1  
We're not gay—if that's what you mean. It's a rule so we can keep track of each other.

BB  
You split up after work, right?

MISSIONARY 2  
No, we're together twenty-four seven for two years.

BB  
Then you go back home?

MISSIONARY 2  
That why some elders get married so soon after they get back—they miss having someone around.

BB  
And you read the bible together and pray.

## MISSIONARY 2

Yeah, why?

BB

I thought he was the only one.

## MISSIONARY 1

If you have time, we'd like to explain more about the church.

BB

Not today, I got to get to practice.

Thanks. Later.

CUT TO: PARKING LOT BY BASKETBALL STADIUM

STUCKY sees a taxi pull up, and he walks over and pays the driver. Then he follows BB to the door without saying anything.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

BB shooting around the horn as STUCKY rebounds ball and passes to him. More makes than misses throughout dialog.

STUCKY

Team not doing too well on the road.  
I thought this was the year they were going to make the playoffs.

BB

Cause they don't have me to soften the defenses.

STUCKY

How much did you play last year?

BB

Eight minutes a game. Know what I don't get? Coach benches me whenever I shoot outside. But that's what they give me—I'm open so I shoot.

STUCKY

Maybe if you made a few of them?

BB

Shiiiee. I don't know, you tell me  
what I need.

STUCKY

You wouldn't listen to an Idaho  
hayseed.

BB

Eddie was damn good. Dribble circles  
around you, create his own shot. Now  
he's in Italy somewhere. What have I  
got? You tell me.

STUCKY

What's the coach say?

BB

Take it inside, but I'm wide open. In  
high school, I took what they gave  
me. Inside or out. I'm a forward—  
that's what I do—inside and out.  
Jumper, slash and dish, slash and  
dunk.

STUCKY

Why don't you back them down?

BB

Say I beat my man, I'm two twenty;  
those bruisers are two sixty and up  
and all are lying about their size.  
Shaq says he's two-ninety-like hell!  
He was born weighing two-eighty-five!

STUCKY

They bang you, huh?

BB

Coach wants me to bang back.

STUCKY

I'm two-thirty. Let's bang.

BB backs him down, goes to shoot and is bumped by STUCKY. Shot  
misses.

BB

That's it. Foul not called. The story  
of my life. Why even give a shit?

STUCKY throws BB the ball.

STUCKY

Yeah. Why don't you just go home? I  
mean, they'll be disappointed but you  
could tell them it was an injury.  
They'll forget. They'll talk about  
the local boy who almost made it.  
You've got money already—what do you  
need this for?

BB

Let's ball.

BB backs STUCKY down, bumps him and misses. STUCKY rebounds,  
takes the ball behind the line, and shoots. BB blocks the ball  
with a swat that knocks it fifty feet out of bounds.

INT. BLACK PENTECOSTAL CHURCH - DAY

REVEREND at the pulpit preaching.

REVEREND

To wrap it all up for you in one  
bundle—We all be sinners. Only one  
perfect man ever walked the earth. We  
need to confess our sin and accept  
him into our lives.

PAN TO: Show congregation.

CUT TO: Choir singing as BB, STUCKY, CRYSTAL, and VICTORIA sit  
in a pew. All three, except VICTORIA are swaying and clapping.  
The GOSPEL CHOIR sings. VICTORIA is bumped by STUCKY on one  
side, and then CRYSTAL on the other. VICTORIA trades places  
with CRYSTAL, and finally sits down frustrated. Camera pans out  
to show that STUCKY is the only white person there.

Later, BB and STUCKY are filing out with congregation and meet  
REVEREND Calvin.

REVEREND

Welcome. You must be the people  
Crystal was telling me about.

STUCKY

How y'all doin? I'm Dave Stucky from  
Blackfoot, Idaho.

REVEREND

And this is your friend?

BB

We ain't friends.

STUCKY

This is my roommate Mr. Martin.

BB

We ain't gay.

REVEREND

BB Martin, we're so glad to have you  
here.

REVEREND shakes his hand and holds it.

BB

I kinda had to come.

Standing behind BB, STUCKY holds CRYSTAL's hand and is still  
swaying back and forth to the postlude music. VICTORIA can't  
wait to leave.

INT. DOWNTOWN CAFETERIA - DAY

As people walk by the serving line, CRYSTAL ladles soup into  
bowls and puts on tray, STUCKY puts bread on tray, and BB  
carrot sticks.

STUCKY

So tell us: You from Oakland?

CRYSTAL

No, Fresno. Came to Oakland slumming  
and started going to church. Changed  
my life.

BB

Where's Vee?

STUCKY

She said she had class.

BB

I ain't never going back to school.

STUCKY

I am.

CRYSTAL

Straight up?

STUCKY

Yeah, gonna study crop science.

CRYSTAL

Really? I've always loved plants.

BB

Idaho's gonna be a potato farmer.

CRYSTAL

I think that's great. You must really know your vegetables.

STUCKY

Not really, just spuds.

CRYSTAL

Idaho, could you give me a hand in the kitchen for a minute.

STUCKY and CRYSTAL exit, as ELI, 14, limps up.

ELI

You BB Martin for the Warriors?

BB

Yeah.

ELI

I knew it. Man, this makes my day.  
Why you not on the road with the  
team?

BB

Injury. But how's your knee?

ELI

S'nothing. Gave out playing ball. I  
don't let it stop me much. Doc say  
stay off of it, but after a month I  
was back playing.

BB

You play for a high school?

ELI

Streets mostly. That's the best place  
to learn new moves. All that league  
stuff is just white crap.

CUT TO: INT. CAFETERIA KITCHEN - DAY

STUCKY follows CRYSTAL into the kitchen as she removes her apron.

CRYSTAL

What you think about spicing the  
soup?

STUCKY

Fine. Well, really, some more garlic  
salt and marjoram would have helped.

CRYSTAL

I think we have some marjoram.

CRYSTAL stands on a stool and stretches to reach top shelf while STUCKY watches. He picks up a wet noodle from the bowl and tastes it.

STUCKY

And celery salt.

CRYSTAL steps down off the stool.

CRYSTAL

You certainly seem to know your  
spices. Most guys aren't interested  
in that sort of thing. You're not gay  
are you?

STUCKY

Don't even...

STUCKY reacts by throwing the noodle at her. The noodle hits  
her in the neck and slips down into her blouse.

CRYSTAL

Now, how am I going to get that out?

STUCKY, blushing, runs out of the kitchen.

CRYSTAL

Straight up.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

BB practices a spin move with STUCKY guarding him. PLAYERS show  
up and shoot. PEPPER approaches BB.

PEPPER

Hope you're ready to skeet today. A  
couple of late nights and Coach is  
pissed.

COACH blows his whistle and players gather.

COACH

Gentlemen, all I'm asking for is  
effort. You haven't been trying, not  
running. Shit, I think your fat asses  
forgot how. Well, I'm going to remind  
you. On the line. Go!

CUT TO: FINISH

COACH blows whistle after BB crosses the line.

COACH

It looks like BB is the only one not dogging it. Mister Martin, you are now off the I.R. We are going to run to see who wants to sit out for the next two weeks. Line up. Go!

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

STUCKY, dressed in sweats, sits at locker while players enter sweaty and whining.

STUCKY

Anyone seen BB?

MARC

He won the wind sprints and left half an hour ago.

STUCKY looks perplexed.

MARC

Idaho, you been ditched.

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

STUCKY

I'm looking for BB MARTIN.

BOUNCER

The ball player?

STUCKY

I'm with his posse.

BOUNCER raises his eyebrow.

STUCKY

Really.

STUCKY shows him his Warriors ID card. BOUNCER motions toward the back of club.

STUCKY weaves through tables, bumps a cocktail WAITRESS.

STUCKY

Sorry, ma'am.

STUCKY finds BB sitting with DENNIS and ANOTHER PLAYER.

STUCKY

BB we need to go.

BB

Chill. I got ribs coming.

WAITRESS

I see you have a new friend. My name is Kelly. Would you like a menu?

STUCKY

No, I, we were just leaving.

DENNIS

He said chill. Stop yo cop-blocking.

(To WAITRESS)

Kelly, Idaho will have the ribs and one of those hot baked potatoes.

STUCKY

You need to leave with me now.

STUCKY pulls cell phone from pocket.

BB

Or what, you'll tell my mama?

PEPPER snatches the cell phone.

STUCKY

That too. C'mon.

STUCKY grabs his arm and BB pushes him in the chest, they stand eye to eye.

BB

Ain't leaving. I'm gonna get yo ass.

STUCKY looks at BOUNCER who is heading this way.

STUCKY

Excuse me.

STUCKY greets BOUNCER.

Sir, did you know that Mr. Martin is under age? That could possibly get your license revoked

BOUNCER

Tell him.

STUCKY walks over to OWNER.

STUCKY

Did you know that Mr. Martin is under age?

OWNER

Do you want to call in folks?  
Da Po-le-ce?

STUCKY

Uh, on second thought, I've ordered some ribs and I'll just sit down

STUCKY sits back down at BB's table. He bows his head in prayer.

CLOSE UP: STUCKY praying.

STUCKY

Lord, help me to get BB out of here.

STUCKY looks up to see one of the players reach for nuts and spill his drink. STUCKY stands and helps wipe up drink with cloth and paper napkins, then places the wet napkin over the ashtray that is holding a lit cigar. In a minute the napkin bursts into flames, the ballplayers smother the fire with other wet napkins, the fire alarm sounds, and the strippers on the stage are doused by the sprinkler system.

The patrons exit through fire exit. Outside STUCKY grabs BB.

STUCKY

We better get gone before the cops show up.

BB

We weren't going to get caught, dawg.

STUCKY and BB in Buick and drive away.

BB

You like regulating me?

STUCKY

I've trained tougher companions.

BB

So tell me, Elder Idaho, why you decide to be a minister?

STUCKY

We don't have full time ministers. It was just a two year calling.

BB

So why you don't play football?

STUCKY

Tried it. I was All-State, a walking stud. Got recruited to Boise State. Coaches came to the house and kissed up to the folks and offered me a scholarship.

BB

Injury?

STUCKY

Never got a chance. I showed up all in shape and did all the drills, and they named the first three teams and my name wasn't on them. So they would scrimmage and I would watch. The second week I asked the coach if I was ever going to get to scrimmage and he said no. They got their top recruits so they didn't need me.

BB

That sucks.

STUCKY

Happens all the time, but I never thought it would happen to me. Just as well. I had to take inventory—that's when I realized that there was life outside football.

BB

You think I'm toast, too?

STUCKY

Up to you. You've got the talent. Wherever you go, there you are.

INT. WARRIOR OFFICE - DAY

GIBBONS, BB, STUCKY sit.

GIBBONS

Before we take you off the I.R., we wanted to have a little discussion to see how the program was going. David reports that everything is on schedule and you are conforming in all aspects. I want to congratulate you.

BB

Yeah.

GIBBONS

You know BB, we had a report from that some of the boys were at a strip club that had a fire. We were worried, but found you were not in the group.

STUCKY

No. Not us.

GIBBONS

Good. We were this close to sending you packing, but we trust you have turned a new leaf. I know the coach likes your new competitiveness.

BB looks at STUCKY, who gives him a smirk.

INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

CROWD for Warriors game. STUCKY, dressed in a suit, sits in the stands a few rows behind the bench during a game. During a time-out he introduces himself to the white woman MEEKA, 29, on his left. CAROL, 27, also white, sits by MEEKA, followed by black woman GEENA, 27.

STUCKY

Hi. David Stucky, Blackfoot, Idaho.

MEEKA

So you're Idaho—the Mormon they brought in for BB?

STUCKY

Is it in the papers?

MEEKA

No. I'm Dennis's wife Meeka.

STUCKY

You? Uh! Well, pleased to meet you. Dennis helped me out once.

MEEKA

Yeah, he told me about the BMW.  
(Laugh.) We all think it's great what you're trying to do for BB. He's such a troubled boy.

STUCKY

I've seen worse. He's making terrific progress.

MEEKA

Have you met the other player's wives?

STUCKY

No, I didn't realize...

MEEKA

This is Mark's wife, Carol.

CAROL

Hi.

STUCKY insists on standing and shaking her hand.

MEEKA

And Geena—She and Skip are almost married.

GEENA

Any day now.

STUCKY

David Stucky, Blackfoot, Idaho.

Horn sounds to end a timeout and the Warriors take the floor.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

And the Warriors send in BB Martin for the first time this season. For those of you following his turbulent career the talented youngster has just returned from an injury.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Yeah, I think it was one of those finger sprains that can be so difficult to overcome.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

And diagnose. The Warriors fined BB for some legal trouble he had a month ago and some of the fans are taunting him for it as he enters the game. Can you make out what they are saying?

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Yes, actually, but this is still a family-friendly broadcast.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

The Warriors go to BB early and the Sonics foul him hard. It will be interesting to see who they call this on—two Sonics players hit him simultaneously.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

If they are trying to get in his head early, they're succeeding.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

Number 33 at the free throw line and his first shot bounces hard off the front rim. That wasn't even close.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

The fans are really riding him now. And BB is talking back to them.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

Incredible folks, instead of shooting the free throw, he's holding the ball and staring down a fan!

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Whoa, did you see that?

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

Evidently not all of his fingers are injured. Now he shoots, and makes, the free throw. The referees are waving it off. No basket, technical foul on Martin. No wait they are giving him the basket, and marching to the other end for free throws.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Coach Cordill has had enough.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

So have the refs, Martin is whistled again and they are escorting him from the building.

Back in the stands, STUCKY hides his head in his hands. MEEKA reaches and pats his shoulder to console him.

STUCKY

I've seen worse.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

BB is sitting by locker with jersey off as STUCKY storms in.

STUCKY

Of all the weak ass!

BB  
(Chuckles) Dawg, I never heard you swear.

STUCKY  
You think it's funny?

STUCKY picks up BB's jersey and throws it at BB, then kicks the locker to make a loud crash, and picks up a chair and throws it across the room. As BB looks stunned, STUCKY sits down and faces BB and changes demeanor.

STUCKY  
I'm not really angry. See? If you ever have the opportunity to get angry to make a statement, go ahead. But make sure you haven't really lost it.

BB  
Huh?

STUCKY  
Basketball is a mental game. You still think it's a physical game.

BB  
Dawg!

STUCKY  
Ever watch Divac, he's the best at it since Bill Russell. They think he is angry but he's really plotting. Then he makes a heads-up play when they are expecting him to bull them. And baiting the refs of course. He's a master. Kings' fans still believe the refs robbed him in game six.

BB  
Dawg!

STUCKY  
What is your strength? What is your weakness? What do they expect you to do? What do they want you to do? Then let them think they are doing it.

BB  
What they expect?

STUCKY  
Stockton would dish out ten assists in three quarters, then when the game was on the line in the fourth, he would take advantage of the expectation that he was going to pass and drive in for lay ups. Head game.

BB shakes his head in amazement and walks into the shower.

INT. CAFETERIA KITCHEN - DAY

CRYSTAL, BB, and STUCKY are cooking in the kitchen.

BB  
I just figured it out; I'm a slave.

CRYSTAL  
The Reverend say we're still slaves.

STUCKY  
I think he was just using an example of sin. You don't think you're still slaves--do you?

CRYSTAL  
Slavery is keeping a people down.  
Since we're kept down, we're slaves.

STUCKY  
Sounds like hating every race except your own. I had a companion like that -- he was always saying, "Those people," Like, I don't know why "those people" live like that."

CRYSTAL  
He talking about where black live, in public housing?

STUCKY

No, actually he was talking about all the illegitimate children.

BB

Same thing. Whitey still taking our family away. Selling the father into slavery so he can't be round his family.

STUCKY

They still doing that? So where are they selling them to now?

BB

I say, white man still keeping us down. Look at the NBA. Jew running the show. White coaches most every team. All the owners is white.

STUCKY

Yeah, and the million dollar salary is just part of keeping you down.

BB

Yeah, and you think you deserve ten percent just for waking me up in the morning.

STUCKY

You know what you need? Gratitude.

CRYSTAL

You don't know what it's like.

BB

Straight up.

STUCKY

What don't I know?

CRYSTAL

Bout being kept down. Persecuted.

STUCKY

Oh, I know persecuted. I been persecuted. I've been called everything from wigger by blacks, to nigger by whites. You even call me gay. I've been told I'm brainwashed. I've been spit on. I've been hauled to jail for preaching the gospel.

CRYSTAL

Idaho, you buck wild.

STUCKY

It's called being persecuted for the name of Jesus. You know why there's Mormons in Idaho? Cause they got kicked out of New York and Ohio. Then mobs burned their homes in Missouri. The Governor said to exterminate us, like we were cockroaches or something. Our Prophet and his brother were assassinated in Illinois. We settled in the desert because nobody wanted it, and because nobody wanted us.

BB

You know why they is blacks in Alabama? Cause they were kidnapped and chained to ships. Cause they were bought and sold. Whipped and murdered and raped. Hung from a tree if they were uppity. Four hundred years.

CRYSTAL

You know why are there are blacks in Oakland?

STUCKY

No, why?

CRYSTAL

I dunno. Cause they are Raiders Fans?

INT. MANSION LIVING ROOM - DAY

Knock at door is answered by MEEKA, STUCKY and BB stand outside.

MEEKA

I'm glad you came early.

They enter and follow her to the kitchen where DENNIS is holding a baby and watching pots on the stove. STUCKY takes off his suit coat, ties on an apron and starts chopping onions.

MEEKA

What do you call that?

STUCKY

Mississippi red beans. You got your beans, your bacon, your garlic, your hocks, your sausage, your onion, and your cayenne pepper. Then you start to season it.

MEEKA

So where did you learn to cook?

STUCKY

Alabama. Actually BB's Mom taught me a few things. I'm like a friend of the family.

DENNIS

BB cooks too?

STUCKY

Don't go there. If he even looks at a knife he'll be on the I.R. for a month. Man, we help out at this soup kitchen and I keep him away from the sharp tool-age.

BB

Yeah, Idaho thinks he's the black Martha Stewart.

STUCKY

Says the boy who don't know the business end of a ladle.

DENNIS

C'mon BB, let's go see how the Lions  
are doing.

They exit kitchen to living room.

DENNIS

BB, glad you could come. I suppose  
I've been distant—it's hard to get  
tight with the young kids—not that it  
is right, it's just so many come and  
go.

BB

Nice to be here. And thanks to you  
we're winning some games.

DENNIS

I get caught up thinking that because  
I'm the go-to guy, I've got to carry  
the whole load. I need to relax and  
hang with you guys.

BB

You sure have a nice place. Cute  
family.

DENNIS

Hang in there, you'll have it all  
someday. (laughs) I'm sorry, I was  
thinking about your head in the  
beamer window about to be  
guillotined.

BB

I guess it was funny if it wasn't  
you.

CUT TO: DINING ROOM DINNER TABLE - DAY

Three couples, DENNIS and MEEKA, MARC and CAROL, SKIP and  
GEENA, BB, and STUCKY sit down. STUCKY bounces TODDLER on his  
knee.

MEEKA

Idaho is a lay minister, and we want  
to ask him to say grace.

BB  
Don't do that, he'll never shut up.

MEEKA  
Go ahead. I'll hold the baby.

STUCKY  
No, I'm fine.

STUCKY bows head while bouncing the baby on his knee.

Heavenly Father, at this Thanksgiving  
we thank you for these nice folks  
having us over and the food. Bless my  
family back home in Blackfoot. And in  
'bama (pause) Bless the Warriors to  
keep winning and help us all to  
improve the lives of others. In  
Jesus' name, Amen.

CUT TO: Later after dinner. DENNIS, MARC, SKIP, and BB stand on deck with wine glasses.

DENNIS  
Idaho said something about giving  
back, and I wonder what we owe.

MARC  
I built a hundred thousand dollar  
football field for my old high school  
and I don't really know what good it  
did.

DENNIS  
We set up a foundation, that's really  
the only way to go, and my dad fields  
all the requests. But I won't let him  
give a cent to my alma mater. Those  
muthas did nothing but exploit me for  
three years. I figure they already  
made their million off me.

SKIP  
Been there. My friend back home OD-ed  
and my school wouldn't even let me go  
to the funeral. Said if they paid my  
way, we'd all be on probation.

DENNIS

Oh, I'll pave a ball court now and  
then just to give back.

MARC

I went home a couple years ago and  
Judy said the best thing would be to  
just tear it down and make the  
families move to real neighborhoods.

DENNIS

I've wondered if dumping money is  
just keeping it on life support.  
Maybe we ought to pay kids fifty  
grand to leave and never come back.

BB

I haven't really thought about it.

SKIP

When you sign your first big money  
contract, every greasy palm in the  
world will be knocking.

MARC

They come up and tell you that you  
were a million-to-one shot and you  
ought to kick out for the million who  
didn't make it. But they don't know  
how I busted my butt.

DENNIS

Ever do a Santa?

MARC

I went with Shaq once and he was  
wearing this big red fur coat and  
throwing Benjamins to the kids, then  
started passing out ghetto-blasters—a  
hundred of them. Like having a bigger  
getto-blaster was gonna help them. .

BB

There's this boy I met at the soup  
kitchen with this messed up knee from  
playing ball and I wonder, why him?

DENNIS

I hear you. Sometimes I feel like I  
should give it all back.

BB

And there's this sister at the soup  
kitchen who says the Pentecostal  
church is what helped her most.  
Shiiee! We supposed to be there at  
two. Idaho! We be late!

STUCKY

Oh flip!

MEEKA

Where you going?

STUCKY

Serve turkey to homeless. We'll come  
back tonight and help clean up.

STUCKY scoops some beans into a cup and he and BB run out.

INT. DOWNTOWN CAFETERIA - DAY

Long line of people in front of food table. Buick pulls up and  
BB hops out, STUCKY drives away.

CRYSTAL

Bout time. Idaho coming?

BB

Yeah, he's parking.

CRYSTAL

Grab an apron and don't forget the  
gloves.

STUCKY walks up holding cup of beans with napkin on it.

STUCKY

Got you a little something. Close  
your eyes.

CRYSTAL closes her eyes while STUCKY scoops some beans with two fingers and puts them in her mouth.

CRYSTAL

Mmm. That good. Hah, hah, too hot.

STUCKY

That's Cajun.

BB

Sister, you blushing.

BB laughs while STUCKY retrieves a glass of water. ELI limps up to food line.

ELI

I was hoping to see you here. Why don't they play you more?

BB

I'm working on it.

ELI

That's my man. Dawg, have a happy Thanksgiving.

BB

Yeah.

ELI nods and limps back to table as BB watches him.

INT. BB APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

BB and STUCKY sit at table with bibles open.

STUCKY

Rebekah's upset because her son Esau took two wives, the daughters of Heth. Says here they grieved them.

BB

He Mormon?

STUCKY

It's not the number, it's their moral character. Rebekah says if they don't find Jacob a good wife, her

STUCKY (CONT'D)

life is worthless. See she was thinking about the grandkids and how those Heth girls were going to put off having kids cause they were party-ers, and not take care of them once they had them.

BB

Rebekah was good, like my mama.

STUCKY

They picked Rebekah because she was kind. Remember she dipped water for that stranger and his camel? God promised Issac that his children would bless the whole world.

BB

You saying if they don't have children, then God don't need them?

STUCKY

Have children with a wife. No hoochie mama, no hood rat.

BB

Never made sense to chase booty by how good she be with the kids.

STUCKY

My folks met after the big flood in '76 when the Teton Dam broke and Dad volunteered to help out cleaning mud out of basements in Rexburg. My mom brought the workers stuff to drink.

BB

I never knew my dad. Mom never told me his name or nothing. Funny thing, I hear he's still around.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

STUCKY, BB, CRYSTAL meet VICTORIA in hallway. Music *Beehive Band, Fall on the Rock*

VICTORIA

So glad you could make it. Right this way.

VICTORIA leads them into a ward with children individually at their bedsides. CRYSTAL, BB, and STUCKY each take a bedside and interact with the children.

CRYSTAL

'I do not like green eggs and ham, I do not like them Sam I am.' 'But would you like them in a boat?'

VICTORIA

Here's what my nanny used to say when I was hurt:

*Sana, sana coleta de Rana. Si no sanas hoy, sanaras mañana.*

CHILD 1

Do that again!

BB sitting by the bed of a small boy.

BB

Dribble behind by back? Easy. Yeah, was twelve when I jammed for the first time. I got this reverse move...

STUCKY sitting by another boy.

STUCKY

When you get out of here, you and I will have some fun. Ever been in the cab of a tractor? Disking, harrowing, planting. It's great. I like plowing cause it turns the plants upside-down, like this.

STUCKY, BB, and CRYSTAL leave the ward and walk down the hall. BB has a tear in his eye. CRYSTAL notices.

CRYSTAL

What did you think?

BB

Jesus.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

BB catches the ball in the post and scores with the spin move.  
COACH blows the whistle.

COACH

That'll be it for today. Remember,  
we'll fly out at seven in the morning  
to Atlanta. Get some rest, got four  
games in six days.

Players filing out of locker room where a half dozen groupies  
are standing by the door to the parking lot. BB walks through  
the gauntlet and NORA, wearing leather, grabs his arm.

NORA

Need some company tonight?

BB

Love to honey, but, uh, Idaho's  
waiting.

NORA

You need to lose that Gomer.

PEPPER walks by with girl on his arm.

PEPPER

Fill up that tank, BB, it's a long  
road trip.

BB

I gotta get out of here.

BB breaks her grip and runs past PEPPER toward the Buick.

PEPPER

Brother's bugging.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT IN NEW ORLEANS - NIGHT

Court full of fans, with ANITA, family, and friends, sitting by  
STUCKY a few rows back of the Warrior bench. WYNONA, 18, holds  
up a makeshift sign that says "Play BB." BB sits at the end of  
the bench in his sweats. Horn sounds to end game and ANITA  
jumps down to confront COACH.

ANITA

Coach, you could have at least played him a couple of minutes.

COACH

Anita, good to see you. Sorry, I'm just trying to win the game.

ANITA

Lots of disappointed kids.

COACH

The program seems to be working out.

ANITA

That's good to hear.

CUT TO: nearby

WYNONA

Hi, BB.

BB

Wynona, you looking good.

WYNONA

You know, I'm eighteen now.

STUCKY walks up to them holding BB's youngest brother on his shoulders.

STUCKY

Hi, Dave Stucky, Blackfoot, Idaho.

WYNONA

So?

BB

Nona, Idaho's ah, uh, friend of the family. Idaho, Wynona's ah, uh...

STUCKY

Daughter of Heth?

BB

Friend of mine, yeah, uh, we've known each other for a long time.

ANITA enters and hugs BB, then STUCKY.

ANITA

There's my baby. And Stucky. Honey,  
The elders are teaching me again,  
just like you asked.

(ANITA notices Wynona.)

Girl, I shouldn't be surprised to see  
you here in Nah-leans.

WYNONA

I'm eighteen.

ANITA

Let's all going out for Cajun as soon  
as you clean up. Wynona, you could  
come too; Elder Stucky is going to  
report on BB's progress, might be  
good for you to hear.

STUCKY

Sorry Anita, the team's eating in the  
locker room cause we're flying to  
Houston in an hour.

ANITA

My baby.

ANITA hugs BB. WYNONA turns and walks away.

INT. REVEREND'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

REVEREND, REVEREND'S WIFE, SON, SISSY, BB, STUCKY, CRYSTAL  
finish singing a Christmas carol. ...NOEL, NOEL, BORN IS THE KING  
OF ISRAEL.

BB stands with a white sheet over one shoulder and a garland on  
his head.

BB

Fear not, for you're going to have a  
baby named Jesus.

SISSY takes her little brother by the hand.

SISSY

Let's go to Bethlehem.

SISSY climbs on STUCKY, who is on all fours as the donkey.

STUCKY

Hee haw.

BB

Fear not again, for unto you is born  
this day in Bethlehem a Savior, who  
be Christ the Lord.

INT. DOWNTOWN CAFETERIA - DAY

Cafeteria decorated for Christmas. ELI approaches BB serving.

ELI

Merry Shristmas, BB.

BB

Merry Shristmas, Elijah. I've got you  
a little something.

BB reaches down and pulls out a present. Eli opens it on the spot. He is overjoyed at the Warriors jersey number 33 with MARTIN on the back. He then pulls a knee brace out of the box.

BB

Don't forget to look in the card.

ELI

Thank you, boo. Thank you.

CRYSTAL

That was nice of you!

BB

(chokes)

First time for everything.

Tears fall from BB's eyes.

CRYSTAL

I see Jesus working on you, BB. He  
gonna make you a man after his heart.

INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

COMMENTATOR 1

And we start the second half with the  
Warriors clinging to a five point  
lead over the Suns.

COMMENTATOR 2

Coach Cordill is starting BB Martin  
in the second half—perhaps because  
his quickness matches well against  
the brute strength of Amare  
Stoudamire.

COMMENTATOR 1

He's hoping BB's two blocks in the  
first half will make Stoudamire think  
twice.

COMMENTATOR 2

And the SUNS isolate Stoudamire, BB  
goes up with him, and...

BB leans over STOUDAMIRE to block a shot and catches an elbow  
in the head in slow motion as the scene becomes soundless.

(Music by the Beehive Band: *All is Well*)

WHAT'S THIS THAT STEALS THAT STEALS UPON MY FRAME?  
IS IT DEATH? IS IT DEATH?  
THAT SOON WILL QUENCH WILL QUENCH THIS VITAL FLAME  
IS IT DEATH? IS IT DEATH?  
IF THIS BE DEATH, I SOON SHALL BE  
FROM EVERY PAIN AND SORROW FREE.  
I SHALL THE KING OF GLORY SEE. ALL IS WELL.

BB lies motionless on the floor. PEPPER winces as he sees it,  
and waves to the TRAINER. COACH looks upset. STUCKY rushes onto  
the floor. The TRAINER waves him off. BB lies lifeless and is  
wheeled from the court on a stretcher to an ambulance with  
STUCKY in the seat beside him. The ambulance door slams shut.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

(Last verse of *All is Well*)

BRIGHT ANGELS ARE FROM GLORY COME  
THEY'RE ROUND MY BED THEY'RE IN MY ROOM  
THEY WAIT TO WAFT MY SPIRIT HOME. ALL IS WELL.

VICTORIA and CRYSTAL stand at foot of bed as STUCKY and older MORMON BISHOP place their hands on BB's bandaged head. VICTORIA and CRYSTAL bow their heads as if praying. (Music ends).

STUCKY talks on cell phone beside BB in bed.

STUCKY

Anita, don't worry, he's going to be fine. Well, no he hasn't exactly got out of bed yet. Don't fly out. He'll be fine. (pause) Because we gave him a blessing.

CRYSTAL hugs STUCKY, who exhales and looks in her eyes.

BB

Where am I? You angels?

VICTORIA

Yes, and don't you forget it.

CRYSTAL

The hospital.

BB

What happened?

STUCKY

Stoudamire's elbow.

BB

Did they put me on the I.R.?

STUCKY

Not yet.

BB tries to sit up, moans, and lies back in bed.

STUCKY

(in cell phone)

Yeah, he's awake and bitching again.  
Here talk to your mama.

ANITA

I was just praying for you, and I had the most peaceful feeling. Then I called you back, and here you are.

BB

I feel fine as long as I don't touch it. And they got me in one of these gowns that barely covers my belly button.

ANITA

Thank God Stucky was there.

BB

What you mean?

ANITA

You ask him about it. Them Mormons got powerful ways. BB, maybe you not ready for this, but God is looking out for you. He wants you to do good.

BB

Gotta go now.

BB hangs up, looks at STUCKY.

BB

Dawg, my bad. I been buck wild.

STUCKY

You're okay. I've had tougher companions.

EXT. AIRPORT IN POCATELLO IDAHO - DAY  
Plane lands.

STUCKY and BB getting in Ford pickup and driving by bare fields in February.

The pickup pulls up to a farmhouse surrounded by dirt fields. Children squeal as they run out to greet them. LEON STUCKY shakes BB's hand. Little CHELSEA, 8, gives BB a valentine. Two boys grab STUCKY from either side. Then DIANE STUCKEY, 48, hugs DAVID. She turns to face BB.

DIANE

Land, where you going to sleep? I don't have any beds long enough. Can you sleep diagonally?

INT. RURAL CHURCH - DAY

STUCKY AND BB, dressed in suits follow the Stucky family into the church. JENNY, 22, holds a baby and rushes over to STUCKY.

STUCKY

Jenny, this is BB Martin.

BB

Howdy.

STUCKY takes the baby in his arms.

STUCKY

You must be little Bobbie. I've heard so much about you.

He squeezes the baby and hands him back to JENNY. Another lady gives him a hug. Men shake hands with him. They enter the chapel and sit on the stand beside his parents.

STUCKY

Did I ever tell you about my one companion that used to run away every morning at five o'clock and return at seven? Never did find out what he was up to.

BB

Buy a clue, Einstein. So, Idaho, I hear missionaries have girlfriends home waiting for them. Did you leave a girl behind on your mission?

STUCKY

Yup.

BB

She gonna be here?

STUCKY

Yup.

BB

What does she look like?

STUCKY

An awful lot like that girl Jenny.

BB

The one with the baby? (Laughs.)

CUT TO: STUCKY stands at pulpit.

STUCKY

Go on a mission. If you have a testimony of the Gospel you have to share it. Jesus told about the talents and said that he with talents would be given more, but he that buried his would have it taken away. There's a song that says, "Papa may have, and Mama may have, but God bless the child that's got his own." That's the way it is with your testimony—you've to get it for yourself. I'm still teaching the gospel—BB can't shut me up about it.

EXT. DIRT ROAD NEAR FIELD NEAR BLACKFOOT, IDAHO - DAY

STUCKY is walking with his coat on, BB calls after him.

BB

Wait up!

STUCKY

I thought you'd be watching the All-Star game.

BB

Seen one before. So what you gonna do? I mean after the season?

STUCKY

Start school. I just applied to BYU-Idaho. Maybe go to the U of I up in Moscooe.

BB

Then?

STUCKY

Get a job at Simplot. Save up and buy some equipment.

BB

You really like it?

STUCKY

Man, we grow the best spuds in the world here. Right here. Trouble is, half the time you can't sell them for a profit. Get one step away from the dirt, my grandpa says. Sell equipment, sell fertilizer, sell pesticide, sell trucks, plows, cultivators, diggers, land levelers. Sell loans to the farmers. Everybody gets their cut.

BB

Makes sense.

STUCKY

But then they ain't farming, they just selling.

BB

So why do you want to do it?

STUCKY

How much they pay you to play ball?

BB

You know.

STUCKY

One point one three million this year. How much would it take to get you to play?

BB

I used to play for nothing. Used to pay fifty cents to ride the bus cross town to find a better game.

STUCKY squats down at the edge of a plowed field, picks up a handful of dirt and squeezes it as he surveys the land.

STUCKY

Smell this dirt. It smells like it's just ripe for giving life.

BB

Aw right. I see where you coming from.

INT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

BB and STUCKY Family sitting around kitchen table playing the card game Pit. Everyone yelling numbers one through four at the same time. Laughing.

INT FARMHOUSE BEDROOM WINDOW - DAY

BB wakes up in the master bedroom and looks out the window at the bare fields.

*MUSIC: Yo-yo Ma, Meyer, O'Conner. Appalachia Waltz*

INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Players running to center court as they are introduce.

COMMENTATOR 1 (V.O.)

The Warrior report Marc's injury will keep him out for at least four weeks. Instead of moving the whole line-up, they've decided to start Martin at small forward.

COMMENTATOR 2 (V.O.)

Quite a gamble in this playoff race, but BB has been playing better recently.

BB takes the ball on the wing and slashes to the middle where his shot is blocked, slapped and ends up in his hands. He goes up again and it is blocked again.

Horn sounds ending quarter. COACH pulls BB aside by the jersey.

COACH

What are you doing slashing? You  
think you're Michael Freaking Jordan?  
What's wrong with that eighteen  
footer? Shoot the frigging ball!

BB

Damn straight.

Music: BS&T.

BB and team return to floor. On the first time down court, BB sets up outside and when the defender doesn't come out, he floats a soft jumper that floats in slow motion as players bump each other for position. Ball rips the net and BB hops.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

VICTORIA, in a nurse's suit, looks up to see BB and STUCKY.

VICTORIA

What a surprise!

BB

Think you can get us in to see Marc?

VICTORIA

No problem.

STUCKY

I need to see a man about a horse,  
I'll catch up later.

VICTORIA leads BB into a private room with MARC in the bed and CAROL sitting beside him. BB presents flowers.

BB

Just came to see how the old man was  
doing.

CAROL

So nice of you.

MARC

So you bribed the nurse?

BB

Ah, Marc, this is my friend Victoria.

CAROL

This the gal from the soup kitchen?

BB

No, Vic is a student at Cal.

MARC

Thanks for coming by.

CAROL

Good to meet you Vee. But just  
between you and me, I admire your  
courage but question your judgment.

VICTORIA

(Laughs)

We're just friends.

MARC motions VICTORIA closer and whispers in her ear. VICTORIA nods.

They leave and stand outside door in hallway.

BB

What Marc say?

VICTORIA

How thankful he is for Carol.

BB

I saw him wink at her.

VICTORIA

It's rare. Since I discovered I was  
black, like a few months ago, I've  
been doing some reading about blacks  
and marriage. Did you know half of  
black men never get married?

BB

What you saying?

VICTORIA

I mean, Marc's the marrying type. Are  
you?

BB  
I could see it someday.

VICTORIA  
Of those who do, one fifth marry  
white women, like Marc did.

BB  
You mean they're turning their back  
on their sisters?

VICTORIA  
I mean they are colorblind.

BB  
Would you marry a white?

VICTORIA  
BB, I was raised by whites. Went to  
school and church with whites. I'm  
not the person you see—I'm white.

BB  
Right.

VICTORIA  
I remember looking in the mirror  
everyday at this black stranger who  
wasn't me. Every year I would tear up  
my class picture because there was  
this ugly black girl ruining it. And  
I worry all the time—I've lived a  
white life, and want to marry a white  
man in a white temple, but none of  
the Mormon men will even look at me.

BB  
What about Idaho? He's colorblind.

VICTORIA  
Did you see any blacks in Blackfoot?

BB  
Well, no.

VICTORIA

And you think I could just move there  
to live his dream? Look who's coming  
to dinner? And you know what's worse?  
I wouldn't dare bring him home to my  
folks.

BB

What up with that?

VICTORIA

They would cringe at his language and  
love of tractors. They would think  
they were selling me into slavery.

INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

During a game, BB is whistled for one foul. He runs down the court, takes an entry pass and works his spin move for a baseline dunk. The next time down the court he is whistled for another foul. He takes his seat at end of bench.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT -

Before practice, BB works on his spin moves as STUCKY shadow-guards him. After one move, BB spins around him and to dunk but STUCKY knocks him to the floor.

BB

What's that shit?

STUCKY

Clean block.

BB

Like hell! You trying to hurt me.

STUCKY

That wouldn't be hard to do.

BB

Bring it on, white-ass.

STUCKY sits down on the basketball, motions with his finger for BB to come closer, and whispers.

STUCKY

It's mental, dawg. You throw that smack and you'll be tee-ed up and riding pine. Got it?

BB

Yeah.

STUCKY

But that was funny, 'Bring it on white-ass.' I'm sure the white-ass refs will love that.

BB

I only want to ball but all the refs trying to foul me out.

STUCKY

If you want to ball, then you have to be smart and get over the other stuff. The refs, the head games, the coach, the teammates, the groupies.

BB

I only want one thing.

EXT. OAKLAND LDS TEMPLE GROUNDS - DAY

BB, STUCKY, VICTORIA and CRYSTAL walk up to temple wearing blue jeans and gloves. They plant flowers in plots next to temple.

CRYSTAL

Wow, I never seen a prettier church.

STUCKY

Do you know what they do in there?

CRYSTAL

No.

VICTORIA

They have weddings in these beautiful rooms with crystal chandeliers and mirrors like out of a fairy tale.

BB

Tripping.

CUT TO: NIGHT and TEMPLE LIGHTS TURNED ON

STUCKY

Where's Crystal?

BB

Round back.

STUCKY

I'll go find her. Meet me at the car.

BB

You think you can leave me alone with  
Vee? At night?

STUCKY

Funny.

STUCKY walks one way while BB and VICTORIA walk the other.

BB

I was thinking about your thang being  
a white girl that looks black.

Suppose you find a black man?

VICTORIA

Did I tell you two out of ten black  
men have criminal records? Forget it.  
There are probably more black men in  
jail than live in monogamous  
relationships.

BB

Okay, Poindexter. There must be some  
black men marry black women.

VICTORIA

Only forty percent, but very few  
Mormon.

BB

Why does he have to be Mormon?

VICTORIA

See the temple? I know who I am. It's  
tough but it's me. My mother tells me  
that God has a purpose for giving me

VICTORIA (CONT'D)  
both my skin color and my testimony.  
I believe it. I have to believe it.

BB  
So what you gonna do?

VICTORIA  
I hear there's a few black Mormons in  
Nigeria. Seriously, I've been  
wondering about doing an internship  
in Brazil. Portuguese is close to  
Spanish, and I hear race isn't a  
problem there. There are probably  
thousands of Mormon men down there.  
Besides, Latino men are so romantic.

They arrive at car and lean against hood.

BB  
Suppose there be Mormon bruvar from  
the hood.

VICTORIA  
Yeah, you let me know when you find  
him.

BB  
It could happen. I never used to  
think so. But it could happen.

VICTORIA  
I've noticed.  
(in mock ebonic)  
You not da same bruvar. You done be  
regulated, dawg.

VICTORIA takes his hand and leans against him. BB gazes at the temple.

BB  
Wonder what's keeping dat boy so  
long.

CUT TO: OTHER SIDE OF TEMPLE GROUNDS

STUCKY finds CRYSTAL sitting on a bench looking at the temple  
in the lights. He sits beside her.

CRYSTAL  
Can you feel it?  
STUCKY  
Yeah.

MUSIC starts. Instrumental BS&T *For My Lady*.

CRYSTAL  
It makes me think I can fly.

CRYSTAL takes his hand. STUCKY swallows nervously.

STUCKY  
It's just as beautiful inside.

CRYSTAL  
Idaho, I've never met anyone like  
you.

STUCKY  
Same here. I've never met anyone like  
me either.

CRYSTAL  
See what I mean?

STUCKY  
Seriously Crystal, you're so kind,  
and real, and well-rounded. Uh, never  
mind.

CRYSTAL  
Yeah, and I'm black, you realize  
that.

STUCKY  
So? Those black teammates of BB have  
white wives. What's the problem?

CRYSTAL  
It's a problem. Some whites would  
never touch a black-'fraid of some  
rubbing off on them.

STUCKY  
We're touching.

CRYSTAL

They would never hold one tight.

STUCKY

You mean like this?

CRYSTAL

They would never kiss one.

STUCKY and CRYSTAL kiss. STUCKY exhales.

STUCKY

See, I'm not prejudiced.

Another kiss—this time longer.

CRYSTAL

(whisper)

Do you think we could find a place to  
be alone?

MUSIC abruptly ends. STUCKY stands up.

STUCKY

No! No! I mean, I want to, but...

CRYSTAL

What's going on?

STUCKY

Uh, well you see, it's BB. I have to  
keep an eye on him. Because he had  
this problem with statues and so he  
can't, and I can't because misery  
loves company, and so we can't,  
really, like at least until after the  
season is over.

CRYSTAL

That's tri-fo-lin.

STUCKY

We need to get back to the car, BB is  
alone—oh, flip.

STUCKY runs away. CRYSTAL stands up and slowly follows.

INT. BEDROOM IN APARTMENT - NIGHT

BB knocks on door to STUCKY's room, turns on the light and enters. STUCKY sits up in bed.

BB

I need to talk. Something happened there tonight.

STUCKY

Flip! I knew it! What you thinking!

BB

Nothing like that. Just sumpun strange. It's like, before you showed up when I was with girls I want to be bad, really bad. And then afterwards I go to sleep exhausted and it took all the meanness out of me.

But then you got me thinking about that Rebekah mama in the book and tonight when I was around Vee I want to be good. And I come home and think of her and then, boom, I gots a smile on my face like my body is floating. Weird, huh?

STUCKY

Not really. What did she say to you?

BB

Nothing. Just talking.

STUCKY

It's good, BB. That's how it's supposed to feel. But that still don't mean you can date her.

BB

Yeah. So how did it go with Crystal? You sure took a long time to find her.

STUCKY

Straight up?

BB

Straight up.

STUCKY

All those temple lights kind of  
inspired her and she wanted to make  
out on a park bench.

BB

She? You? Right! You cracking me up.

STUCKY

Nothing happened because, uh, I, uh...

BB

Yeah, I know. You're a little rusty.

STUCKY

Not rusty; I'm regulated and I'm  
twenty-two and I'm way over ripe.  
I need a wife or we're going to have  
one of those Teton Dam disasters.

INT. BB APARTMENT - DAY

The sit at kitchen table with Bible's open.

STUCKY

So David takes his sling and hits  
Goliath in the head with one shot.

BB

I heard that one.

STUCKY

But did you know that David had been  
practicing for years. Ace in the  
hole. Like Rulon Gardner beat that  
Russian who had never been beaten in  
twelve years. One to nothing on an  
escape move. That's all. He'd been  
practicing for three years just to  
use it once, and he beat him.

BB

Like my spin moo?

STUCKY

No, like your fake spin and then the power baby hook.

BB

I thought it was my spin moo.

STUCKY

That's your bread and butter. They sit back waiting for that and the baby hook is your ace in the hole.

BB

Ace?

STUCKY

Dawg, you been playing good lately! Eight points and five boards. But you still look a little scared out there. You need some confidence, so I'm going let you in on a secret.

STUCKY pushes the books aside and holds up arm.

BB

You're wack.

STUCKY

There's this angle that you hold your wrist and pull, like this. It's not strength as much as technique. Here, feel that? Now pull this way. Your opponent wants to pull here. Okay, go!

They struggle and BB pins STUCKY.

BB

You mean, you aren't stronger than me?

STUCKY

Whatever. But you better practice it a few more times.

INT. BLACK PENTECOSTAL CHURCH - DAY

CRYSTAL and REVEREND sit on back pew of empty chapel.

CRYSTAL

I don't know. It's just that he is so serious.

REVEREND

What did he say?

CRYSTAL

Not words, but he looks at me like the world is going to melt away.

REVEREND

Crystal, I hope you don't think I dislike Idaho, but you must remember that he is Mormon. They are not really Christians you know.

CRYSTAL

How could that be?

REVEREND

They're after money, they are rich you know, and they are racist too.

CRYSTAL

He and BB argued about money. And once we were talking about race and...he doesn't quite think like us.

REVEREND

I'm sure you've seen it. They pretend but they are just not Christian. We probably shouldn't have let him help at the ministry.

CRYSTAL

I just don't want him to get hurt.

REVEREND

Then you better nip it in the bud. I would hate to see you both get hurt.

INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

BB and other Warrior players shooting around an hour before the game. STUCKY sits in bleachers the cell phone rings.

STUCKY

BB Martin's answering service.

CRYSTAL

Idaho, we need to talk. I've been thinking about the other night and I'm afraid we're taking this too fast.

STUCKY

I know, I wanted to explain. It wasn't just BB, there's a lot of stuff about my leaving a mission.

CRYSTAL

Idaho, just blame it on me. I decided I can't go out with you so it will be best if we don't see each other.

STUCKY

(Pause) Why?

CRYSTAL

I don't have to give you a reason.

STUCKY

You must have a reason. Didn't you feel something? I know you felt it.

CRYSTAL

You obviously didn't feel it or you wouldn't have run away. Or maybe you're so repressed you're incapable.

STUCKY

It's not incapable, I was just scared.

CRYSTAL

That's what I'm talking about. Idaho, you is white and I is black and it would never work.

STUCKY

You don't know that. And that's not  
what made me scared.

CRYSTAL

It would never work.

STUCKY

You don't know that it wouldn't.  
Hello? Hello?

STUCKY puts the cell phone in his pocket as tears run down his face. He watches BB practice the moves. PEPPER shoots and the basketball strays off the court.

PEPPER

Dawg, fetch the ball for me.

BB

Shag your own balls.

PEPPER

You fronting me?

BB

I said, shag your own balls!

PEPPER

I'm gonna get your ass.

BB

Arm wrestle?

PEPPER

Huh?

BB jumps to the others side of the scorers' table and holds up hand.

BB

Arm wrestle. I don't want to put you  
on the I.R. for a real injury.

PEPPER

Okay, toothpick.

BB pins him while ANOTHER PLAYER watches.

ANOTHER PLAYER  
Let me show you how it's done.

BB pins ANOTHER PLAYER. A whistle blows and players run off floor.

Still in tears, STUCKY manages a smile for the wrestling match. GIBBONS approaches STUCKY.

GIBBONS  
Can I talk to you a minute, upstairs?

STUCKY leaves with GIBBONS.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

PEPPER  
My boy say he can whup anybody here at arm wrestling, and he got a fiffy that says he can.

BB  
I really don't have fiffy.

PEPPER  
Shut up, I'll cover you.

MARC  
Hell, I got ten fiffies that say I'll whup his ass.

Players circle around a table as BB pins him.

INT. WARRIOR OFFICE - NIGHT

GIBBONS and STUCKY sit across desk.

GIBBONS  
As you know, we're going to the playoffs with home court advantage—not as high as we hoped, but we should get to the second round.

GIBBONS (CONT'D)

BB's made real progress both on and off the court. We owe a lot of that to you.

And since you're his agent, I thought I'd tell you that we would like to negotiate a new contract as soon as the free agent market opens.

STUCKY

That's awesome! Have you told BB?

GIBBONS

I didn't want to disrupt warm-ups, but if you want to let him know, go ahead.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

DENNIS

You think you a bad mutha?

BB

Shiiiee.

PEPPER

Don't do it, boy. This is gone too far.

BB

He right, I'll be in deep shit for putting you on the I.R., dawg.

DENNIS

You my bitch.

STUCKY enters smiling.

STUCKY

BB, you got a minute?

BB ignores STUCKY and stares at DENNIS with his game face.

BB

Shiiiee. You couldn't get over Idaho.

DENNIS

You my nigger.

BB

I say, mah Mohman whup yo ass.

DENNIS

Nigger.

BB

Whup my Mohman, then I give you a shot. This jack says you can't.

BB looks to STUCKY, who nods, then BB puts all the money on the table. Other players chant "I-da-ho." STUCKY takes off his suit coat, rolls up his right sleeve, and pins DENNIS in one second.

BB

I loves my Mohman!

DENNIS

You cheated. Give me double or nothing.

BB

Straight. You never beat mah Mohman.

STUCKY pins DENNIS again. DENNIS goes to his locker, pulls out a clip of bills and throws it on the table. BB picks it up.

BB

Props to Idaho! He da man. Y'all think you need a wo-man, but you really needs a Moh-man. Cook for you. Clean the house. Keep ya in the green. Chauffeur you around. I loves my Moh-man. I was in deep shit till Idaho come along. Y'all best buy you's a Moh-man.

STUCKY rolls down his sleeve and puts on his suit coat back on. He frowns as BB stuffs the money in his pocket. Then bowing to each player, he says:

STUCKY

Thank you, suh. Thanky, boss. Mah pleasure, suh. Thanky, suh. Very grateful, boss. Thanky.

Then STUCKY straightens up walks to the door, turns and says:

STUCKY  
Oh, Boss, there's one more thing.

BB looks over, and STUCKY flips him the bird and walks out.

INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

MUSIC: **GOD BLESS THE CHILD**, BS&T over the basketball game.

"THEM THAT'S GOT SHALL GET/  
THEM THAT'S NOW SHALL LOSE/  
SO THE BIBLE SAYS/ AND IT STILL IS NEWS/  
PAPA MAY HAVE AND MAMA MAY HAVE/  
BUT GOD BLESS THE CHILD THAT'S GOT HIS OWN."

Tip off to start game and the Warriors take one shot at basket, then DENNIS calls time out holds his elbow. COACH motions to BB off the bench.

BB works his spin move and scores.

BB blocks a shot, runs the floor on break, and jams the ball.

BB works spin move and passes to MARC for dunk.

STUCKY watches from exit as BB sinks a free throw. Then walks through the exit.

EXT. STREET NEAR STADIUM - NIGHT.

STUCKY walks the sidewalk dejected. A bright light attracts attention and he goes in and sits at a table. He stares at the band, where a man is singing a song about rejected love (Colors, 1120).

WAITRESS  
Can I get you a drink?

STUCKY  
Yeah, your strongest stuff.

Everybody in the bar ignores STUCKY isolated at a table. The WAITRESS brings him a shot glass and puts it on a coaster. STUCKY stares at it and listens to the band.

After the song ends, STUCKY knocks the glass over and walks out. On the street, he plays the music in his head.

INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

COMMENTATORS are sitting at scorers table.

COMMENTATOR 1

Where has this kid been all year? We have 27 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 blocked shots. Warriors win 97 to 85. Stay tuned for our interview with player of the game, BB Martin.

BB and COMMENTATOR 2 sit in folding chairs on the court as fans file out.

COMMENTATOR 2

Congratulations BB on a break-out game. So tell us, what has improved your confidence recently?

BB

Arm wrestling.

COMMENTATOR 2

Interesting technique. Did you think you had it in you to excel at this level?

BB

I just trust in God and the Bible.

COMMENTATOR 2

You've had off-court trouble in the past, do you think you are over it?

BB

Get yourself regulated, and just trust in God and stay away from the statues and the daughters of Heth. I've learned a lot from Idaho.

COMMENTATOR 2

Idaho is where you spent a few days during the All-Star break—all that mountain air must have been good for you?

BB  
Yeah. Good potato ground.

COMMENTATOR 2  
Helped clear the head?

BB  
Yeah.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

The PLAYERS congratulate BB as he enters the locker room. BB opens his locker to find bag with his car keys, and an envelope addressed to him. He opens bag to find money and a note that says, "Gibbons says they want to negotiate a new contract, so my job here is done. Here's your lunch money for April, Boss."

SWITCH TO: HALL OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

BB  
Idaho? Anyone seen Idaho?

LEESHA  
Lose your chaperon?

BB  
Yeah.

LEESHA  
Great game, BB. Could I, uh, do something for you?

BB  
You shore could.

He walks down hall and she follows him. He pulls the money envelope out of his jacket, and a \$100 bill from the envelope, then scribbles on a bill.

BB  
You have a cell phone?

LEESHA  
You think I'm going to need backup?

BB

Call these numbers and ask if they've seen Idaho.

LEESHA

I didn't believe them, but now I see how you've gone over-way over. Do me a favor, BB? Screw yourself.

BB

I'm getting that a lot lately.

INT. BB APARTMENT - NIGHT

BB enters and turns on stereo to BS&T. He picks up telephone.

BB

Hi Crystal, you seen Idaho tonight?

CRYSTAL

BB, I kinda told him to leave me alone, like, a few hours ago.

BB

Why?

CRYSTAL

Cuz he white.

BB

Never bother you before.

CRYSTAL

The Reverend told me not to marry no Mormon.

BB

He asked to marry you!?

CRYSTAL.

Not exactly. But he love me like he want to.

BB

Girl, he love everybody like that.  
Yeah, later.

BB dials again.

BB  
Hello, Mama? Idaho's missing. You heard from him today?

ANITA  
Not since Sunday. He called to report on you and he asked me about the whole church thing with the missionaries, and I told I couldn't change churches—think of what my friends would say. And they is a white church. Cepting maybe those Blackfoot folks.

BB  
Blackfoot is whiter than Sweden. Mama, them people is crazy, but they got less than us. Just fields and tractors. And they is whiter than ghosts.

ANITA  
Stuckey? I thought he raised in da hood. He one of my boys.

BB  
Mama, I'm seeing a girl--we're not dating, just chaperoned stuff.

ANITA  
White girl?

BB  
Black girl.

ANITA  
I thought Stucky was watching you.

BB  
She no hood rat, mama. She a good Mormon girl.

ANITA  
A Black Mormon girl? Honey, my bad. My bad. Forgive me honey.

BB  
Mama, what's my cell phone number.  
Thanks, I calls you later.

BB hangs up and dials the number of the cell phone.

CUT TO: STUCKY walking on street at night.

STUCKY pulls the cell phone out of his pocket, holds it to his ear, then realizes he has quit, turns it off, puts it back in his pocket, and keeps walking.

INT. BB APARTMENT - DAY

Doorbell rings, and BB rolls over and falls out of bed.

CUT TO: BB answering door in shorts and wild hair.

BB  
Vee, 'sku my...Let me get a shirt.

BB exits inside apartment while VICTORIA stands in the hallway.

VICTORIA  
BB, what's this about?

BB  
(yells from other room)  
Idaho never showed up last night.

VICTORIA  
I thought you've been trying to lose  
him all this time. What happened?

BB returns with shirt on.

BB  
I dissed him big time last night and  
I want to come clean.

BB's voice breaks and VICTORIA gives him a hug.

VICTORIA  
Come clean? How you going to that?

BB  
Just talk it out and wash it away.  
That's it! The pool!

EXT. POOL - DAY

BB and VICTORIA run to POOL to find STUCKY sleeping on a pool chair with his suit coat as a blanket. BB does a cannonball into the pool and splashes STUCKY, waking him.

STUCKY

What was that for?

BB

Dawg, you broke a rule - you left  
your companion.

STUCKY

So sue me.

VICTORIA

Nice to see you, Idaho, but I gotta  
run.

STUCKY

Vee, glad you could...

VICTORIA leaves.

STUCKY

...come by. Weird chick.

BB

Why'd you come back?

STUCKY

Seems I gave you the money and didn't  
have a place to go.

BB

Don't worry, man, all that locker  
room jack be yours—over five thousand  
dollars. Man, I talked to Crystal  
last night. That sucks.

BB climbs out of pool.

STUCKY

Well yeah. It wouldn't have worked  
out anyway. She's hung up about me  
being white.

BB

You believe her?

STUCKY

No.

BB

She told me the real reason.

STUCKY

Straight up?

BB

Yeah, it's because you gay.

BB laughs at his own joke, and STUCKY throws him back in the pool. BB surfaces and looks at STUCKY.

BB

Idaho. Straight up. Da bitch say she can't marry no Mormon.

STUCKY bites his lip and takes a deep breath.

STUCKY

Then it's just as well. And watch your tongue. Don't go dissing her.

BB

Dey dissing you. I talked to Anita.

STUCKY

That one hurts.

BB

You can't trust women, Idaho, you born yesterday?

STUCKY

Except Mormon women.

BB

Like that Jenny girlfriend of yours with the baby.

STUCKY

You're right. Seems like the whole world is dumping on me. Even you.

BB

My bad. I wasn't thinking, man.

STUCKY

Forget it. I was buck wild last night but walking home, I decided you were right about the slave thing. We Mormons have been dissed, but we never been regulated.

BB

You one righteous Idaho mutha.

STUCKY

Yeah, and I'd better be heading back to the mutha land. You know what's missing in this town? Hay fields. Spuds. It's seventy-five degrees outside and no sprinkler pipes anywhere—it's just not right.

CUT TO: INT. WARRIOR BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

BB and Warrior team playing more basketball in the playoffs.

STUCKY (V.O.)

There's plowing and harrowing and leveling and hillling, then there's planting in a couple weeks. Then watering, and cultivating. Spraying for bugs. Then we have the spuds custom dug. Then plow down the field.

Scoreboard shows Warrior victory and celebration.

EXT. BLACKFOOT IDAHO POTATO FIELDS IN SUMMER - DAY

A tractor stops at the end of a field as a yellow hummer drives up. STUCKY climbs out of the tractor cab in blue jeans as BB steps out of the hummer.

STUCKY

You the man. Look at you.

BB

Dawg, you be living da dream.

STUCKY

Props on the playoffs. We watched  
every night.

BB

Yeah, maybe next year we'll win it  
all. Anyway, Mama going to meet me  
next week in Yellowstone, so I  
thought I'd come bumming here.

STUCKY

You're welcome. Anita, too. How's  
Vee?

BB

It's going. She's studying chemistry  
stuff. Finals. I had to get out of  
Oakland. Can I be any help?

STUCKY looks at the hummer.

STUCKY

Playoff money?

BB

Yup.

STUCKY

You straight about helping out?

BB

Straight up.

STUCKY pulls out a tape measure and measures the spacing  
between the hummer's wheels.

BB climbs in the hummer, shuts the door, and starts driving.  
The hummer is attached to and pulling a spray rig through the  
furrows of the potato field.

END