

Marty hands Mo a smoothie and crosses to some other players.
Mo notices Jason look at her.

MO (CONT'D)
*She's nice. She makes me smoothies.
Go talk to her.*

JASON
I'm not ready to talk to--

MO
*I once liked a girl, but was too shy
to talk to her. Then she got eaten by
a lion. Live for today.*
(then)
Marty!

Mo points at Jason, then files out with the other players.
Marty approaches him.

Sc. 1 →
Start

JASON
Heyyy. Remember me? I nailed you in
the boob?
(starting over)
So, you're the smoothie girl, huh?

MARTY
Yes I am. I'm the smoothie girl.
Today's special is Crazyberry Cooler.

Just then, Coach approaches.

COACH
Marty, how's it look for Dixon?

MARTY
I palpitated his hamstring and I've
got him in a compression wrap. We'll
keep hitting it with EMS and massage,
but he's going to be day to day.
Also, this jack-ass thinks I'm the
smoothie girl.

COACH
Did you see him run? He's got bigger
problems than that.
(turns to Jason)
My "African Phenom" is playing like a
friggin' ballerina. When I yell to
Mo, you translate every word: loudly,
clearly and quickly. Got it?

The Coach crosses off.

Unt. NBA Project

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JASON
There is no Crazyberry Cooler.

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

JASON
I'm the smoothie girl.

MARTY
Bingo.

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

INT. JASON'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

Mo and Bob sit at the kitchen table. Bonnie stands next to Mo, holding a casserole dish. Even with him sitting, they are almost face to face.

BONNIE
(enunciating)
Chick-en catch-a-tory.

MO
Chick-en catch-a-tory.

BOB BLOOMBERG
Bonnie, he needs to learn words like
"rebound" and "fast break." Am I
right, Mo? *

Bob leans in next to Mo and takes a selfie. Jason enters with a suitcase. Bob turns to him. *

BOB BLOOMBERG (CONT'D)
You're really going to do this? Be
this guy's translator? *

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

BOB BLOOMBERG
Look, this is exciting. You brought
home a real NBA player. *

(MORE)

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ACT THREE

INT. ORACLE ARENA - COURT - A LITTLE LATER

Jason is still taped to the support when Marty enters with her jacket on, leaving for the day. She's in her own world, muttering to herself and doesn't see Jason.

Sc. 2
Start →

MARTY

No, problem, Don. Of course I'll stay late to work on your old man knees, you old dumb dumb-ass...

Jason doesn't want to interrupt, but he needs help and COUGHS a little. She stops.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Whatever you heard, it doesn't mean anything. I mutter sometimes.

*

JASON

I cry during The State of The Union address. Doesn't matter who's president.

(off her look)

Let's both forget what we've shared. Can I get a little help?

Marty rips off duct tape and is very close to Jason. Is he smelling her hair? She shoots him a look, he looks away.

JASON (CONT'D)

I have a question. Why does Derek Gates get to be such a dick?

MARTY

Because even though he's a superstar, he stays two hours after every practice just to get better. He donates millions to charity, teaches basketball to blind kids and is the only person in this organization to ever send me a Christmas gift.

JASON

So, no real reason?

She frees him and places him down on the ground.

JASON (CONT'D)

(real)

They're picking on Mo.

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MARTY

Well, I get it. He's sweet, but he's dead weight. They call him Butter.

JASON

What is that? Why Butter?

MARTY

He's soft. He's got no fire, no fight. He's getting pushed around out there.

JASON

I wish I could do something about it, but I'm just the translator.

MARTY

You're more than the translator. You're the bridge between him and success. This is a huge opportunity, for both of you. And you're blowing it! We have our first game in two days. If you want to stick around, figure out how to get your guy fired up and for God's sake learn something about basketball!

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They're both surprised by how intense she just got.

JASON

Whoa. When you get angry, your nostrils don't flare, they suck in.

MARTY

Sorry. It happens when I dance, too. You've just been frustrating me. I can't figure out if you have potential or if you're a total dumbass.

JASON

Why are you trying to pigeon-hole me, Marty? Why can't I be both?

She can't help but smile. There's a little bit of chemistry between these two. Marty takes the bunched-up duct tape and tosses it to him. Pretending the tape is a basketball, Jason tries to put a spin-move on her, but ends up elbowing her boob again.

JASON (CONT'D)

Same boob?! What are the chances?

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As Derek tries to pick himself up, Mo stands over him, yelling in Setswana. Jason runs over and begins translating with the same intensity as Mo.

JASON

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

Mo yells something else in Setswana.

JASON (CONT'D)

I don't care if you are my teammate!
(listens more, then)
You don't mess with my friend!

COACH

What the hell are you doing?!

JASON

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

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

INT. JASON'S PARENTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Bob watches the game and eats dinner off a TV tray. He is frozen mid-bite as he watches what's happening on TV.

TV ANNOUNCER

And now the translator is up in the coach's face! That little kid has a lot of balls.

BONNIE

Looks like you're going to have to get a new doormat.

BOB BLOOMBERG

It's only the pre-season, Bonnie.

But he smiles to himself, secretly proud of his son.

INT. WARRIORS LOCKER ROOM - LATER

The locker room is quiet except for the game which plays on a TV in the corner. Jason sits at Mo's locker by himself when Marty enters from the trainers' room.

FYI:

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Sc. 3 →
Start

MARTY

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

JASON

Think I need to look for a new job?

MARTY

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

JASON

You like that, huh? How about this? You. Me. Dinner.

MARTY

(smiles)

No.

Don sticks his head in the locker room. //

DON

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

JASON

I'm not fired?

DON

That was, hands down, the most disastrous first week on the job. But you put some spark into that kid. Plus we have another game tomorrow and you are literally the only person in this time zone qualified to translate for Mo. I'm stuck with you. *

Don exits. Jason turns to Marty. *

JASON

You heard him. I'm irreplaceable.

MARTY

That's not even close to what he said.

JASON

But you're smiling. Which means I've got a shot with you. It might be from far away, like a three-pointer. Basketball term! See, I'm learning!!

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