

Baskets!

an original screenplay by

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1 INT LARGE BASKETBALL STADIUM DAY

Basketball player Anthony Rodgers is practicing alone in the spectacular environment he's felt comfortable in for fifteen years. His sculpted muscles glisten and his team uniform fits like no fan could ever achieve in their copycat jersey.

He jogs laps around the edge of the stadium's floor, sweat flows down his face. He finally stops at the shooting line and takes the towel that was tucked in his shorts out and wipes his face. Now that his face is dry the tears that roll down his cheeks become apparent.

He drags over a large bag of balls to the line.

A deep concentration surrounds his powerful presence as he aims for the net. As each ball floats crisply through the air and sinks into the net, we cut to different women, the kind of women who might meet and charm a professional athlete. Each of the women turn and walk away with a baby in a basket. There are eight women total, two of the women walk away with two baskets, two babies, following Anthony's two baskets in quick succession.

2 EXT LONG DRIVEWAY & EXT OF ANTHONY'S SECLUDED HOUSE-
BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

3 INT ANTHONY'S PLUSH HOME OFFICE - DAY

Anthony is seated in a designer chair of massive proportion, a perfect match for his sleek, athletic physique clothed in a London tailored blazer and jeans fit for the king of the court that he is.

ANTHONY

Doc, I'm having a lonely problem.
My more expensive by the dozen kids
are vacationing before school
starts...up in the mountains, Lake
Tahoe, having fun. That's part of
it maybe...but. You know me, my
house can get packed in an instant
with great friends, my crazy team
mates, too many women chasing me.
Fans show me love constantly ...still
I'm empty lonely. I'm starting to
get angry about it Doc. It's scaring
me.

Deep Breath

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

You know, I'm retiring in a couple
of weeks..fifteen years is a great
(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
run in Pro Basketball. Emotional
over that...but spending more time
with the kids is a good thing.

Deep Breath

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Truth is Doc I think it might be
Desiree. Fifteen years later and
her face still sits on the rim of
the basket, sucks the ball right
in. Anyway, I need to know why she
ran off and what happened to her,
where is she....Doc, Doc are you
listening to me?

After watching Anthony for all this time, we finally view
Doc who is not the therapist we may have thought but is a
Golden Retriever Dog licking his shiny fur on a luxurious
doggy bed.

4 INT BASKETBALL STADIUM - LOS ANGELES - DAY

Anthony is playing basketball with his friend and team mate
Bill Martin dribbling, shooting baskets, blocking, sweating,
resting.

BILL
So what are your plans for
retirement man? You and me hitting
some Vegas clubs, playing a little
golf?

ANTHONY
Nah, just relaxing, hanging with the
kids before they get cars and
girlfriends or boyfriends then they
won't want to be with me...but maybe
a little club and clubs too.

They shoot some more baskets and play off each other. Then
rest again.

BILL
C'mon, you have big bucks
and women vying to spend time with
you, you've got to party big time
now. You're body won't be so abused,
you can get into a hot tub and just
have fun, not be trying to heal your
aching muscles. Let's go to that new
club downtown Coach Buck was talking
about last night.

ANTHONY

Yeah, maybe. Hey Bill, you've known me about longer than my mom. Do you think people wonder why I've never gotten married?

BILL

You've had a lot of good women around you, I suppose people think you just like variety, you know, like staying single. Why? You ready to settle down finally? My sister is divorced again. Or hey what about that cheerleader that's quitting to do pageant stuff?

ANTHONY

I'm lonely Bill. I'm refusing to feel vulnerable or weak before my last game. I have to go out strong. But I think I've gotta find her again and get some answers.

BILL

Oooh, back to Desiree is it? Hey I got you man, I forget ...is love supposed to make you strong or weak? How about a compromise Anthony? I know a gorgeous redhead you gotta take out dancing and she's a Private Investigator. Eddie hired her to follow his wife once. I'd of followed her for free but...

ANTHONY

(Anthony continues
dribbling ball and
contemplates offer.)

Oh yeah?

5 EXT UPSCALE HOTEL ENTRANCE LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Twelve boys and girls, all age fifteen are laughing and joking as they burst through the front doors of a beautiful hotel. They walk down the stairs and onto the city street. They are strikingly healthy, physically fit, fashionably dressed and beautiful of various ethnic mixes. They all have the same father, Anthony, but different mothers except for two sets of twins, one male and one female. A light wind blows through their hair, and bystanders watch them with curiosity.

Several of the kids start whistling and howling like coyotes, getting rid of some of their excess energy and excitement.

MARK

Can we get a workout in after all that food? Let's run back to the cabins. Who's up for a moonlight jog? Cody, Sean? Mia, Madison?

MIA

Madison have you noticed the red practically stiletto high heels Mom finally let me wear? I am high on my heels. Listen, they have little clicking taps, cute huh? They are not made for jogging bck to the cabins.

MADISON

Two more weeks and we're back from the mountains and in school uniforms four days a week. I'm getting some excellent accessories at least. Let's hit the mall as soon as we get back. I have more back to school money to spend.

CODY

Don't talk school. I haven't had enough summer yet, although wouldn't mind thinking about taking Driver's Ed this year. We are all getting drivers licenses and if the mom's club gossip is true we are all getting new cars. Anthony drives a Hybrid, you think he's gonna make us all get hybrids? The muscle car of my dreams does not come in a Hybrid.

MATT

You could convert it in shop or Inventor's Club at school. Paint it glittery red like Mia's stiletto tires there.

MARK

Hey, look at those lights, I think we're heading straight into a nice workout opportunity. It's gotta be tennis or basketball. Who's up for some basketball?

LIAM

Mia & Madison, tell me you're not going to ask Anthony for twin red convertibles. And ...I've seen you two run in heels before when a store
(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

at the mall is about to close. You get traction fast when you're trying to Formula One through a closing gate to buy a lipstick or flip through CDs.

LUCA

I'm up for basketball, just one problem there brother Mark. Do you have a ball in your back pocket or maybe the girls have one in their purses?

MIA

Madison have you noticed the great manicure I just talked Mom into getting me today? Would I want to play basketball with these nails?

VIVIAN

Somehow I think playing basketball without a ball won't chip your nails Mia.

MARK

Look, in the park, an empty basketball court, lets do it, we can play with an imaginary ball. Lets get some exercise. Who didn't have at least two desserts tonight?

OLIVIA

He's right guys. If we're gonna host the exhibition challenge we need to make Dad proud, we have to practice and be in really great shape.

GENEVA

Yeah, It's a good cause, let's do it, let's practice playing ghost basketball, we're together and what else do we have to do, we're on vacation.

LUCA

Shirts & Skins? What teams?

KELLY

Shut up Luca, we're gonna beat you, girls against guys, you drop the ball too much Luca.

Mark takes off running and the rest follow, running and laughing into the park, heading for the basketball court.

6 EXT BASKETBALL COURT IN PARK LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Anthony's 12 kids, running and laughing, enter the basketball court and pretend to play, minus the ball, two teams of five on the court and two on the sideline.

7 EXT OUTSIDE OF BASKETBALL COURT LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Desi's eight children of various ages and ethnicities approach their familiar neighborhood park and halt, fascinated as they watch the invisible basketball float through the hands of the dozen interesting teen tourists.

NOAH

Who are they?

CHRISTOPHER

They don't have a real ball.

MADDIE

I've never seen them before, have you? Anybody?

KIDS TOGETHER

Nooop

KEATON

Must be tourists, look how they're dressed, designer brand names, I can tell.

GEO

Keaton don't let your eyeballs pop out.

KEATON

Geo, getting excited about beautiful designs is normal but you're already getting dollar signs and a twinkle in your eyeballs. You're looking for a game to win....sneaky style.

ANGEL

So, are we going to just stand here and watch them or dazzle them with our excellent basketball skills with a real ball?

MADDIE

I think they look interesting, could be fun.

CHRISTOPHER

We don't have to let them know how good we are right off.

MADDIE

Christopher baby you've been spending
to much time with Geo. I'm telling
mom you should get a different
roommate.

JESSE

Well, we do have a ball and they
don't. We let them use our ball and
they let us on the court right?

GEO

Where's your passion - how can you
not take the opportunity to play
basketball tonight?

MADDIE

Uh Huh. Let's do it.

8 EXT BASKETBALL COURT LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Desi's kids enter the court. Maddie stands off on the
sidelines.

GEO

Want to play with an actual
ball...strangers?

The teams compete, laughing, joking, and Anthony's kids start
whistling the Sweet Georgia Brown-Harlem Globe Trotters Theme
Song. There are displays of incredible athleticism from
both groups.

9 EXT BASKETBALL COURT SIDELINES LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

MARK

Hey, thanks for showing up with a
ball.

MADDIE

What ball?

MARK

Yea ha ha, what's your name funny
girl?

MADDIE

Madeline, Maddie, and you're who?

MARK

Mark Rodgers, Hi

MADDIE

How can those girls play basketball in heels? They your crazy girlfriends?

MARK

Nah, they're my crazy sisters...and my crazy brothers.

MADDIE

Come on! All of them? But you're all like the same age.

MARK

Cloning experiment gone bad.

MADDIE

Seriously are you Catholic or Mormon or something?

MARK

Basketball Player's kids - Anthony Rodgers.

MADDIE

The Anthony Rodgers? I'm tired of looking at him, he's been around forever, is he paying them to keep playing or what?

MARK

Well, he loves the game so they let him hang out, make him wash the uniforms, clean the balls, ya know. And what about your crew?

MADDIE

All my brothers & sisters. Well, we're all adopted but we're tight. Your family looks like ours, kind of a lot of variety...except oh I'm getting dizzy, I think I'm seeing double and double!

MARK

Yeah, yeah.

MADDIE

I'm thinking we're gonna beat your brothers & sisters easy. We'll give you a few points even cause those girls are playing in their freaking Manolo Blahniks.

MARK

You're on Lady Madelyn, but we've had a pretty good coach you know.

They look a little deeper at each other and watch the court action.

10 EXT PORCH AT HOTEL/LODGE IN LAKE TAHOE

The 8 mothers of Anthony's children are relaxing after dinner, They sit in rocking chairs on the porch of an elegant mountain lodge.

SHANNON

So, ladies what's the latest gossip?

CAROL

Does Anthony really think we enjoy being on these annual trips together?

JESSICA

Hey, all expenses paid vacation, I'm good with it. What else have you got to do? You're divorced again aren't you Carol?

YVETTE

Carol, I didn't know. How come Jessica knows & I don't. I thought I was your best friend in this group, when did that happen?

HEATHER

You mean Carol actually kept her mouth closed about something for a change. That is the reason you keep getting divorced isn't it...your mouth?

MONICA

Ladies come on who cares, I'm divorced again too in case any of you didn't already know. More importantly I'm wondering if Anthony is going to reduce his generous child support when he retires in a couple of weeks.

LORRAINE

Are you kidding me? How could you even put that out in the universe? I love that money, best investment I ever made was a one night stand as a rebound with Anthony.

MAZE

Lorraine that is so crude, but I know what you mean. Those kids will be 18 in 3 years. What happens then?

CAROL

Divorced or not, Anthony has always been incredibly generous. He never stopped support when any of us got married...or is that just me cause I'm his favorite.

JESSICA

We all know who his favorite is, the question is where is she and why did she take that hunk of a diamond and disappear.

MONICA

Well, to put you all in the know, my brother Bill said he just hired a Private Detective to try to find Desiree.

MAZE

You're kidding! After 15 years? What did she do to him that he still even remembers her name. I mean really he meets so many women, I'm surprised there aren't more of us sitting here on the porch.

CAROL

Maybe he's gay now.

HEATHER

There's the mouth. Didn't you just hear Monica tell us that Anthony hired a P.I. to find Desiree?

SHANNON

Maybe he just wants that ring back, maybe its been eating at him for all these years.

SEVERAL OF THEM TOGETHER

NAAAH

MONICA

So back to how much money Anthony still has when he retires. He is still buying all the kids new cars this year...isn't he? You know they're getting their learners permits the day after their birthdays.

JESSICA

Is anyone else scared to think about
their kids driving?

SEVERAL OF THEM TOGETHER

YESSSS MMMhhh

11 INT DESIREE'S ART STUDIO IN HOME LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Desiree is painting on a large colorful canvass, as colorful as her unique Artist appearance. Her elegance is apparent even in jeans and a halter and spectacular hair frames eyes that would draw any viewer in from even far away. Guitar Blues, her favorite music to paint by is on in the background. The children rush in...out of breath from running.

KIDS

Mom! Mom! Guess what? Guess what?
Guess who we just played basketball
with? You're not gonna believe it!

DESI

Wow, take a breath or two, what
happened? Who'd you play with?

Desiree's usual enthusiasm for anything her kids share with her comes automatically.

KIDS

Anthony Rogers kids! Twelve of them!
At the park!

DESI

Oh wow!

Desi drops her artist's palette, it slides down her blue jeans and leaves beautiful, thick, acrylic paint streaks down her pants.

KIDS

Laughing Beautiful mom!

DESI

Um, Anthony Rogers the basketball
player has 12 children?

MADDIE

Yeah and they're super nice. I talked
to this really cute one, Mark. I
thought maybe one of the girls was
his girlfriend but no. He said they're
all about 15 years old and there's
two sets of identical twins, one set
of boys and one set of girls! It
was great!

Desi dabs at the acrylic paint now on her jeans and manipulates it into a pleasing design as she speaks.

DESI

Oh, how exciting. Well, is their father here with them? Did you meet him too? What about their mother, or mothers?

CHRISTOPHER

We played really good against them Mom, they even said they were surprised how good we were, ya know cause most of us are younger and shorter.

ANGEL

Yeah and Anthony Rodgers has his own basketball court in his back yard that they practice with him on it. He is so rich.

DESI

So, was he there with the kids? How about their Mothers, I mean how are there twelve kids the same age?

MADDIE

Mark is so cute mom, I think I'm in love. They asked us if we want to go kayaking with them tomorrow and maybe some more B Ball.

KEATON

Shut up you guys, mom he wasn't there, he sends them on a vacation every year just before school starts. There's altogether eight moms and they're staying at the lodge with them. And, Mom can I borrow those jeans, those are hot! You could probably sell those jeans for as much as one of your paintings.

DESI

Well, that sounds like a dream come true. You are talented basketball players. I'm sure you played great. Geo?

GEO

Yeah.

DESI

Geo did you by any chance bet them money on anything while you were showing off your skills and probably sucking up to them?

GEO

Well, um, you know how good Noah is with half court shots mom.

DESI

How much?

GEO

\$40, two shots. They're so rich mom, they thought it was funny their brother got taken for it.

DESI

It's a good thing we live on the California side of Lake Tahoe. I'm serious about sending you to Gamblers Anonymous, little boy....and don't tell me the money is to buy me presents...though Keaton's birthday is this week. You hear what I'm saying?

KEATON

All right! It's my birthday, it's my birthday! So mom can we hang with them again tomorrow? Please, please?

DESI

How about you all go get cleaned up and ready for bed. I'll have to think about the kayaking. I love you guys. Now scoot!

KIDS

Love you mom.

The kids all head out.

A large orange cat walks through some hot pink paint on the floor, its now pink tail drags the paint along the cement floor and pink paw prints follow the kids out.

Desi takes her jeans off, revealing lacy panties and a perfect body. She throws the jeans over the back of chair to dry. She starts to clean up paints and brushes and tears start to flow. She crumbles with the weight of the news.

DESI

Oh My God. I was doing such a good
job at not looking back.

12 INT PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE - SANTA MONICA - DAY

Anthony Rodgers closes the door behind him and saunters
confidently into a stylish office. All heads rotate to view
his large presence and Mona Lisa Man Smile.

OFFICE CLERK - SHAMUS

Hello Mr Rodgers, I'm Shamus. It's
great to meet you, I'm a big fan,
season ticket holder courtesy of Ms
O'Shea.

They shake hands.

ANTHONY

Thanks, Shamus, nice to meet you
also. Please, just call me Anthony.

Shamus picks up phone to announce arrival of appointment.
Anthony sets some papers on the desk.

OFFICE CLERK - SHAMUS INTO PHONE

O'Shea, Mr Rodgers is here.

OFFICE CLERK - SHAMUS (CONT'D)

Right this way.

Shamus escorts him into her office.

CLERK

Ms O'Shea, Mr Anthony Rodgers

When you first view Rory you almost expect her dress to fly
up and expose the latest Victoria's Secret enticement, because
that's what she would want, however, you are introduced to a
Dior suited, sexy bundle of feminine red head energy.

RORY

Thank you, How do you do Mr. Rodgers,
Of course I've heard so much about
you and followed your brilliant
career.

ANTHONY

Please call me Anthony, It's nice to
meet you. Bill told me you were
beautiful but, wow.

RORY

Here, have a seat...please, and I'm just Rory.

ANTHONY

Thanks Rory. I signed the paperwork and left it with your guy out there, Shamus.

RORY

So, of course, confidentiality and discretion are very important here.

ANTHONY

Yeah, I've been pretty lucky about keeping my private life out of the papers, mostly it's just been a battle with my game. Cruel sometimes, though, talk about cyber bullies. The bloggers and the press, wow. But do you know about my twelve kids, the eight different mothers, the kids all born in the same year after Desiree left....the whole crazy rebound thing?

RORY

Well, yeah I did hear about that somewhere along the way. They're all about 15 years old now? I think it's popped up here and there through the years.

ANTHONY

I've tried to keep them out of the limelight, they go to private schools or home schooled. The mothers know part of my financial support depends on them keeping it that way. Anyway, I love all those kids and I wouldn't have them if Desiree hadn't left me like that so...

RORY

Right, so it's only Desiree that I'm focused on. Anthony I have to know if you're aware of the pitfalls in trying to locate someone who may not want to be found....and the emotional consequences for you.

ANTHONY

Yeah, I've been spinning all of those worst case scenarios through my mind
(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

for awhile now. Damn. Like, what if she needs rescuing from something really bad & I can't do it, legally, or too many consequences for my family. There's a lot of crazy people out there. But, maybe I find her happy, and I'm happy for her and that's that.

RORY

And what's your best case scenario Anthony?

ANTHONY

Well, Rory I guess that's why I'm here....finally after almost 16 years. I'd like to disrespect the letter she left me telling me to not go looking for her and find out why she left. Best case scenario is whatever happened doesn't matter now and maybe we fall in love again.

RORY

True love. Nice. My worst case scenarios....People wanting me to find someone so they can cause them misery of some sort. I don't think that's you. Of course, Bill's plan to get us to hook up is on a back burner for awhile I guess.

ANTHONY

I trust you will do your job without any ulterior motives?

RORY

Well, how about this...You and I go around the corner to a sweet little Bistro with a great oceanfront view, lunch on me, and just in case your favorite scenario doesn't work out, you can get a taste of my ulterior motive.

ANTHONY

I guess I have enough hope for it to be spread in a couple of directions. Let's go have an adventure Rory.

Rory grabs her purse and she and Anthony leave the inner and outer offices and step out into a sunny day.

13 EXT SIDEWALK SANTA MONICA - DAY

RORY

You're a foot taller than me, which makes you around 6'7"?

ANTHONY

You're the P.I. you mean that's not in my dossier? Bill said you are obnoxiously thorough.

RORY

Bill has referred me to a few of the players on your team and he's managed to get some of the juicy details from those people, not from me. Obnoxious is the word he used is it? I guess that means when searching I often find elements of juiciness on the person who hired me as well as the one I'm investigating. If they're willing to let Bill be in the office when I give results, well that does make for some red faces at times.

They turn a corner and arrive at the outdoor patio seating of the bistro.

14 EXT PATIO OF BISTRO SANTA MONICA - DAY

A scattering of patrons either recognize Anthony or turn their heads to look at the dazzling Rory.

RORY

Corner table please.

ANTHONY

Are they looking at me or you Rory?

RORY

Me of course!

The host escorts them and they are seated at a table where they have a great view of the beach and Pacific Ocean. Sailboats and seagulls float in the distance.

RORY (CONT'D)

I find many of my clients are a little stressed out by the time they make it to me. I think a couple of drinks and this view is very therapeutic. Relaxing.

ANTHONY

Thank you Rory, you're right, I'm feeling more comfortable. I put this search into your good hands, and I can relax a little. Your heart is in a better place than I anticipated. Bill's my best friend but his idea of a blind date, I think he tries to live a little vicariously through me and our tastes are well, I'm glad the paparrazzi aren't around sometimes. They love anything with a hint of a scandal, they're voracious cannibals. Maybe a bottle of wine Rory?

The waiter comes over with a wine list.

15 INT DESIREE'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Desi is dressed in a nightgown, ready for bed. She retrieves an interesting box from a high shelf in the closet and sits on her bed. She pulls a key out of the drawer in the nightstand and unlocks the box. Inside is a collection of photos of her and Anthony. Some are photos and news articles from College basketball games and his draft into the pros. Some are happy times, personal photos of the two of them. And last of all, their engagement announcement in the newspaper. Tears start to flow and soft sobbing until she hears a knock on the door and quickly scoops the photos back into the box as she wipes away her tears.

16 INT DESIREE'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Maddie knocks on Desi's bedroom door.

MADDIE

(whispers)

Mom? Are you still awake? Can I come in?

DESI

Just a second Madeline.

Desi shoves the box under the bed and wipes her eyes with the bed sheet.

DESI (CONT'D)

Come on in baby. How are you doing?
Do you like your new classes?

MADDIE

Yeah, all's good.
(MORE)

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Kind of exciting always, the beginning of the school year. Some cute new guys, same old cliques. A couple of girls I don't like too much got pregnant, they're really starting to show. Kind of made me think about my real mother.

DESI

Are they keeping their babies?

MADDIE

I don't know. They aren't girls I usually talk to and I haven't heard any gossip on it yet.

DESI

So you're wondering who your biological mother is again, if she was pregnant in High School with you? And you know that's about all you can do is wonder. She avoided any surveillance cameras at the hospital and never inquired back, no significant clues left behind according to the detectives.

MADDIE

I wonder if I'd like her. It's just an empty feeling. I hope she was really nice, not like those two girls.

DESI

You're nice, could be in the genes. What don't you like about these girls, are you sure you know them enough to say that?

MADDIE

Am I the only one obsessed with knowing how I came to be here Mom?

DESI

Well, I go through it once in awhile with all of you. You & Keaton & Christopher that came to me as babies are so bonded with me. But, I guess as you get older you'll be more curious because you'll be thinking about having your own babies. When you hold a tiny baby you'll be wondering how anyone could have given you up, but sometimes there are good

(MORE)

DESI (CONT'D)

reasons. The other kids came through some harder times. Geo and Angel have such nightmares.

CHAGALL

The dog comes barreling in and lands on the bed with Desi and Maddie.

MADDIE

Chagall what's the hurry? Chagall has nightmares sometimes too, like he's swimming hard, trying to save somebody's life from drowning.

DESI

We're living in a house full of mysteries Maddie. Time for you to go to bed and have pleasant dreams, no nightmares, take Chagall. I love you. (dog barks) I love you too sweet dog. Good night. Maddie & Chagall leave room and Desi puts her head in her hands.

17 EXT ANTHONY'S BASKETBALL COURT SIDELINE BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

Anthony's kids are playing basketball and Mark comes over to rest and talk to his dad.

ANTHONY

Hey son. How's it going? You were getting a good work out in there. I hope you got some rest in Tahoe before you had to go back to hitting the books?

MARK

Yeah Dead. I've got pics. You wanna see?

ANTHONY

Sure, sure show em.

Mark pulls out his smart phone

MARK

Here's all your crazy eight baby mamas sitting on the lodge porch in their rocking chairs. I think they all ate too much and drank too much they couldn't even move.....just rockin.

ANTHONY

Yup. Cute.

MARK

This is all of us in Kayaks on the lake. It was so beautiful. Matt & Luca pushed each other under. The water was icy already. Kelly kept asking if there were any dolphins in the lake. She said she thought she saw some bumps going in and out of the water and everybody kept lyin to her saying yeah sure, but I think she was screwing with us.

ANTHONY

A line of dolphins is a beautiful sight, except when they're wearing helmets and playing against a team I want to win.

MARK

Here are these local kids we met on the basketball court at the park by the lodge. They were actually really strong competition and fun. They were all adopted sisters & brothers and I talked a lot to one girl Madeline. This other girl, Saffron, was playing really good, but I noticed she never said anything and she was always in the right place at the right time. So Maddie sees me looking at her and tells me she's deaf and mute. She said she just feels what's going on around her, she reads peoples body language and all, kind of like she's got an advantage. Cool huh.

ANTHONY

Yeah, interesting.

MARK

This is at Maddies house the next day. I like her....a lot. And this is Mia & Madison confusing a waiter and...

ANTHONY

(interrupting) Wait, go back one. Zoom in on that painting in the background behind your girlfriend there. That was taken at her house?

MARK

Yeah...why?

ANTHONY

It looks like a painting I have,
maybe it's by the same artist.

MARK

There were a lot of paintings on the
walls there, I liked her house.

ANTHONY

Were her parents home? Did you meet
her parents?

MARK

No, we weren't there long, just
picking up another basketball. They
only had those blue Nike balls.

ANTHONY

Uh Oh. You played with them anyway
did ya? Just how much did you like
this girl?

MARK

We're texting and talking. Can I
show her around your house if I can
get her to come for a visit?

ANTHONY

Do you mean may I show her around?

MARK

Yeah, Yeah, may I?

ANTHONY

Sure, but run in the house and print
out that picture with the painting
for me, 2 copies please.

MARK

You got it, Love ya Dad.

18 INT ANTHONY'S HOME OFFICE BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

Rory enters Anthony's home for the first time.

ANTHONY

Hi Rory, come on in through here to
my office. Wow you look fantastic,
what a beautiful blouse. How can you
be sleuthing around inconspicuously
looking like that?

RORY

Thanks. Nice view of the pool from your office. Looks like you have a lot of great memories in here.

ANTHONY

It's been quite an adventure. Here, sit down. Tell me, what have you found?

RORY

Well, I took the registration documents you had kept regarding the engagement ring and got lucky at Sothebys. They have the ring. It seems to have passed through a few hands since Desiree had it. The setting was so unique & beautiful and the color so rare that no one changed it and the value kept increasing. It's in a lot coming up in an auction very soon.

Anthony slams his fist on end table

ANTHONY

She sold it? I won't believe this was all about selling the ring! How did the ring first leave her hand? I mean, did she sell it? Was it auctioned off?

He suddenly realizes something worse

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Oh God, is she alive? Please tell me she wasn't killed for that ring.

RORY

Calm down there. I don't know if she's alive. They couldn't trace it to her, but it wasn't on a database of stolen jewelry. That could be a good sign.

ANTHONY

A corpse can't fill out a robbery report but...maybe. She deserves a life, a beautiful life, she was a beautiful person in every way.

RORY

I guarantee I will find her for you Anthony. I'm good, really good.

ANTHONY

Your reputation gives me confidence
Rory. It's just that I'm so angry
at her, not for taking the ring, not
even for selling it, just for not
explaining why she felt she needed
to run off like that. What did I
ever say, what did I do? We had so
much together for so long...damn it!
Ya know I thought we were friends
that could tell each other
anything...Obviously I was wrong.
So what now Rory?

RORY

I checked with the University. She
did have a full ride scholarship
from Academics and art. No parental
money. No forwarding address.
However, I did find there were a
couple of inquiries to confirm her
degree by one Nursing College & a
Dept of Social Services, both here
in California. That cost me a little,
which I will be adding to your bill.
Unless, of course, you'd consider
trading for a very expensive dinner
out with you? Anyway, I couldn't get
specifics, just category data on
those. So I'll keep digging. How are
you doing?

ANTHONY

Hey, that's some important
information, well done Rory, and
yeah we can do a nice dinner out. I
better take advantage of some of the
perks before I retire in a couple of
weeks and people forget who I am.

He pauses as if this is the first time he's thought about
that aspect Of his retirement.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Listen, this is a long shot but my
kids went to Lake Tahoe and my son
Mark came back with a picture on his
phone. Here, this one. See this
girl standing in front of a painting.
That sent shivers up my spine it
looked so much like something Desi
painted. I'm going to send you a
copy. Here.

He hands her a print of Mark's phone pic.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

If you could ask around the art community, maybe she's still painting and we could track her down that way. It's a chance and now you've given me two more California connection leads. Desi always loved California.

RORY

Good idea, I'll get on it right away. Is that Lake Tahoe on the California or Nevada side? Anthony, could she have sold the ring and gambled it away in Nevada?

Anthony raises his voice in angry protest & frustration

ANTHONY

No. She's not like that, no no. I'm sure it's the California Lake side. Listen Rory, I don't mean to be rude but you have to leave now. My past getting stirred up like this, I'm just not comfortable right now. I need some alone time to think about what I might be doing to her life and mine.

RORY

Sure. I understand. I've encountered these kinds of feelings before in my kind of work. I'll show myself out and we'll talk when I have some more news.

ANTHONY

Thanks Rory. I'm glad you understand. I'm sorry, feeling awkward now that I asked you to leave, but look, we'll do dinner soon, anywhere you'd like to go.

RORY

It's fine, really. Later

19 INT DESIREE'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE- NIGHT

MADDIE

Mom?

Maddie and the dog Chagall enter the bedroom

DESI

Hey, Darling, come in here, talk to me. What's happening in your life? Hello Chagall.

MADDIE

Mom, remember that guy I told you about, Mark Rodgers that I met at the park and we played basketball with his brothers and sisters a couple of days? They were on vacation here from Los Angeles and their dad's Anthony Rodgers?

DESI

Yeah, sure I remember you had lots of fun getting to know those kids.

MADDIE

Well, we've been talking and texting. I really like him. He's so smart and sweet and we have lots of similar interests. He plays guitar too. He wants to come back up here and see me and he's invited me to go down there.

DESI

Maddie he's in the Los Angeles area, that's not really a one day trip. You're only 16. I don't think that's a good idea. Long distance relationships are really hard honey.

MADDIE

Mom how do you know, you hardly ever have any relationships at all! I'm sorry. I don't want to hurt your feelings, course I kind of wish you would have some dates. But this is really important to me.

DESI

I know you're excited, but is it really him or does it have anything to do with his father's fame and the monied existence he lives.

MADDIE

Mom! You know me better than that! Are you okay? What's the big deal?

DESI

Maddie, you have a long distance relationship with this guy and you may have fun talking and texting but he's in another school and you won't know who he's holding hands and kissing, you know? Think about it. Go to bed Maddie and wake up with an answer.

MADDIE

Yeah, okay, good night, good night Chagall.

Maddie leaves Desi's bedroom.

Desi kneels and prays next to the bed and is joined by Chagall, the dog, who stands on his back legs and leans against the bed with front paws together in prayer.

DESI

Oh God, can this be happening?

20 INT GEO & CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Geo is screaming and crying loudly

GEO

No! No! Help! Help! Mom! Desi!

CHRISTOPHER

Mom! Mom!

Desi, Maddie & Saffron come running into the room.

DESI

Wake up Geo! You're just dreaming. You're having another nightmare baby. Everything's okay. You're safe here with us. See, it's just us, Maddie & Christopher and Saffron and me. We love you baby, you're fine.

GEO

Some people were chasing me with a saw they were trying to saw me in half. I was trying to run but I froze. I couldn't run, as hard as I kept trying to run I couldn't. It was so scary.

Desi sits on the edge of Geo's bed and hugs him.

DESI

It's okay now, everybody back to sleep. He'll be fine.

The girls leave and Christopher rolls over and falls back to sleep. Desi stays with Geo.

20 INT DESIREE'S ART STUDIO AT HOME LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Desi is sorting paintbrushes, stacking palettes and cleaning up around her studio. Sculptures, pottery and paintings in progress are leaning on easels and against the walls.

Madeline, Saffron, Noah, Geo and Jesse enter the art studio. Jesse starts playing with tools and brushes, the others get close to Desiree. Christopher is in the background teaching Chagall tricks.

MADDIE

I took your advice and slept on it.
I know what you mean about not knowing
who Mark's holding hands with or
kissing there....but maybe he doesn't
want to do anything to anybody but
me.

The boys poke each other and giggle

MADDIE (CONT'D)

I'm willing to take that chance Mom.
The thing is, this morning he e-mailed
me an invitation for all us kids to
be in a basketball challenge in Los
Angeles. Mark and all of his brothers
& sisters are putting it on as a
benefit for this anti-bullying
organization. Mom this is huge.

NOAH & GEO

Huge mom.

NOAH

We're invited, ya know, we don't
just sign up. Anthony Rodgers kids
invited us! He's gonna be there too.

GEO

Yeah he's retiring after the game
the next day. The kids organized it
for him, kind of a moving on party.

MADDIE

We have to go Mom.
(MORE)

MADDIE (CONT'D)

We just have to get some papers signed by you...and you have to drive us down there...please, please, please?

DESIREE

Ahhhh, I don't know what to say. I guess I'm not going to be allowed to say anything but yes.

KIDS

Yesss!

CHAGALL

barking.

DESIREE

Details, details, I need details. Who, what, when, where, how. Give me the forms. Ya know, it may be on days I can't get off work, so you may have to have someone else take you there.

MADDIE

No you have to come with us, it will be so much fun!

DESI

Traffic there is crazy, freeways and me, no, and the crowds and noise. You know maybe Donna Louise would love to take a couple of her kids and you down there. She would take you all out for Spaghetti, it would be fun.

GEO

You'd miss seeing us play. We're really good Desi.

DESI

I know how good you are already Geo. Look, I need to do some studying now, some continuing education credits, upstairs. Need to concentrate on the computer. We'll talk about this later. It sounds like fun for you.

Desi moves out of the studio and grabs Christopher and kisses him on the head on her way out.

21 INT DESI'S HOUSE AT COMPUTER LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT?

Desi starts researching Anthony Rodgers on the Internet and although there are many photos of him with models, actresses etc at functions, finds out he is still single. She also sees that he has a charitable foundation that helps schools with educational, sports & music equipment and also helps with daycare programs.

DESI

Still Single.

22 INT BASKETBALL STADIUM LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

During the last minute of the game and score is tied. Lots of action heading down the court and Anthony shoots and misses. The game is lost and the home team crowd is not happy, some booing. Anthony is looking very dejected and his team mates avoid looking at him as they exit the court.

23 INT STADIUM PARKING GARAGE LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Two large bodyguards escort Anthony to his car in a secluded fenced in area of the parking garage. A group of drunks are yelling and physically fighting not far away. They notice him and start throwing beer cans and shouting at him.

DISGRUNTLED FANS

Loser! We could of had that game.
Next time let someone that can
actually make a basket have the ball
you loser!

Anthony gets in his Hummer and takes off. He flips on some soothing music.

24 INT KITCHEN AT DESIREE'S HOUSE LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Desi is putting the final frosting touches on an unusual birthday cake that is just another reflection of her artistry. Keaton looks on.

KEATON

Oooh, It's so beautiful mom! It
looks like a stack of tiny packages.
I love it.

DESI

Well, I kind of hoped it to be a
surprise but I know you wanted
everything to be perfect for your
party. So, you approve?

KEATON

Yea totally, thanks . I've been thinking I'd like to be a party planner when I grow up. I love the decorations and the food and the people.

DESI

I think that's a great goal Keaton, it really fits you.

KEATON

Um, what exactly am I getting for my birthday?

DESI

Oh, I thought this party was your birthday gift!

KEATON

You're kidding right Desiree?

DESI

You only call me Desiree when you're trying to get something out of me.

KEATON

Just a couple of hints, please?

Christopher, Geo & Noah are seen out of the kitchen window riding up on their bicycles and they enter the kitchen bouncing a basketball.

DESI

Hi guys, what cha up to?

NOAH

Wow, nice cake! I want a basketball cake for my birthday...only flat like that basketball after the fight in the park today.

DESI

What are you talking about?

GEO

Rivals, some guys fighting over some guys sister not dating some other guy like a Romeo & Juliet thing. We were like hey be lovers not fighters.

CHRISTOPHER

The one guy says I'll think about it, and tells the other guy toss me
(MORE)

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)
the basketball, then he pulls this
little knife out from the bottom of
a necklace thing he was wearing and
he stabs the basketball, then he
says okay you can date my sister.

NOAH
Yeah it was crazy, we left then.

DESI
Well you little negotiators, sounds
like too much excitement. Had you
ever seen these guys before?

Keaton slowly and quietly slips out of the kitchen and up
the stairs to Desi's bedroom.

25 INT DESIREE'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Keaton starts poking around in the bedroom and closet,
whispering as she searches.

KEATON
What did you get me and where did
you hide them?

She notices box under bed and pulls it out.

KEATON (CONT'D)
What's this Desiree?

She opens it and is startled when she finds the photos and
engagement article about Anthony and Desiree. She leaves
immediately.

KEATON (CONT'D)
What? Whoa! I don't understand.
Anthony Rodgers & mom? I gotta tell
the kids.

Keaton replaces box and leaves Desi's bedroom.

26 INT PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS OFFICE SANTA MONICA - DAY

Rory is on the computer researching art web sites as she
talks to Bill Martin on the speaker phone.

RORY
Well, Bill we've had two meetings,
one lunch and one dinner is coming
but I had to pretty much coerce him
into it. He really hasn't asked me
out on a date. Such a charmer, but
(MORE)

RORY (CONT'D)

I'm not sure he's relaxed enough right now to take advantage of my availability. He seems pretty focused on this project considering he's about to retire. What about you? What's happening on your end?

BILL

Ah, my sister is constantly asking me about him. How's he doing heading into retirement. Is he seriously dating anyone. Does he seem like he's more open to settling down now and on and on. My sister, I love her but she talks too much. She's just always loved him and her kid looks so much like him, I guess that makes her think about him more. I wonder if she'd stop talking so much if they did get together.

RORY

So, this Desiree person I'm trying to track down, and I guaranteed him I would find her, do I like this person, do I want to find her for him? Would I prefer to find her in a cemetery somewhere?

BILL

Ahh, I met her a few times, Anthony & I got drafted the same season and they were together a couple of months after he asked her to marry him. That's when she disappeared. She was nice, beautiful, girl next door type more, not in your face type....not like you Rory...whoops did I say that out loud? You know he's dated glamorous, crazy types like you too. My sister hated that she was jealous of her cause she really liked her too.

RORY

Right now I'm looking at some art by a Desiree Bridges, and it looks an awful lot like the art of Desiree Diamond.

BILL

Oh man!

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

Just out of curiosity, how much is he paying you and how much would it cost me, or should I say my sister to, ya know, not find her?

RORY

You are joking aren't you?

BILL

Yeah, of course, I'm just fooling around with you. Hell, it was me that referred him to you. My sister was never meant for him except he loves that kid. I thought maybe you two might feel some chemistry. I want what's best for him.

Bill and Rory pause in silence.

RORY

I may find her but she may not want anything to do with him, that is a possibility.

BILL

So, Desiree Bridges, what's that all about? I'm going to get off the phone now. It sounds like you're busy doing your detective stuff, your fingers are flying. Bye Rory keep in touch please.

RORY

Hey, I shouldn't of told you that name before I told him, so keep it quiet for me will ya?

BILL

Hey maybe I just coerced you into a dinner with me?

RORY

Bye Bill, later.

27 EXT BASKETBALL COURT IN PARK LAKE TAHOE - DAY

The kids are taking shots at the basket from the free throw line.

ANGEL

Madeline what are we wearing for this basketball tournament? You want to look nice for your new boyfriend don't ya?

MADDIE

Oh, great like I don't have enough to be worried about. You're now the team stylist. What do you have in mind?

NOAH

Hey, no pink!

GEO

Why are we talking about clothes when we should be finding out what happened between mom and Anthony Rodgers. We should do a computer search.

NOAH

Good idea, but maybe not do it from home. She's got some secret life she's never told us about. You know I love her, I don't want to hurt her....but we have to find out.

MADDIE

Yeah, this is just too weird. There's no chance Keaton made the whole thing up is there?

JESSE

Cmon, not Keaton, maybe Angel but...

ANGEL

Shut up Jesse. I have to see this box of photos. Keaton's sneaky but she wouldn't of made this up.

GEO

What's the probability of us meeting all his kids and then finding out Desi was engaged to him.

ANGEL

It's so romantic, like love fate.

Some teenagers drive by in a car and shout at the kids.

TEENS IN CAR

Hey, haven't we seen you guys on a milk carton?

They throw a carton of milk out of the vehicle window and some of it sprays on Geo.

GEO

Hey, who was that? What idiots! Look what they did!

MADDIE

Are you okay? They're from the other high school, how did they know us?

Geo picks up the milk carton.

GEO

Look it's not even my brand, I only drink that chocolate coconut Silk milk.

Maddie looks at Christopher who seems a little upset.

MADDIE

Christopher, don't you cry. They're mean idiots, see they didn't even get Geo's favorite brand.

NOAH

I think I recognize those guys. We played basketball with them and we won, that's how they know us. We need to retaliate, get revenge. Wait what's the difference, I mean between retaliation and revenge? Let's do both!

MADDIE

Whatever it is it's only going to happen with a basketball, right guys?

They start shooting hoops again.

JESSE

I think we should get Desi to design some tee shirts for us.

28 INT DESIREE'S ART STUDIO - DAY

Desi is working on a very large canvass with an array of colorful acrylic paints, brushes & sponges. There is Blues music on low in the background. She places a call to her Financial Advisor on speaker phone.

DESI

Hello there my money guru, how's the wife and kids?

29 INT ELEGANT OFFICE - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

An older impeccably dressed man with a British accented voice is standing in his beautifully decorated office. He is looking out at the City of San Francisco, the bay and bridge as he speaks to Desiree on his speaker phone and sips tea.

COLIN

Wife's driving me crazy as usual,
kids are always asking for money,
but now that they're all in college
at least they're not loading things
on my computer that I don't know how
to use. How are you and your angels?

INTERCUT with Desi's Art Studio

DESI

Still so in love with them all,
they're great.

COLIN

So what are you calling about little
girl, time is money you know. You
need an advance on your allowance?

DESI

I'm thinking about selling some
things, bringing up my cash reserves.

COLIN

You going to adopt some more kids?
What did you have in mind?

Desi continues painting as she speaks on speakerphone

DESI

I was thinking about getting rid of
some stocks, maybe some sin stocks,
some high risk stuff. I was kind of
wondering what the market value of
my house is these days too.

COLIN

Now you've got me worried Desiree.
You love that house. I love that
house, maybe I should buy it. Are
you okay? Are you ill?

DESI

Just thinking. You know, maybe a
move, maybe some charitable
contributions. The kids college funds
and trusts could be built up a little.

COLIN

Okay, I'm almost believing you, I just want to know there's not some kind of trouble brewing. You haven't gotten caught counterfeiting Impressionist paintings again have you?

DESI

You're a very silly man Colin. Don't ask so many questions.

COLIN

What if I talk you into reinvesting not selling. How about some nice Solar stocks or a bundle of some up and coming fashion designers?

DESI

You know I could come over and paint your house while you're asleep. Some combination of chartreuse and lavender?

COLIN

Okay then. I'll juggle some numbers and get back to you in a couple of days. That is unless you're needing something in a couple of hours so you can buy something mysterious in an E-bay auction?

DESI

A few days will be fine Colin. Say hello to Georgia for me?

COLIN

Of course. Desiree, you take care, always a pleasure working with you.

Desi, still painting, disconnects

Desiree's kids have gone to the Pinball Museum/Internet Cafe to get on a computer where they can have privacy and their mom won't find their search history. Researching the relationship between Desiree and Anthony and sorting out the discrepancies in her life are their goals.

30 INT PINBALL MUSEUM/INTERNET CAFE LAKE TAHOE - DAY

The kids are walking through the rows of vintage pinball machines, heading towards the internet cafe. They pause at particular machines that are fascinating them.

MADELYN

Christopher, stay with us, I'll give you some quarters to play those later.

GEO

Coming here was a good idea. Mom's radar would have gone off if we were trying to do this at the house.

MADELYN

I can only guess who in this family causes her to think something is going on that shouldn't be.

GEO

Desi loves me, she only acts like I drive her crazy. I'm like the man of the house. And besides we're not doing anything wrong. We should know what's going on, you know, like who is this woman we love.

MADELYN

Christopher has lagged too far behind again.

Christopher not now...this is important - stay close.

JESSE

Oh man, they have lots of new ones, look at this great art. Maybe Christopher and I should stay and play, you can get the answers.

MADELYN

Jesse, input brother, you're the man on the computer, you've got to help us ask the right questions to get the right answers.

JESSE

I don't want to know, it's a mystery, maybe great to just leave it that way.

ANGEL

I don't want to see her cry. It's funny how she always cries at parades and half time shows, she cries at movies, cooking shows, crazy stuff....but this might be different.

NOAH

Hey, they took out my lucky machine, no no.

MADELYN

Here guys, let's do this. Jesse sit.
I'll go pay.

KEATON

Maddly let's get two computers, we
can search faster. Moms parental
controls on ours, well as long as
we're here I have a few sites I'd
like to check into.

MADELYN

Let's get three, we can share, but
this is mostly about her and Anthony.

NOAH

When I'm older and richer I'm buying
this place and bringing back my lucky
machine.

Jesse and Keaton sit at computers, leaving a third for Maddie.

JESSE

What was the name on the engagement
announcement?

KEATON

Desiree Diamond

NOAH

Sounds like a stripper name!

MADDIE

Noah!

NOAH

Just saying...could be a few
surprises.

JESSE

What's the name of the newspaper the
engagement article was in?

KEATON

San Diego Song

ANGEL

I don't think we're gonna find the
answer we need on the Internet. It's
the why. The why did they break up.

JESSE

Maybe she changed her name cause she
got married. I'm checking the marriage
licenses.

GEO

Maybe she robbed a bank or did something so bad she needed a new identity. Just saying.

MADDIE

You know her, Geo, how can you even think that?

GEO

She has some money, I mean she supports all of us, we have a nice house. She makes some good money at the hospital and she sells some art but.

KEATON

The article said her parents lived in Denmark. That's what really made me wonder. She told us her parents died in a car accident. She gets spooked driving sometimes. Haven't you ever noticed? We don't have any relatives. She's it. No aunts or uncles or cousins or grandparents.

MADDIE

We're all so happy to have been rescued by her that we don't, well we just stop and love her and we don't question that she's anything but a wonderful person. Damn it she is a wonderful person.

CHRISTOPHER

starts to cry Stop looking! I don't want to know. Let's go play pinball.

All the kids stop and look at him and Geo hugs him.

31 EXT ANTHONY'S LIGHTED PATIO AROUND POOL BEV HILLS-NIGHT

Anthony is in pajama pants bouncing a basketball and looking very lonely. Doc the dog watches.

VOICE OVER - Anthony's thoughts as he occasionally bounces ball.

ANTHONY

Well, Mr Superstar Basketball Player. In another week are you going to need an excuse to get out of bed in the morning or are you going to have an excuse to stay in bed, with someone
(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
lost and found. I believe in
miracles, I believe in miracles.

He finishes his thoughts and throws ball into pool.

VOICE OVER - DOC THE DOG

DOC
Anthony sad, needs my love. Ball in
water. Play?

Doc jumps into pool.

32 INT ANTHONY'S BEDROOM BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

Flashback scene Anthony is in his bed dreaming.

33 EXT INSIDE A POOL OVERLOOKING OCEAN AT MALIBU HOUSE-DAY

There's a little morning fog and Desiree & Anthony are alone
in a beautiful pool at the edge of the ocean. Anthony has
his arms around Desi and they're looking out at the ocean
waves. A pod of dolphins glides in and out of the waves in
the distance.

DESIREE
This is better than breakfast.

ANTHONY
My lips on your neck with this view
was what sounded good to me this
morning. Kiss

DESIREE
This feels like perfection. I'm going
to remember this moment forever.

ANTHONY
Thought you'd like it. Breakfast is
on its way. My friend left me the
name of a caterer. It's coming soon.
Desiree, I just wanted to celebrate
the draft with you in a special way.
My free time may get eaten up fast
with transition into professional
level basketball.

They start to swim a lap, side by side, on their stomachs
with their heads out of the water, stroking the water with
their arms.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

See the waves flow away as we push through them, that's the way my energy moves down the court pushing away anyone who shouldn't be there, my version of March Madness...and then I score! Basket!

DESIREE

I've wondered if you love basketball more than me but I really don't want to know the answer. I'm sure we'll adjust just fine to your new team.

ANTHONY

You know, it's you I'll always love, way beyond basketball. Would you like some coffee to warm up a little, you have goose bumps I smell French Vanilla coffee. Let's dry off in the cabana. The food must be here.

They get out of the pool, embrace and Anthony dries Desi off. He wraps a plush towel around her, puts his arms around her and they gaze over the surroundings.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Ohhh.

The scene blends into the painting that was in the background of Mark's phone. Anthony wakes up and pushes down the covers, bare chest, in boxers, and rolls out of bed. He walks into a large walk in closet nearby and pulls a few framed paintings out. They were all painted by Desiree in her soft, colorful style. One is of Anthony in his College basketball uniform in action, one is of him in a lounge chair by a pool. He stops at one that is eerily similar to the view from the pool he was just dreaming of.

The phone rings.

34 INT RORY'S CAR - SANTA MONICA - DAY

RORY

Good morning Anthony, Rory. I'm looking out at this beautiful day and I was wondering if we could do lunch today" Maybe a drive out to the beach" I could pick you up at noon?

35 INT ANTHONY'S BEDROOM - BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

ANTHONY

You have some information for me Rory? Well, it's baby steps I guess. Good. Yeah I could use some beach time, it relaxes me to look out at the waves and the sailboats. If anything can take the edge off all this it's that. You driving? Not too sure about that though. How soon can you get here?

36 INT DESIREE'S KITCHEN LAKE TAHOE - DAY

The kids are eating breakfast before school and are unusually quiet as they contemplate their bowls of cereal.

DESI

You kids are awfully quiet this morning. What's going on?

The kids glance around at each other.

KIDS AS A GROUP

The tournament, yeah the basketball tournament. We're pretty excited.

MADDIE

Mom are you going to be able to drive us to Los Angeles? Can you get off work?

DESI

I'm not sure yet. We'll see. I'll get you there somehow...with someone. Are you guys all happy with your new classes? This year better have a lot less requests for writing excuses why you missed a day of school because you didn't finish reports or you're having issues with somebody and need to cool down.

JESSE

Classes just started, you know, but I think I'm really gonna like my art classes. I can take a jewelry class after the design class. I can make rings and belt buckles and stuff.

CHRISTOPHER

Do we get rings if we win events at the tournament?

JESSE

Don't be crazy Christopher, you gotta win like the NBA Finals or Super Bowl or something to get a ring. Let's go guys.

DESI

Time to go, I've got your dishes, grab your books and head on out please. Have a great day. I love you all.

37 EXT LAKE TAHOE SIDEWALK NEAR SCHOOL - DAY

The kids are wearing backpacks filled with books, heading to school. They're bouncing the basketball between each other, dribbling and passing as they talk.

NOAH

Feels kind of strange living with her now that we know she's got all these secrets about Anthony and living lies, you know, different name, different parents. I mean I love her lots but...what next?

MADDIE

We just don't know the whys, why she left and the other. The part about Anthony is true, it's all there in pictures and newspaper clippings...but what happened that they didn't stay together?

KEATON

Well, I think she still loves him or she wouldn't of kept that box. She hardly ever goes out on dates. Why is that?

MADDIE

Probably because she's busy working and taking care of all of us.

JESSE

So he dumped her I think.

GEO

But don't you think it's some kind of love fate that we met his kids? Serendipity, yeah that's it.

CHRISTOPHER

I don't understand. Why don't we just ask her what happened?

The kids stop for a minute and look at each other and Christopher.

NOAH

Don't you do that Christopher. I don't think she wants us to know. It might make her cry...and she'd find out Keaton was snooping in her room.

JESSE

Maybe she cheated on him.

The kids start tossing the ball as each one makes up a reason why Anthony would have left her.

MADDIE

Maybe she had an abortion.

CHRISTOPHER

No wait, maybe she farted too much

KEATON

Maybe she didn't dress sexy enough

GEO

Maybe they had different religions

JESSE

Maybe he didn't like her art?

SAFFRON - SIGNS

Maybe she wouldn't sign a pre-nup.

MADDIE

Yeah, Saff, could be pre-nup issues.

NOAH

Maybe she's a Lesbian

ANGEL

Hey, maybe it's why she left him. Maybe he was into drugs or alcohol or strippers.

KEATON

Yeah, maybe he was always looking at other women.

NOAH

Hey ya know, we're really tight at passing, we might just win one of the challenges at the tournament.

CHRISTOPHER

Yeah, we're gonna win. What do we win? No rings right?

MADDIE

What we might win is getting Mom and Anthony back together if that's what's meant to be.

KIDS TOGETHER

Yeah, that would be so great.

38 INT MADDIES BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Maddie is talking to Mark on phone and she starts delving into his father, Anthony's, past and current love life.

MADDIE

(into phone)

You know I do, I went to their concert once. They played at one of the casinos on the other side. Mom doesn't usually let me go into the casinos unless we're going to a restaurant but she knows how much I love their music and she got me two tickets for Valentines Day.

39 INT MARKS BEDROOM LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

MARK

(into phone)

Two Tickets? Who went with you?

INTERCUT WITH MADDIES BEDROOM

MADDIE

(into phone)

Why does it matter to you?

INTERCUT WITH MARKS BEDROOM

MARK

(into phone)

Well, you know Valentines Day and all sounds kind of special, maybe I would have liked to be the first one to take you to a Valentine's Concert.

MADDIE

(into phone)

Ahh, sweet. You really think that way, I mean you have that competitive attitude, maybe you got that from your Dad?

MARK

(into phone)

Whoops, you caught me. I'd like to be a winner in romance with someone special like you. My dad's a winner in basketball for sure. I don't know if he'd consider himself a winner in love. I guess all of us, my brothers and sisters, look up to him and we want to make him proud, so yeah maybe we get a little competitive.

MADDIE

(into phone)

You said your Dad might not be a winner at romance. What happened? Was he ever married? I mean, well, he never married any of the eight mothers?

MARK

(into phone)

No, he's never been married. How did this conversation switch from how charming I might be and who you went to the concert with to my dad's love life? Are you one of those fame chasers?

MADDIE

(into phone)

No, I swear. I'm sorry. I just wondered. He seems like such a nice guy when I hear him interviewed. Maybe a lot of great women would be trying to marry him.

MARK

(into phone)

Hey, again with my dad. Haven't you heard you're supposed to win a guy by getting him to talk about himself.....not his Dad?

MADDIE

(into phone)

Sorry, again, I apologize. Talk about anything, You choose. I like your voice. I love that we met and you call me.

MARK

(into phone)

I told you at the park that all of us were born in the same year. It was a rebound thing. He was mad at this one woman he really loved because she left him. She ran off right after they got engaged and he never knew why. We think that has something to do with why he's never let anyone into his heart since. He dates sometimes. Mostly he just loves us kids. He's a really good guy.

MADDIE

(into phone)

Mark....could that woman that left him, was she named Desiree?

MARK

(into phone)

silence.....ahh Maddie? Maddie how did you know that?

MADDIE

(into phone)

Mark, I'm sorry but I have to go, I promise I'll call you later and explain...

MARK

(into phone)

Wait, wait, explain now, Maddie, Madeline?

Maddie has hung up and won't answer his repeat calls. She looks at the phone as he repeatedly calls back.

40 INT NURSES STATION HOSPITAL - LAKE TAHOE DAY

DESI

Donna Louise love?

DONNA LOUISE

Yes Desi love?

DESI

Would you accompany me on a walk to the park. I'll trade you lunch from one of the vendors for some of your wise advice. What do you say?

DONNA LOUISE

It's a beautiful day, you have a beautiful heart and something tells me it's a little heavy today? Let's go woman. But first, did you see these flowers for 210 Mrs Kim....my cousins Ciro and Francesca, the florists, these came from their shop.

DESI

Exquisite, so unique, is their scent as wonderful as they look? Mmm Yep. They will definitely cheer her up, she hasn't had many visitors. I think most of her relatives are in Hawaii. Got my sweater, where's your shawl?

DONNA LOUISE

Got it. So, tell me what's going on?

41 EXT EMPLOYEES ENTRANCE IN ALLEY LAKE TAHOE - DAY

They leave through the employees entrance and walk down the alley

DESI

Oh Donna, it's going to be a huge turning point in my lifeor not.

DONNA LOUISE

Tell me, tell me what can I help you with. What kind of trouble has found you Desi? Wait, look over there.

She points to a cardboard box with a pink blanket hanging over the edge.

They quickly dash to it and discover a baby inside. They pick it up and turn back to the hospital.

DESI

Is it breathing?

DONNA LOUISE

Looks healthy, sounds good. Read the note.

DESI

It just says please take care of my baby, please forgive me, I know I can't do it.

DONNA LOUISE
Well, Desi, Is this fate, do you
have room for another one?

DESI
Donna, my life right now, no, no.

42 INT PEDIATRICS DEPT OF HOSPITAL LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Desi & Donna rush baby into Pediatrics Department and hand
over to Doctor.

PEDIATRICS DOCTOR
Security called me. I can take her
from here. They just need you to
fill out some paper work sometime
today. Thanks

DESI
Thank you Doctor.

DONNA LOUISE
Okay then, just a little detour on
the way to the park. I can see in
your face that even holding a newborn
baby didn't help bring the peace you
were hoping for.

43 EXT EMERGENCY ROOM EXIT LAKE TAHOE - DAY

They emerge again from the hospital and take off toward the
park.

DONNA LOUISE
What will become of that precious
baby. Although, my niece Antonia
has been feeling a little empty nested
since her last went off to college.

DESI
Donna Louise have you ever counted
all of your relatives? Tell me how
many!

DONNA LOUISE
Last time we had a reunion, we had
to get the tee shirts printed with
names on the front and the back in
print so small I could hardly read
it.

44 EXT PARK LAKE TAHOE - DAY

DONNA LOUISE
Eat first talk later?

DESI

I'm going to buy food, but I'm not sure I can eat it. What do you feel like, how about some grape leaves and falafal?

They get food from the vendor and sit on a park bench.

DONNA LOUISE

It's good about that person leaving the baby at the hospital, you know, giving it a chance. It makes me cry when they put them in the trash. You've given some babies second chances too Desiree. You're a good lady.

DESI

I might be needing a second chance myself now.

DONNA LOUISE

You've had something on your mind for a couple of weeks now. Is it the kids? A man? Money baby? Tell me Dez.

DESI

All of that Donna. There are secrets in my life that may be coming out and I'm worried about what people, my kids included, will think. I've held back communications when I probably shouldn't have. I was stupid when I was younger and it changed my life.

Donna, do you think you could take my kids to that basketball tournament in Los Angeles next week?

DONNA LOUISE

Wait a minute, hold on. You're talking about deep, dark secrets, and I'm thinking I hope you aren't in trouble with the law and I'm going to have to take all eight of your kids in and then you switch practically mid-sentence and ask me to take the kids to this basketball tournament? Are you feeling okay?

DESI

We better head back, we're gonna be late. I'm okay. It's complicated.

DONNA LOUISE

The Hospital knows there was a situation and yes, I can probably trade a shift with you and take your kids to Los Angeles. But I'm worried about you. Does that actually have something to do with this terror I see in your eyes? You know I have a cousin who's a great attorney.

They start walking back in silence.

DESI

Someone's going to be at the basketball tournament that I don't want to see.

DONNA LOUISE

A stadium is a big place. Is this someone a man? Tell me, tell me.

DESI

You know that line from Casa Blanca - Of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world, she walks into mine. That's how I'm feeling.

DONNA LOUISE

Ya know my darling Desiree, running away from a problem isn't always the best choice. Sometimes you gotta face it and make it work and it turns out okay. Some kids living under your own roof could give you some lessons in overcoming problems.

Donna puts her arm around Desi as they walk.

45 INT NURSES STATION HOSPITAL LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Desi and Donna arrive back at nurse's station.

DONNA LOUISE (CONT'D)

Desi, look at the log. A female, sixteen years old, just came in as an overdose suicide attempt as a result of being bullied. Look at her address, I bet she goes to the

(MORE)

DONNA LOUISE (CONT'D)
same school as our kids. Desi if
this isn't a sign, I mean I don't
know what you're going through but
I'm not gonna take your kids to L.A.
You need to go support the kids at
that Anti Bullying Tournament thing
and face whatever it was in your
past that's not gonna go away.

DESI
Oh God.

Desi nods.

46 INT ANTHONY'S HOME BEVERLY HILLS - NIGHT

MARK
You're getting better. After you
retire we should form a band.

They laugh

MARK
Since you're getting so good playing,
I think it's time you try to write a
song.

ANTHONY
Oh no, next you're going to make me
start singing. I think I'll just
stick to a little Blues & Jazz
Instrumentals.

MARK
Seriously, Dad, you love the Blues,
you could express your feelings in a
song about that girl Desiree that
you loved and lost. It would be
perfect. Tell me about her & we could
write it together.

ANTHONY
Hey, where's this coming from? The
topic of Desiree is off limits buddy.

MARK
C'mon it could make a powerful song,
get it off your heart before you
have a heart attack in your retirement
thinking about her.

ANTHONY
Why are you doing this? I was enjoying
playing with you, knock it off.

MARK

Uncle Bill told Cody and his mom you
hired a Private Detective to try to
find her.

ANTHONY

Man that was not to be spread
around...C'mon lets go shoot some
hoops. Let's go.

47 EXT ANTHONY'S BASKETBALL COURT BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

Anthony & Mark chase each other around the court playing
ball and enjoying each other's company.

ANTHONY

Give it to me quick Mark!

MARK

Nope, you don't deserve it!

ANTHONY

I'm taking it then, look out, I'm
taller and faster than you will ever
be my son.
Got it!

MARK

Man! You cheated somehow!

ANTHONY

It's my kind of magic!

MARK

Okay, you're the man, I need a rest.
You're an old man, how come you don't
need to rest before me?

ANTHONY

That's why I made the big bucks
kid....but let's rest.

They move from inside the Basketball court to the swimming
pool area.

48 EXT POOL SIDE ANTHONY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ANTHONY

There's something I want to talk to
you about.

They both flop down on Lounge chairs by the pool.

MARK

What's up Dad?

ANTHONY

I've got 12 kids... how come it's you that's over here the most and you don't even like basketball that much.

MARK

You intimidate them. They love you, we all love you but, you're still the man.

ANTHONY

And I don't intimidate you? Now that I'm getting ready to retire I'm thinking about these things more.

MARK

I'm the game player of all the kids, they just don't know that I'm playing so they don't realize I'm winning.

ANTHONY

I'm really happy that you're doing this Anti Bullying Challenge. It means a lot to me, you kids coming together and organizing the thing at your age. I know you've put great efforts into it....and making it happen right before my last game, well it couldn't be more special.

MARK

It's a good cause and the timing was perfect.

ANTHONY

Mark, I don't want to ask this question, but between you and me...Would you tell me if any of your brothers and sisters were bullies?

MARK

They're all good Dad, I promise.

He pats Anthony's arm.

ANTHONY

Hey, don't touch my game arm! You know I'm just screwing with you, right? I guess I've been bullied more than all you kids and your moms put together. Between bloggers and press, there's been some mean spirited
(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

attacks on me through the years. At the stadium too. I try to ignore it, not read it, not listen to it but when I miss a shot or have a bad day it can be Hell aimed at me. Do you kids get it when I have a bad game? You're on the Social Media Sites more.

MARK

Hey, you're great! You haven't had that many bad games. The whole team gets blamed for losses, the coaching staff, you know. Those idiot fans couldn't begin to do what you do out there in front of a huge crowd of noisy. What can you do but let it roll off. The girls are more into Facebook, Twitter and all. They don't look at the blogs much. You know, Luca & Liam are great computer techies if it gets too crazy. They can make stuff magically disappear.

ANTHONY

Man, they are double trouble, glad they belong to us. Hey, beat ya to the kitchen for a protein shake.

MARK

You're on.

Anthony puts his arm around Mark and they walk away.

49 INT ANTHONY'S BEDROOM BEVERLY HILLS - NIGHT

Anthony finishes rinsing and comes out of the shower wrapped in a towel. He sits in a chair and flips through a Sotheby's Auction Jewelry Catalog. He gets up and pulls a drawer open. Inside are photos of him and Desiree, news article of the engagement, a beautiful scarf and a bottle of perfume. He smells the perfume and strokes the scarf before putting them back.

50 EXT ANTHONY'S HOUSE DRIVEWAY BEVERLY HILLS-DAY

Anthony's friend and team mates' sister Monica who is one of the kids mothers has dropped her son, Cody, off at Anthony's house and waits to talk to Anthony as she sits in her car.

Monica blows kisses and waves to her son.

MONICA

Bye baby have a good time, call me
if you need a ride home.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Hello Anthony.

ANTHONY

Hello Monica, how are you doing, I
heard you got divorced again.

MONICA

And I heard again, that you still
haven't gotten married. Maybe we
could fix both our situations with
one trip to the Justice of the Peace.

ANTHONY

Every time you get a divorce, is
that just to remind me that you're
available?

MONICA

It's supposed to remind you that I'm
lonely at night now.

ANTHONY

Well, maybe you need to get a cat.
I've heard they can be good company.

MONICA

Well, maybe you need to get a little
pussy cat yourself. Or maybe you'd
rather just hang out with the guys
and watch ESPN and eat too many
snacks. Maybe you're off you're
regimen a little knowing that you're
getting ready to retire anyway?

ANTHONY

How many divorces have you had so
far? Can't imagine why.

MONICA

You really should give up on that
girl. Why are you looking for her
now? She could of come looking for
you a long time ago, am I right?

ANTHONY

Your brother has a big mouth, guess
it runs in the family. I'm glad our
son has some of my DNA.

MONICA

I know how much you love Cody....and that DNA that came from my side too. If you ever want to really thank me for that, well you've got my number, just call me Anthony, any time, day or night.

ANTHONY

I've definitely got your number Monica.

MONICA

Just one more thing, on the serious side. You need to talk to him about his grades before you hand over the keys to his birthday car....the kids are correct in assuming that they are all getting cars when they pass their driver's license tests?

ANTHONY

Yeah, you work on him from your side and I'll check in with him before the car. He can't play ball if his grades go down much. That's a pretty strong incentive, but yeah, the kids have been talking about starting some kind of car club and cruising Hollywood Boulevard. They're naturally going to be distracted for awhile around that. You remember how it was when you first got your license?

MONICA

My mom had a convertible, had some good times in that back seat. How about you and me recreate some of that kind of nostalgia?

ANTHONY

Monica, give it up darling.

MONICA

That's what I'm talking about. Guess I'll take off now. I better go spend some of that money that might be stopping in a couple of years?

ANTHONY

Bye, see ya later.

Monica drives off waving and throwing kisses. Anthony heads up towards house.

51 EXT HOSPITAL LAKE TAHOE - DAY

The Private Investigator, Rory O'Shea watches Desi as she leaves the hospital and gets in her SUV. Rory follows in her rental car at what she thinks is a discreet distance.

RORY

What do you have that I don't have,
and why would you leave him? Ms
Bridges or whatever you're calling
yourself these days, did you think
you were too good for him?

52 EXT STREET IN FRONT OF DESI'S HOUSE - LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Rory drives past Desi's house when she turns in driveway.

53 INT MADDIE'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Desi's kids start to SKYPE with Anthony's kids. Maddie & her 7 brothers & sisters are gathered around the computer. Mark & some of his brothers & sisters are on the screen.

54 INTERCUT TO INT MARK'S BEDROOM LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

MARK

Let's do this Madeline. What the
hell is going on. What's this little
meeting of yours all about?

MADDIE

Don't swear.

MARK

Sorry...but what happened the other
night, you ask me if Anthony dated
someone named Desiree and then hung
up and you don't answer my calls or
texts for two days. Explain girl.

MADDIE

My sister Keaton found a box in our
mom's bedroom. It had newspaper
articles about Anthony in college,
basketball stuff and pictures of
mom and him....AND a picture of
them that said they were engaged!

MARK

Wait, what am I missing.

MADDIE

Our mom is Desiree!

MARK & SIBLINGS

Whoa! No way!

MADDIE

Yeah, weird huh, Keaton says it's serendipity. We want to know what happened between them. And another thing, she had a different last name and there was stuff in the engagement article about her parents living in Denmark, but she doesn't have any parents.

MARK

So, she lied to him?

MADDIE

I don't know. I don't understand. That's why we're here.

MARK

He just hired a Private Investigator to find her. Cody's dad said she never returned the engagement ring. It was worth a lot of money.

MADDIE

Women don't always have to return their engagement rings. I think it depends on why they never got married. Why didn't they get married?

MARK

I heard she just disappeared one day and left a note for Anthony to not come looking for her....and that he was really upset and angry. Uh that's kind of why he had the twelve of us kids in one year.

MADDIE

So was he mad at her and that's why she left or was she mad at him and that's why she left.

KEATON

I think if she was so mad at him she wouldn't of kept a box full of pictures and stuff. Do you think Anthony has a memories box too?

MARK

Maybe she had to leave cause he found out she lied about her name and her parents.

MADDIE

Why would she lie about her name and her parents?

CHRISTOPHER

Why don't we just ask them what happened?

MADDIE & SIBLINGS

Christopher!

KEATON

What about the tournament? If she takes us and he's there they're going to see each other. What happens then?

CODY

Yeah, does that make them happy or sad?

MADDIE

Remember, mom said she might not be able to get off work to take us, she said she might have to get us a ride. Donna Louise and her kids maybe.

MARK

Wow, I just remembered, when I showed Dad pictures on my phone from our vacation up there, he asked about the painting that was behind Maddie when we stopped by your house. He asked me to print it out for him. I didn't ask him why, I just thought he liked the painting. Your mom painted that, didn't she?

MADDIE & SIBLINGS

Yeah. She loves to paint. What now?

MADDIE

We've got to get her to the tournament, we have to make them face each other. We're just kids, they won't get that mad at us for maneuvering them together.

MARK

What if he doesn't want to see her? It's partly our tribute to him, it's his special day, the day before his last game before he retires. We don't want to wreck it for him with Desi showing up.

KEATON

Be nice. Mark could you look to see if he kept pictures of her? Maybe that means he still cares about her.

MARK

Well, maybe, but I don't want to get caught looking through all his stuff.

MADDIE

Mark, do it for me.....please.

MARK

Yeah, well, listen everybody I want to talk to Maddie alone. Everybody out of here.

MADDIE

You too guys.

The two sets of kids leave Maddie & Mark's rooms grumbling but excited.

MARK

Hey wake me up would ya, I think I'm having a weird dream. I was about to give up on you, made me a little sad. I was hoping to spend more time in person with you Maddie. I have this plan to come up and see you. Maybe I could see your moms box of photos....and maybe I could kiss you.

MADDIE

Um, what did you say?

55 EXT BASKETBALL COURT LOS ANGELES - DAY

Mark and Cody are having some one on one basketball time at one end of an outdoor basketball court where others are playing in the distant background.

CODY

You know grandma is better at basketball than you, and she can't see out of one eye!

MARK

At least grandma has some sense of style, look at those saggy mismatched socks you've got on! Ah hah made you look sucker!

And he makes a basket.

CODY

Lucky shot, bet your long legged new girlfriend could outplay you too.

MARK

You might be right, those kids had some serious skills.

CODY

You just turned a little pink in the cheeks, you're blushing just thinking about her....and bada bing, you get distracted and I score.

He makes a basket.

MARK

I'm gonna go see Maddie and show her some of our world of Lake Tahoe that she's never seen. I've got a favor to ask you.

CODY

Oh man I hear an opportunity for getting a certain gold lame' back to back championship wins hat coming my direction. What is it you want my king of clumsy brother?

Cody makes a basket.

MARK

Are you still teaching that limousine driver how to read?

CODY

Luciano Conti? Yeah, he's coming along, got him trying to read Playboy articles and spending time on the Internet news. Why?

MARK

I want him to drive me to the airport so I can catch a plane to Tahoe and then fix me up at the other end with a limo to take Madeline out in style plus go to her house and see this box of Anthony photos.

They stop playing basketball.

CODY

I get why you want to go see this girl, but she could just scan those
(MORE)

CODY (CONT'D)
pictures and e-mail them. I think
you want to meet this Desiree person.

MARK
Can't decide. You know there's twelve
of us that might not be here without
her. You got to wonder what's so
fascinating about her to Dad.

CODY
Yeah, I've wondered too. The one
thing I've heard different people
mention about her is her eyes. Really
beautiful apparently.

MARK
So what do you say, one gold lame'
back to back championship hat for
Luciano's phone number?

CODY
The hat and we challenge those guys
at the other end that have been
watching us.

They shake hands and head to the other end of the court.

56 INT MARKS BEDROOM LOS ANGELES - DAY

MARK
Hello Mr. Conti, this is Mark Rogers,
Cody's brother. Hi how are you doing?

57 INT LIMO DRIVER'S APT LOS ANGELES - DAY

LUCIANO CONTI
Mark, sure I remember you. I'm doing
fine, how's the guitar playing going?
That great CD you gave me, it's been
a favorite of some of my clients.
It's good hearing from you.

58 INTERCUT WITH MARKS BEDROOM - LOS ANGLES - DAY

MARK
I haven't gotten to ride anywhere
exciting with you lately. How's
business?

LUCIANO CONTI
What's to complain about, I love
what I do, on the road, meeting nice
people like yourself, even red carpet
(MORE)

LUCIANO CONTI (CONT'D)
gigs sometimes. What's up with you,
kid?

MARK
Well, um listen I have a huge favor
to ask. There's something really
important going on with my dad and I
need to go to Lake Tahoe and check
up on something in person. So, I
was wondering if you could pick me
up and drive me to the airport and
arrange for a ride with one of your
limo friends at the other end, you
know in Tahoe, the California side?

LUCIANO CONTI
Well, hey sure I'd love to and I
have a buddy in Tahoe that could
take you around, good guy knows all
the great spots. Of course I would
need to get permission from your mom
or dad. You know they'd have to sign
some releases, do a little paperwork
for me and my friend. Your dad,
he's okay, not having any problems
is he? I mean I know he's getting
ready to retire in what a couple of
weeks? You say something's going on
with him?

MARK
Um, he's okay mostly. I'm doing this
thing alone. My parents can't know
about it. It's kind of what's the
word, sensitive. But listen I have
the cash. That's not a problem. Just
tell me how much it will cost...you
know an hour to the airport and just
a few hours up there, a little driving
around, pick up my girlfriend, we
just need to talk and go to her house
for a little while.

LUCIANO CONTI
Whoa, what's going on? I could get
in so much trouble. No forms, no
ride. Mark, hey maybe you need to
take a taxi, you know there's even
such a thing as public transportation,
you ever hear of a bus? Call me
Luciano, it's okay, something tells
me this conversation is going to
bring us together like Olive Oil and
Balsamic Vinegar....

MARK

I know what a bus is. All I want to do is dip my bread in that oil and vinegar and make it work Pete. This is so important you can't even imagine.

LUCIAN CONTI

Your girlfriend must be something special, you met her in Lake Tahoe on vacation?

MARK

You kind of got it wrong. I know you can do this for me....and for my dad. It's not about my girlfriend it's about my dad. This is so important to me, at the back of my mind I'm thinking how many people don't know you're just learning to read. I'm sorry.

LUCIANO CONTI

Maybe you're not as nice of a kid as I thought. What would your dad say right now. That benefit basketball challenge you're involved with...Cody said something about anti-bullying? What did you just do to me there!

MARK

I'm so so sorry sir. I swear to you this is for my dad.

LUCIANO CONTI

If you were any other fifteen year old kid I'd be thinking you were on your way to do a drug deal or sneaking off to get some young girl in trouble. But I'm gonna give you the benefit of the doubt cause I know you and your brothers and sisters have always been good kids that your dad was proud of. If you're being honest and this is something to help your dad and it seems to be really important to you, I guess I can manipulate the system a little for you. My second cousin Donna Louise is in Tahoe. Her brother's a limo driver on the Nevada side, he'll work with me.

MARK

Thanks Luciano. If there's something I can do for you in the future, I promise. You've always been what my dad's called discreet and confidential, professional. You could have sold some photos or tipped off the paparazzi. If there's some special opportunity for you I really want to help you with it.

LUCIANO CONTI

I was fifteen once you know. My fifteen was a whole lot different than yours. So...let's put this together, when does this covert operation commence?

59 PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS OFFICE SANTA MONICA - DAY

Rory is on phone in front of computer and talking with Bill Martin on phone.

RORY

Your plan for Anthony to fall in love, or lust with me and stop his search for Miss Desiree, well thanks for your confidence, it was worth a try but it's not going anywhere for now at least.

60 EXT BILL MARTIN'S POOL DECK HOLLYWOOD HILLS - DAY

Two bikini clad women are across the deck sitting on the edge of the bubbling hot tub. They're motioning him to come join them.

BILL

Rory, Rory, you didn't wear short enough skirts and bikini tops or what?

INTERCUT WITH RORY ON PHONE

RORY

Anthony's obsessed with having an encounter with Desi. He's seriously focused on her. I'm not making any bets on his last few games.

BILL

Don't tell me that. We have practice this afternoon.

RORY
It's time to tell him I found her.

BILL
Wait, wait, wait. Maybe he shouldn't
know until after his last game.
It's a win win. You get some more
billable hours.

RORY
Let's see, my P.I. license or...Oh
Hell, you're not going to believe
what I just found on the Internet, I
gotta go, but I definitely just found
some more billable hours. Bye

She disconnects phone and jumps up, gets on speaker phone.

RORY (CONT'D)
In here now! Both of you!

61 INT ANTHONY'S HOUSE BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

Anthony is talking on cell phone.

ANTHONY
Thanks for calling me Luciano. You're
a good man. It's okay. E mail me
the forms you need. I'll send them
right back. But make him pay! The
little sneak.

62 EXT MARKS HOUSE LOS ANGELES - DAYBREAK

Mark sneaks out of his house with his backpack and gets in
the limo around the corner.

MARK
Hello Mr Conti. Thanks a lot.

MR HERSH
You're gonna owe me big time for
this one kid.

The limo takes off.

63 EXT LAKE TAHOE HOSPITAL - DAY

Rory watches Desi as she leaves the hospital and gets in
SUV. Rory follows her in rental car.

64 EXT DESI'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Rory drives past when Desi pulls into her driveway. Desi
notices car and writes down license plate.

She pauses before entering house while she makes a call on her cell phone.

DESI

Donna Louise, hi, Desi. Listen, this may be undue paranoia on my part, but I think someone's been following me lately. Among all of your relatives, do you have someone that could find out who a license number belongs to?

65 INT HOSPITAL BREAK ROOM LAKE TAHOE - AFTERNOON

Donna Louise is motioning to other staff members on break to a large pan of her home made Cannolis.

DONNA LOUISE

You've got it. I've got cops and detectives, and by the way Cousin Franco is a detective, single and a very good cook. Tell me what's going on, what's the plate number? Do you have a gun?

Desi puts her phone away and stops, looking up at the front of her house.

66 INT STADIUM TUNNEL ENTRANCE - DAY

Anthony, glistening with sweat after practice, is heading into the tunnel that leads to the locker rooms. Cheerleaders, Destiny and Ashley in seductively sweet, full sequined uniforms are leaning over the rails above the stadium tunnel. They twirl and taunt for anyone in the vicinity and now focus on flirting with their prey, Anthony.

DESTINY

Anthony, Hi Anthony!

ASHLEY

Anthony, baby, we are so going to miss you.

Anthony stops and wipes the sweat off his face and neck and takes a drink of water from a bottle.

ANTHONY

Hello ladies. I'm going to miss you beautiful ladies too.

ASHLEY

Well, you know, as soon as you're off the team, the three of us could
(MORE)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

get together, without getting into trouble with the head office, that is any trouble you don't want to get into, if you know what I mean. Just wanted to remind you, you know, just in case.

DESTINY

Seriously Anthony I just want to say how much you are respected and appreciated around here for all your wonderful contributions to the team and fans.

ASHLEY

Mmmm, Anthony, I'd really like to pre- thank you for some contributions you could make to Destiny and me at your place.

DESTINY

Ashley!

ANTHONY

Well thank you Destiny...and Ashley, it's been a great run. I heard something about you leaving soon and pursuing a pageant path Destiny?

DESTINY

Yes, you heard? I'm excited about it...not that I haven't totally loved being a cheerleader, I just need to move up to the next level.

ASHLEY

So, Anthony, maybe we could move up a level with you? Destiny would just as soon have a rich handsome man in her life as have a pageant title.

DESTINY

Shut up Ashley, you're just jealous of me making friends with pageant babes.

ASHLEY

Anthony I don't see you much in the press dating, but I don't think you're gay, you've got all those kids. All those kids that don't live with you in that big gorgeous house we've only seen pictures of on the internet.

DESTINY

You know Anthony, Ashley & I do enjoy
a sweet hot tub experience.

ASHLEY

I just happened to have our phone
numbers on this card.

Ashley pulls out the card from her cleavage.

The card flutters down to Anthony and he picks it up.

ANTHONY

Well, ladies, I will definitely keep
that in mind, thank you. I better
hit the showers, I'm a little hotter
than when I first stopped here.
Bye for now.

ASHLEY & DESTINY

Bye Anthony! We'll bring our Pom
Poms if you'd like.

Anthony salutes them and continues walking through the tunnel.

67 INT ANTHONY'S BEDROOM BEVERLY HILLS - DAWN

Anthony, in bed, wakes up slowly and peeks under his covers.

ANTHONY

Ohhh. Ashley and Destiny, go away.
Get out of my dream. Look what you
did to me.

He rolls over.

68 INT ANTHONY'S BEDROOM BEVERLY HILLS - MORNING

ANTHONY

Ohhh.

Anthony pushes down the covers, bare chest, in boxers, and
rolls out of bed. He walks into a large walk in closet and
pulls a few framed paintings out. They were all painted by
Desiree. One is of him in his college basketball uniform in
action, one is of him in a lounge chair by a pool. And one
is eerily similar to the view from the pool he was just
dreaming of.

69 INT BASKETBALL STADIUM STADIUM LOS ANGELES - DAY

Anthony is practicing for his game with his team mates. Bill
comes over to him during a drill and points to the P.I.,
Rory, standing at a sideline. Anthony walks over to talk to
her.

RORY

Hi Anthony, sorry to pop up like this at your practice, I just thought you'd want to know as soon as possible.

ANTHONY

What is it? Is Desi okay?

RORY

Yeah, she's fine now but she's gonna have a problem.

ANTHONY

What?

RORY

It's one of her kids. His parents are looking for him. He was kidnapped, years ago.

ANTHONY

Oh no. Not Desi though, right? Desi would never do something like that. I mean she's a mystery yeah but she would never....

RORY

No, not Desi. I just started checking into her kids, the details of the adoptions. A couple of them were abandoned kids. I went into a database of missing children and he looked a little familiar.

ANTHONY

Are you sure it's him, I mean just cause he looks like him?

RORY

The parents had provided DNA samples to their attorney.

ANTHONY

And did you get one from the boy? How?

RORY

It got so complicated, a few agencies got involved. Desi's had him for years. She doesn't know yet.

ANTHONY

What happens now?

RORY

It will move pretty fast, obviously the biological parents want contact as soon as they finish getting some counseling on how to handle it all.

ANTHONY

Wow. I don't know what to say. I mean my hearts breaking for Desi and the parents and the kid. What about the legal situation? I'm gonna send you the phone number of one of my attorneys. Call him & tell him what's going on and to get back to me with what's gonna happen with Desi. Will you do that for me Rory?

RORY

Sure. Anthony, are you doing okay? Your retirement alone is kind of a lot to handle, emotionally, I'm guessing. Now you've got finding Desiree and this added to it....well. Do you have someone to share all of this with, other than me? You know I'd be very happy to comfort you if that's something you...

ANTHONY

Thanks Rory, I appreciate your concern. Yeah it is a crazy lot to deal with right now. I think it's time to call my parents. They're coming in for my last game but they don't know about me looking for Desi.

Bill comes dribbling over, sweating but with a flirtatious grin for Rory.

BILL

Hey, you in this? Hi ya Rory, how's it jiggling.

ANTHONY

I better get back to practice. Call me as soon as you know anything else.

RORY

Right, Bill you're a real charmer, not.

70 INT LIMO LAKE TAHOE DAY

Mark is in the back seat of a limousine. He has a small bouquet of colorful flowers in one hand and his cell phone in the other. He calls her.

MARK

Hi. I'm here. Where are you? I'm right around the corner from it.

71 EXT PARK - LAKE TAHOE DAY

The Limo pulls up to the side of the park by the basketball court.

Mark gets out with the flowers and sees Madeline in the distance. They walk toward each other.

MADDIE

Ohh, for me? Mark no one has ever given me flowers before and I've never ridden in a limousine.

MARK

I hope they don't disappoint you. Firsts are supposed to be special.

MADELINE

Wow, what next?

MARK

Well, you know, I just thought it would be fun to trade places, I mean you show me some of your favorite places around here and I'll show you mine.

MADELINE

Ohh, these really smell wonderful.

A woman in a house across the street from the park looks inquiringly at the young couple with flowers and limo. She recognizes Maddie and waves. Maddie waves back a little nervously.

MARK

Listen, my brothers and sisters came up with an idea, I hope you like it too.

MADDIE

Like what?

MARK

Let's get in the limo and go to your house.

MADDIE

Wait, my mom's home. It's her day off. You're not going to tell her are you?

MARK

No, no this is about the tee shirts.

MADDIE

Laughing with relief. What are you talking about?

They get into limousine. The limo drives down the street and eventually pulls into the driveway at Desi's house.

72 INT DESI'S ART STUDIO LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Mark & Maddie walk in holding hands. She's holding the bouquet of flowers. Desi is working on a silk screen print.

MADDIE

Hi mom, this is Mark Rodgers from Los Angeles, Mark this is my mom Desiree Bridges.

MARK

Hello Ms Bridges, nice to meet you.

DESIREE

Hi Mark, I didn't know you were up here again. You can call me Desiree, the kids call me Desi, Mom, Desiree, it's always a surprise. I'd shake your hand Mark but ink, sorry. Lovely flowers Maddie.

MARK

Actually Desi, Ink is what I want to talk to you about. I saw some of your artwork before and we, my brothers and sisters, we were wondering if maybe you could design the tee shirts for the Basketball Challenge. Plus we were going to do some Frisbees and stuff with the same logo. We can pay you for the design and all the supplies, we have some great sponsors.

MADDIE

Mom, please would you? You're great at that.

DESIREE

Did you come all the way up here from L.A. to ask me this Mark?

Mark & Maddie bump into each other and smile.

MADDIE

We were going to tour around today. Mark's sister Kelly was saying she thought she saw some Dolphins in the lake and I was telling Mark about Tessie.

MARK

So what do you think Desiree, truth or myth? I'm a little skeptical that there's a huge prehistoric survivor that could have looked like a few Dolphins in a row.

DESIREE

Jacque Cousteau saw something down there apparently. The Rumor is that it was either Tessie or lots of bodies with cement shoes. Go, have fun. I'll start designing your tees tonight. Just send me what text you need on it and I'll work around that.

MARK

Thanks! It was really nice to finally meet you Desiree.

DESIREE

You too Mark. Take care of her and keep in touch okay Maddie? Use any of the bicycles in the garage for Mark if you'd like.

Mark & Maddie look a little sheepishly at each other and exit the studio. Desiree sits down on the floor. She does a silent scream. Chagall and a cat come over demanding attention.

73 INT GARAGE AT DESI'S HOUSE LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Mark and Maddie enter the garage. Maddie pulls out a large envelope hidden among backpacks and pulls out documents.

MADELINE

I had to sneak them out and make copies fast.

Mark browses through the photos and papers.

MARK

Wow. You're right. She wouldn't have kept these if she had bad feelings about him. She might still love him. I found my dad's stash too. Some of the same things even. What went wrong?

MADELINE

No clue. Except for the obvious, that maybe she couldn't have kids and that's why she adopted us.

MARK

Um, I was kind of wondering about that too. Have you ever asked her?

MADELINE

I, well, I just haven't gotten the nerve to. It seems so personal. It74 might make her cry.

MARK

You seem really close. I know you really love her. Maybe you could ask her and she'd understand.

MADELINE

You know, I could ask you the same thing, why don't you just ask your Dad what happened.

MARK

I did once and he just walked off, changed the subject, ignored me. Let's get out of here. Let's just go have some fun before anybody wonders where I am.

MADELINE

They don't know where you are? OMG Yeah, let's get going.

74 EXT HOSPITAL PARKING LOT LAKE TAHOE - LATE AFTERNOON

A man is in the shadows making a call on his cell phone.

DETECTIVE

It's here. What do you want me to do? Yeah, okay.

The rental car used by Rory and her assistants is parked at the edge of the hospital parking lot. The windows have a dark tint. Two young boys with glass cleaner and paper towels approach it and start spraying the windshield, one on each side of the car. At the same time, two other boys are crouching by the back tires letting air out of the tires. The driver's side window is quickly rolled down.

RORY'S ASSISTANT PI

Hey! What are you kids doing? I don't want that, go away please right now.

BOYS

Mister we're washing windows to raise money for our school marching band uniforms. Just a little donation...Please?

Rory's assistant P.I. continues being distracted as he reaches for his wallet and pulls out cash.

RORY'S ASSISTANT PI

Here, here's two dollars, just stop and go far away now.

BOYS

Thanks mister!

All four of the boys quickly run off.

Just seconds after the boys leave, a police car with lights and siren pulls up next to the car. Two officers get out of the car and knock on the driver's side window.

COP

You gave those boys money, where's the drugs you bought from them?

RORY'S ASSISTANT PI

No, no officer, they were trying to get money for band uniforms by cleaning my windshield.

COP

Is that so. Let me see Driver's License and Registration.

The first cop takes documents and walks back to police car.

SECOND COP

So what brings you to just be sitting here at the side of this hospital parking lot? If you're not buying street drugs maybe you're waiting to get some stolen prescription drugs?

RORY'S ASSISTANT PI

No, no your partner there should be able to confirm this. I'm a private detective from Los Angeles working on a case. This is a rental car. I'm on a simple observe the subject. That person happens to work at the hospital, a nurse.

SECOND COP

And just who is it that's paying you to observe this nurse and why?

RORY'S ASSISTANT PI

Well, that's not exactly any of your business officer.

SECOND COP

Well, I'm making it my business. Would you like to get out of this car so I can search it for drugs. I'm betting I can find some.

Cop returns from police car.

COP

Car is rented to a Rory O'Shea Investigations in Santa Monica.

SECOND COP

I was just about to be told by Mr. P.I. here who's paying him to watch this nurse and why?

RORY'S ASSISTANT PI

Listen, I can't tell you, all I know is it's an ex boyfriend whose worried about her and who has very deep pockets.

COP

Is that good enough for you?

SECOND COP

We're going to keep an eye on you.

Gives him back his ID's. They go back to the police car and take off.

The Detective in the shadow salutes Donna Louise who is watching from the side of the hospital.

75 INT CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - NIGHT

Desi leans in to Christopher's bedroom.

DESI

Time for bed Christopher my dear.
You're not going to be too lonely in
here tonight are you with Geo away
at a sleep over?

CHRISTOPHER

I'm fine but maybe could Chagall
sleep in here tonight?

DESI

Oh, I think I can round him up. He
was out poking around in the garden
and chasing shadows, its his bed
time too.

Desi leaves and heads downstairs. Christopher plays with his transformer robots and then gets on his knees to say a prayer.

CHRISTOPHER

Please take care of all of us and
help us do really good at the
basketball challenge. Bullies are
bad. And it would be okay with me
if Desi could have a date and be
happy again with Anthony.

Chagall comes strolling in and Desi seems to have been standing in the door way listening. She looks extremely surprised, backs out into the hall and freezes with back against the wall.

76 INT DESI'S LIVING ROOM LAKE TAHOE - MORNING

Desi pulls tournament tee shirts out of a box and holds one up to show Maddie, Keaton, Saffron & Angel.

GIRLS

Ohh, nice mom. Gimmie, Gimmie, hand
some over.

DESI

The rest were shipped to the stadium,
this is just enough for us and a
couple of extras.

(MORE)

DESI (CONT'D)

You don't think they're distractingly colorful do you? Take enough for the rest of the kids and pass them out okay.

The three girls grab tee shirts and head off, Maddie lingers behind.

MADDIE

They're perfect Mom, thanks. We're all packed except for what we're wearing in the morning.

DESI

I guess you're pretty excited about seeing Mark at the challenge. Anything you want to talk to me about Maddie?

MADDIE

Mom, you gave me the talk already. I'm not planning on doing anything you wouldn't want me to do.

DESI

I wasn't referring to that.

MADDIE

I don't know what you're talking about. Mom I've gotta go, I'll be late. Bye

77 INT DESI'S BEDROOM LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Desi looks through her closet for something to wear and finally chooses the jeans that the paint slid down when she heard the news her kids had met Anthony's. She laughs. She chops the shoulders out of one the Challenge tee shirts, chops the bottom into ties that she pulls tightly around her midriff. She looks at a photo of her with Anthony and notices the differences in hair style and years. She looks in the mirror at her full length reflection.

DESI

Don't you cry now.

78 EXT DESI'S HOUSE LAKE TAHOE - DAY

Desi and the kids load their suitcases into the van.

DESI

Okay then, what did anybody forget to bring? Dress clothes and chargers?
(MORE)

DESI (CONT'D)

Guess we're ready to go on this little
adventure, I love you all so much,
group hug, come here.

The kids come into her for a hug. They get in the van and
drive off.

79 EXT ROAD TO LOS ANGELES - DAY

The P.I. is following Desi's van from a distance.

80 INT P.I.'S VEHICLE ROAD TO LOS ANGELES

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

Here we go.

81 INT DESI'S VEHICLE - ROAD TO LOS ANGELES

Desi notices him in her rear view mirror.

DESI

Here we go.

82 INT BASKETBALL ARENA - LOS ANGELES - DAY

Desi and the kids excitedly enter the arena area. She refers
to paperwork in her hand.

Desi points out staging area and parent's section.

DESI

This says you kids go over there to
the staging area and I'll be sitting
in the parents section over there
when it's finished just come over or
call me and tell me where to meet
you okay? You've got your phone
Madeline?

MADDIE

Got it. Mom, I well I just...

DESI

What is it Madeline?

MADDIE

Well, whatever happens tonight, we
just want you to know how much we
love you.

DESI

Maybe it should be me saying that to
you guys? It's okay. It's all okay.

(MORE)

DESI (CONT'D)

I'll be over there. Good luck and
have fun, now go.

The kids take off to the staging area. Desi goes to the
parents seating area. The 8 mothers of Anthony's kids are
sitting together nearby.

83 INT ARENA STAGING LOS ANGELES AREA - DAY

Anthony is spending time with all of the contestants, shaking
hands, signing autographs etc. Photographers are present.

Mark & the rest of Anthony's kids bring Desi's kids over to
meet Anthony.

MARK

Dad, these are the kids we met in
Lake Tahoe when we were on vacation.

ANTHONY

It's great to meet you. Thanks for
coming all the way down here. I
guess I should thank your mom for
driving you down here? I've heard
you kids have some astounding
basketball skills. I hope we can
all be good friends even after my
team here beats you tonight.

DESI'S KIDS

Nice to meet you Anthony. But we
are wiping the floor with them in a
couple of challenges, ya know!

Anthony focuses on them and laughs.

CHALLENGE COORDINATOR

Looks like we're ready to start.
Let's do it!

84 INT BASKETBALL ARENA - LOS ANGELES DAY

Anthony, his children, sponsors and the people who run the
anti bullying charity are brought into center court area to
be introduced. Desi's eyes soak in the memory of Anthony
from afar.

LOCAL CELEBRITY ANNOUNCER

Good morning everybody, how's everyone
doing this morning? I'm feeling
excitement in the air! How about
all of you? Welcome to today's
Basketball Challenge!

(MORE)

LOCAL CELEBRITY ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

We're going to start with the competitions and some fantastic entertainment as well. First, however, I'd like to introduce the wonderful bunch of kids that organized this event and their father who you may have heard of...our own Anthony Rodgers and his great kids. Let's hear it for them.

Audience Applauds.

Luca, Liam, Mia & Madison step into the center area spotlight.

LUCA, LIAM, MIA & MADISON

We'd like to take this opportunity to present a check to the Anti Bullying Foundation Of Los Angeles for fifty thousand dollars to help support the efforts of so many people in a cause that pulls at our hearts and needs to be stopped.

The check is presented to a representative of the foundation.

Audience Applauds.

LOCAL CELEBRITY ANNOUNCER

Now as the kids are dividing into their special skill areas I'd like to introduce someone who found a novel way of dealing with a bullying situation in her family. This woman got a Facebook Flash Mob together of a car club to confront her nephew's bully at his high school and the bully ended up high fiving and apologizing to the victim. Here they are to get a special gift certificate from Cody, Sean, Olivia & Kelly Rodgers. (True story 10-19-13
(suggestion if
available - other
options as Recyled
Perercussion
Performance group
from Las Vegas)

85 INT STADIUM SPECIAL SEATING SECTION - L.A.- DAY

Desi looks at a distance at the man she loved years ago.
Nearby the 8 mothers of Anthony's kids sit, unaware.

86 INT BASKETBALL COURT - LOS ANGELES - DAY

Highlights of the tournament and skills challenges are shown, Anthony's & Desi's children, other teams and various young phenoms show their skills. (Suggestion-Camdryn Cole Basketball Prodigy - see MSN Video etc)

87 INT BASKETBALL COURT SIDELINE AREA- LOS ANGELES - DAY

Anthony spots one of Rory's PI team, then looks close by and sees Desiree.

88 INT STADIUM SPECIAL SEATING SECTION - LOS ANGELES - DAY

Finally Desi and

Anthony's eyes seem to meet, but both are straining as they are still at quite a distance from each other across the arena.

89 INT BASKETBALL ARENA SIDELINE LOS ANGELES - DAY

ANTHONY

My Desire. Desiree.

90 INT BASKETBALL ARENA - LOS ANGELES - DAY

Some entertainment moments are featured. (Suggestions: Recycled Percussion, proponents of anti bullying from Las Vegas, Comedian who casts fishing pole with basketball on end and sinks into basket form across court, Harlem Globetrotters, etc)

91 INT BASKETBALL ARENA SPECIAL SEATING SECTION - L.A. - DAY

The eight mothers are chatting, knitting, putting on make up, reading and spying with binoculars.

HEATHER

That announcer is a hunk. Is he married?

JESSICA

Back off Heather, his wife is my tennis partner. How do you think he got the gig today?

MAZE

Check out the press box, some sweet new faces in there.

HEATHER

When Anthony retires will he lose all of his endorsements?

(MORE)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Do I need a backup plan to keep myself
and my kid in the same lifestyle?

CAROL

Monica, What ever happened with
Anthony's search For Desiree? Didn't
your brother say he was thinking
about hiring a Private Investigator?

MONICA

I haven't talked to Bill since he
mentioned it. Don't know. But...
you know, now that I think about it,
his silence is very suspicious.

92 INT BASKETBALL ARENA LOS ANGELES - DAY

Desi watches the Basketball Challenge coming to an end and
the kids finish playing. There are presentations of ribbons
and gift certificates etc. The audience begins to quickly
and noisily disperse.

93 INT BASKETBALL ARENA SIDELINE - LOS ANGELES - DAY

A professional dog handler passes Doc's leash over to Anthony.
Anthony bends down and lets Doc smell the scarf sprayed with
perfume, ties it around his neck and tells him to go fetch.
He watches Doc run across the floor towards Desiree.

94 INT STADIUM SPECIAL SEATING SECTION - DAY

Desi has gathered her purse and program and moved onto the
stairs in the aisle. She is startled at seeing this beautiful
dog wearing a scarf she recognizes. She bends down, pats
the dog and removes the scarf, taking it to her face and
smelling her perfume on it. Anthony has walked across the
court and extends his hand. She takes his. He doesn't let
go. She tears up. He takes the scarf and puts it around
her neck, gently pulling her down the final stairs and into
the semi-circle both sets of children have formed. The kids
close the circle around them holding hands around Anthony
and Desi and keeping the Paparazzi and fans away from them.
The couple embrace, heads buried into each other, hiding
tears.

ANTHONY

Can we fix this Desiree, I haven't
forgotten how much I loved you.

The arena continues to empty, many oblivious to what's going
on. Paparazzi and stalker fans are curious and straining to
see and hear but showing some respect or caution as a few
large bodyguard types are also in the vicinity.

95 INT ARENA SPECIAL SEATING SECTION - DAY

The eight mothers are starting to notice what's going on.

MONICA

Uh, hello, what is going on over there?

CAROL

Those are our kids, all of them with Anthony.

JESSICA

It's something to do with his dog. I think it must have gotten away and the kids are trying to trap it in the circle.

YVETTE

The Paparazzi is trying to figure it out too.

HEATHER

Well let's head on down, we have to round up the kids anyway.

LORRAINE

Please tell me this was not the day before the end of Anthony's big endorsement money.

SHANNON

Geez, Lorraine. The money aside, I'm going to miss all of this. Everything that came with Anthony's basketball career. The special things like this.

MAZE

It's been a wonderful ride. You've got that right. We've had so many unique opportunities because of him and the way he's included our kids in his life. Don't make me cry Shannon.

MONICA

Oh Holy Hell! Don't make me cry! Is that Desiree in the middle of the circle?

CAROL

Oh My God!

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

No, no Desi's hair was totally different...and Monica your brother would have told you if that Private Investigator had found her, wouldn't he? It's someone else.

MONICA

Um, I don't believe our kids kept this a secret from us, do you ladies? We have definitely been kept out of the hoop. Look!

LORRAINE

Well, there goes our money. He's gonna buy her two diamond rings this time.

SHANNON

Listen to you, Anthony deserves a love in his life, it's sooo time.

96 INT BASKETBALL ARENA FLOOR- LOS ANGELES - DAY

The bodyguards and security have also surrounded Anthony and the kids and other security directs everyone else out of the stands and towards the exits. The circle turns and escorts Anthony and Desiree out to the staging area.

97 INT BASKETBALL ARENA #2 - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Anthony's retirement game is underway. Strong play by Anthony and his team mates results in a 53-56 score in the Los Angeles Team's favor at half time.

98 INT BASKETBALL ARENA #2 CENTER COURT - L.A. NIGHT

HALF TIME ANNOUNCER

We'd like to thank the audience for coming tonight to join us in a special extended half time celebration, a fond farewell to our good friend and MVP of many games, Anthony Rodgers! Let's hear it for a really great guy! Anthony Rodgers! Trivia question, how many times was he MVP? First one to the press table with the correct answer will get a very nice prize.

Several past and present team members line up with microphones.

TEAM MEMBER ONE

We'd just like to say this to you
Anthony Rodgers. You're no Robert
Parish, he played twenty one years.
As did Kevin Willis.

TEAM MEMBER TWO

And, you're no Kareem Abdul Jabbar,
he played twenty years.

TEAM MEMBER THREE

What can I say but you're no John
Stockton, he played nineteen years,
as did Karl Malone.

TEAM MEMBER FOUR

And gosh, Anthony, sorry, but you're
no Reggie Miller or Clifford Robinson,
they stayed and played 18 years each.

TEAM MEMBER FIVE

But, you did show up for fifteen
years so we thank you for that.

Audience Applauds

TEAM MEMBER FIVE (CONT'D)

Before you take off we did want to
school you a little for all those
long shots you missed.

HALF TIME ANNOUNCER

Guinness Book World Record Holder for
a one handed basket shot from 110
feet Harlem Globetrotter Thunder
Law!

A spotlight goes on Thunder and he takes a long shot and
makes it. The audience goes crazy cheering!

TEAM OWNER

That leaves just one more thing to
do. Let's raise it!

A robot crane speeds out onto the floor carrying the number
four team jersey Anthony wears, raises it into the ceiling
rafters and hooks it. The crowd cheers and Anthony waves
good bye.

99 INT BASKETBALL ARENA OWNERS BOX LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Anthony's retirement game is over and the party is going on.
Anthony takes Desi's hand. They weave through well dressed
party goers, players and management.

Guests are circulating, having cocktails, listening and dancing to a small band playing jazz and blues.

ANTHONY

Desiree come with me, it's time to find some privacy and straighten this all out. Your kids are fine, they're getting a tour of the locker rooms.

He spots a love seat in a candlelit corner.

PARTYGOERS

Hey Anthony we're going miss you, hoping to still see you around at the games and on the golf course, right?

ANTHONY

Yeah, sure, of course, thanks for coming.

He attempts to protect her from the view of the many interested eyes and moves quickly to the secluded corner.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Over here, sit down, please. So many life important events happening so close together, I want to apologize that you've gotten caught up in the whirlwind of it all. Desiree, truthfully finding you puts everything in a new wonderful light for me. I finally stopped shaking.

DESIREE

Being with you again feels pretty intense. We made a lot of memories together. Finding out the kids and you had been plotting, well, I'm glad there were distractions to slow down what we're about to discuss.

ANTHONY

You told me yesterday you'd explain everything when the kids weren't around. It's time. I've waited 16 years. Just know Desi, like I said yesterday, if it was something stupid I said or did, I've changed. Missing you all these years, and realizing that now I still need you more than ever...I had to find you.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

You gotta admit our kids meeting each other was some kind of crazy fate. I still love you. Tell me, what did I do that made you leave.

DESIREE

Why do you think it was something you did?

ANTHONY

Because you were perfect.

DESI

There were lies told.....by me

ANTHONY

Why?

DESI

Because I was so uncomfortable about my past, there was so much unpleasantness I didn't want to relive it again, didn't want to look at your face when I told you. I just wanted to pretend that there was lots of happiness in my life not sadness.

ANTHONY

If you don't want to ever tell me about your past Desiree it's so okay with me. I wish you had just communicated that need to me instead of running off. I was so in love with you. Do you realize how crushed I was? Talk about uncomfortable, how do you think I felt, plus people wondering what I did, was I to blame, did I do something awful to you. At least I thank you for leaving the note..

DESI

I'm so very sorry.

ANTHONY

I hired a Private Detective to find you, although it was the kids that actually found you first. I know you have a different last name now.

DESI

You hired a Private Detective just recently? What took you so long if you really missed me?

ANTHONY

Your note telling me not to come after you may have had something to do with that you know.

DESI

Anthony, I've had some sleepless nights, wondering if I had only told you my story, if you would have changed your mind about something in the way I needed.

ANTHONY

Please tell me. Let's see if this is meant to work for us now. Yesterday was so beautiful, with the kids in a ring around us bringing us together and protecting us. It was good that we agreed not to go into details and just be glad we were back face to face and moving forward. But, tonight, i need answers.

Desi takes her high heels off. Anthony lifts her legs up and starts to massage her feet.

DESI

My parents, my brother and myself were in a horrible car accident when I was very young. I was the only survivor. There weren't any relatives to take me in. I was in foster homes for awhile, always wishing I would get adopted by someone great, but the older I got....well I petitioned for my emancipation as soon as I could and moved to California. I got a job, studied really hard and got a scholarship to the University. That's when I met you.

ANTHONY

Desi, you know I would of loved you for that story. Why did you make up parents in Denmark?

DESI

I don't know, it was stupid. I just wanted to seem like everybody else,
(MORE)

DESI (CONT'D)

with a normal family, but with an excuse for them not to be around.

ANTHONY

You're holding back. There's something more. What is it?

DESI

When you asked me to marry you, I was so happy. It was the happiest moment of my life. The time we had spent together was like a wonderful dream....but there was another problem, well two problems. When we started talking about having children. You said you'd never consider adopting children. Just like that. Matter of fact. You only wanted your own biological children....you seemed unwavering....It broke my heart. I thought how much I wanted to be adopted and never was....and Anthony, in the car accident that my perfect family died in, I was injured in a way that I can never have children. I can never bring their genes forward.

ANTHONY

Oh God Desi, I am so sorry.

He tears up and puts his arms around her

DESI

So that's what happened.

ANTHONY

Desiree, promise me you won't tell your children what I said. I don't want to hurt anyone else.

DESI

Promise.

ANTHONY

What unexpected paths brought us here. Look at the wonderful kids we have. We both created great families in unusual ways. Please forgive me. My heart never stopped loving you.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Listen, Mark said something about both of us keeping boxes of romantic mementos, photos and things and that means we both never stopped loving each other. It that's true Desi, don't you feel like something's missing? I mean we both lay down alone at night.

DESI

Well, except for Doc & Chagall, I know what you mean Anthony.

ANTHONY

Tomorrow you're planning to go back home with your kids but come to my house for breakfast with them and my kids will come too. Can we spend some more time together? I'm about to have a lot of free time on these tired hands and legs.

DESI

Breakfast sounds good...like a fresh start.

They stand up. Desi grabs her shoes and puts them on. They walk to other side of room.

ANTHONY

Look.

He motions down through a window to the arena floor where all the kids are playing basketball.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Twenty kids, enough for two slow pitch softball teams.

100 EXT PATIO & YARD OF ANTHONY'S HOUSE BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

The two sets of kids are having a breakfast goodbye party.

Anthony and Desi are sitting quietly together. The kids still don't know much of the details of what happened between the two of them and they are watching cautiously to see what develops.

MADDIE

Mark do you think we'll ever find out what happened, ya know what ripped their hearts apart.

MARK

Laughs, I think you've been reading too many romance novels, but yeah they're not telling us much. Why is that? They seem like they're getting along, they're talking, they're kissing. I think that means we're gonna get to spend more time together.

MADDIE

You're taking me roller balding along the beach, right?

MARK

You roller blade, I'll jog.

KEATON

I want to go to the beach

ANGEL, NOAH, GEO

Me Too. Beach!

101 EXT PATIO & YARD OF ANTHONY'S HOUSE BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

The kids notice a beautiful redhead woman entering the patio area & Anthony jumps up, leaving Desi, and walks quickly over to her. Desi watches with wonder.

Rory O'Shea, the Private Investigator, escorts a man and woman into the patio area near the back door entrance. She walks away from them and steps into the yard. Anthony greets her up close and quietly.

MADDIE

Who's that woman?

MARK

I've never seen her before. Maybe she's one of Anthony's girlfriends.

MADDIE

Anthony has girlfriends?

MARK

Well he does date sometimes, women get crazy obsessed with him sometimes.

Cody walks over to the group

CODY

Who is that, this is not good timing for some stalker babe to come around.

All the kids are focused on Anthony, Rory and Desi's reaction to what's going on with them.

RORY
Hi. They're here.

ANTHONY
You sure this is a good idea?

RORY
It was their idea, so...& you told
Desi right?

ANTHONY
She knows, but the kids don't &
they've never seen you before, I
imagine there's a few discussions
going on. Your ears burning?

RORY
I would kind of like to give you a
big hug. I think I may never have a
case that touches my heart in so
many ways as this one has. Plus I
can put this box in your pocket while
I'm doing it. And just to make sure
you know, if this thing with Desiree
doesn't work out, ah I'm interested.

Anthony gives her a big hug and Rory slips a ring box with a
Sotheby's label on it into his warm up jacket.

ANTHONY
Okay then, let's do this, where are
they?

Rory walks to the patio door and motions.

The man and woman coax out from just inside the door, a boy
that looks just like Geo, in fact he is Geo's identicaloy
twin brother

MADDIE
Geo look.

Geo turns around and sees the couple who are his biological
parents and an almost identical to him, boy.

GEO
What is this....?

Desi swoops in and puts her arm around Geo.

DESI
Geo, they are your real parents and
your twin brother, my darling.
(MORE)

DESI (CONT'D)

Apparently you were kidnapped when you were 3 years old and then whoever did it got scared and abandoned you at the hospital. That's when I was lucky enough to find you Geo. You know I love you so much and we're gonna get through this together with whatever makes you comfortable. Anthony and his kids too. Your parents never stopped looking for you. Would you like to meet your parents and twin brother?

The kids have moved in together to find out what's going on. They overhear the situation.

Desi puts her arm around Geo, Anthony joins them and they walk off together toward his new found family. Doc and Chagall bark and heal next to their owners, walking along with the trio.

END/p