

SIDNEY'S KIDNEY

Screenplay by

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SIDNEY'S KIDNEY

FADE IN:

EXT - PHILADELPHIA - ESTABLISHING SHOTS - DAY

Ben Franklin statue. Constitution Hall. Liberty Bell.
SPORTS KING, a radio talk show voice, fills the airwaves.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
You're on the line with the Sports
King. What's your beef?

MURAL OF REGGIE JONES

covers a building wall. Confident smile. Muscles bulging
from his 76ers jersey. A fan's voice, is heard.

SIDNEY(V.O.)
Woo-hoo! Reggie's on fire! I
smell a championship.

BILLBOARD FEATURING REGGIE

advertises Sports Ade sports drink. His image larger than
life as he soars across a basketball court poised to dunk.

SPORTS KING(V.O.)
You're wiggin', slick. Your
homeboy never won a title, never
will. He always finds a way to
choke.

METRO BUS

passes billboard. Transit ad. Reggie dunks donut in coffee.
It reads "The Ultimate Dunk." Plus a donut company logo.

SIDNEY (V.O.)
Undefeated at home. Reggie's
scoring 38.4 a game.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
And his total assists...hmmm...let
me check, Sidney...oh, yeah...
Nothin'...Nada...zero... zilch. Get
back to me when the crack wears
off.

CLICK. DIAL TONE.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - NIGHT

HOT CHICKS walk past a statue of Reggie dunking. Reggie's face emblazoned across the butt cheeks of their sweat pants.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - CONCOURSE - NIGHT

Ads featuring Reggie fill the arena. Fans fill concession lines and crowd souvenir stands. A sea of Reggie jerseys.

A banner on the scoreboard flashes: Welcome Boy Scouts of America.

A CHEER goes up from a section filled with boy scouts.

ON COURT

Tattoo of a hand spinning the Earth. It covers the shoulder of REGGIE JONES, 30s, dribbling up the lane. Same bulging muscles from his ads. Smile replaced with determination.

VLAD ROMANOV, the seven foot Romanian center, sets a pick.

Reggie drives through the lane, fakes a hook with the right hand, then brings the ball down. He spins with his back to the basket, and flips it up and in with the left hand.

Fans go wild. The usually smiling Sixers point guard, ALBERT CARTER, 39 is wide open at the baseline. He shakes his shiny shaved head.

Reggie taunts his opponent as he back pedals into position.

REGGIE

In case you missed it, you can catch it again on "Sports Center"...

(pumps the air)
for the next twenty years.

V.I.P SECTION

Hot wives, hotter girlfriends and rich groupies.

TASHA, 20s, jumps to her feet, claps and blows a kiss at Reggie. Her dress so tight you'd need an industrial razor to peel it off - or lots and lots of money.

TASHA

Go, baby! Go!

OPPOSING PLAYER brings the ball up, makes a pass that Reggie tips out of bounds. A TV time out is called.

The team MASCOT - colonial costume with Sixers jersey and huge Ben Franklin head - bounds onto the court for his routine.

NOSE BLEED SECTION #301

A Heavy-set BIKER, 50s carries a large tub of popcorn up the stair. The tub has Reggie's smiling face, giving a thumbs up.

He reaches his aisle and squeezes past a Punker type, red MOHAWK, 30s, with basketball nose ring. VODOO LADY, 50s, Haitian, dressed in all black except for her beads and headdress, waves a chicken bone and silently chants.

MORRIS, 20s, a techno geek. Curly hair. Headphones. Watches the game on a tablet computer. Biker dusts him with popcorn as he plops down in the seat next to him.

MORRIS

Whoa. Watch it.

BIKER

Sorry, Morris.

(noticing empty seat next
to Morris)

Where's Sidney? Kicked out
already?

MORRIS

That's where I'd put my money.

They both shake their heads.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - LATER

SCOREBOARD: Sixers down by one. Twelve seconds left.

The Sixers spread the court. Reggie gets double-teamed at the top of the key. Carter, wide open under the basket, waves for the ball.

Reggie throws up a wild, off balance shot that misses.

Returning on defense, Carter yells at Reggie back peddling.

CARTER

Hey Reg, spread the love.

Reggie glares at him.

Sixers get set on defense. A Wizards player sets a pick that levels Carter. A foul. Sixers get the ball.

Six seconds left on the game clock.

"Reggie Time" flashes on the Big screen. Fans chant,
"Reggie! Reggie!"

Reggie dribbles the ball. Carter open under the basket.

The defense triple teams Reggie. He rises in the air for the last shot, but instead passes to the wide open Carter.

CLANG. Carter's shot hits the rim.

BUZZER sounds. Game over. Stunned silence in the arena.

Ball bounces softly away, until it stops.

Reggie joins Carter as they run off the court.

REGGIE

That's why they call it "Reggie
time." Not "Carter time."

Carter shakes his head, as he lags behind.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - COURT SIDE - NIGHT

BOY SCOUTS in uniform stand behind railings. Reggie and the team walk up in their street clothes to sign autographs.

BOY SCOUTS

Reggie! Reggie!

Reggie turns to smile. Milks the attention.

REGGIE

Whoa, kids. There's plenty of
Reggie to go around.

Scouts wave pens and papers. Reggie scribbles away, as the rest of the team gets scattered requests.

SIDNEY KANASKI, 30s, wild curly hair, goofy grin, beer belly stuffed in an undersized Boy Scout uniform, pushes his way to the front with a bag of Reggie merchandise.

SIDNEY

Great game, Reggie. Mind signing
some souvenirs for my kids?

Sidney holds up a Sixers banner and a Reggie bobble-head. Reggie recognizes him. His eyes narrow.

MONTAGE - FLASHBACKS

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Reggie dines with Tasha. Sidney approaches him to autograph the menu. Reggie waves him away, stunned.

INT. RESTAURANT BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Reggie sits on a toilet checking tweets on his cell phone. Sidney's hand appears under the stall door holding the menu and pen.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Reggie prepares to putt during a charity event. Sidney yells from the crowd.

SIDNEY

Dunk it, Reggie. Dunk it!

Reggie loses focus and misses the hole completely and putts the ball into a water hazard. Duck quacks.

EXT. BURGER BARN - DAY

Reggie's SUV pulls up to the drive-thru window.

Cashier holds out drinks, but drinks go flying when Sidney dives through the window holding pen and Burger Barn bag.

The drinks land on Reggie's lap. His eyes go wide with fear and he burns rubber to get away.

END MONTAGE

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - CONCOURSE - NIGHT

Two security guards drag Sidney toward the exit.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

MICHELLE JONES, early 30s, Nurses uniform. Medium length hair. Loving spirit.

She playfully holds hands with her son Reggie Jones Jr., nicknamed MAGIC, 7, as she walks him to the entrance.

INT. REGGIE'S SUV - DAY

Reggie watches them from across the street. As they disappear through the doors, Reggie holds up his iPhone. Picture of him and Michelle pushing Magic in a Big Wheel on the display.

Reggie looks out of his side window, biting his upper lip, as he drives away.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Rundown building. Graffiti on the outside.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Sidney flies through the air in SLOW MOTION and DUNKS a basketball through a hoop. All-pro determination on his face.

He then soars through the air from the other direction for an awesome twirlie-bird slam.

Carlo stands with several other kids. Stunned silence.

Sidney stands next to a mobile basket - only six feet high. He holds the ball over the basket, then brings it back to his body, embarrassed look.

CARLO

What a dork. Bet you didn't even get our stuff autographed?

SIDNEY

Yeah...um. Reggie was running late. Didn't want to miss his flight...

SARAH, 10, folds her arms.

SARAH

His next games at home, doofus.

CARLO

I was gonna sell my swag on e-bay. You owe me a hundred bucks.

Carlo pats Sidney's pockets. Pulls out a few dollar bills.

SIDNEY

I'll make it up to you. We'll go see Reggie play live.

CARLO

Where you gonna get that kinda
scratch? They wouldn't even let
you donate at a sperm bank.

The other kids laugh.

INT. LAW OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Divorce decree papers lay on a long conference table.
Michelle sits on the side.

Michelle's conservatively dressed, female LAWYER, 30's,
angrily paces behind her client.

MICHELLE

He'll be here.

LAWYER

Your divorce is almost final. You
don't need to keep making excuses
for him.

Michelle nods as she looks out the window.

SIDE OF BUILDING

Reggie's smiling face fills the wall for a deodorant ad.
Giant slogan reads: "Man Up."

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Reggie and Carter sit with their backs against the bar,
absorbing the ambience.

TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, 20s, walk by in tight skirts and give
Reggie the eye. He instinctively looks and smiles.

Tasha suddenly appears in a revealing dress covered only by
her expensive fur coat. She passes the girls.

TASHA

Taken.

Tasha straddles Reggie. Carter takes the cue and follows the
two women.

Tasha forcibly refocuses Reggie's head away from the girls
with a firm hand to his face.

TASHA

You going to be good when I'm in
Milan for my fashion shoot?

REGGIE

Like I have a choice. You probably
attached a GPS to my balls.

Reggie's phone rings. He looks at it with one eye as he
continues kissing Tasha.

Caller ID reads: "AGENT." Reggie gently pushes Tasha away.

TASHA

Suddenly your agent's more
important than me?

REGGIE

(into phone)
Call you back.
(hanging up, then to
Tasha)
He does help me buy all those nice
things you seem to enjoy.

Reggie walks to a back corner. Tasha glares after him. Sips
her drink.

INT. MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Michelle ices cupcakes for a school bake sale. Magic helps
by stirring the bowl of icing.

Her cell phone RINGS. Reggie's face appears on the caller
ID. A scowl appears on Michelle's face as she answers.

MICHELLE

I waited at the lawyer's office for
two hours...

She sees Magic looking at her.

MICHELLE

(to Magic)
I'll be back in a second, honey.

Michelle turns away and walks down the hall into the living
room.

INTERCUT BETWEEN REGGIE AND MICHELLE

REGGIE

I'm still having trouble with this.
I need to be part of my son's life.

MICHELLE
 You are. It's called child
 support.

REGGIE
 Michelle.

MICHELLE
 I'm sorry, but we tried. You never
 had time for marriage counseling,
 the lawyer. It's obvious you don't
 have any time for us.

REGGIE
 We're playing Dallas tomorrow.
 Bring Magic. Then we'll get
 together after the game.

Michelle closes her eyes and SIGHS.

MICHELLE
 No promises.

Reggie leans against the wall oblivious to the beautiful
 women walking past.

INT. MICHELLE'S KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER

Michelle re-enters. Stops, stunned, then hides a smile.

Two cupcakes are missing. Magic stares back at her, puppy
 dog eyes, icing on his nose and mouth.

MICHELLE
 What happened to those cupcakes?

MAGIC
 I don't know.

Michelle smiles and gives her little cupcake thief a hug and
 wipes his face.

INT. BLOOD BANK #1 - MORNING

Needle slowly punctures human skin. Arm twitches violently,
 knocking over tubes of blood.

LAB TECH looks up at patient. It's Sidney in a chair with an
 expression that says "oops."

INT. BLOOD BANK #1 - RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER

Sidney walks out of the examination room, pressing the bandage against his arm.

RECEPTIONIST hands Sidney a check. Sidney looks at the check and smiles. It's for \$65.

INT. BLOOD BANK #2 - RECEPTION - DAY

Sidney leans on the counter, a little loopy. A different logo behind RECEPTIONIST #2.

RECEPTIONIST #2

Have you made any donations in the past two months?

Sidney shakes his head.

INT. BLOOD BANK #3 - RECEPTION - DAY

Sidney holds up one finger. A different logo behind RECEPTIONIST #3.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Players change for the game. Positive mood.

Reggie checks himself in a full length mirror in his locker. It's actually two lockers with double doors. Enough accoutrements to make a Hollywood movie star envious.

He grabs a picture of Magic and Michelle and stares at it. Then he reacts to a sharp pain in his side. It passes.

A TRAINER tapes up Carter's knees, ankles, elbows and shoulders.

Romanov walks by.

ROMANOV

You old man. In my country, we put you to pasture. Or eat you with cold potato and borscht.

Carter grabs an ice pack and playfully throws it at Romanov, who grabs it out of the air.

ROMANOV

If hotdog Reggie pass like that. Big man dunk. We win title.

Romanov dunks ice pack into a trash bin. Continues into bathroom

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Romanov nods to Reggie, who steps away from the urinal and washes his hands.

Romanov walks up to the same urinal. He looks down.

URINAL

Traces of blood swirl.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sidney finishes helping Carlo and the other kids, seven total, into the side door of his beat up Volkswagen van. Its painted 76ers colors and covered with team decals.

He's a little wobbly on his feet as he walks around and climbs behind the wheel.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - COURT - DAY

Reggie looks up in the stands, disappointed. Carter, a little worried, tosses him a ball. Reggie misses it and it bounces off his chest.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN VAN - DAY

Sidney starts to nod off, losing focus of the road.

He hits a pothole and it jars him awake. He spots oncoming traffic headed directly at him and swerves.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sidney follows the line of cars into the parking.

The other cars turn to park. Sidney's Volkswagen van continues past the stunned attendant.

His van rolls slowly into a light post, barely tapping it.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Reggie bounces the ball at mid court, looking into the stands. His teammates start walking toward the bench.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)

This is always the toughest rivalry
in the NBA. Reggie Jones versus
the Polar Bear, Drago Polinski.

OPPONENT'S BENCH

Drago Polinski AKA POLAR BEAR, 30s, sheds his fur coat. Six foot nine. Mohawk. Built like a linebacker. Body covered with tattoos -- including a Polar Bear devouring a salmon.

Two BLONDES, 20s, assist.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)

Excuse moi. I mean a vicious,
hungry, mean-tempered, mentally
disturbed, highly volatile,
sadistically programmed, steroid-
injected polar beast.

MID COURT

Reggie continues looking into the stands, melancholy. His sullen look suddenly turns to a smile.

IN THE STANDS

LEROY, 30s, the 300-pound VIP security guard, escorts Michelle and Magic to their seats behind the player's bench.

Michelle points to daddy on the court. Magic waves.

MID COURT

Reggie takes a hook shot. SWISH. He walks off the court, smiling over to Michelle and Magic.

SMACK. He runs into the Polar Bear, who intentionally sticks out his shoulder, as they pass on the court.

The rivals shoot each other intimidating looks.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN VAN - DAY

Sidney's head lays on the steering wheel passed out. Carlo tries to shake him. He's out cold.

Carlo grabs the tickets from the dash and grabs Sidney's wallet. He hesitates and smiles to the other kids.

CARLO
Watch this.

Carlo starts to snicker, as he reaches for a felt-tip pen on the console.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - CONCESSION STAND - DAY

ATTENDANT hands Carlo a few trays of hotdogs, sodas and Reggie Corns.

Carlos opens Sidney's wallet and slaps some money down.

NOSE BLEED SECTION #301

The kids climb over everyone to get to their nose bleed seats. Reggie Corn and soda gets spilled on various people.

Morris shoots them a look that creeps out the kids. They avoid him.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - COURT - DAY

Romanov wins the tip-off. Reggie slices to the basket for a tricky reverse shot. Carter open under the backboard.

Reggie points to the VIP section and pumps his arm.

VIP SECTION

Magic pumps the air like his dad.

MAGIC
Daddy scored!

Several HOT WOMEN sit behind Michelle and Magic.

HOT CHICK
Oh, yeah, he can be my daddy, too!

HOT WOMAN #1 rips open her shirt to reveal a "Reggie Bra." Reggie's smiling face on each cup.

Michelle surprised, but not shocked.

MICHELLE
(to Magic)
Cover your eyes, baby.

Magic covers both eyes.

Michelle turns back to the Hot Chick flashing the Reggie Bra. Her eyes narrow in anger as she rises from her seat.

The Hot Chick's eyes go wide with fear as Michelle approaches.

ARENA - CORRIDOR

Michelle and Magic walk toward the exit. A satisfied look on her face.

They pass a trash can and Michelle tosses something on top. They continue walking as we see it's the "Reggie bra."

COURT

Reggie jogs back on defense. He hesitates as he looks to the stands and sees Michelle and Magic's empty seats. He quickly scans the section, then the sad realization; they left.

Polar Bear brushes past Reggie, bumping him as he catches a pass and slam dunks like King Kong. Then taunts the fans flexing his muscles and growling.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)

Reggie looks like a Pakistani train wreck out there. His luggage is all over the tracks.

Reggie winces, holding his side.

PARKING LOT

Sidney still sleeping. "STUPID" written on his forehead. Opened felt-tip pen on his console.

PLAYER'S BENCH

Reggie and his team saunter off the court for a time-out.

Carter turns to Reggie.

CARTER

You okay?

REGGIE

Yeah. I'm fine. Let's finish him off.

Reggie wipes his face with a towel.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - PARKING LOT - DAY

A crow CAWS from the light post above Sidney's VW van.

PARKING LOT

Michelle notices the VW van nudged against the light post. The side door open. She approaches cautiously with Magic.

Sidney still passed out at the wheel.

Michelle opens the front door and a paper falls from the van to the pavement.

Sidney startled awake. Looks around, confused.

Michelle picks up the paper that fell out. It's a list of blood banks. Most crossed off in ink. She notices cotton ball taped to Sidney's arm.

MICHELLE

You give blood today?

Sidney holds up his hand indicating a small amount with his fingers. Shrugs.

SIDNEY

A little.

Michelle reaches into her purse and pulls out a candy bar.

MICHELLE

Eat this.

Sidney devours the candy like a ravenous dog. Magic laughs as Sidney licks the wrapper.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - NOSE BLEED SEATS - DAY

Sidney's kids scream and run through the aisles. They're throwing food at each other.

Voodoo Lady stares at Carlo. Waves her fingers like she's applying a mystical spell.

VOODOO LADY

May your testicles fall off before
puberty.

Carlo looks around, worried. He sits down. Eyes forward. Mouth shut. Voodoo Lady continues staring with evil eye.

Sidney rushes up the aisle. "STUPID" still written on his forehead. Kids snicker and laugh.

SIDNEY

Come on, kids, calm down.

Sidney tries to put Sarah in her seat, but she tugs on another fan's hair. Sidney then looks out toward the court. Concern fills his face.

COURT

Reggie drives to the basket, then pulls up for a short jumper. He winces, and then holds his side as he returns on defense.

NOSE BLEED SECTION #301

Sidney notices Reggie struggle back on defense.

SIDNEY

Something's wrong with Reggie.

MORRIS

You nuts? He's got forty-five points.

BIKER

And an assist.

Everyone in the section nods, impressed.

Sidney contemplates the moment, then rushes down the aisle.

He dodges a few fans and hustles through the tunnel.

COURT

Polar Bear fakes left, then runs straight through Reggie for a lay-up.

Ref calls the foul on Reggie, who struggles to get up. He holds up his hand to let others know he's okay. Is he?

CONCESSION AREA

Sidney runs past a GUARD, standing in front of the escalator to the VIP section. He hops the railing and runs down the escalator.

COURT

Polar Bear makes the foul shot.

LOWER LEVEL

Sidney rushes through the tunnel and emerges above the VIP section.

COURT

Carter passes the inbound ball to Reggie, who dribbles up court. A slight grimace on his face.

VIP SECTION

Sidney dodges some more fans. Others block the aisle, so Sidney climbs over some chairs and spectators.

Security Guards spot him rushing toward the court. They communicate on their radios.

Leroy, the VIP security guard, slams Sidney against the Sports-ade bucket.

SIDNEY

Let me go. I gotta talk to the trainer.

Sidney looks up toward the court. Leroy follows his gaze. They look past the Trainer, who stands a few feet from them.

COURT - SLOW MOTION

Reggie goes up and then under the basket for a reverse dunk. As he lands, he shoots Polar Bear a triumphant look.

His expression suddenly changes. He staggers back as if struck by some invisible force. Then falls into the first row of fans.

BENCH

Sidney lays on the ground. Leroy still on top.

SIDNEY

NOOOOOOOOOO!

An eerie silence fills the arena. Their hero motionless behind the basket.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - NOSE BLEED SEATS - NIGHT

All the fans in the section stare at the court in stunned silence, as paramedics wheel Reggie away on a gurney.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Sidney sits in a chair in the middle of the room. He's stunned and groggy. Taser electrodes run from his chest to the Taser gun held by a pot bellied SECURITY GUARD#1, in dark sunglasses.

SECURITY GUARD#2 nudges with his baton and Sidney starts to come around.

SECURITY GUARD #2
Tase'em again, Albert.

Security Guard #1 Tasers Sidney, who shakes violently. He starts foaming at the mouth.

SECURITY GUARD #1
Thar she blows....

Guards laugh.

Carlo and the other kids appear at the doorway. Carlo videotapes with his cell phone.

CARLO
Drop it or you go viral.

SECURITY GUARD #1
How did you get in here?

CARLO
Picked the lock, stupid.

SECURITY GUARD #2
You know this guy?

CARLO
He's our chauffeur.

Security Guards look at each other confused.

CARLO
This is how it's going down. You let my boy go. You give us eight hot dogs, a box of Snickers bars, and them shades you got on. Then we won't press charges.

Carlo holds up his cell phone to let them know he's not bluffing. The others fold their arms with serious looks.

INT. HOSPITAL ER - NIGHT

Reggie lays on an examination bed. DR. JENKINS, 40s, a serious matter-of-fact physician, hovers over him. He shines a light in his eyes. Shakes his head, "Not good."

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Fans hold candles outside the ER doors. Security Guards and Cops block the entrance. Media everywhere.

Sidney pushes his way to the front of the crowd looking for a way past the guard. He tries a few head fakes and basketball stutter steps, but the guard doesn't flinch. Motionless. Expressionless.

Convoy of cars drive up. BENNETT ROTHMAN, 50s, the distinguished looking owner, gets out of the first SUV.

MAX CASH, 30s, a flamboyant agent/shark in a designer suit gets out of another vehicle.

Reggie's teammates exit other cars. They all enter the hospital.

Motorcycle Cop escorts a final SUV from the other direction.

Michelle gets out and hurries toward the doors.

She exchanges a look of recognition with Sidney before the swarm of people separate them.

EXT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle enters, shaken. Bennett hugs Michelle.

BENNETT

It's going to be okay.

Max nearby, sympathetic. Others reach out to Michelle.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

No way in. Sidney walks along the side of the building, looking for any entry.

A technician exits from a side door. Sidney rushes over, but the door closes before he can enter.

He notices the TEAM MASCOT getting out of his car in the visitor parking lot and putting on his giant mascot head.

Sidney slowly lowers himself behind some bushes.

As the Mascot innocently walks past, Sidney tackles him into the bushes.

The bushes shake, then go still.

Moments later Sidney rises, wearing the uniform. Sidney puts on the mascot head and walks awkwardly toward the entrance.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

Nurses, patients and technicians mill around. Team mascot enters - it's Sidney. But costume doesn't fit right.

SIDNEY'S POV

He can't see. He bumps into nurses, knocks over a cart of blood samples, trips over a kid.

Sidney lands on a gurney lined up against the wall.

ORDERLY, carrying a cooler with an organ, gets distracted by a pretty nurse. Turns his head.

Sidney rolls off the gurney and into the path of the Orderly, knocking the cooler to the floor.

A liver flies out and slips around in the hall. The orderly dives for it like a frozen football.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Nurse enters. Approaches Michelle.

NURSE #1

You can see him now, Ms. Jones.

Michelle turns to Carter.

CARTER

Everything's going to be fine.
We're here for you.

Michelle looks at him with sincere appreciation.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Reggie lays motionless in a bed, barely able to keep his eyes open.

Michelle stands at the foot of the bed, casting a sullen look. Carter by her side, an anxious expression.

Finally, Sidney behind them. Mascot head under his arm.

Reggie's eyes go wide. Machines start beeping. Michelle moves closer, concerned.

MICHELLE
What's wrong, baby?

Reggie struggles to speak. Inaudible. He raises his hand and points at Sidney. Heads turn and Sidney greets them with a "Who Me?" look.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Sidney gets tossed out by SECURITY. His contorted face captured on the surveillance camera.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

Security Officer watches the video on the monitor. Sidney rolls out of frame. The mascot head rolls out after him.

INT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - CONVERTED GARAGE - NIGHT

Sidney lights candles in front of a Reggie shrine. Pictures. Trading cards. Key chains. Bobble heads. Magazine articles. A jersey draped over the back.

Sidney sits in the lotus position and chants.

SIDNEY
Buddha...Allah...Jesus...Pass that
prayer book around. You guys need
to work as a team here.

Entire place is a "Reggie Museum." Posters. Full size cut outs. Products with Reggie's smiling face. 76ers lamps, coolers, grill, even an aquarium with a swimming Reggie.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dr. Jenkins carries a medical file as he ushers Michelle and Carter over to a quiet corner.

DR. JENKINS
We ran some tests, and your husband
has Focal Glomerulosclerosis.

MICHELLE
His kidney's are failing?

DR. JENKINS
He needs a transplant immediately.

MICHELLE
But his blood type is RzRz.

DR. JENKINS
One of the rarest in the world.

MICHELLE
It'll take a miracle to find a
donor.

DR. JENKINS
I know.

TECHNICIAN approaches with a computer print-out.

TECHNICIAN
I've got six matches from six
different blood banks.
(looks up, skeptical)
All of them yesterday under
different names.

Dr. Jenkins confused, but optimistic.

DR. JENKINS
It has to be the same person.

CARTER
What idiot would donate a gallon of
blood in a single day?

Michelle reflects.

INT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - CONVERTED GARAGE - NIGHT

Sidney bows before his shrine, then slowly gets up, an
anguished look.

He walks to his computer. Reggie dunking on the screen saver.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Michelle and Carter rush out, looking around. No Sidney.

INT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - CONVERTED GARAGE - NIGHT

Sidney checks all the tweet sites, fan sites and anything
related to Reggie.

Sidney turns off his computer and even his cell phone.

He falls into his bed, laying on top of his 76er blanket and
pillow, staring up at 76er memorabilia spinning from the
ceiling fan above.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Fans stand outside the hospital holding candles.

EXT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Donors have come from around the world. The line stretches out the door and around the block. Tearful FANS hold signs in support of their hero.

INT. BLOOD LAB - DAY

Lab Technicians conduct blood tests. Test tubes cover the desks. They look at each other, discouraged. No matches.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)

...With no other prospective donors in sight, Reggie Jones's condition has been downgraded from critical to goner...

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Patrons gather around the TV at the bar. ESPN news anchor announces Reggie's condition.

ESPN ANNOUNCER #1

In a recent development, doctors believe this man might be the only compatible kidney donor for Reggie Jones...

Grainy security camera photo of Sidney - a goofy expression on his face as he's tossed out of the hospital by security.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Michelle and Carter walk toward the rundown playground passing Sidney's Volkswagen van parked by the building.

Carlo wears the security guard's sunglasses as he and the kids playing basketball. Michelle and Carlo approach.

MICHELLE

Do you know who drove that van to the game the other night.

CARLO

What's it worth to ya?

CARLO'S POV

Michelle and Carter look down at him with threatening looks.

EXT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - CONVERTED GARAGE - DAY

Media Crews surround the garage, trampling on flowers, bushes and destroying decorative items on the lawn.

Michelle, Max, Bennett and a few players also arrive.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Carlo sits on a rusty picnic bench, happily counting money.

He hides the twenties in his pocket and hands out fives and tens to the other anxious kids.

INT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - CONVERTED GARAGE - DAY

Sidney hears the commotion outside and sits up in bed.

SIDNEY

Hold on. I gotta find the key.

He reaches around on his night stand.

EXT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - CONVERTED GARAGE - DAY

Garage door slowly rises to reveal Sidney in his 76ers boxer shorts - door remote in his hand.

He spots the crowd. Covers himself with a 76ers banner.

MICHELLE

Hi, Sidney. Remember me?

Sidney nods, curiously, suspiciously.

MICHELLE

You donated an awful lot of blood the other day, didn't you?

Sidney falls to his knees, defensive.

SIDNEY

I only did it for the kids. Don't lock me up.

Michelle looks confused, but continues.

MICHELLE

Reggie needs a kidney transplant.
We know it's a lot to ask, but
you're the only possible match.

Sidney stunned. He looks out at the sea of lights. Camera people videotaping, shooting still photos.

Then a realization...

SIDNEY

You mean part of me could play in
the NBA?

Everybody nods.

SIDNEY

I could win the title for Philly!

Everybody looks at each other, a little confused.

OLD MAN, 90s, comes out of the house, waving his cane and yelling.

OLD MAN

Get off my property....fo' I call
the cops!

OFFICER KELLY and SGT. MURPHY, who are monitoring the crowd, look at each other and shrug.

Old man struggles to the side of the house and turns on the sprinklers.

Everyone scatters. Chaos. People slip on the wet grass. Cameraman drops camera on the concrete.

Sidney remains dry inside his garage, as he looks up to the Heavens and smiles.

Dripping wet, others rush into his apartment to get away from the water.

Sexy Female TV Reporter has wet a t-shirt moment.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Reggie lays on an operating table. Sedated, but still has a look of anguish.

Sidney on the operating table next to him. He's sedated, but has a big, happy smile.

DREAM SEQUENCE

Sidney and Reggie frolic on a basketball court in the clouds, flying through the air like ballet dancers in gym shorts.

Suddenly, a GIANT KIDNEY dribbles the ball, passes to Sidney, who tosses up an Alley-oop for Reggie to dunk.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

Michelle sits in the chair next to Reggie's recovery bed. NURSES walk past, tending to various other patients.

Reggie's eyes flutter open. He sees Michelle and smiles weakly.

MICHELLE

Welcome back. You okay?

Reggie turns and stares out the window. A distant look in his eyes.

REGGIE

Been thinking about Allen Iverson.
All those scoring titles, MVPs, but
no championship.

Reggie turns back to Michelle, trying to squeeze her hand. Holding back tears.

REGGIE

I don't want any asterisks by my
name.

Michelle laughs and shakes her head.

MICHELLE

Sounds like those pain meds are
really kicking in.

Reggie looks at her with sad, longing eyes. It's a look she's never seen from him before.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Reggie and Sidney recover in separate beds. REPORTERS hover over Reggie. Michelle against the wall with Max and Bennett.

REPORTER 1

How are you feeling, Reggie?

REPORTER 2
Think you'll make it back to the
NBA?

Reggie hesitates, unsure.

SIDNEY
Make it back? He's got my kidney.
We're gonna win it all.

Reporters turn to Sidney.

REPORTER 1
After major surgery? Do you really
feel your kidney can withstand the
grueling punishment of the NBA?

SIDNEY
We're putting the league on notice.
Come get some.

Stunned, Reggie reaches his feeble arm toward the reporters,
but they've all hovering over Sidney now.

Max sees the attention the media gives Sidney. He turns to
Bennett and motions for him to join him in the hallway. A
confused Bennett obliges.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Team meeting underway. Players in street clothes. Carter
dressed like a GQ model. Romanov in faded jeans, old T-
shirt: "Quit Stalin, Drink Your Vodka."

Bennett addresses the team. Max, the coach and other team
staff look on.

BENNETT
First, the good news. The doctor
says Reggie will make a full
recovery.

CARTER
The bad news?

BENNETT
He won't be back until the
playoffs.

ROMANOV
What if we no make playoffs?

BENNETT
Then you're all fired.

Nervous laughter.

BENNETT

Seriously. We're a team. We need to step it up until he gets back.

ROMANOV

When we can see Reggie?

Max steps in front of Bennett.

MAX

Next month. On HBO's new 24/7.

Max unveils a poster with a picture of Reggie and Sidney. Title reads: "Pass The Kidney."

Everyone nods, excited - except Carter, who bows his head, skeptical.

EXT - REGGIE'S MANSION - DAY

Fountains. Shrubbery trimmed like basketballs and other sports items.

Limo pulls through the gate.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Sidney presses his hands and face against the window like a child outside a candy store.

He eyes a fountain with a Reggie statue in the classic finger roll pose. Reggie sits next to Sidney, annoyed.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - DAY

Reggie and Sidney cruise through the high tech bachelor pad in their electric wheel chairs.

Ridiculous excesses. Several big screen TVs. Giant stereo speakers hanging from the ceiling. Aquarium. Reggie's prized trophy case filled with memorabilia.

Reggie overwhelmed by the TV CREW and all the expensive medical equipment interspersed. Sidney in awe.

Sidney wheels himself toward the trophy case, overly excited.

SIDNEY

Are those your high school trophies?

Reggie frantically wheels himself closer.

REGGIE
Please. Don't touch.

Reggie holds out his hand to indicate his fears.

SIDNEY
Second place your senior year. It
always comes down to the final
shot, Reggie.
(firmly)
You could have beaten the Polar
Bear back then, but you always try
too hard and lose your focus.

REGGIE
Thanks for the coaching tips. If I
want a recap of my life, I'll watch
HBO's Beyond the Glory.

SIDNEY
Twenty-seven point eight average in
high school, 44.6 in college, 30.2
in the pros. No rings. Every time
you face the Polar Bear in the
finals, you...

Reggie looks at Sidney as if thinking, OMG, WTF, TMI.

SIDNEY
Whoa, an autographed ball from Dr.
J?

Sidney reaches to open the case. Reggie stops him.

NILES SEBASTIAN, 40s, the director; rumpled shirt, baseball
cap, three day beard, approaches Reggie and Sidney. Overly
energetic.

NILES
How's my shining star?

Reggie perks up.

Niles walks past him and shakes Sidney's hand.

NILES
That camera loves you, bro. The
public loves you. Just be yourself
and we'll have a mega-hit.

Sidney turns to Reggie, excited.

SIDNEY

Hear that, Reg. We're gonna be bigger than Honey Boo Boo.

Reggie looks away, flatly.

REGGIE

Can't wait...

CANDY, a smoking hot actress in a nurse's outfit, strolls in, shaking her hips for effect.

Production crew stares. GRIP drops a light. It shatters on the floor. Candy gives him a sweet, "I'm sorry" look.

NILES

Hope you guys don't mind, but Candy will be your nurse for the show.

REGGIE

When do we start shooting?

Michelle stands in the entry hall with Magic, who runs over to Reggie.

MICHELLE

I see you're recovering nicely.

MAGIC

Daddy!

They bump fists.

REGGIE

What's up, little man?

Michelle saunters over, glancing at an oblivious Candy.

Sidney notices the tension between Reggie and Michelle. He wheels himself closer and speaks to Magic.

SIDNEY

Hi, didn't we meet at the game?

MAGIC

You're that funny man who eats like a gopher.

SIDNEY

Yeah. Wanna play with some expensive medical equipment?

MAGIC

Sure.

Magic leads Sidney away.

Candy bends over in the background. The crew stares.
Michelle notices.

MICHELLE

I don't think I like the idea of
Magic being around this kind of
atmosphere.

REGGIE

I have to set up my next career.
My basketball days may be over.

MICHELLE

Come on, you'll be throwing down
tomahawk dunks in no time.

REGGIE

We don't know that for sure.

Michelle looks past Reggie and laughs.

Reggie turns to see Sidney and Magic playing with a heart
monitor machine. They're sticking suction cups on each
other. Reggie returns to Michelle.

REGGIE

Get my son away from that freak.

Michelle puts up her hand.

MICHELLE

Shhh. He's in good hands. Sidney
works at the community center.
Besides, didn't he just save your
life?

Reggie's eyes him, skeptically.

EXT. REGGIE'S MANSION - POOL SIDE - DAY

Reggie and Sidney sit by the pool in their wheel chairs,
talking to Niles.

NILES

I want a touching moment here, a
real tear-jerker. A fan hanging
one-on-one with his biggest sports
idol.

Sidney looks at Reggie like a kid in a candy shop.

Reggie nods. It's not huge, but enough to make Sidney release a big, goofy smile.

Tasha walks through the sliding glass doors. She glares at Candy. Her lips as tight as her skirt.

She saunters toward Reggie, keeping one eye on Candy, who remains oblivious.

TASHA
You're not going to offer me a
role?

REGGIE
I thought you didn't do reality.

TASHA
I'm still your girlfriend.

Sidney does the double finger wave at Reggie.

SIDNEY
Playa...

Candy approaches, her breasts about to burst through her top.

CANDY
Hi, I'm Candy. Do we have a scene
together?

Tasha turns to Niles.

TASHA
What porno did you cast this one
from?

CANDY
You don't have to be a bitch.

Tasha gets in her face.

TASHA
You wanna to see "bitch?"

Tasha pushes her. Candy pushes back. Cat fight. They scuffle on the patio and then fall into the pool.

CREW MEMBERS cheer them on until Tasha holds Candy's head underwater a little too long. The crew jumps into separate them. Reggie shakes his head, embarrassed.

Tasha shakes herself dry and walks over toward Reggie

REGGIE
I don't think things are going to
work out, baby.

TASHA
You breaking up with me?

Reggie looks up at her sharply.

REGGIE
You didn't even visit me in the
hospital, Tasha. I almost died.

TASHA
I was in Milan doing a photo shoot.

Reggie shrugs.

Tasha slaps him.

TASHA
I will stalk you!

She storms out, giving Candy one final evil stare.

Sidney watches Tasha leave, but speaks to Reggie.

SIDNEY
Good call, Reg. That chick was
hauling more baggage than a cruise
ship.

Niles turns to his CAMERAMAN.

NILES
Did you get that?

CAMERAMAN
Every sleazy moment.

Niles smiles.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Michelle pulls a pan of baked chicken thighs from the oven
and sets them on the counter in the middle of the kitchen.

AUSTIN, 30s, enters. Well dressed. Politician's smile. He
sets his briefcase on the counter and grabs a drink from the
fridge.

MICHELLE
Before you ask...no, Reggie hasn't
signed the papers.

AUSTIN

He's on the road. He's hurt. Now he's in a reality show. It's always something.

MICHELLE

He needs to get used to the idea of another man in Magic's life.

AUSTIN

Just say "No," Michelle. His reality show is all part of his ploy.

MICHELLE

Ploy?

AUSTIN

He doesn't want to lose the best thing that ever happened to him...

She turns and smiles at him.

AUSTIN

Or me...

He presses her against the counter and plants his lips on hers. She pulls him closer for a deeper kiss.

Magic appears at the doorway. He sees them kissing and runs away.

INT. ESPN STUDIO - DAY

BLITZ BODECKER and TANK McNAMARA, both 30s and clean cut, report on the action around the league.

VIDEO BEHIND ANNOUNCERS

Romanov's shot getting blocked. Somebody dunking on Carter.

BLITZ

Without Reggie in the line-up, the Sixers have been taking a beating.

ON VIDEO

Polar Bear running through an opponent on a dunk.

TANK

Meanwhile, the Polar Bear is ripping up the league -- and opposing players.

ON VIDEO

Polar Bear sets a pick and opponent staggers back as though he ran into a wall.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Reggie watches the ESPN coverage from a hospital bed placed in his room. Medical machines, IV's and supplies for effect.

Sidney enters in goofy Sixers pajamas and climbs into his own hospital bed.

ON TV

ESPN Announcers continue.

BLITZ

The Polar Bear now leads the league in rebounds, blocked shots...

TANK

...technical fouls and tabloid appearances with porn stars.

VIDEO BEHIND ANNOUNCERS

Polar Bear on cover of ENQUIRER with two of his ladies.

BACK TO MASTER BEDROOM

Reggie looks over at Sidney's bed.

REGGIE'S POV

Sidney propped up, knees bent beneath the covers, his hand hidden from view, his arm pumps wildly. A blissful grin on his face. Grunting and groaning.

ON REGGIE

Eyes widening in shock as he thinks Sidney is masturbating.

ON SIDNEY

Pulls up bottle of protein shake. Opens the lid.

SIDNEY

Oh, yeah. You're gonna wanna put some of this down your throat.

He offers it to Reggie, who recoils. Shivering with fear.

INT. REGGIE'S MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Reggie tosses restlessly. Finally giving up on sleep, he pulls out his tablet computer and scans through photos of his life with Michelle and Magic.

Sidney sees the reflection of it in the mirror.

SIDNEY
You still love her, don't you?

REGGIE
It's none of your business.

Reggie turns his back toward Sidney, hiding the computer screen from view.

EXT. REGGIE'S MANSION - POOL PATIO - DAY

Reggie and Sidney sit by the pool. Camera crew filming as Michelle and Magic walk out from the mansion. Magic runs and jumps on Reggie's lap.

MAGIC
Daddy!

REGGIE
How's my little champ? I've got a surprise for you.

Reggie lifts up two remote control race cars and Magic reaches for them with excitement in his eyes.

Michelle smiles as she watches the interaction. Sidney notices her smile and turns to her.

SIDNEY
Why don't we give the kids some play time?

Sidney wheels himself into the mansion. Michelle follows.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - DAY

Sidney and Michelle talk as Sidney wheels through the living room.

MICHELLE
Do you have any kids of your own, Sidney?

SIDNEY
A couple dozen.

Off her look.

SIDNEY

The ones at the community center.

MICHELLE

They've lucky to have such a wonderful father figure.

Michelle and Sidney share a smile.

BACK TO PATIO

Two radio controlled cars race around chairs, jump a makeshift ramp, zoom through tunnels.

Reggie sits in a wheel chair next to Magic, controls in their hands, they concentrate on beating the other.

REGGIE

I'm taking you on the straight away.

MAGIC

Not today, old man.

Cars bump sides as they approach the next obstacle.

GRIP steps from the house carrying a crate of gear. He side steps one of the cars, but drops the crate and smashes the second car.

Magic's eyes bulge out. He's devastated.

GRIP

Dude, my bad.

REGGIE

No problem. I'll fix it.

Reggie wheels over and picks it up. Magic still speechless.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY

Sidney and Michelle sit at the breakfast table.

SIDNEY

He still loves you, Michelle.

MICHELLE

No, he's in love himself and the life of a pro ballplayer. Reggie Jones superstar, not Reggie the husband.

Michelle looks at Sidney, unmoved.

INT. RECREATIONAL ROOM - DAY

Basketball hoop. Big screens, huge stereo speakers. Large posters of Reggie. Deck with tables overlooking area.

Reggie and Sidney shoot baskets from their wheel chairs.

REGGIE

I just want to be there for Magic.
That's all.

SIDNEY

Like they say, if you love
something, set it free. If it
comes back, it's yours forever.

Reggie stops dribbling, holding the ball on his lap.

REGGIE

That is the dumbest cliché I've
ever heard. What if something was
meant to be, but the other person
never figures it out?

Sidney shrugs, confused. Reggie shakes his head. Then shoots the ball, barely even looking at the basket. Squish. Nothing but net. He shakes his head, irritated with Sidney.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Reggie sleeps peacefully.

INT. EDITING ROOM - MORNING

Niles enters with two cups of coffee. He sets one down in front of the EDITOR, three day beard and a dirty t-shirt.

ON THE MONITOR

Reggie still sleeping, Sidney's missing.

EDITING ROOM

Niles and editor look at monitor.

NILES

Where's Sidney?

EDITOR

I thought he went to the bathroom,
but he's been gone a while.

ON THE MONITOR

Sidney returns and places a plate of food on the mobile tray.

Sidney adjusts the bed, but can't control the remote.

Reggie's bed goes up and down, The back thrusts forward.
The legs go up at the same time, creating a V-shape.

Reggie wakes up, screaming. Sidney confused, frantically
hitting buttons. The bed flattens out.

Reggie's eyes go wide. Machines start beeping.

EDITING ROOM

Editor laughs his ass off. Niles nods and smiles calmly.

NILES

He's going to be a big hit when the
show premieres tomorrow.

EDITOR

Reggie?

NILES

Sidney.

Niles releases a devilish smile.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reggie on the couch flanked by Sidney and a small gathering
of players and friends.

ON THE BIG SCREEN

The show airs and the antics look like an episode of "I Love
Lucy."

Sidney offers Reggie breakfast in bed.

SIDNEY

Want some pepper. It's good for
the blood.

Sidney grinds pepper over the eggs before Reggie can answer.

REGGIE

No, I'm a...a...a...

The top comes off, covering everything with pepper. Sidney tries to brush the excess pepper away with a napkin.

REGGIE

A-a-a-choo...

Reggie sneezes. Instant pain in the kidney region. He knocks the food all over the bed.

LIVING ROOM

The friends and players bust up with laughter.

Sidney turns to Reggie.

SIDNEY

Sorry. Didn't know about your allergies.

Reggie stews, trying to laugh it off.

REGGIE

Drop it.

Romanov falls out of his chair, laughing.

ROMANOV

Classic sniff and roll.

Reggie simmers.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Biker, Mohawk, Voodoo lady, Morris and others from the nose bleed section watch the show on monitors above the bar.

ON TV

Sidney turns to show someone his scar and knocks Reggie into the pool.

Reggie struggles to tread water, gulping pool water. Sidney jumps in, splashing even more water on Reggie's face.

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone laughs, falling all over themselves.

Morris, however, doesn't laugh. A strange look crosses his face as he stares at Sidney on TV. He's mesmerized.

INT. POLAR BEAR'S PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Polar Bear on a white couch surrounded by his ladies in white garments. Others lounge in a hot tub overlooking skyline.

Polar Bear points to TV.

POLAR BEAR

That cat makes Reggie look worse
than I do.

ON TV

Reggie lays on the patio beside the pool, drenched. Sidney hovers over him and gives him mouth-to-mouth.

Reggie wakes up and starts to struggle. He tries to push Sidney away.

BACK TO SCENE

Polar Bear laughs so hard he falls off the couch.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Michelle and Magic watch the show, laughing.

ON TV

Reggie and Magic play with the remote control cars, as the grip comes out of the house and drops the crate on one.

INTERCUT BETWEEN MICHELLE AND THE SHOW

Magic points at the TV.

MAGIC

Mommy, it's me.

ON TV - GARAGE WORKSHOP

Reggie sits at workbench. Magic watches him put the car back together - gluing the cracked body.

MAGIC

Why don't you just buy a new one?

REGGIE

When I was your age, we couldn't
afford anything new. You broke it,
you fix it or you do without it.

Reggie solders a broken wire. Magic leans in, impressed.

MAGIC
How'd you learn to do that?

REGGIE
Grandpa.
(beat)
Before he walked out on us.

Reggie reflects a moment, and then regains his focus to finish putting the body back onto the chassis.

REGGIE
Let's try it out.

Magic grabs the car. Starts to run out of the garage excited, but trips and breaks. The car smashes on the floor. Magic looks up with "oops" expression.

REGGIE
Looks like we better buy another one after all.

Reggie smiles, holding back his laughter. Magic smiles.

BACK TO MICHELLE & MAGIC

Michelle turns to Magic to smile.

INT. MANSION - ENTRY HALL - NIGHT

Reggie and Sidney stand by the door, as the friends and players leave. Everybody congratulates Sidney. They seem to ignore Reggie.

CARTER
Awesome, Sidney.
(points to Reggie)
Lose the dead weight and you could take that show on the road.

REGGIE
Funny, Carter. Make sure you guys win a few games without me, so we can still make the playoffs.

Carter humbled. Romanov chimes in.

ROMANOV
Maybe we take Sidney. He got good kidney.

SIDNEY
Don't be silly, Romanov. Either kidney can beat you.

Sidney pretends to shoot a basket over Romanov, who pretends to defend him.

EXT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Reggie sits back in his couch, concerned. Max, in a chair, leans forward, talking with enthusiasm.

REGGIE

I need my privacy back, Max.

MAX

This kidney thing's a gold-mine.
I've got offers coming out my ass.
Kidney beans. Kidney shaped pools.
Even a Piano and Organ store.

REGGIE

Tell me you passed.

MAX

If I could give Peyton Manning polio, I'd make a mint. I've been lining up appearances for you and the Kidney kid.

REGGIE

Whoa. Sidney? I don't think it's safe turning him loose on the public.

Max shoots Reggie a "trust me" look. Reggie skeptical.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Reggie holds up a can of kidney beans.

REGGIE

Eat your kidney beans, kids; and maybe you can play in the NBA.

Sidney appears next to Reggie. He exposes his scar from the operation. Then holds a kidney bean next to it.

SIDNEY

How do they make these things fit?

Reggie looks at Sidney, bewildered. Then back to the camera with a huge grin, holding the product proudly.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - FOYER - DAY

The door bell rings. Reggie opens the door and four SUPER MODELS enter.

MODEL #1

We're here for the photo shoot.

Model #2 drops her wrap revealing her skimpy bikini. Reggie likes what he sees.

MODEL #2

How does this look?

REGGIE

Great, but I didn't know I was doing the swimsuit issue.

MODEL #1

You're not. We're here for Sidney.

They giggle and walk past him.

EXT. REGGIE'S MANSION - POOL SIDE - LATER

Sidney, sporting a pair of 76er swim trunks, frolics in the pool with the models while a photographer snaps away.

Reggie stares out a window with envious eyes.

INT. ESPN STUDIO - DAY

Announcers banter. On the screen in the background, Sidney and Reggie smile in a publicity shot from their show.

BLITZ

"Pass The Kidney" has become the nation's number one show.

TANK

And guess who's on the cover of virtually every magazine this week.

BLITZ

(mock sincerity)

Hmmm. Could it be Reggie?

TANK

I'll give you one more guess. His name starts with...Sidney.

BLITZ
 (mock surprise)
 No...

Magazine covers in the background flash Sidney's face.

TANK
 Looks like Sidney the Kidney is
 turning Philly upside down.

MONTAGE - SIDNEY MANIA

1. Reggie's smiling face on one side of a transit ad. Sidney smiling on the other side holding a portable organ. HEADLINE READS: "Play with my favorite organ."

2. Sidney's face on a billboard. "Give Blood. It Changed My Life."

3. Street vendor serves Philly Cheese Steaks with a sign that reads: "Sidney Cheese Steaks \$8.99"

4. Sidney cuts the ribbon at an opening for a hospital wing. The sign reads: "Sidney Kanaski Organ Center."

In the background, Morris pushes his way to the front of the crowd.

5. Woman in hospital bed holds baby. Name tag on its wrist reads "Sidney."

6. People at cafe read newspaper. Woman from hospital in photo. Headline reads: "Sidney Clone? Hundreds Could Follow."

END MONTAGE

EXT. CAFÉ PATIO - NIGHT

Michelle and her lawyer enjoy a salad together.

MICHELLE
 They looked so cute together on the
 show last week.

LAWYER
 Be careful. He's playing to your
 emotions. I use those same tricks
 in court.

MICHELLE
 I'll be fine. I just want my son
 to grow up knowing his father.

The lawyer shakes her head.

EXT. LOCAL CARNIVAL - NIGHT

Families stroll through the carnival rides and arcade booths.

Michelle and Magic watch as Reggie buys a bag of Reggie Corn from a vendor. He hands it to Magic.

Magic points toward one of the carnival rides.

MAGIC

I want to go on that one, Daddy.
Come with me.

Magic grabs Reggie's hand and starts dragging him. Reggie resists, laughing.

REGGIE

I'm still recovering. We'll watch
from here.

Magic hands Michelle his Reggie Corn and runs to the ride.

EXT. CARNIVAL - RIDE - NIGHT

Michelle and Reggie watch Magic as he spins around on one of the rides.

REGGIE

Thanks for not whipping out those
papers for me to sign.

MICHELLE

Tonight's about Magic.

Reggie looks into Michelle's eyes. She gives him a faint but noticeable smile and then turns away to watch Magic.

Reggie continues to stare at her profile, enjoying her enjoying Magic.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Two stories. White picket fence. For Sale sign in the immaculate yard. A limousine stops in front. Reggie steps out and holds out his hand for Michelle.

MICHELLE

Why are we here?

Reggie leads her through the gate. He walks to the sign and puts a sold sicker on it.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You bought this?

REGGIE

Magic's school is just a few blocks away.

Reggie takes her by the hand and leads her through the side gate.

BACKYARD

Michelle's gaze falls on the gazebo, patio, swing set and a playhouse.

Michelle absorbs the surroundings, as Magic runs to the playhouse. Reggie smiles, triumphantly. Michelle smiles apprehensively.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - EDITING ROOM - NIGHT

Niles stares at a large white board with the shooting schedule planned for the upcoming week.

Sidney walks by and looks at the calendar.

SIDNEY

March 19th? That's Reggie's birthday.

NILES

Really?

SIDNEY

I have a party every year, but he never comes in person, so I use his action figures. It's invite only, but I think I can squeeze you in.

Niles ponders.

INT. REGGIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Reggie watches as grips move the two hospital beds out and Reggie's super king sized bed back in. Sidney bounds in and sees the lone bed.

SIDNEY

Hey, where am I going to sleep?

Reggie smiles to the camera.

EXT. REGGIE'S MANSION - BALCONY - DAY

Reggie leads Sidney onto the balcony and points to the elaborate guest house attached to the garage. Large picture window and its own huge balcony.

REGGIE

You can stay there for now.

SIDNEY

Oh, my God! It's three times bigger than the garage I live in!

Reggie slightly confused.

REGGIE

No. The guest house.

Sidney speechless. Overwhelmed with emotion like somebody from "Extreme Makeover." He hugs Reggie firmly.

SIDNEY

The guest house! You're the best idol a fan could ever have.

Reggie's eyes dart around nervously, as he tries to wiggle out of Sidney's embrace.

INT. REGGIE'S SUV - DAY

Reggie pulls into the driveway. Sidney in the passenger seat.

SIDNEY

Thanks for meeting the gang at the community center this morning, especially Carlo. He's a good soul. He just needs a role model.

REGGIE

No, it was fun. You're really great with kids.

SIDNEY

I'm just reliving the childhood I never had.

REGGIE

No brothers or sisters?

SIDNEY
Hundred if you count everybody at
the orphanage.

Sidney looks away, melancholy.

Reggie parks the car. Looks at Sidney sympathetically. They
both get out.

SIDNEY
I never knew my mom. Only thing I
remember about my dad; he was a
huge Sixers fan.

REGGIE
The only thing I remember is the
day mine left us.

SIDNEY
You must remember more than that.
I've seen how you act with Magic.

REGGIE
Just trying to be the father I
never had.

Reggie looks away, melancholy. He glances at his wrist to
check the time but his wrist is bare.

REGGIE
You seen my watch?

INSERT SHOT - Gold Rolex watch on a skinny wrist. WIDER
ANGLE reveals the watch on Carlo's wrist. Big grin.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - FOYER - DAY

The door opens, Reggie enters to a crowd yelling "SURPRISE!"

Reggie stunned. Sidney beams.

Reggie walks through the crowd. Teammates, coaches, Sixers'
cheerleaders and others wish him a happy birthday. Nigel and
crew capture every moment.

Reggie greets Carter with a hug. He's all smiles until...

He comes face to face with the Polar Bear and his three dates
wearing little more than smiles.

POLAR BEAR
Happy Birthday, old man. Ready for
the senior's tour.

Reggie looks around.

REGGIE
Am I being punked?

POLAR BEAR
Not tonight, but I will embarrass
you the next time we meet on the
court.

Polar Bear smiles and extends his hand. Reggie shakes.
Polar Bear pulls him into a man-hug.

EXT. POOL SIDE - NIGHT

Raging party. DJ spins HIP-HOP TUNES as the crowd shakes
their booties. From the crowd a voice yells "CANNON BALL"

The crowd parts. Sidney runs through and cannon balls into
the pool.

Everyone backs away from the edge to avoid the huge splash -
except Reggie who gets drenched.

Everyone except Reggie laughs.

In the background, Morris watches from across the pool.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - STAIRS - NIGHT

Reggie walks up the stairs, dripping wet. He passes pictures
of Michelle and Magic when they were all a happy family.

Photos also show Reggie and Michelle's history, from high
school where she was a cheerleader, college and their
wedding.

EXT. POOL SIDE - NIGHT

Sidney frolics in the pool. Michelle makes her way through
the crowd. Magic in tow. She spots Carter by the patio
door.

MICHELLE
Where's Reggie?

Carter looks around. Shrugs.

CARTER
He was here a minute ago.

Carter looks down and spots the wet carpet.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Reggie walks toward his bedroom and hears women giggling.
He opens the door.

INT. REGGIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Polar Bear and his three ladies are in his bed having a pillow fight.

REGGIE

What the hell are you doing?

POLAR BEAR

Staying in shape. You should try it.

PORN STAR #1

One more guy and we'd have a really good time.

POLAR BEAR

Or one more girl and we'd have a better time.

The girls pull Reggie toward the bed. He resists, but resistance is futile.

REGGIE

Whoa...wait.

A pillow hits Reggie in the face.

REGGIE

Oh, you want some.

Reggie hits a girl with a pillow. The other two toss him on the bed and pound him with their pillows.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Michelle walks up the stairs. She's drawn by the sound of girls giggling. She opens the bedroom door.

BEDROOM

Feathers fly as Reggie pillow fights with the three girls.

Polar Bear sips his drink and smiles.

Reggie looks over and sees Michelle.

Michelle covers Magic's eyes. Magic pulls her hand down to look some more.

Michelle frozen a moment, then turns and drags Magic away.

REGGIE
Michelle, wait.

Reggie chases after her.

EXT. REGGIE'S MANSION - NIGHT

Michelle walks briskly to her car.

REGGIE
Hold on, baby. It's not what you think.

Michelle stops at the car and buckles Magic in the back seat.

MICHELLE
You don't want to know what I think. I'm glad Sidney invited me, or I might still believe you changed.

She climbs behind the wheel and slams the door. Reggie watches her drive off.

Reggie turns to go back inside and sees the camera.

REGGIE
Get that damn thing out of my face.

He heads for the door as Carter comes out.

REGGIE
Where's Sidney? I'm gonna kill him.

Carter steps in his path.

CARTER
Chill, Reg. You can't win the title in prison.

Reggie looks at him, sharply.

REGGIE
I can't live like this. He's a wrecking ball destroying my life.

CARTER

Relax. A few more episodes and he'll fade into obscurity like every other reality star.

Sidney steps out sipping from a drink in a coconut, oblivious to the tension.

SIDNEY

Did Michelle just leave?

Reggie takes an angry step toward Sidney. Carter grabs him, and whispers firmly.

CARTER

Cool the jets, buddy. It's not worth a lawsuit.

Reggie looks at the camera, then at Carter and storms into the house.

INT. REGGIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Reggie finishes putting on sweats and ties his sneakers then dials his cell. "Michelle's name" appears on the screen.

The PHONE RINGS in his ear and goes to voice mail.

MICHELLE (V.O.)

Hi, you've reached Michelle...

Reggie hangs up and exits bedroom as

INT. REGGIE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Sidney puts fruit, milk, juice and protein powder into a blender. Something's missing.

Sidney scans the pantry shelf, grabs a can of sardines, opens it and dumps the little fishes into the blender.

He turns it on, but nothing happens. He takes the top off and looks inside.

SPLAT

The blender kicks on and sprays him in the face.

INT. REGGIE'S EXERCISE ROOM - DAY

Reggie walks on a treadmill. Sullen. He watches a TV mounted on the wall.

ON TV

Reggie launches himself from mid-court. SLOW MOTION. Ball stretched outward toward the basket. Twenty feet in the air.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

If you need an extra boost to go
that extra mile...

Reggie slams the ball. Shatters the backboard. Explosion. Glass particles ignite into flames. Smoke fills the court.

Reggie's image emerges from the smoke. He holds up a bottle of Sports-Ade Power Drink and gulps it down.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Try Sports-Ade Power Drink. It
powers up your game with mega-
force.

BACK TO SCENE

Sidney bounds in, a disgusting, brown drink in each hand, remnants of the splashing on his face and hair.

SIDNEY

Morning, Reg.

Reggie glares at him.

SIDNEY

I made us some power shakes.

He offers Reggie the shake. Reggie eyes it, then looks away.

SIDNEY

I added some valerian root to calm
your nerves.

Reggie grits his teeth and continues looking away. He's too angry to speak.

Sidney lifts the drink closer to Reggie's face.

SIDNEY

It's full of vitamins. Protein.

Reggie clicks the TV VOLUME UP.

TV NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

When asked why he shot his wife,
the man said, "I got tired of the
nagging."

SIDNEY
Are you mad at me?

Reggie looks away, rolling his eyes.

SIDNEY
Is this about Michelle?

Reggie clicks the remote. War scene from the history channel appears. BOMBS explode.

SIDNEY
You need to open up to me for this
relationship to work.

Reggie puts on headphones and tunes out Sidney completely.

Sidney sulks away, carrying both drinks. Suddenly, a light bulb clicks on in his head. He glances at Reggie, who still ignores him and anxiously chugs both drinks.

EXT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

The garage door is open. Michelle unloads groceries.

INT. MICHELLE'S GARAGE - DAY

Sidney walks up, as Michelle carries a couple bags toward the kitchen.

SIDNEY (O.S.)
Need help?

MICHELLE
Oh, hi, Sidney. I was wondering
who Reggie would send. I was
expecting Carter.

Sidney grabs a couple bags and follows.

INT. MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sidney follows Michelle inside.

SIDNEY
He doesn't know I'm here. He's
been miserable since the party.

She sets down her groceries. Speaks firmly.

MICHELLE

I'm sure he can find a hootchie
mama to ease the pain.

Michelle starts unloading bags.

SIDNEY

That's all my fault. I invited the
Polar Bear.

MICHELLE

Oh, please. At least he could be
man enough to apologize himself?

SIDNEY

He tried. You won't answer his
calls.

Michelle pulls out her cell phone and looks at the screen.

MICHELLE

He has left a few messages.

PHONE SCREEN READS: Reggie 18 messages.

SIDNEY

Just hear him out.

MICHELLE

I have.

She sets her phone down and goes back to the garage. Sidney
sees her cell phone on the counter.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Reggie, wearing nice slacks and tasteful sweater, interviews,
JANET, 30s, tough blonde in a navy blue sweatsuit. Short
cropped hair.

REGGIE

I'm sure the owner had good
intentions, but I'm going to need
an intense workout if I expect to
return to the NBA.

Janet hands Reggie a four page resume.

JANET

Iron man tri-athlete. Five Gold
Medals...

Reggie scans the resume. Raises an eye when he reads....

REGGIE
Navy Seal?

Janet looks Reggie dead in the eye. No emotion.

REGGIE
I'll also need nutritional
guidance. I don't want to burn
myself out.

Janet pulls out a book from her camouflage sports bag.

Title reads: "Put that Donut Down or I'll Rip Your Guts Out"
by Janet Stone.

JANET
They're turning it into a reality
show. Maybe you can make a cameo.

Reggie stunned. Doesn't have any more questions.

REGGIE
Sure.

Reggie's PHONE CHIRPS.

REGGIE
Uh, I'll be in touch.

JANET
Hope so. I love your show.

Reggie perks up.

JANET
(stone faced)
That Sidney guy cracks me up.

Reggie picks up his phone, keeping a nervous eye on Janet.

PHONE SCREEN DISPLAYS text message from Michelle "Meet me at
Cafe DuPris. 1:00."

RESUME SCENE

A smile slowly spreads across Reggie's face.

EXT. FLORIST'S SHOP - DAY

Sidney exits. Triumphant.

EXT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Austin's Mercedes-Benz is parked in the driveway. A florist's delivery van stops in front.

INT. MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Austin opens the front door. Delivery guy hands him a gold box of long stem roses.

Austin sets the flowers down on a hallway table and opens the card.

INSERT CARD: "Meet me at Cafe DuPris, 1:00."

Austin crumples the card and puts it in his pocket.

Michelle enters.

MICHELLE

Who was that, honey?

Austin offers her the flowers and a smile.

AUSTIN

Just because.

Michelle glows. She smells the flowers, then gives Austin a healthy kiss.

INT. REGGIE'S MASTER BATHROOM - DAY

Reggie showers. Singing off key.

REGGIE

Reunited and it feels so good...

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - HALLWAY - DAY

Sidney walks down hall and stops at Reggie's doorway. He smiles as he hears Reggie sing.

REGGIE (O.S.)

(singing off key)

Reunited 'cuz we understood...

There's one perfect fit...and blah

...blah...blah...blah...blah...

blah...We both are...

(struggling)

So excited 'cuz...cuz...

SIDNEY
(softly)
We're reunited...hey...hey...hey...

Sidney's singing turns into humming as he continues down the hall.

INT. CAFE DUPRIS -DAY

Upscale, chic.

Reggie, in a blue dress shirt and silk sports coat, sits at a table, fidgeting like a teenager on prom night.

A single rose rests on the place setting opposite him.

Austin approaches. Picks up the rose and sniffs it in an exaggerated fashion.

AUSTIN
For me? How sweet.

He takes the seat. Reggie looks beyond him.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
She's not coming.

Reggie glances away, momentarily defeated.

AUSTIN
Heard your birthday party was off the chain. Pillow fights. Porn stars. Man, I dig the life of an NBA superstar.

REGGIE
What's your angle, Austin?

AUSTIN
I don't know if you've been following ESPN, but you've been traded.

REGGIE
And you're the player to be named later?

AUSTIN
Look, Reggie. You want joint custody? I can hook it up. Sit this out on the bench, and I'll give you some playing time with Magic. Otherwise, game over.

Austin rises, starts to leave, then...

AUSTIN

Oh, and here's another tip.
Michelle loves the seared Ahi.

Austin exits. Reggie quietly seethes.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - DEN - NIGHT

Carter pours two glasses of whisky. He holds one out for Reggie.

Reggie too busy pacing. Angry.

REGGIE

He's a certifiable, demented
psychopath. He's been sent by
Satan to ruin my life. Michelle.
The party. This stupid reality
show.

Carter grabs the whiskey bottle and adds more alcohol to Reggie's glass.

REGGIE

I wish I could rip out his kidney
and give it back to him.

Carter hands Reggie the glass of whiskey, almost overflowing.

CARTER

You need to relax, Reggie.

Reggie holds the drink with both hands and ponders, deep reflections, then looks up at Carter, an eerie glaze in his eyes.

REGGIE

I'm from Detroit. We know how to
make punks disappear.

HIDDEN CAMERA'S POV

The camera captured the serious look on Reggie's face.

INT. REGGIE'S GYM - DAY

Reggie struggles to lift weights on the bench press.

Janet leans in and whispers to Reggie.

JANET
Heard they're doing a story on you
in Time Magazine - but Sidney's
getting the cover.

Reggie thrusts the weights up with ease, rapidly pumping ten successive lifts.

ON TV

Sidney stands by a pool at a patio party. 76ers swimsuit.

SIDNEY
Don't be a fool. Buy a Barker
Brothers Kidney shaped pool.

Sidney runs toward the pool.

SIDNEY
Cannonball!

Sidney splashes everybody. They all laugh and point.

BACK TO SCENE

Reggie looks up and spots Sidney on the TV. He drops the weights on his chest.

Janet rushes over to help.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - BASKETBALL GYM - DAY

Reggie runs back and forth. He touches the floor at one base line and returns in the other direction without stopping.

He begins to tire and...

JANET (O.S.)
Sidney!

Reggie gets a sudden burst of energy and starts running the sprints at full speed.

STANDS

Janet relaxes in the stands, reading "Hand to Hand Combat for Horny Housewives." She looks up periodically, calmly turning pages.

JANET
Sidney!

INTERCUT WITH REGGIE

Reggie comes alive each time he hears the name and returns to full speed. Eventually, he falls from exhaustion.

Janet looks up from her reading material.

JANET

Sidney!

Reggie tries to move. His arm quivers. His leg barely shakes. Then he's motionless.

Janet sits up concerned.

JANET

Sidney!

Reggie remains motionless.

Janet walks down and leans over Reggie. Whispering to him.

JANET

Sidney...

Reggie musters enough strength to raise his middle finger.

INT. DALLAS ARENA - NIGHT

Beer flies out of the stands. Hits Polar Bear during a game.

Polar Bear looks up into the stands. All the FANS lean away from the culprit and point at a goofy-looking FRAT BOY.

The Frat Boy looks out in fear. Then runs for the exit.

Polar Bear climbs over several rows of fans, jumps a railing and chases the frightened boy down the tunnel.

INT. ESPN STUDIO - DAY

Announcers look at the same footage playing behind them, as Polar Bear and the kid disappear into the tunnel.

BLITZ

Wow. Chasing down a fan like human
sushi does not draw the punishment
it used to.

INSERT SHOT - Frat Boy with black eye, bruised face and totally dazed expression.

TANK

No, it doesn't. Turns out Polar Bear Polinsky will still be eligible to return in time for the playoffs.

VIDEO SCREEN

MARVIN J. JOHNSON prepares to answer questions. Sharply dressed in pinstripe suit, purple shirt and gold tie clip.

SUPERIMPOSE: Marvin J. Johnson. President, Players' Union.

BLITZ

How did the league justify this ridiculous ruling?

MARVIN J. JOHNSON

Ridiculous? Drago Polinski was simply running into the stands to give a loyal fan an autograph.

TANK

In his face.

MARVIN J. JOHNSON

No cameras. No witnesses. No foul.

Marvin shrugs.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Fans funnel into the arena. Signs welcome them to Fan Appreciation Day. They wear Reggie jerseys, face paint and multi-colored, Sidney-style 76er wigs.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)

It's been four months since Philly almost lost their franchise player, but today he's back in uniform.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Fans fill the stands and cheer as Reggie, Sidney and the team Mascot lead the players onto the court.

STADIUM ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Let's hear it for your Philadelphia Seventy-Sixers.

Reggie, wearing his uniform, approaches Bennett, standing behind microphones at center court.

BENNETT

It's been a long struggle, but team doctors have officially cleared Reggie Jones to play.

Stadium erupts with applause. Reggie waves as he steps to the mic.

REGGIE

I want to thank everyone for their support. This truly is the city of Brotherly Love.

Fans cheers some more and yell, "Reggie! Reggie!"

BENNETT

Since this is Fan Appreciation Day, I thought I'd give you fans a really special treat. We couldn't have gotten this far without him.

Reggie stands tall and proud. Milks the praise.

BENNETT

He's a living legend. An icon. The NBA's biggest hero. Your new team mascot. Sidney Kanaski!

Fans cheer. Sidney jumps for joy. Reggie shocked.

Fans scream louder and chant, "SIDNEY! SIDNEY!"

Mascot takes off his head, dejected.

Sidney grabs Reggie in a huge bear hug.

SIDNEY

We're going to be together forever!

Reggie too stunned for words.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Fans buy 76ers merchandise and participate in shooting contests, plan NBA video games and other basketball related activities, while some seek autographs from players seated at tables.

Sidney's long line of fans wraps around the court.

Reggie's table next to Sidney is almost empty. A LONE BOY, 12, approaches with a pile of Reggie Rookie cards.

REGGIE

Quite a stack. You might be my biggest fan.

LONE BOY

No, I'm clearing 'em out on e-bay, so I can buy some Sidney cards.

Reggie frowns and reluctantly signs the cards. He gives the straggler a disgusted look with each signature.

Another kid hands Sidney a basketball card with Sidney's face on it. "MVD - Most Valuable Donor."

SIDNEY

Wow! It looks a lot better than the one from that hospital security camera.

Sidney makes the same contorted expression that appeared on the security camera when he was thrown out of the hospital.

Fans laugh. Sidney signs autographs.

Morris walks up to Sidney's table and presents him with several 8x10 photos, including Sidney at the ribbon cutting, at Reggie's mansion by the pool, and at the community center.

MORRIS

Hey, Sidney, you mind autographing these?

SIDNEY

Morris, sure, buddy, no problem.

MORRIS

You're living the dream, man.
Living the dream.

SIDNEY

Hard work, dedication and having the right kidney pays off.

Sidney does a double-take when he sees the photos, shrugs, then signs them without a second thought to their odd nature.

Reggie stews as Mohawk tries to get his attention, holding out a pen for an autograph.

Mohawk lowers his pants for Reggie. 76er tattoo on his butt.

MOWHAWK

It's for my wife.

Reggie holds out his hands and shakes his head.

Max saunters up and pats Reggie on the back.

MAX

You two make quite a team.

Reggie shoots Max a look.

MAX

Now I see why the network was so
anxious to renew your show through
the playoffs.

Reggie seethes. Snaps the sharpie.

REGGIE

Renew?

Max pats Reggie on the back.

MAX

Yeah, great work!

Max hustles toward Sidney.

MAX

Sidney! Proctor & Gamble called.
You're doing tampons next week.
The female market loves you.

Reggie explodes! He throws his table on it's side, papers
flying everyone.

REGGIE

I've had enough of this crap!

He kicks over a cart of basketballs.

CENTER COURT

Wide-eye child stares at Reggie, terrified. Others stunned.

Reggie suddenly realizes he's alone in the middle of the
court. He looks around. Silence.

Parents shield their frightened kids.

Sidney looks up from a naked butt, as he finishes signing
Mohawk's tattoo. Sidney shakes a scolding finger at Reggie
with mock sincerity.

SIDNEY

Looks like somebody needs a
valerian root power shake.

Reggie remains frozen. His eyes slowly scanning the speechless fans.

MONTAGE: REGGIE PREPARING FOR HIS FIRST GAME

1. Reggie practices with the team. A series of power dunks. Sidney, as the mascot, brings him a towel. Reggie ignores it and wipes the sweat off his face with his sweaty jersey.

2. Romanov, Carter and other teammates watch Reggie move his essentials from the fancy double-wide locker to a regular locker next to Carter. They nod their approval. Reggie bumps fists with Carter.

3. Reggie runs down a path through a park. He looks behind him. Sidney follows on a red, white and blue motor scooter with matching helmet. Reggie runs faster. Sidney scoots faster.

4. Reggie cuts through some bushes to elude Sidney, but Sidney flies over the hedges in his scooter ala Evel Knievel. Reggie looks back in horror.

5. Reggie flies through the air in slow motion from right to left and dunks.

6. Sidney flies through the air in slow motion from left to right and slam dunks - in a 6 foot rim at the other end of the court. All the fans are watching Sidney, none watch Reggie who sulks away.

7. Reggie runs up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art to the song "Gonna Fly Now" ala Rocky Balboa. He reaches the top, turns toward the steps, and raises his hands triumphantly. He glances to his side, his eyes go wide.

8. Sidney already standing waving his hands above his head. Reggie shakes his fist at the sky.

END MONTAGE

INT. ESPN STUDIO - DAY

The Announcers banter.

TANK

Sidney the kidney is going global.
He's scheduled to play the old man
from Monopoly in a Brad Pitt movie.

INSERT - Sidney's face made up to look like the old man from Monopoly.

BLITZ

That has to be the dumbest idea
I've ever heard.

TANK

I know, but with a star like
Sidney, you know it's going to be
huge.

The other announcer nods. No argument.

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

Sidney on "The Letterman Show." Fans scream. Out of
control.

LETTERMAN

We haven't seen this kind of a mob
since Justin Bieber cut his hair.

SIDNEY

Hey, I'm just an average guy with a
superhuman organ.

LETTERMAN

Maybe the most famous organ in
sports history, but do you really
think it can win the championship.

SIDNEY

Whoa, slow down, Dave. It's a team
effort. We've still got eight
other kidneys hustling out there.

Audience laughs and nods. Everybody loves this guy.

INT. MORRIS'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Morris watches Sidney on "The Letterman Show" on his computer
monitor. He laughs along with the audience at Sidney's
antics.

The cameras slowly pulls back revealing Morris has turned his
bedroom into a shrine to Sidney. Photos cover the walls,
Sidney merchandise is everywhere and includes a Sidney bobble
head.

INT. REGGIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reggie simmers as he watches Sidney on "The Letterman Show."

He grabs a bottle of meds off the end table and shakes as he dumps a few pills into his hand.

He pops them in his mouth and washes them down by drinking straight from a whiskey bottle.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Players suit up. Reggie, already in uniform, paces back and forth, pounding his fists. A determined look on his face.

TVs on the walls show the pre-game activity on the court. Cheerleaders dancing.

Carter turns to Romanov.

CARTER

I'm worried. Reggie's on tilt.

ROMANOV

We safe. We on his team.

Reggie flexes his muscles, pulling his arms back and barely misses hitting a RANDOM TEAMMATE in the face. He then bashes his forearm into a locker and screams.

CARTER

Funny. I don't feel safe.

Romanov shrugs. Then looks up at the TV and points.

ROMANOV

We good, if Reggie dunk like that.

Carter looks.

ON TV

Sidney, in the mascot costume, jumps on a trampoline. He sails through the air performing acrobatic dunks as gracefully as he did on the 6-foot basket.

BACK TO SCENE

Carter shifts his eyes to Reggie, worried.

Reggie looks at one of the monitors, swaying back and forth in place and grunting like Frankenstein. He rips the monitor from the wall and throws it against a training table.

ROMANOV

(smiling)

I think we win tonight.

Romanov slaps Carter on the back. Carter speechless.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - NIGHT

Fans pack the stands. Morris wired, watches through binoculars. Voodoo Lady tosses magic dust in the air. When it falls, people COUGH.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
Philadelphia has been waiting all season for Reggie's comeback, and this promises to be an exciting game.

Carlos and the kids from the community center sit in the V.I.P. Section.

Carlos rises to toss Reggie popcorn on someone. A hand on his shoulder. Carlos looks up.

Man in black. Serious look, ear piece, sunglasses. Several men surround the kids. Management not taking any chances.

Lights go out. Spotlights flash. Then a single spot falls on the tunnel entrance where Sidney waits in his mascot uniform.

PA VOICE
Ladies and Gentleman, your Philadelphia Seventy-Sixers!

The crowd roars as the team lead by Reggie charges from the tunnel onto the court.

MORRIS POV - THROUGH BINOCULARS

Sidney wearing the Sixers mascot costume, puts his hand up for a hi-five and Reggie runs past him. Sidney shrugs, but the other players slap his hand.

The players take center court for introductions but the binoculars remain fixated on Sidney.

INT. MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle and Magic watch from the living room, as the camera finds Reggie.

MAGIC
Daddy!

Michelle hugs Magic. Austin enters and motions for Michelle to join him.

INT. MICHELLE'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Austin motions for her to sit.

MICHELLE

What is it, honey? The game's
about to start.

Austin hands her a folder. It contains the divorce papers.

AUSTIN

He's made enough excuses, baby.

MICHELLE

It's his first game back.

AUSTIN

We're running out of time.

Michelle looks at Austin and nods.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Ref tosses the ball up to start the game. Reggie gets the
tip. Slices to the basket. Slam dunk. The fans go wild.

He steals a pass. Fakes to Carter and dunks again.

QUICK SHOTS of Reggie scoring. Long shots. Fancy shots.
Rebounds. Amazing dribbles.

Sidney dances on the press table. REPORTERS shake their
shoulders, getting into the groove. The fans mimic Sidney's
moves.

He's the star on the Jumbo-tron. Parents point and kids get
excited.

ON COURT

Game resumes. Reggie steals a pass. Runs down court on a
fast break. He goes up for the dunk.

Pain on his face. Ball smacks the rim. Reggie goes down.
Fans go silent. Sidney stops dancing.

INT. REGGIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Reggie lays in bed. Semi-conscious. Fading in and out.

HALLWAY

Outside the room, Max and the owner talk. Concerned.

MAX
I don't think he's going to make
it.

BACK TO ROOM

Reggie overhears the conversation.

BENNETT (V.O.)
Well, then this must be the end.
He had a great run, though.

Reggie slips into a deep funk. Distraught.

NURSE'S DESK

Sidney, still in his mascot uniform, speaks to the NURSE.

NURSE #2
I'm sorry. Only family members are
allowed to see him.

Sidney turns away, dejected.

SIDNEY
(to himself)
Not this again.

REGGIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Sidney enters, wearing a doctor's uniform.

Reggie sleeps soundly. As Sidney approaches, the machines
beep. He backs away and they stop beeping.

NURSE'S DESK

Michelle talks with Dr. Jenkins.

DR. JENKINS
Let me fill you in on his condition
along the way.

Michelle and the doctor walk down the hall.

REGGIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Michelle enters alone. Apprehensive.

Sidney sits in a chair at the foot of the bed, holding the
Bible.

SIDNEY
Hi, Michelle. Another tragic day.
You here to take over the vigil?

Sidney hands her the Bible. He stops at the door all choked up.

She looks at him, confused, then turns to Reggie. She shakes him gently.

MICHELLE

Reggie...Reggie...how you feeling?

Reggie opens his eyes and looks up from his bed, weary, depressed.

REGGIE

Not good.

Michelle pulls up a chair. Tries to be cheerful. Michelle takes the divorce papers and a pen out of her purse and lays them on his bed.

MICHELLE

I know this isn't the best time, but Austin and I are planning to get married this summer.

Reggie takes a moment to register the news.

REGGIE

You bring that up on my death bed?

MICHELLE

Death bed?

REGGIE

I overheard Max and Bennett. I know the end is near.

Michelle tries to suppress her laughter.

MICHELLE

The end of your show. They wanted to shoot the last scene here at the hospital, but they couldn't get clearance.

REGGIE

What are you saying...

MICHELLE

You're fine, Reggie. You mixed the wrong meds. You'll be back on the court tomorrow.

Reggie looks at the divorce papers Michelle put on his lap, as Michelle gets up.

MICHELLE

Please. It's time for both of us to
move on.

Michelle holds Reggie's hand. Keeping her distance, she
looks at him.

Michelle lets go of his hand and leaves, turning one last
time at the door.

Reggie lays in bed, thinking. After a few moments, he flips
through the document and holds a pen over the signature page.

INT. REGGIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Reggie stands up, staring out of the window. Max enters.

MAX

Hey Buddy, great news. You'll be
home tomorrow.

REGGIE

Get me out of that show.

MAX

What are you talking about? They
want to double our...um...your fee
for another season. They're even
talking movie rights.

Reggie turns to Max sharply.

REGGIE

I want Niles and his camera crew
out of my house or you're fired.

MAX

Done.

REGGIE

And find me a moving company.

Reggie returns to the window and stares outward.

EXT. REGGIE'S MANSION - DAY

Movers load furniture into large moving van.

Niles watches as crew loads the last of the camera and
editing equipment into a panel van.

EDITOR

We going to have enough footage to edit the final show?

NILES

Don't worry. The public hasn't seen a finale like this since the Polar Bear trashed Reggie in last year's playoffs.

They jump into the van and Niles gives one final contemptuous look at the mansion before they drive away.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is empty. Not even a moving box.

HALLWAY

Pictures gone. Only the nails in the wall remain.

LIVING ROOM

Everything gone, except the couches, chairs, big screen TV and Reggie's trophy case. Half the trophies in boxes, the other half still in the elegant glassed case.

Reggie holds his second place trophy from high school and looks at it.

His cell phone rings. Reggie answers.

CARTER

You watching it?

REGGIE

Hell, no. I hate reality shows.

CARTER

You better turn it on.

Reggie hangs up the phone and turns on the TV

ON TV

Reggie appears on the couch, talking to Carter from the hidden camera POV.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

Reggie recognizes this scene. The trophy in his hand falls to the floor. Shatters.

ON TV

Reggie boils with anger.

REGGIE (V.O.)
 ...I wish I could rip out his
 kidney just to get rid of that
 stupid orphan.

CARTER (V.O.)
 You need to relax, Reggie.

Reggie stops to ponder, deep reflections.

REGGIE (V.O.)
 Sidney's parents probably died just
 to get away from him.

CARTER
 Whoa. Ease up, Reggie.

Reggie looks up at Carter, an eerie glaze in his eyes.

REGGIE
 I'm from Detroit. We know how to
 make punks disappear.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

Reggie stares at the TV screen.

INT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sidney watches the screen in silent pain. A lone tear rolls
 down his cheek.

INT. REGGIE'S MANSION - NIGHT

Reggie watches ESPN SPORTS CENTER. His phone rings. He hits
 "ignore" and turns it off.

ON TV

Photo of Reggie appears behind the sportscasters.

BLITZ
 ...Reggie Jones was not just a
 player, he was an icon, a legend
 children could look up to. Now,
 he's taken the sport to a whole new
 low...

Tank motions with his hands and whistles as if to simulate a plane crashing.

When his hands approach the desk, he lifts them up in an erratic fashion - as both announcers emit exploding sounds.

BACK TO REGGIE

Disgusted. He CLICKS the remote.

ON TV

ASIAN NEWSCASTER speaks with his over animated hand gestures.

ASIAN NEWS ANCHOR

(in Chinese)

Fans from around the world are shocked at such hateful words. Tonight the world says...

(in English)

Reggie Jones suck!

He clicks the remote again.

ON TV

Reggie dribbles down court.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

If you need an extra boost...to go that extra mile...

Reggie launches himself toward the basket from Mid-court, twenty feet in the air.

SUPERIMPOSE: "TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY"

ANNOUNCER #2 (V.O.)

We interrupt this commercial to announce that Reggie Jones will no longer endorse Sports-Ade Power Drink. We didn't know he was such an A-hole and humbly apologize. We hope you trust our new spokesman and continue drinking Sports-Ade.

GRAPHIC MORPHING - Reggie becomes Sidney. Sports-Ade's new spokesman. Sidney's image slams the ball.

SUPERIMPOSE: LOGO with Sidney holding up the product.

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Carlo and the other kids flip autographed Reggie Jones trading cards into a fire pit.

The cards land on the flames. Several cards already burning.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
Sidney was the perennial sixth
man...

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Birdcage lined with a Reggie Jones jersey. Bird does his business. SPLAT.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
How could Reggie treat him like
crap...

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

MAN checks oil. Wipes dipstick with a Reggie Jones Jersey.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
He's as heartless as my seven ex
wives...

EXT. BATHROOM - DAY

Woman wipes her baby's butt clean with a Reggie Jones jersey.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
I just hope Sidney's alright. He
usually calls about this time.
Sidney...if you're listening,
buddy, our lines are always open
for you.

Sports King starts crying over the airwaves.

INT. SPORTS AGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Reggie sits across from Max.

REGGIE
How did they cut me out of my own
commercial!

MAX

You're poison, baby. Poison. You and Sidney were the hottest love story since Kim and Kanye. Now we can't even give your jerseys away.

Reggie bows his head, lost in self-pity.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Reggie stalks out of the building, oblivious to everyone pointing and staring.

He gets into his car. BAM. He backs into a low rider.

Two Gang Bangers get out. Give Reggie a dirty look. Then look over Reggie's head and point and laugh.

Reggie follows their fingers with his eyes.

BILLBOARD

Advertises "Bruno's Vacuum Repair." A vacuum pulls Reggie's image into the hose. Headline reads: "Reggie Sucks!"

EXT. REGGIE'S MANSION - DAY

Fist pounds on the door. Reggie answers. It's Sgt. Murphy and Officer Kelly.

SGT. MURPHY

We need to ask you a few questions.

Officer Kelly steps forward, smacking his baton in his open palm.

OFFICER KELLY

Know anything about Sidney's disappearance?

Reggie, feeling uncomfortable, looks to Sgt. Murphy for support. Sgt Murphy replies with a stone cold expression.

SGT. MURPHY

I think you better come with us.

Reggie resigns himself to his fate.

INT. SIDNEY'S APARTMENT - DAY

No sign of Sidney. Murphy and Kelly look through the shelves and cabinets full of Reggie merchandise.

Some of the items have obviously been removed.

Reggie stands behind them, overwhelmed by the memorabilia that remains.

BATHROOM

Reggie walks into the bathroom and spots his own face smiling back at him from a picture of him inside the toilet bowl.

KITCHENETTE AREA

The cops looks through the cupboards. Reggie items from around the world. "Reggie Fried Noodles" in Chinese. "Reggie Beer" in German. "Reggie Board Game" in French.

Reggie returns, mortified.

REGGIE

I feel like I'm in "Fatal Attraction."

Officer Kelly leers at Reggie.

OFFICER KELLY

Were you having sexual relations with Sidney Kanaski?

REGGIE

Hell, no!

SGT. MURPHY

Routine question. Had to ask.

Officer Kelly walks around Reggie. Inspects him suspiciously.

OFFICER KELLY

Crimes of passion.
(in Reggie's face)
Number one motive for murder.

REGGIE

Murder?!

Reggie stares back at the officers. Nobody is laughing.

EXT. DELAWARE RIVER - DAY

Police with K-9 units examine Sidney's van. They find a scent and take off down the river.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Reggie drives past his bronze statue. It's toppled over like Saddam's. Graffiti. Trash blowing against it in the rain.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
Despite the driving rain, fans are
flocking to see their Sixers take
on the Miami Heat...

EXT. PLAYER'S PARKING ENTRANCE - DAY

Reggie drives toward the entrance tunnel.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
...in the first round of the
playoffs....

Fans line the driveway, holding signs behind the barricade. "Trade Reggie" mixed with "Give Sidney Back His Kidney" and other derogatory signs.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
Most of these people don't even
have tickets...

Fans wave their fists.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
They simply want to know the answer
to the question: "Where's Sidney?"

SPLAT. An egg flies through Reggie's window. Hits him in the face.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
The fans are showing a lot of love -
and dedication

Kid throws more eggs on the car. Others throw their jerseys, bobble heads and random memorabilia.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Reggie sits in front of his locker getting dressed for the game. Other players won't even look his direction.

Reggie looks at Carter, who turns his back to him.

REGGIE
That's enough.

Reggie stands up. Everybody faces him.

REGGIE

You guys want to hear it from me?
Well, here it is. I did not do
anything to Sidney. I have no idea
where he is.

ROMANOV

Why you say those things? Fans
sensitive, bro.

Others nod.

REGGIE

I made a mistake. I got emotional.
Truth is, I miss that little pest
myself.

Players look up at him, begin to listen attentively.

REGGIE

I say we win this for him. Give
Sidney and the fans something we
failed to do last year. Take the
title!

He looks at their faces.

REGGIE

Are you in?

Players nod. Reggie yells.

REGGIE

Are you ALL in!

Players rise.

PLAYERS

ALL IN!

REGGIE

Then lets go kick some ass!

Reggie leads them out of the locker room.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - NIGHT

Players run onto the court.

PA VOICE

Playing power forward. Number
five. Reggie Jones...Jones...
Jones...

Fans boo, as Reggie's name echoes over the PA. More signs and banners ridicule the superstar.

MONTAGE: NEWSPAPER HEADLINES

1. City offers \$100,000 reward for Sidney information
2. Reggie Jones Person of Interest in Sidney's Disappearance
3. Sixers Double City's Reward
4. Bigfoot Found During Search for Sidney

END MONTAGE

INT. MORRIS'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The bedroom is dark except for the glow from the computer monitor. A subtitle on the screen reads "GPS Tracking" and shows a map of some rural area.

Morris calmly sips a cup of tea as he watches a blip moving on the screen.

INT. ESPN STUDIO - DAY

Tank wears a button with yellow ribbons and Sidney's face.

TANK
"Sidney Watch" day thirty. Still
no sign of Philly's Golden Child.

ON MONITOR

Clips in background show fans holding a candlelight vigil outside of the arena.

TANK
Fans continue to pay their
respects...

Mohawk holds poster of Reggie over a candle's flickering flame. It ignites.

He throws it in a pile of Reggie memorabilia burning in a metal trash can.

TANK
...some even making symbolic
sacrifices to the basketball gods.

Clips of Reggie shooting intercut with clips of the Polar Bear slamming basketballs and slamming players.

BLITZ

In the most unlikely scenario in NBA history, two 8th seed teams have reached the finals. Drago "Polar Bear" Polinski versus Reggie Jones.

Clips show YOUNG POLAR BEAR playing against a YOUNG REGGIE in High School, college and the NBA.

BLITZ

From high school to the NBA, it's the toughest rivalry since Larry Bird and Magic Johnson -- with Reggie coming up short in the finals every time.

Fierce shot of Polar Bear slamming into Reggie.

Tank looks away, fighting tears.

TANK

I don't know, Blitz...It doesn't seem right talking about sports with Sidney still missing. I'm going to need a minute.

Tank gets up to leave.

BLITZ

It's going to be okay.

Blitz hugs him.

INT. REGGIE'S NEW HOUSE - DAY

Reggie holds a remote in his hand. He watches clips of his reality show.

He actually laughs when he watches himself getting folded up in the bed.

Reggie fast forwards to the sneezing scene. He laughs some more.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

Austin reviews the seating chart for the fund raiser with a CAMPAIGN AIDE.

CAMPAIGN AIDE

We've seated you and your family next to KIDS GLOBAL.

AUSTIN

The save the brat foundation? I'm not sitting with a herd of bleeding hearts, so I can hear them talking about how "precious" kids are.

CAMPAIGN AIDE

I thought it would be a great photo op with your future wife and son.

Austin looks at him coldly.

AUSTIN

Son? I can't wait for Reggie to get joint custody, so he can take that little monster with him.

Magic overhears the conversation and runs unnoticed out the back door.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Press conference underway. POLICE CHIEF and owner stand at the microphones. Reggie and other players behind them.

REPORTER

It's been over a month. Are you even looking for Sidney?

POLICE CHIEF

We've received over six thousand calls on our Sidney tip line and we're following up on each one.

BENNETT

I am personally increasing the reward to one million dollars, season tickets for life, and an autographed Sidney card.

Reporters nod, as Bennett shows them the Sidney card. They're touched.

Reggie steps to microphone, choked up.

REGGIE

Sidney, you're our sixth man. If you're out there, please come home. We need you.

REPORTER 1

A little late, don't you think, hotshot?

Reggie looks at the reporters sharply.

REGGIE

I miss the little guy more than you do. A lot people say they care about me, but I have come to realize that Sidney truly does.

REPORTER 2

Is that why you ripped out his other kidney and had it cryogenically frozen for the future?

REGGIE

What!

Other reporters look at Reported #2, surprised. Then turn their microphones toward Reggie, who remains speechless.

INT. SPORTS AGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Reggie sits across from Max, who holds up a newspaper with the headline: "Sidney Dead, Kidney Frozen."

MAX

I told you this would happen. You better go out and find him.

REGGIE

I don't know where he is.

MAX

Good. Without a body, they can't prosecute.

Max nods, reassured. Reggie shakes his head, beaten.

EXT. LANCASTER COUNTY - DAY

Home of the Amish. Horses CLOP down the street. Carriages. Wagons. Tourists visit shops and restaurants and mingle with the plainly dressed Amish.

INT. AMISH COFFEE SHOP - DAY

A few tourists pass an AMISH MAN sitting alone in a booth. Remnants of a pancake breakfast and coffee in front of him.

His face buried behind a "National Enquirer" style newspaper. The headline reads: "Sidney Dead, Kidney Frozen."

WISE OLD MAN (O.S.)
 You know that crap's junk food for
 the brain.

The Amish man replies without lowering the newspaper.

AMISH MAN
 My mother spoke such words when I
 experimented with tawdry books of
 comics.

The WISE OLD MAN sits with his steaming mug of coffee.

WISE OLD MAN
 You know it's game seven...

The Amish Man lowers the newspaper - it's Sidney wearing dark
 sunglasses. Flowing beard. Full Amish clothing. Dark wig.

SIDNEY
 I know not of what you speak, sir.

Wise Old Man puts some sweetener in his coffee and stirs.
 Sidney returns to his newspaper.

WISE OLD MAN
 I'm a Laker fan myself, but when it
 comes to sports, there's one
 universal truth....

The Wise Old Man checks the creamer. Makes a face, then
 turns to the WAITRESS, a pretty young girl in plain clothes.

WISE MAN
 Miss, I know your cows don't party
 much around here, but this sludge
 is older than the milk from my
 grandma's breasts.

Waitress nods, a little offended. Wise Old man turns back to
 Sidney.

WISE OLD MAN
 Wilt Chamberlain, Dr. J., Iverson.
 Sixers stars have come and gone,
 but, in the end, the red, white and
 blue rolls on.

The waitress changes out the creamer.

WISE OLD MAN
 Thank you so much. What's your
 name, sweetheart?

WAITRESS

Hannah.

WISE OLD MAN

Lovely name. So Biblical. We'll have to read scripture together sometime.

He smiles at her. She bows, a bit uncomfortable and backs away.

Wise Old Man puts cream in his coffee and then back to Sidney.

WISE OLD MAN

Sweet lady. But let's focus on you.

Sidney looks around, nobody else nearby.

WISE OLD MAN

The loyal fan. Win or lose, you're always there, eating your hotdogs and Reggie Corn. Why?

Sidney shakes his head, nervously.

Wise Old Man pounds his fist on the table. Random tourists turn and look.

WISE OLD MAN

IT'S YOUR TEAM!

Wise Old Man slowly stirs his coffee. Then looks back at Sidney with an eerie calmness.

WISE OLD MAN

Without you, there are no games. No TV rights. No merchandising. No five hundred dollar high-tops for the kiddies.

Sidney waves down the waitress.

SIDNEY

Check, please.

WISE OLD MAN

Someday Reggie Jones will retire and leave you all alone in the wilderness like a starving little chipmunk scraping out a meager existence - but you'll survive. You'll bounce back. You know why, Sidney? Because you're the team.

(MORE)

WISE OLD MAN (cont'd)
You're the only reason they even
exist.

Sidney removes his sunglasses, as the words gradually sink
in.

WISE OLD MAN
So, tell me something, kidney boy.
Are you in love with Reggie or your
Sixers?

SIDNEY
Hold that thought?
(rising to his feet,
grimaces, grabs stomach)
Organic Amish coffee.

Sidney walks off toward the restrooms.

INT. COFFEE SHOP BATHROOM - DAY

Sidney enters, and hurries into a stall.

INT. BATHROOM STALL- DAY

Sidney makes himself comfortable. A hand appears under the
stall holding a photograph of Sidney in the Sixers mascot
costume.

MORRIS (O.S.)
Can you autograph this for me?

SIDNEY
Morris?

INT. COFFEE SHOP BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sidney dries his hands. Morris hovers over him. Sidney
looks up at Morris, nervously.

SIDNEY
Shouldn't you be at game seven?

MORRIS
Shouldn't you?

INT. AMISH COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Sidney walks back to his booth. The Wise Old Man is gone.
He slides into his seat. Morris sits opposite him.

SIDNEY
How did you find me?

MORRIS
We've sat next to each other at
Sixers games for eight years and we
don't have a photo together.
(taking out his camera)
Would you take a photo with me,
Sidney?

The word "photo" triggers a memory.

FLASHBACK

Sidney signing autographs at Fan Appreciation day. Morris
walks up with photos of Sidney for him to sign.

RESUME SCENE

Sidney realizes he has a stalker! Morris doesn't wait for an
answer. He slides in next to Sidney. The waitress walks by.
Morris hold up the camera.

MORRIS
Do you mind?

The Waitress snaps the photo. The flash snaps Sidney to his
senses.

SIDNEY
I gotta go.

He yanks off the hat, wig and beard, shoves Morris out of the
way and runs out.

Morris takes the camera from the stunned waitress.

MORRIS
(shouting after Sidney)
I'll bring you by a copy.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Excited fans drift into the arena - wearing Sidney jerseys.

SPORTS KING (V.O.)
Day forty-three. Game seven. The
two most important numbers in
Philadelphia history since 1776.
One represents the disappearance of
our city's greatest icon.
(MORE)

SPORTS KING (V.O.) (cont'd)
The other is the hope of our first
championship since 1983.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Austin dresses for his event. Michelle enters, worried look
on her face.

MICHELLE
Have you seen Magic?

AUSTIN
Did you check under his bed?

MICHELLE
I'm serious. He knows we have
tickets for the game.

She storms out calling for Magic.

MICHELLE
Magic!

Austin shrugs and continues getting dressed.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Fans in a frenzy as the teams line up for the opening jump
ball. Hatred for Reggie replaced by championship fever.

Reggie looks up into the stands. No Magic, no Michelle, just
two empty seats where they are supposed to be.

Polar Bear notices Reggie's not paying attention, so he bumps
up against him before the tip.

Reggie backs away, annoyed. Polar Bear persists, thrusting
his butt against Reggie's thigh. Reggie looks to the ref,
who does nothing.

Romanov wins the tip, but Polar Bear grabs it from a
distracted Reggie and dribbles down court for a dunk.

The action goes back and forth with Reggie scoring on his end
and Polar Bear on the other until the referee whistles time
out on the court.

ON BENCH

Reggie goes to the bench exhausted. The rest of the team
huddles around, as the coach draws a play on his white board.

As Reggie wipes his face with a towel and starts to get up, Leroy, the VIP security guard, whispers into his ear.

Reggie looks up in disbelief and rapidly puts on his sweat pants.

Leroy walks over and talks to the coach in the background.

Reggie runs toward the player's tunnel, as callous fans stand up, confused and pointing.

The cheerleaders stop performing on the court and watch.

As the teams slowly return to the court, Polar Bear watches Reggie run through the tunnel and disappear.

POLAR BEAR

You better run, sucka! Cuz you're
the Titanic and I'm the iceberg!

Carter walks up beside Polar Bear.

CARTER

Chill out, Drago. His son's been
reported missing.

Polar Bear feels like a jerk. His expression says it all.

EXT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

Sidney pulls his mascot uniform out of his Sixers minivan.

He hops into his uniform and puts the giant mascot head under his arm and walks into the arena.

PLAYERS' ENTRANCE

Reggie runs out the player's entrance, wearing his sweat pants and sweaty jersey.

He hops into the back of a waiting police car. Sirens blare as they peel out.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Michelle paces frantically. Austin packs his briefcase.

AUSTIN

The police are doing everything
possible.

MICHELLE

That's my child.
 (noticing his briefcase)
 How can you leave at a time like
 this?

AUSTIN

I'll call the FBI on the way.
 (off Michelle's look)
 That's what they're trained for.

Reggie arrives, Michelle falls into his arms.

MICHELLE

I have to find my baby.

REGGIE

Don't worry. We will.

Austin sees this as a chance leave for his fund raiser.

AUSTIN

I'll make those calls.

He slinks out.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - TUNNEL - DAY

Sidney walks down the tunnel with the mascot head under his
 arm.

He spots Leroy, the VIP security guard, standing guard at the
 end of the tunnel.

LEROY

(excited)
 Sidney!

SIDNEY

How's it going, Leroy?

Leroy bows his head.

LEROY

Not good.

Sidney stops to listen.

EXT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Sgt. Murphy talks with Michelle, who clings to Reggie for
 support. Officer Kelly looks around for clues.

SGT. MURPHY
We have every available unit
canvassing the neighborhood.

MICHELLE
I have to help.

SGT. MURPHY
One of you needs to stay here in
case he comes home.

REGGIE
You should stay.

Michelle shakes. She's an emotional wreck.

REGGIE
We'll find him. I promise.

Sidney drives past in his Sixers minivan. He sees Reggie and
Michelle in the front yard and drives on.

Reggie sees the van and wonders if it could be Sidney. Nah.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

Police officers knock on doors and hand out flyers with
Magic's photo.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

Sidney's van drives slowly down the street. He stops as
children run across the street to an ice cream truck.

SIDNEY
Hmmm. Think like a kid, Sidney.
Think! What would Carlo do? What
would Sarah do?
(realization)
No. What would "I" do?

Sidney perks up and speeds away.

EXT. REGGIE'S NEW HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Magic sits in the swing, lost in thought.

In the background, the Mascot's giant head peers around the
corner and sees Magic, then ducks back.

ON SIDNEY

He takes out his cell phone and sends a text message.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Players return, dejected. Coach follows.

COACH

We're still in it, guys. We're only down ten points. We have the entire second half to shut 'em down.

Players bow their heads, silent.

EXT. REGGIE'S NEW HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Reggie rushes up the side of the house. Stops when he sees Sidney, peering out from the corner of the house. Sidney turns, their eyes meet. Reggie struggles for words.

SIDNEY

He's over there. Michelle will be here any second, but I figured you'd want some alone time with your son.

Reggie nods.

ON MAGIC

Reggie walks up.

REGGIE

Hey, buddy. You okay?

Magic shrugs, clearly troubled.

REGGIE

You had me worried.

MAGIC

I was sad, so I ran away. I'm sorry, daddy.

REGGIE

What's wrong?

Magic turns away, lowers his head.

REGGIE

It's okay. You can talk to me.

Michelle appears in the background, Sidney stops her from rushing to her son.

SIDNEY

Give him a minute. Please.

Magic looks up to Reggie, tearful.

MAGIC

Austin hates me. He said so. He wants to get rid of me just like you did.

Michelle fumes.

MICHELLE

That jerk!

Michelle starts toward Magic again and Sidney stops her once more.

SIDNEY

Let him say his peace.

Reggie hugs Magic.

REGGIE

I never got rid of you. I love you.

MAGIC

Why can't we be a family again?

REGGIE

We are a family. Things are just a little different now.

MAGIC

Why can't you and mommy to be together forever.

REGGIE

I love your mommy very much, but I let her down. I can't blame her for moving on. I just want her to be happy. Don't you want her to be happy?

MAGIC

Yeah.

Reggie gently turns his son's face toward him, and holds it with a loving palm

REGGIE

A friend once told me, "If you love something, set it free..."

MICHELLE (O.S.)

...if it comes back, it's yours forever.

Reggie turns, surprised to hear those words from Michelle. Magic sees Michelle. He lights up.

MAGIC

Mommy!

He runs into her arms. Michelle locks eyes with Reggie. She opens her arms. Big family hug.

Officer Kelly appears at the back gate to interrupt the moment.

OFFICER KELLY

Mr. Jones, you still have a game to play.

MAGIC

Yeah! Yeah! Kill the Bear!

REGGIE

It's not about the Polar Bear anymore. It's about me helping my team be their best.

Magic nods. Reggie smiles and they head to the front yard.

EXT. REGGIE'S NEW HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Police cars and media vans fill the driveway. Murphy waits by the squad car, as Kelly leads everyone from the backyard.

Michelle and Magic walk hand in hand. Reggie walks with Sidney.

Reporters swarm around Sidney.

REPORTER 1

Where have you been? Why'd you run away?

SIDNEY

I was hurt, but I've done a lot of soul searching and realized I owe Reggie an apology.

(turning to Reggie)

(MORE)

SIDNEY (cont'd)

Reggie, I'm sorry for what I put you through all these years. I didn't realize until recently there's a thin line between fan and fanatic. I hope you'll consider me your friend.

This is not what Reggie expected. Everyone is moved by Sidney's sincerity. All eyes turn to Reggie and wait for his reaction.

Reggie pulls Sidney into a tight man-hug. Cheers are cut short by a CAR SCREECHING to a stop.

Austin jumps out of his car and rushes to Michelle.

AUSTIN

Michelle, baby. I'm so happy you found him...

BAM. THUD. Michelle's fist connects with Austin's face and his limp body hits the ground.

Photographers snap pictures of Austin dropping to the ground.

TMZ REPORTER stands over Austin with video camera taping away.

TMZ REPORTER

Safe to say, the wedding's off.

Officer Kelly ushers Reggie and his family into the back of the squad car.

Austin looks up, confused. Sidney puts on his mascot head and steps on Austin as he follows the others.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Squad car burns rubber. SIRENS blaring.

MOTORCYCLE COP follows. Sidney, still in full mascot uniform, rides on the back, as they weave in and out of traffic.

INT. SQUAD CAR - DAY

Reggie, Michelle and Magic ride in the back seat.

REGGIE

I'm so happy we're a family again. You mean more to me than you'll ever know. That's why I called our little guy Magic.

Michelle looks up at Reggie, incredulous.

MICHELLE

Yeah, after Magic Johnson. The
NBA's greatest player - until you
came along.

REGGIE

No. It was the magic I saw in your
eyes the day he was born.

Michelle melts. Kisses Reggie.

INT. WELLS FARGO ARENA - DAY

It's the fourth quarter. Scoreboard shows Mavericks leading
the Sixers 103-94 with less than three minutes left in the
game.

Fans react as rumors circulate. A collective silence. Fans
pointing, stunned.

Carter suddenly stops dribbling. His defender freezes in a
defensive stance, then relaxes as he follows Carter's gaze.

Reggie rushes out of the player's tunnel, carrying Magic.
Michelle follows with the cops and Sidney.

The crowd leaps to their feet and cheers. Sidney does his
signature dance and cheers turn to chants.

CROWD

Sidney! Sidney!

Carter motions for time. The ref stops the clock.

Leroy ushers Michelle to her VIP seat. Reggie follows and
sets Magic down next to her. He leans in for a kiss.

A WHISTLE BLOWS. They look over and see Sidney blowing on a
ref's whistle. The string still around the ref's neck.

SIDNEY

Jones! You can flirt later. We
got a title to win.

Reggie staggers back toward the court, keeping an eye on
Michelle.

COURT

Sidney dances. Fans go wild. Polar Bear walks up to Reggie.

POLAR BEAR
Glad you found him, Reg.

REGGIE
Thanks. That means a lot.

POLAR BEAR
You understand I'll still have
pound you like a piece of meat.

REGGIE
I wouldn't want it any other way.

They hug. Polar Bear fighting tears.

The BUZZER sounds and the players take their positions.
Romanov throws the inbound pass to Carter.

Carter tosses the ball to Reggie, who slices through the
defense for a slam dunk. He gets slammed and knocked to the
floor by the Polar Bear.

IN THE STANDS

Fans scream. Magic rises to their feet, worried.

COURT

Reggie's helped up. Nods to the Polar Bear who grins.

MONTAGE: GAME SEVEN

1. Reggie shoots a jumper and scores.
2. Reggie steals the ball and slices through the defense to
perform an amazing reverse jam.
3. Sidney whoops it up on the sidelines.
4. Opposing player drives to the basket. He stops to shoot a
short jumper that barely clears Carter's out reached hand -
Reggie flies out of nowhere, knocking it into the stands.
5. Magic catches the ball. Reggie points and winks.
6. Sidney dances with the cheerleaders.
7. Sgt. Murphy and Officer Kelly nod to the beat.
8. Carter drives for a lay-up. Polar Bear clobbers him from
behind for a flagrant foul.

END MONTAGE

ON COURT

Romanov stands at the base line. The defender climbing all over him. Carter smothered, but manages to pass to Romanov. Reggie breaks down the lane.

Romanov has his back to the basket. He fights for position. Gives head fake to the basket, then bounces the ball through his legs - and through his opponent's legs.

Reggie gets the bounce pass. Slam dunk.

IN THE STANDS

Michelle and Magic cheer and high-five each other.

Morris and Mohawk chest bump.

Spaniard and Serb head butt. SMACK. Dazed on impact.

The scoreboard reads: SIXERS 102, MAVERICKS 103. 5 Seconds remain.

Reggie grabs the ball past the half-court line. He signals for time-out. The team huddles on the sidelines.

Sidney joins the huddle. Still in full mascot uniform.

SIDNEY

Come on, guys. We can win this game. We can win it all.

Coach looks up at Sidney.

COACH

I'll take it from here.

Coach begins drawing a play on a small chalkboard. Reggie puts his hand over the Coach's hand. He stops drawing.

REGGIE

I got this, coach.

The team nods. Carter looks away. Skeptical.

Reggie looks at Sidney.

REGGIE

This one's for you, Sidney.

Sidney takes off his mascot head and points to the fans.

SIDNEY

No, it's for them. Without your fans, there is no basketball.

Reggie nods. The rest of team nods.

BUZZER sounds and players take the court.

Defenders hang on Reggie like velcro. Carter throws the ball to Reggie.

Opponents blanket Reggie. Romanov rushes over to lay a pick. BAM. Polar Bear knocks him down as he charges after Reggie.

Polar Bear bumps him. Waves his arms preventing Reggie from getting a clear shot.

GAME CLOCK: SECONDS TICK DOWN TO THREE.

ON COURT

Reggie spins free. Sets for a wild, off balance 3-pointer far beyond the three-point line.

QUICK SHOTS of the fans. Michelle holding her breath. Magic covering his eyes, but peeking through his fingers. Sidney drops to his knees. Then...

SLOW MOTION. Reggie goes up for the shot - but instead drills a two-handed rocket pass between two stunned defenders.

THUD. It hits Carter in the gut as he stands open at the baseline near the basket.

Surprised, Carter bobbles the ball.

The two defenders recover and rush toward Carter.

Carter puts up a shot - as he's falling away. Two opposing hands in his face.

The ball misses the rim, and even the backboard altogether. Air ball.

Two hands suddenly fly into view - and dunk the ball into the basket.

FINAL BUZZER

The hands belong to Reggie. He hangs from the rim with one hand. Pounding his chest like the Polar Bear with the other.

The Polar bear and a couple teammates trail the play. Their "Oh, no" expressions speak louder than words.

Balloons and streamers fall from the rafters.

Sidney tosses the mascot head into the air and jumps for joy.

Mohawk and Voodoo Lady hug. Start crying. Fans rush the court.

Reggie walks through the crowd, like Moses parting the Red Sea, and over to Michelle and Magic. They embrace.

Reggie looks up and sees Sidney smiling at them. He opens his arms and the whole family embraces Sidney.

Suddenly, Morris pops his up in the middle of the group grinning at Sidney. Reggie and his family barely notice -- but Sidney freezes. Terror plastered all over his face.

FADE OUT:

THE END