

# THE LADY SYCAMORES

by

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CLIPS IN SEQUENCE WITH TRANSITIONS

1. A retro blue and white vehicle in the shape of a beetle is taking a left turn on the way towards Crane off onto the highway.

2. The scenic beauty of southern Indiana as we pass the little town of Farlen, Indiana, and two Amish boys playing basketball with a bucket shaped net.

3. The anxious face of the driver, LUANNE, is filled with anger, confusion, but also interest. She does not want to come here, but puts on a chipper mood for the school administrator that she is going to talk to today.

4. One more clip of a basketball hoop, and net will do as a young man

5. B-Roll of apple acres field and large peach store near Oaktown, Indiana should be added.

6. The blue vehicle pulls into the parking lot, and LUANNE overlooks at the school, an older looking, but modern high school as she approaches the school with a "this is it?" Attitude.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT- DAY

TEXT FADES IN

Oaktown, Indiana

TEXT FADE OUT

CUT BACK TO:

INT. OLD SCHOOL HALLWAY- DAY

SFX: Slamming door to the car, kids walking to class, talking with friends ambience noise.

EXTRA SFX: Car keys

TWO SHOT: LUANNE approaches PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH as she is walking into the school with her head held high. KAVANAGH is talking to a troubled boy who has not seen him in a while because his mom is sick.

LUANNE is nervous but stern, the principal slowly walks out of the building as this is lunch period, and the kids are out eating their lunch as the whole school eats together. There is no A,B,or C lunch periods due to the school's capacity. Athletes are sported in the school's black and yellow letterman's jackets as the most privileged of kids go out to eat at the restraurants around the Vincennes area.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH finishes the conversation, patting him on the back at the end of the hallway leading to the main enterance of the high school. LUANNE doesn't see him in the array of students passing from hallway after hallway of this small high school.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(waving at a student)

Hey Tim, tell your dad I said that my prayers go out to him. My dad had cancer too so I understand your pain. Have a good day now, God bless.

TWO SHOT: LUANNE and KAVANAUGH, the scene switches back and forth to the two of them talking until "INT. ATHLETICS OFFICE"

LUANNE

Excuse me? Can you show me where the athletic director's office is?

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

What are you doing here? Did ya check in at the door?

LUANNE

Oh, but I can do that later  
(interrupted)

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Well... just remember to sign out of the school for security reasons, Pamela gets on my ass if people don't sign in.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(cont.d)

Do you have an appointment with somebody, who are you, and why are you here?

LUANNE

(stern)

I have an appointment with Mr. Charlie Krinkle, the athletic director here about the girls basketball coaching job. I arrived here early I guess, but my appointments' at ONE-THIRTY.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Well all be darn? I never thought that fine women like you could walk in those heels? You might be at the wrong spot?

LUANNE

Well... I go shopping a lot. They seemed like a good store brand shoe. I bought these heels at a department store I visited in Hershey, Pennsylvania. It's near Pittsburgh.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Wait a minute... Are you... Oh!  
You're the new basketball coach.  
Uh... Luanne Carey?

LUANNE

Yes I am her.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(shakes her hand, directs  
her inside)

The Class of '88, Rivet alumni, who  
only shot forty points against my  
wife when she played for Loogootee,  
recruited to West Point Luanne  
Carney?

LUANNE

Yep that's me. Best point guard in  
Knox County according to one sports  
columnist.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

It's really good to see you,  
well... Should I say, maybe I  
shouldn't say that, or my wife, who  
went to school down the road in  
Vincennes, will kill me.

LUANNE chuckles a bit.

LUANNE

Yeah, I bet she's pissed. Guarded  
her near the top of the key, I  
blocked her shot. Still one of the  
craziest moments in my young  
basketball history.

LUANNE

(cont.d)

I ended up playing down at Texas  
with a national championship squad  
in Texas Tech, which was why I  
coached at Baylor for so many  
years.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

That game, even years later, Still  
gets to her head. It was when you  
hit that buzzer beater right off of  
her shoulders, 69-68. Still gets on  
me about it.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(cont.d)

As you may know already, I'm  
Principal Jeff Kavanagh, but please  
call me Mr. K. Nice to meet you.

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH (cont'd)

Welcome to Oaktown High, we are excited to have a winner come to our program. It is so good to see you again.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(cont.d)

You know, my wife still has a grudge against you after that game. You know that we have not had a winning basketball team since, well, ever.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(cont.d)

And you see, we're still underfunded which is why the basketball team would be a great benefit to our tiny school. Since the ONE-A system came to be in '97, we have suffered greatly both athletically and academically.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(upset)

Damn. You see that pipe up there? Need to tell Bill to fix this, he never gets anything done. Hope this gives your girls some motivation to win.

LUANNE

I heard that the school shut down for a few years, and then the district cut the boys team? Is that correct?

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

They not only cut the boys team, they got rid of it too. Which was a bummer because we had no idea how we could keep the school open without the basketball team. With the economy the way it is and everything. This girls' team could be a savior to the city.

LUANNE

It must have been hard.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(CONT.D)

Then we suffered greatly from the COVID Pandemic and now we are just trying to get back on our feet. The baseball team did not sell well before COVID, and now we cut four

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH (cont'd)  
of the only sports we had. But we  
still have gymnastics, basketball,  
cross country, and soccer to name a  
few of the sports we offer, but not  
for boys, and they are all terribly  
unranked in the state.

LUANNE  
Well this school sure as heck does  
not look like a soccer school. That  
is for sure.

INT. ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OFFICE- DAY

SOUND FX: Creaking of an open door.

OTS: OVER CHARLIE'S SHOULDERS AS PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH COMES  
INTO HIS OFFICE.

CHARLIE is just packing up his things before he moves out of  
the school he has served for over nine years now. He is  
stressed, hit home after suffering from his own COVID-19  
outbreak, he does not have a sense of taste or smell, but he  
is able to walk into work asymptomatic and healthy. He still  
shakes LUANNE's hand. He seems like a mess, and his  
uncontrolled anxiety reminds me of an employee at an  
overpacked restaurant. He is also worried about the future of  
his life, so he is very overwhelmed.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH  
(opens the door politely)  
Hey Dan! We got a girl in here now!

THREE SHOT: CHARLIE gets up from his chair and shakes  
LUANNE's hand while having a cough or two along the way.

CHARLIE  
Oh... Is it LuAnne Carey from  
Rivet?

TWO SHOT

LUANNE  
That is me.

BACK TO THREE SHOT (SAME SEQUENCE)

CHARLIE  
Damn... Did we ever find a good  
lookin woman or what? Nice to meet  
you, I'm Charlie Gimple, now have a  
seat. Thank you Big K.

SFX: Door shutting from behind.

KAVANAGH leaves the room, leaving just LUANNE and CHARLIE  
sitting in his office. Charlie fumbles around with some last  
minute paperwork as he is overwhelmed. Shocked the school

hired a woman as the new athletic director.

CHARLIE sits and grabs her an ice water for him to sip on throughout this interview.

ONE SHOT: On LUANNE, her legs are crossed as she sits in the slouched aging office chair in a professional manner.

LUANNE

Big K? They told me to call him Mr. K?

OTS: CHARLIE GRABS HIS DRINK AND SITS.

CHARLIE

Big K, little K, it doesn't matter. I mean, we have a struggling basketball program to worry about, not someone's pronouns. You know how we feel about transgenderism. That's why the state brought that down for all Indiana High School athletics to play in your own gender.

OTS: LUANNE TALKS WHILE SITTING AND THINKING.

LUANNE

I agree. I coached a trans player before and she, not using pronouns, seemed very obnoxious. So, I just kicked her off of the team and she punched me in the face. She was a violent girl. Lucy Jackson, she was from Chicago and she won me a championship years ago. Now she's unfourantely homeless.

BACK AND FORTH OTS: OF CHARLIE GRABBING HIS DRINK AND LUANNE SITTING.

CHARLIE

Enough of the politics. You know that I am leaving in two days, and I have been very tight on finding coaches for our basketball team. We just got off of the ground with a mini scrimmage team of sorts a few years ago, because... Uh, the boys team caused a brawl that got ten players suspended, and the school board unanomiously decided to end the boys team in 1988 or so. We haven't had a team formed ever since.

CHARLIE

We have not stayed afloat in our athletics department in well over forty years. I mean, with the pandemic and everything it really set us back too far. We've had teams cut, coaches leave, players die, parents mentally ill off on drugs, including my son, and a school board on our ass, forgive me god. I am grateful for this face-to-face conversation with you because it brings me a sense of normalcy back to the community of little ol Oaktown again.

LUANNE

I lost a husband to COVID, so I understand.

CHARLIE

I am so sorry to hear about that. If I sound stuffy I had COVID about a month ago.

CHARLIE

(CONT.D)

Now for the fun part. Would you like to see our gym?

CHARLIE stands up and holds the door to the atheltics department for LUANNE. No one is in this office except for the two of them. Budget cuts allowed the school to eliminate a percentage of their staff over the past several years. The office is a true example of a system feeling financially strained.

FOLLOWING SHOT ON LUANNE AND CHARLIE WALKING TO THE MAIN GYMNASIUM, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE HEART".

LUANNE

I mean, as long as you give me the playbook.

CHARLIE

I have it in my hands. You will also meet the Hagers during your time here. Their elderly, eight-six years old, but do they love basketball or what? Their cousin is kind of a nut though. He has a daughter on the team. The Hagers both coached at North Davis which is just down the road here. They know the formula to being true winners.



CHARLIE  
 (CONT.D, tries to grab  
 his keys to unlock the  
 door.)

Now, let's seem the gym.

INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- DAY

The gym is silent. An empty gym in the middle of nowhere Indiana seems like a dream, but then a ball hits the ground and one girl, ABBY, in which sweat has dripped down her face for three hours now, has been practicing her three point shots and layups. She is the definition of a hard worker, and both CHARLIE and LUANNE don't know she's in the gym.

SOUND FX: Shoes squeaking and a ball dribbling.

CHARLIE  
 This is our older, 2,000 seat stadium. Oh, and there's The top gun herself, Mrs. Abby Sterling. She's going off to West Point after her senior year. Joinin the Navy. She got accepted after her physcial exam, and she is only a junior.

ABBY walks over to LUANNE in a professional "I have it all" type of flair. Her deminer is charming as LUANNE is still processing how she plays the game, and is too worried seeing how she shoots, so she is thinking about putting her to the test.

THREE SHOT: ABBY SHAKES THE HAND OF LUANNE AS CHARLIE STANDS IN THE BACK GIVING THE GIRL AMPLE TIME TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

ABBY  
 Hey Coach. I'm Abby Sterling.

LUANNE  
 Um... Well hello.

CAMERA SHOTS CUTS BACK AND FORTH FROM:

1. PAN TO THE LEFT, ABBY IS HOLDING A BASKETBALL AND LUANNE INSTRUCTS HER TO SHOOT.
2. EVERY TIME A SHOT GOES IN CLOSE UP: ON BASKET
3. TWO SHOT: ON LUANNE MENTORING ABBY, AND PLAYING DEFENSE

THE SCENE SHOTS STAY THE SAME THROUGHOUT "CHARLIE'S "WELL ABBY LINE"

LUANNE  
 Hit that shot for me again? Right from the elbow?

LUANNE

You're step is just like a Stephen Curry's pull up. You find your motion, set your stance, and shoot, but in every game the defenders could block your shot... You know?

Abby passes the basketball to LuAnne.

ABBY

Yes ma'am.

LuAnne holds the ball grip and firm, like a mother holding a n new born child. She takes Abby to the front court and asks her to step forward near the foul line.

She steps up, and LuAnne teaches her a trick.

LUANNE

Now, I love your stance with the feet shoulder with the part, hands straight up, but your stance is tilted after shooting for a while. I need more of her in order to build a great basketball team. Girls that can shoot, play defense... Can you play defense?

TWO SHOT ON ABBY AND LUANNE TALKING

ABBY

Yes I can, I know the man-to-man defense off of the top of my head.

LUANNE

Enough talking now, show me what you can do. Let's check up.

LUANNE

Oh... Wow! You're really guarding me...

SOUND FX: Basketball dribbling, shoes squeaking.

LUANNE

Sheesh! You may be one of the best overall players I will ever see. You remind me a lot of Brittney Griner, with a step of Lisa Leslie, and the determination of Becky Hammon. You sure have a future ahead of you, but I just need to train you first. People need practice from time to time.

CHARLIE

Well... Abby, I will see you later tell your mom I said hi.

ABBY

Thank you so much. Have a great day. Oh coach?

LUANNE

Yes ma'am.

ABBY

Do you believe in Christian morals?

LUANNE

(shocked)

Yes... Um... One hundred percent.

ABBY

Great. I trust you then. Just be an example and I will give you your undivided attention no matter what.

LUANNE

Thank you, I feel blessed to be your coach. Can't wait to see the rest of the girls.

EXT. KIMMEL PARK SEATING AREA, VINCENNES- DAY

LS: ALANIA, REBECCA, MAKAYLA, and RITA are eating tenderloin sandwiches, salads, and eat in the most stereotypical American way possible, messy as the sauce from RITA's tenderloin keeps dripping like sweat off of a bare chest. ALANIA is on her phone as she reads one of the alerts reading about a new coach coming to town. She is stunned and turns her phone away, and looks at her friends to give them some news they needed to hear.

CU: Ketchup dripping on a wrapper as MAKAYLA picks up a french fry and really smooshes down on the sauce to give it some more flavor.

MS: The girls are eating, and ALANIA is checking her phone while REBECCA reads a magazine.

STAYS ON THESE THREE SHOTS UNTIL "INT. MCKINNELLY'S" Medium Shot, Long Shot, and Medium Close Up.

ALANIA

(looking at her phone)

Oh my gosh! Wow! This could be our new coach, they will announce it at McKinnely's later today.

REBECCA

Who will be our new coach? We haven't had one in centuries.

SOUND FX: French fry crunch, and slurping drink cup.

ALANIA

Some woman from some school in  
Pennsylvania named, LuAnne...  
LuAnne C-arney?

MAKAYLA

Didn't she coach Brianna Stewart at  
one time I thought? Name rings a  
bell?

ALANIA

When?

MAKAYLA

Like in two-thousand-twelve or so?  
I don't remember her, but she got  
fired for having a tantrum on the  
sidelines.

REBECCA

Just like our last coach did.

SOUND FX: Laughter

ALANIA

You're like so right. Like all he  
did was go...

ALANIA clears her throat trying to be funny and comical in the heat of the moment. All the girls will do is chuckle at her jokes. They know that what she is about to do is funny, but they see it in their homes everyday so the humor might not be there.

ALANIA

(does her best old,  
country, man  
impersonation)

God damn it Erica, set the bleepin'  
ball movement, you mother bleepin'  
bleep!

MAKAYLA

(does her best old man  
impression)

What kinda Martin C-ouny, Indiana  
type of crap is that? I park my  
truck down near the dang Dairy  
Master, got me some tenderloins and  
hot babes too. I'm only sixty and I  
got a huge one.

The girls finally crack up. I think ALANIA should be a true comedian as she always knows how to keep the girls laughing. That defines her personality, a humorous team player.

ALANIA

Oh my gosh! These men are so  
perverted here.

RITA

Right?

MAKAYLA

No one ever like talks about it. Us girls seem sheltered, and like you see our new coach? She may bring that girl power we desperately need back in this state.

ALANIA

Well... What about that IU coach? Teri Moran?

RITA

Or that Purdue coach in the nineties?

MAKAYLA

I mean, Indiana's in a weird time period, where bad is good and good is bad. You know how the college girls band with each other, by showing empowerment and that is what this community needs.

The girls are kind of in silence as if this is never going to happen.

ALANIA

Deep words.

SFX: Eating and chewing on food.

RITA

They sure know how to make a good rubin sandwich at Lic's.

ALANIA

See, their sandwiches are very underrated to me. Like, in my opinion, Velma's has the best rubin sandwiches, and chocolate pies.

SOUND FX: Talking and laughing.

LONG SHOT: OF THE GIRLS EATING AND STARTING A RANDOM CONVERSATION WHILE SITTING AT THE PICNIC TABLE, THE SHOT CAN BE SHOT FROM THE BACK OF THE PATIO AS LONG AS IT SHOWS IMAGES OF THE WABASH RIVER, THE BRIDGE, AND THE SURROUNDING VINCENNES AREA

CUT TO:

INT. MCKINNELYS RESTRUANT, OAKTOWN- DAY

FOLLOWING SHOT: WAITRESS #1 IS CARRYING THE FOOD ORDERED BY LUANNE AND CHARLIE AS SHE TAKES THEIR FOOD TO THEIR TABLE.

THIS SHOT ENDS AT "HERE YOU GO MA'AM."

SOUND FX: Chatter, restraunt ambience

OWNER

(yelling in the distance)  
Can you hand them their lemonade,  
we have another table we need to  
serve!

WAITRESS #1

So, ya'll said you wanted lemonade  
not ice tea?

LUANNE

I wanted to try it and give it a  
shot.

WAITRESS #1

And you're condements are on the  
table already... great.

CHARLIE

Thanks Ann! Glad your mom's doin  
better.

SOUND FX: WAITRESS pours the lemonade into one of  
McKinnely's famous drink cups.

WAITRESS #1

It's been weeks since I've seen  
her.

CUTS BACK AND FORTH FROM TWO SHOT TO MEDIUM SHOT on WAITRESS

LUANNE

So are you wanting to be on the  
basketball team? Because you know  
how to serve some dishes.

WAITRESS #1

Uh, I'm in band but my brother  
played for Rivet. You'll hate them,  
they are one of our hometown  
rivals. We have so many I can't  
even count. We're really disliked.

CHARLIE

(frusterated)

Oh don't get us started on Rivet,  
she'll learn a lot more about that.

LUANNE

Again, thank you so much. We want  
the buffet.

WAITRESS #1

Okay, sound great, thank you coach.

The waitress walks away leaving LUANNE and CHARLIE time to go up to the line and chose their meals. A classic assortment of fried chicken, watermelon, corn, sweet potato pie, and more southern fixings are offered.

FOLLOWING SHOT: LUANNE AND CHARLIE GRAB A PLATE AT THE BUFFET LINE AND GRAB THEIR MEALS. CUTS BACK AND FORTH FROM MEDIUM SHOT TO LONG SHOT AS THEY ALSO WALK BACK TO THEIR TABLE.

LUANNE

She hasn't even known me long enough and now she's calling me a coach?

CHARLIE

Well... We don't have a lot to talk about here. Maybe the time when we won a state championship years back, or the time when we had David Beckham wear a Vincennes University shirt, and then there was the time the Freedom Convey stopped by our town, and other than that that's about it in our neck of the woods.

LUANNE

Your newspaper here seems very to the point. I have never read a paper like that before. A lot of police reports and drug arrests are the vibe I get here.

CHARLIE

You know how you eat fried chicken. Just add some pepper to the meat part, the outside is crispy, and by just adding a hint of pepper, it keeps them juicy and it tastes better.

THE TWO SIT DOWN: CUTS BACK AND FORTH FROM A TWO SHOT TO A LONG SHOT

LUANNE

You know... I got to thinking about that Abby girl. She is so mature for her age.

SOUND FX: Forks and plates clacking. Chatter

CHARLIE

So mature? She's a straight A student, the only one on our honor role in the history of Oaktown High, honorary captain of the softball team, and she works part time at the assisted livings here in the area.

CHARLIE

(CONT.D)

She wants to major in nursing, but she likes either VU, Notre Dame, IU, or Ball State. She got accepted to Navy, but she is worried about the cost of tuition and books, all those fees that are included. She is indecisive because she does not know what to do after school.

CHARLIE

(chews on his chicken)

She's a determined child, and honestly she is a becken of hope. My wife baked cookies with her when she got involved with tha Girls Scouts, so I've known her for a long time. She is a hero making it out of one of the poorest counties in the state. She got her maturity from her dad by the way. Her mom once worked at the school, then got arrested for possession of meth over thirty times. She's had to grow up a lot especially with having a baby.

LUANNE

Wow! A baby? That's crazy.

CHARLIE

(shushes her)  
Don't say it too loud.

LUANNE

(bites back defensive)

You know, I can be an arrogant bitch and a motherly figure. I was sixteen when I had my kid, and whenever she needs help, I'll help her. Sometimes men don't understand women, and... Uh... sorry, I need to learn how to not argue aganist Roe v. Wade.

CHARLIE

Hey I'm sorry I said that. Save your anger for the refs.

LUANNE

Anyways, now... I got to thinking about the job, and I want to take it. I just want to know how much I could get paid?



CHARLIE

Paid? We've accepted free work before, I have never heard of someone wanting a payment before.

CHARLIE

(sighs)

Will twenty-grand work? And you will be the athletic director.

CHARLIE

(CONT.D, sipping on coffee)

Be warned, you may have to work as a teacher, a custodian, a counselor, a school bus driver, or any number of things. We are so low on staff, that you will not earn the money overnight.

CHARLIE

(CONT.D)

You need to dedicate yourself to the community and the team. This takes strong will power to rebuild our struggling athletic program while also keeping up on student academics. Your goal is to expand the budget and even growing iconic yellowjacket brand could do some good for us.

CHARLIE

(Leans his hands forward on the table, sighs loudly, stern)

The last question I have for you is, why do you think I should be able to hire you?

A couple looks on at their table and listens to every word she will say.

LUANNE

I love kids. I love high school kids. I love this community and all that you bring. I worked here once in corrections at Wabash Valley and I absolutely love this area. Since my son's been at IU, I hated being in Bloomington since it has changed for the worst up there.

LUANNE

(CONT,D)

I'm happy I lived near Hershey for five years, coaching them to four N-C-Q-A Division three

(MORE)

LUANNE (cont'd)  
 championships, but I have waited  
 for an opportunity to open up for  
 years now.

LUANNE  
 (sipping on lemonade)  
 In otherwords, yes. I will take the  
 position and dedicate myself to  
 more than just the team because of  
 my hardworking tenacity, and how I  
 can build little girls to become  
 women on and off of the court. I'm  
 strict, and that is a huge  
 qualification I have to get this  
 job.

A silent crowd waits for her announcement. CHARLIE rises up  
 from his seat and whistles at the crowd. He asks LUANNE to  
 stand up and join him in a moment of celebration.

CHARLIE  
 (raises his voice in a  
 gleeful way)  
 Ladies and gentleman! May I have  
 your attention please?! It is my  
 great honor to announce the first  
 female coach at Oaktown High School  
 history. Give a round of applause  
 to Mrs. Luanne Carney who will is  
 hired as the next basketball coach  
 of our Oaktown Melon Pickers!

The diner stands up and cheers at the sight of the new coach  
 shaking hands with the now former athletic director.

SOUND FX: Clapping hands, cheering.

CROWD  
 (in unison, chanting  
 over and over again)  
 We Want State! We Want State! We  
 Want State!

CUT TO:

EXT. PRISON ENTRANCE- DAY

LUANNE walks into the Wabash Prison near Carlisle, Indiana.  
 LT. FLOYD, one of Luanne's former basketball players, meets  
 her at the door with a shocked expression on her face.

Luanne creeps over to the door as she meets a corrections  
 officer.

LUANNE  
 I'm Mrs. Luanne Carney, and I'm  
 applying for the police nursing  
 (MORE)

LUANNE (cont'd)  
 assistant. I'm meeting with  
 Lutinent Floyd?

LT FLOYD  
 That's me coach.

LT FLOYD  
 (cont.d)  
 Long time no see. Class of 2004 at  
 Baylor. Final Four apperence  
 against Georgia Tech where I  
 dropped fifteen points and had a  
 record 20 rebounds to lead us to a  
 natty.

LUANNE  
 I remember you. You're one of my  
 most mature players I've ever had,  
 and now you're in Indiana?

LUANNE  
 What about dat Texas job as a  
 county police officer?

LT. FLOYD  
 Yep, I moved from Fort Worth a few  
 years ago.

LT. FLOYD unlocks the door for Luanne as they enter the  
 enterence of the prison leading to an office.

LT FLOYD  
 My husband died in Iraq, have three  
 kids, all grown up now.

LUANNE  
 Oh really?

LT FLOYD  
 My sons play at Purdue, one in  
 basketball and another in baseball.  
 My youngest had letters from  
 Alabama and Clemson since he's a  
 quarterback for Lincoln. Life's  
 been rough, but...

LUANNE  
 Haven't we all been through  
 problems.

LT FLOYD  
 (chuckles)  
 Yeah, yeah. You used to give me an  
 ear full in practice, now you've  
 seemed to have calmed down now.

LT FLOYD

Why are you in little ol southern Indiana when you could have taken the Hoosiers job a few years ago?

LUANNE

I'm here because my husband died, and my mood went south and (interupted)

LT FLOYD

Like it always did.

LUANNE

I'm bipolar at times.

LT FLOYD

Fer real?

LUANNE

Since high school.

LT FLOYD

Well... That explains a lot as to why you were a hot head in college. You made two girls almost kill themseleves in practice. It was brutal, but when I saw your name on the application list for this job, I thought, are you nuts? Luanne Carney?

LT FLOYD

Bout had the big one.

LT FLOYD

Well... You'll start as an intern and then work for me if you really want a position here in Wabash prison. You passed our security clearence, and you passed a police training course in Pennsylvania?

LUANNE

It was rough, but I did pass, it was about five years ago.

LT FLOYD

Okay... Well, since you were my coach, I will hire you, but are you willing to work on the board and unlock doors?

LUANNE

Unlock doors? Are you nuts?

LT FLOYD

We have too many full time jobs taken, so we have a few intern spots still open. Another job could be to hassle up the girls as a C.O. On the girls unit. Teenage girls unit I should say.

LT FLOYD

(cont.d)

You might connect better with those girls anyway, they need a teacher just like you.

LUANNE

I'll take it.

LT FLOYD

Okay.

LT FLOYD

Deputy Johnson will take your finger prints, and do one more security screening before you work tomorrow.

LUANNE

I'm willing to come in, but (interrupted)

LT FLOYD

We have a shortage of staff here at this prison coach. Tomorrow we have our first indoor basketball training seminar, I think it'll talk some sense into these kids, like you did with me.

LT FLOYD

You were a humoungous inspiration to me, but also a piece of shit.

LT Floyd walks out of her office and directs Luanne to the next room for new hires to get processed into their system.

INT. BARBERSHOP- DAY

CLOSE UP: OFFICER CHIPINHOOD READS THE COUNTY NEWSPAPER WHICH READS "HISTORY IN OAKTOWN: FEMALE COACH HOPES TO TURN THE HIGH SCHOOL MELON PICKERS AROUND" HE CREASES THE PAPER AND GETS BACK TO HIS HAIR CUT.

SFX: Snipping of hair, electric guard pressing hair. Radio playing oldies music from the 1960s.

After a while the chair swivles back straight near the mirror at the barbership. The old men ages 60-89 years old are sitting, chatting, and talking.

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD

What kinda female body part are we doin' hiring a woman to coach the basketball team? We haven't won a state title since like ninety-ninety-one or somethin like that. Plus we don't have the money for a boys team anymore, so we get these bitches on the court, to some how make us a profit, when we never pack women's games. The hell is Charlie Krinkle got under his sleeves right now?

RICK MARDALE

Ah hell, you know how I feel bout women, especially my wife.

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD

See them lose one hundred to nuthin, I tell ya. This is the closest thing to that W-N-B-A thang I ever seen, they'd be sucked down to the tube racin team with the V-U kids on the Banks of the Wabash faster than ever before.

RUSS

Hey remember semi state in '93?

CAMERA CUTS TO LONG SHOT AND MEDIUM SHOTS TO THE BARBERS AND THE DECOR ON THE WALL.

RICK MARDALE

Oh I remember that day. I was a senior at Oaktown. We boarded a bus to Richmond to take on Forest Park, and it was there I sat next to the one the only, Gene Kadey. He was recruiting Matt Krisp and wanted to watch our team get slaughtered, but hell, we put up a good fight in overtime that day.

RUSS

That boay Tim Hager. From the elbow... Swish! Never seen a shooter like him since.

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD

I was a sophomore when we played Owen County in Semi-State. We were at the Hatchet House in 1955, and the game behind us was Loogootee and Crispus Attucks. We had the barber himself, Russ, play on that team. You sure had a Christ of a jumpshot, but then you couldn't rebound at Evansville.

SFX: Laughter by the four guys in the barbershop.

RUSS  
(chuckling)

Embarrassing how time goes by. One semi-state later, and you happily married your wife of over forty years with a son who was also a sharp shooter.

RUSS  
Hey guys, there's Coach Carney walking with a blue dress on. Like she's nurse Cathy from the nursing home.

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD  
The hell is she doin'?

The four men all walk over to the window to take a glimpse at a woman almost dressed like Hillary Clinton. The towns people gather on the square to talk to the coach.

EXT. PARKING LOT, DOWNTOWN- DAY

TWO SHOT THAT SWITCHES BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN TOWNIE AND LUANNE.

TOWNIE #1  
So, coach, what offensive play do you most prefer to run for your team?

LUANNE  
I love the picket fence, but I use it sparigly. I use a lot of pass and shoot type of plays, four on three man-to-man, I loved Coach Knight when I worked for him years back. He knew how to run the action plays but still guard ya on the premiter.

TOWNIE #1  
Bobby Knight?

LUANNE  
I was his secretary for a while, that is why I know this area too well. Besides bein an all state girls basketball star at Rivet

MS: OFFICER CHIPINWOOD SPITS OUT HIS GUM AND RUBS IT ON HIS HAND.

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD  
Wow! A smart woman indeed. You don't sound like no out of towner.

LUANNE

My parents lived down the road for here for years before we moved to Pennsylvania when I was three. Oh, and may I ask, do you know of any assistant coaches or trainers we need? I'm willing to pay \$100 dollars a game for anyone in town to help us win state.

LUANNE

Is that woman okay? She just fell.

LUANNE runs over to JEANE and DELANEY's aid as she is panicking trying to pick her up and drag her to her wheelchair.

LUANNE

(on the ground)

Hi, you sure took a tumble there.

JEANE

(on the ground)

Oh, I just had another back spasum again. Get those all the time, it hurts like the dickens. I'm Jeane and this is my husband Mark and my granddaughter Delaney. She's a college student right now at Ball State. We've been married for fifty years. It is a pleasure to see you.

LUANNE

(frightened)

Sorry, you scared me. I saw you on the ground and I thought... Oh... Is the woman okay?

DELANEY

She has had back spasms for years. After she took a stumble at the RCA Factory years ago, she has never been the same.

JEANE

Oh, don't worry, I'm alright.

LUANNE

Oh my god! I thought I needed CPR or something? My mom had problems with her hip years before she died, and I just think about the assisted living she was in. Just brought flashbacks I'm sorry.

MARK

Oh no, your okay. We'd love to be your assistant coaches. We have

(MORE)



MARK (cont'd)  
 experience coaching girls  
 basketball before. Did Charlie ever  
 tell you about what we did at Barr  
 Reeve. Won state twice, and  
 produced an academic All American  
 or two in the process. We should be  
 set to go for practice tomorrow.

LUANNE  
 Okay... I will think about it.

JEANE  
 By the way, I think you got a lot  
 of promise. Can you help me find a  
 sweater for my grandkids? They're  
 older and out of state, I was  
 scared my son could get cold up in  
 Indy.

LUANNE  
 Sure. If it takes coaching a team I  
 will try whatever it takes.

JEANE  
 You have more of a heart than what  
 I read on the news about cha.

INT. ABBY'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

FOLLOWING SHOT: REGINA WALKS INTO HER KITCHEN AND BEGINS  
 SHOOTING UP METH INTO HER BODY, AND SHE WALKS INTO THE  
 LIVING ROOM TO CHECK ON HER DAUGHTER IN A CRAZED MANIC  
 STATE.

TRANSITIONS FROM A TWO SHOT-MEDIUM SHOTS UNTIL REGINA SAYS  
 "YOU MAKE ME SICK."

SFX on TV: Announcers commentating the NCAA Tournament game  
 with Indiana vs. Princeton in the Second Round of the 2022  
 NCAA Tournament in the distance.

SFX: REGINA'S PARANOIA AND CONSTANT PANTING AND PUFFING

The living room is stuffed with school textbooks and a baby  
 crib. ABBY is studying, watching the old IU game, and trying  
 to take care of her kids, AMILIA and CADEN. All of this  
 while she is trying to be an A star student. Tonight she is  
 cold, so she wears her yellow and black Oaktown letterman's  
 jacket, and she buddles her baby underneath as she begins to  
 breastfeed her.

She stops once she notices her mom shooting heroin into her  
 veins. REGINA is paranoid and deeply psychotic acting.  
 Almost like a woman with bipolar disorder having a manic  
 episode. ABBY is cool and firm.

ABBY

(drained)

Mom, please don't shoot up around my daughter again. Very unprofessional for you to do that. Did you take your bipolar medicine?

REGINA looks at the mirror of the bathroom and looks down to find a needle. Skimming through her drawers like a chasing mouse to find a needle.

REGINA

(manic, shaking)

Oh shut the hell up Abs! Little bitch! You remind me so much of your father. He fucked and raped your sister, such an asshole. You're so fucking stupid. The fourth baby daydee got in prison again, and I'm fuckin pissed. No wonder why your brothers and one sister left me and you too, D-C-S thanks I'm quote, a terrible mother, I say bullshit!

SFX: Drawer slamming.

REGINA walks out to berate her daughter.

REGINA

(knotting her arm with an exercise band)

So fucking modest! That damn dickhead should have never touched you. I told the baby daddy to not do that and he did.

REGINA flips.

REGINA

(angry)

What the hell is this and explain it well you pathetic bitch?!

ABBY

It's an older game when IU played against Princeton in the Tourney at Assembly Hall last year.

CLOSE UP: Ali Patberg on TV.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP: Regina's mom's eyes are stunned because her daughter is doing better than her. She's got her revenge in a breakthrough type of moment, symbolizing how daughter and mom do not intertwine.

CUT BACK TO:

ABBY and REGINA near the living room, with two kids walking around.

ABBY

(CONT.D)

Look at Patberg, she's my hero.  
Seven time senior, multiple time  
All American, former Fighting Irish  
and Hoosiers, future WNBA star. She  
reminds me a lot of myself. So does  
Grace Berger, she's a good one too.

Her daughter leaps from her mom's legs and goes running to her favorite toys.

REGINA throws a socket wrench out of the window to give her daughter a point to make.

REGINA

(angry)

How many fucking people do you  
think made it to the WNBA from this  
pathetic town?!

ABBY

Nobody. Bu(interupted)

REGINA

(raises her voice)

Nobody! And... Don't say you cause  
your daddy was a dickhead of a  
player down at Sullivan, and your  
brother's the only All-American in  
Oaktown history. That's why grandma  
Jay moved you to Rivet until this  
fucking year when the school  
reopened again. Oh and your  
brother, who I loved before heroin  
became a thing. That's what you  
are! A nobody! Just a white trash,  
uneducated, egocentric, drug addict  
piece of shit who blows away in the  
windy city!

ABBY

I'm shocked that it's not raining  
through the ceiling. Kevin Ourpret  
said it would rain sometime at  
midnight and so far it hasn't. We  
need to fix the roof sometime. It's  
beginning to cave in.

REGINA

(manic)

Well... with the way you are, it  
should be raining pitch forks and  
nigger babies through my damn  
ceiling! Now, get off of your fat

(MORE)

REGINA (cont'd)

lazy ass and get these damn dishes washed! They needed washed for two days now!

ABBY

Mom! I got those done. There weren't a lot to do, and besides, you're paranoid again. I'm finishing my A-P homework, and raising two kids at the same time! You know the struggle of working and schooling because you had me at 13. You should know this. I thought you applied for that rehab place in Georgia or wherever.

REGINA

Oh, who are you? Dr. Del Ah Cruz from Ringer's Ranch? Sending me back to fucking rehab again after gettin cut at Crane?! You son of a bitch! You're a lazy slob of a fucking parent! Look at your daughter!

REGINA touches her granddaughter on the arm, almost grabbing her.

REGINA

(paranoid)

Oh mommy! When I grow up I want to be like my momma! A drug addict! An abortion carrying cunt, Sue Bird of a momma! Oh momma! I want to do drugs, kill, and be arrested like my grandpa! My sixteenth birthday will be spent in Wabash an  
(interrupted)

SFX: Baby crying.

ABBY lunges towards her daughter to back her out of the way. She is furious at how her mom is acting.

ABBY

(yelling)

No mom! I'm trying to enjoy a Thursday evening, now stop this! You've made my daughter scared, now sit down! Sit down and chill out!

REGINA

You piece of shit!

ABBY

(grabs the knife out of  
her mom's hands)

Stop that right now! You just need to rest. Okay? I don't know what else to do with you. You're basically killing yourself acting like this! I'm not no slob, I've never been arrested, and I was molested! Don't say anything, I'll cook dinner in a little bit. Stop using that meth especially around my daughter. I hope you took your bipolar meds too, that's more important than your drug use anyway.

REGINA

Go watch your damn game! You make me sick!

INT. KITCHEN DINING ROOM- NIGHT

A family is sitting at the dinner table as ROGER, FRANCHESKA, LUCY, and ALEC are waiting for their sister to come home from the coal mine. ROGER is a drunken elderly man with the tendency to snap at any minute. He acts like he got laid off from his front desk job at the amish home and business store he runs, but tonight he has revenge on his wife and young daughter.

ROGER places his hands on the table. His dirty white dress shirt is unbuttoned at the top, and his family is scared on him, and tonight he will show his hellish fury all because he did not get his least most important meal of the day on time.

MEDIUM SHOT ON TABLE AND THOSE EATING AT IT.

ROGER

May we say grace?

The family bows their heads in disgust.

ROGER

(sighs)

Bless us oh lord for these I guesst  
which we are about to receive, oh  
thy bounty, Christ oh lord amen.  
Glory be to the father, the son,  
and to the holy spirit, amen.

The family picks up their food and eats.

SOUND FX: Clock ticking, forks gracing the plate, food into mouth. Text alert ringtone.

ROGER

Honey? Honey! NO PHONES AT THE  
DINNER TABLE!

ROGER

(makes the girls go  
silent)

So... How was your first day back  
for your junior year at Rivet since  
the schedule's different at the  
private school compared to Oaktown?

FRANCHESKA

(silent)

Just let them eat.

ROGER

(frustrated)

Now, why's Tracy not at the table?

SOUND FX: Door opening, wind blowing.

TRACY comes into the room too exhausted to even talk to her  
parents, as she is filled with gas on her on baggy clothes,  
fit for a coal miner (which she is one). She coughs like  
crazy, and just wants to take a long break.

She takes a deep breath and comes into the room, placing her  
backpack on the floor.

TRACY

(exhausted, sounds like a  
drug addict)

Kenny needed me to work late at the  
mine. Two guys got sick, one guy  
almost died, doctors think I have  
asthma and need to quit my job  
before I can even do a physical or  
I will die at the mine like I've  
done a hundred times. So I dug and  
dug and dug at Earth's soil, almost  
getting si (interrupted)

ROGER

(stern)

I don't wanna hear it!

TRACY

(shocked)

But, I'm trying my best in  
everything.

ROGER

(interrupted)

But your best is not good enough.  
Why the hell do you have a D in  
English?! English?!

ROGER  
 (anger is building)  
 I hope you read this. Get on the  
 bed!

ROGER attacks TRACY all because she missed dinner, leaving her family silent at the kitchen table as ROGER's repetitive rages get to TRACY.

SFX: Roger beating up TRACY

MEDIUM SHOT: FAMILY SITTING AT THE TABLE, HEARING THE CAMOTION.

EXT. MELON PATCH FARM- NIGHT

A truck is driving across the pastures of a Oaktown mellon farmland as a truck carrying ISABELLE in the back takes a right turn back to the village. They have just gone back from picking our mellons to harvest for the end of the year, and as the winds have picked up, her hat nearly flies out of the truck.

She grips it tight as they turn back to the farmground.

GERRY  
 (on a walkie talkie)  
 Alright guys! That's a wrap on today, but Isa? I need you to finish up one more thing for me when you get back from the truck.

ISABELLE  
 (on the radio)  
 Ten four.

CUT BACK TO:

SOUND FX: Gravel and truck stopping. Hoods and trunks opening from the vehicle.

Truck pulling back into the lot, and ISABELLA knows what she is about to get in on.

GERRY  
 Hey Isa, uh... I need you to carry these orders out for me please?

ISABELLE  
 Sure how much are there?

GERRY  
 We have four people needing mellons for a church convention, and ten for the orders Margie Ann, Vicki Crimpington, I know her, her house is down the road near the crack  
 (MORE)

GERRY (cont'd)  
houses, and one for Tim Jones and Donald Young. After that you can go home.

ISABELLE  
(sighs)  
Alright. Under one condition will I take these orders.

GERRY  
Well one condition is better than no condition at all. It's called working smarter not harder. Good job Ms. Algood. Hope you have a good night.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK- NIGHT

CLIPS IN SEQUENCE:

SFX: Radio broadcast of a basketball game from Don Fischer.

1. ISABELLE is driving her own truck through downtown Oaktown, as we see people doing drugs, and hanging out throughout the town especially late at night. There is nothing in this town, and when I mean nothing, I mean the town is dead except for some regulars and creepy people.

2. We focus in on her tired face as she turns on the radio and listens to a sports talk show.

3. The truck hits a bump in the road, and once she realizes what the bump was about she is frustrated that two of the melons fell out of the truck.

EXT. BACKYARD- NIGHT

As ISABELLE was pulling into the driveway belonging to friends DONALD and HILLARY, who both attend their school, they are sitting down in their backyard near a trailer park watching a basketball game.

ISABELLE is exhausted and grabs them their two melons

SOUND FX: Truck door closing. Truck locking.

DONALD  
(screaming at his TV)  
A foul, come on now! You've fouled him out way to often. Now that's a bull spittin call right there.

HILLARY grabs her beer and starts sipping on it.



HILLARY

Well I mean he couldn't get near traffic and drive through the lanes like Carmelo always does. Drives through the lane, can't make the layup in.

HILLARY

(cont.d)

Oh basketball, I love these mid-October nights where all we can think about is sports. Wish we had a football team or somethin here.

ISABELLE grabs the melons of the truck.

DONALD

(excited)

Hey look our mellons came.

ISABELLE

I heard ya'll talking about basketball?

DONALD

You wanna watch it with us?

ISABELLE

Uh... I'm headin home. It's getting late and everything, and I have more melons to pick.

DONALD

(disgusted)

Aw man! Wait... You're Isa right?

ISABELLE

And I'm joining the basketball team.

HILLARY

Tha fuck? Oaktown has a basketball team now?

ISABELLE

Well... They brought it back from the dead. I don't know when the first game's gonna be, but it should be pretty soon.

HILLARY

Well, we know you because my boyfriend and I have a A-P Calc class together, and I'm joinin the team too.

ISABELLE

With Mr. Gregson?

HILLARY

(excited)

Oh my god! Yes! He's such a perv.  
Don't you sit in the back all quiet  
and did you're brother play  
basketball here?

ISABELLE

When the team was last here, my  
brother was a center, now he's  
lives in Pendelton. Working night  
shift at the jail.

DONALD

Shit! That's a rough job. I worked  
there and it sucked! I got so many  
stories to tell you about that  
place, it's crazy.

ISABELLE

(scrambled)

Well here are your melons guys, and  
I would love to hang out with you  
guys sometime. I have another job  
to go to pretty soon. Can I have  
your number?

DONALD

Absoluetly. Well, under the fact  
that I might attend one of your  
games. You seem like you'll be a  
sweet friend.

HILLARY

Suck you couldn't join us. Hey  
Donnie! Tell her if she wants to  
listen to the game she can.

DONALD

Will do.

ISABELLE

Thanks guys. Sorry to be grouchy, I  
might join you after work.

DONALD

That or you can come to class  
tomorrow and talk to us. I'll see  
you around.

ISABELLE is blushing at DONALD's cute mixed country boy face  
she almost feels attrated to him as she leaves and heads  
back to her next job. Really she is thinking about how she  
loves him, but is confused whether or not he has a  
girlfriend.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON- DAY

LUANNE

Settle down girls in 2A! Settle down!

CARLY

Hey coach?

LUANNE

Coach? Who ya talkin to?

CARLY

Class of '87, was married to A.J. Stinger. He was our principal, and now his daughter's in cell block 4.

LUANNE

(amazed)

Oh! Yeaaaah! You're Carly Patoozen aren't cha?

CARLY

Well, on the quad they call me CO Snooze cause I snoozed all the time.

LUANNE

Even in practice too.

LUANNE and CARLY laugh.

LUANNE

Coach DeMare would go, "Time to start snoozin Carly, cause we're losin!"

CARLY

He used me a scapegoat for all of the times we lost game after game in '85. You were a freshman, and I was a sophomore at the time when recorded a 4-17 record. We lost sectionals that year in the first round of the state tournament.

LUANNE

That was a horrible team. Don't wanna think about it.

CARLY

So, I have a girl on our unit, she's interested in joining your team, but, we need to fight with the state just to even get her over to Oaktown, which can be a pain in the ass, but at the end of the day, I don't know if she'll play.

LUANNE

What? An inmate on my team?

CARLY

Her name's Gumble, Charli Gumble. She's a big girl from the heart of Paoli, but yesterday, she got into a fight on the basketball court during your camp. She could barrel us down faster than an NFL linebacker.

LUANNE

Is she the six foot three, two fifty girl?

CARLY

She plays strong defense. Can set screens faster than any in the league.

LUANNE

I'll consider it, but that's up to her judge, that's not up to me.

CARLY

Oh... I'm getting a call. Fight on boys unit 2B.

CARLY runs along with six other officers to break up a vicious fight, and who else in the carnage than CHARLI's brother ALEX. Officers run to administer aid.

INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM- DAY

TRANSITION FROM MEDIUM TO LONG SHOT OF OFFICE AND THE BASKETBALL COURT AS THE GIRLS ARE WARMING UP OUTSIDE.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Hey Coach, how are you?

LUANNE

Tired for my first day at least. Dealing with a bunch of rowdy kids as I tried to hand out their English homework could pretty well be described as nauseating.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Trust me... Shoals schools are the worst, at least we're their rivals. Those damn RiverRats. They've won The Huntin' Bunny Trophy for years. We haven't claimed it since the early nineteen fifties. Our three rivals are Silver Creek, Vincennes Rivet, and of course Shoals.

LUANNE

Wow!

LUANNE

(cont.d)

Look at them. They seem like a good group of girls. Who knows which one will be crying and which one won't by the end of the day.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Where's Abby?

DELANEY

I heard somethin' about her daughter had the flu really bad. She couldn't get a hold of you two but she got a hold of me. Now she's on the court shooting baskets?

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Poor kid. She sure is Harvard proof, but whoo. She's got a lot of problems to deal with. She would be better off at a school like Wabash or U-S-I. The pressure surely would get to her/

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

As you know Mrs. Carney, our girls are not designed for the W-N-B-A, or even Teri Moran. We're Melon Pickers, farmers of trade, and cole miners. Many of these girls will never work office jobs, if they do, that's at Wabash prison or Dairy Queen. I think girls like Abby need a rest once in a while, but boy does she work hard. I'd make her valedictorian, but after that it's off to trades.

LUANNE

I'm not forcing the girls to play basketball. This is a choice, but I would love to see many of these girls with a college diploma, and hell, with the economy the way it is, there's jobs like Crane, Cook, Baxter, where science is important or business is important. I just want the girls like Abby to have tangible skills, and that's all I care about. But that starts with basketball and teamwork.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Wait a minute, how do you know about Crane Naval Base? My friends work there now.

LUANNE

I'll tell you that my husband was GI-280 at a Naval Base in Pennsylvania and before he died of COVID-19 last year, he was recruited to work as a basketball coach for West Point's Naval Academy. He made a lot of money and we have a lot of memories at Crane. Good memories in fact. I miss him... a lot. He was a good coach, won ten championships at Holy Cross in South Bend.

LUANNE

(cont.d)

This job and these girls are my connection to my husband. That's why I think girls can do more than just work labor and trade. They don't need basketball, but they need teamwork, and these girls are so motivated that I think they'll do a great job under my leadership.

EXT. OUTDOOR HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COURT

A group of about seventeen to twenty girls are all dressed the same, in the gray Oaktown shirt and black shoes. The girls, some who have known each other for a long time are stretching, some are talking to each other, and some are waiting for coach to come in and speak to them. This moment is exhilarating for them because they have waited nearly several years to represent the small town and play basketball again.

FOLLOWING SHOT ON MARK AND LUANNE WALKING OUT TO THE COURT AND TALKING TO THE GIRLS.

MARK

Startin' practice or what? It's four oh two.

MARK

(CONT.D, yelling)

Hey girls! Girls! I want you to meet your new coach Ms. Carney, we shall call her. I apologzie for that delay, Charlie did not inform you guys about her hire, but you might have heard of the news on the paper and such, so here she is now. Take it away coach.

MARK walks away and lets LUANNE do her thing, coach the team.

LUANNE

(stern)

Good afternoon! I'm coach Luanne Carney, call me L.C. Or coach for short. You will need to follow my orders or else we will have problems. Any of you sitting I need you to stand up.

LUANNE

(CONT.D)

Now sit down.

LUANNE

(CONT.D)

Stand up again.

LUANNE

(CONT.D)

Sit down again.

LUANNE

Tie your shoes.

LUANNE

Tuck in your shirts, fix your belts, and adjust any provocative clothing, and... Are you drunk, uh, Ms. Algood? You're on my practice roster.

ALANIA

(slurring her speech)

I'm sorry is this a joke?

LUANNE

(angered)

Huh?

ALANIA

I'm sorry is this a joke I said?

LUANNE

(stern, furious)

C'mon now! Get off of this court before you go in the collesium. Take that jersey off and get off of my court.

REBECCA

She was just laughing at my joke.

LUANNE

(pointing)

Did I tell you to speak? I asked...  
What's your name?

HILLARY

Alania? Let's go.

LUANNE

Hillary? You seem very unusually unprofessional today. From your shoes to your clothing. You do not dress like a damn slut at my practices. You look like a future rape statistic when wearing that shit!

LUANNE

(cont.d)

Get off of my court and find your way out of here because I ain't findin it! Now get out! You're off of the team! Same with you. Now!

ALANIA walks out of the gym, kind of drunk after she had drank to much the day before. She's furious and throws a basketball at LUANNE.

HILLARY

Screw you coach! I'll be back. You need some better players anyway. I'll be back.

INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- DAY

The team sits criss cross on center court as LUANNE stands with her arms crossed telling her team what they need to do to improve this season.

LUANNE

Now, I watched your game film that you all submitted from your AAU years and that sort of stuff, and the very first thing that popped out to me was that you guys could not pass the rock effienctly or effectively. It explains why you turn the ball over so much. It's just a simple three words I need you to remember. Stop.

LUANNE

(yelling)

I said repeat after me, stop.

TEAM

Stop.



LUANNE  
Lock.

TEAM  
Lock.

LUANNE  
Pass.

TEAM  
Pass.

LUANNE  
Another problem you girl faced was just shooting the basketball. Now in the drills I will show you, in order to be a girl, you need percission, and be a damn bitch at the rim. I mean, get on these girls and pass that rock. That is what we need to start on today, but first have any of you ran suicides before?

LUANNE  
(amazed)  
All of you wow!

TAYLOR  
We have waited for you to arrive, so we trained hard all summer. We've waited to have a girls team, so... We're ready.

LUANNE  
(grabs her whistle)  
You better be sure.

SOUND FX: Whistle

LUANNE  
(yelling)  
This is amazing! Let's move girls! Keep movin'! Keep movin'!

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE OF CLIPS

1. The girls run sprints across of the court as LUANNE is yelling at her players to continue sprinting.

(WE KEEP THE SAME CAMERA ANGLE UNTIL SCENE FOUR)

2. The basketball players in a scentic view pass the ball over, and over, and over again, playing hopsotch on the court. It remind you of Bellermine's basketball team how they share the basketball and pass again and again to

struggle the defense. Luanne yells again at her players.

3. We are now hitting the two hour mark, and these girls are now playing a one on one game in which they use their skills that L.C. Has used to help them in a real game scenario.

4. Balls passing and passing again and again, as all of the players do a drill involving layups and three point opportunities.

5. The girls make one final round of suicides up and down the court as Principal Kavanagh is looking on at his team, and so is his assistant principals and secretary JUNE.

DISSOLVE OUT:

LUANNE

(tired)

Alright girls... Gosh... Six hours of practice, and it's only your first day to be on the court again.

REBECCA

We just play to outmatch the boys.

LUANNE

Six hours girls?

LUANNE

(cont.d)

You know, I look at your town and the circumstances you go up against, and you girls just seemed excited, motivated, and tough today. I need this from you every single day. Now, you all can go to the showers, and go home after a stellar day of practice. We still have a lot of work to do especially on defense. Throughout the rest of the season. Have a good night and I will see you all tomorrow. Remember four p.m. Sharp.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTDOOR HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COURT

KATHRYN, Abby's best friend is shooting in baskets at the outdoor court near the school gymnasium. LUANNE is walking back to her car when she hears a basketball going into the hoop.

LUANNE

Hey! How were you able to get in here? The school is closed.

KATHRYN

It's not over until I say its over.  
Having an abusive parent and  
dealing with alcholics made me find  
this as my place to escape.

LUANNE

(sighs)

You're not tired yet?

KATHRYN

Never am.

KATHRYN

(cont.d)

You know we had a good run in  
two-thousand-sixteen.

KATHRYN

(cont.d)

That was the last time we ever went  
to state before the school board  
shut us down. Now we're just  
playing to survive.

LUANNE

(questioned)

Now, I wanted to ask you, do you  
need anything. Like clothes, food,  
that sort of stuff?

KATHRYN

I didn't think you were that sweet  
especially given your resume. I  
hope this is not a cover up of your  
private self.

LUANNE

I saw a woman and it may have been  
your mom looking for you, and she  
asked me how you were doing and I  
was stunned. I am trying my hardest  
to be a better person, but you'll  
see how hard it is to be an adult.  
And no this is not a stunt.

KATHRYN

My mom has enough food stamp money  
for this week, and we seem to be  
good on food right now. Thank you,  
but try giving some money to Abby,  
our star player.

KATHRYN

(cont.d)

You see, I'm her Robin to Batman.  
She shoots and I get the put back.

LUANNE

What happened to her anyway?

KATHRYN

(picks up her basketball,  
sighs)

She just had another miscarriage, and her son has been throwing up a lot. I feel so sorry for her, but she is going through some really adult stuff and she's still a straight A student. As for me, my dad hits my mom at home. I get scared, hide, and then I fight my dad like the twenty times that he got arrested. He was fined every single time, does meth, and heroin. and I don't want to be him anymore.

LUANNE

You girls go through a lot.

KATHRYN

It is only nine of us that have problems, everyone else is okay. I just want to make my grandma proud. She's one-hundred, has an oxygen tank, and is still energetic. I know she'll be happy when I commit to Notre Dame.

LUANNE

(stunned, sighs)

I know Coach Ivey. Great player, Notre Dame of no less. Played against Purdue in two-thousand-one, beat those girls real good.

ABBY

That's what I want.

LUANNE

(saddened)

Hi Abby. Are you thinking of joining our team? Our first game is in thirty days away.

ABBY

These are my kids if you were curious.

LUANNE

They're adorable. How old are they?

ABBY

She's a year old, and my son is about eleven months old. I... Will join the team soon, but not yet.

KATHRYN

Are you serious? You're the star  
player?

A truck pulls beside the parking lot blocking LUANNE's car  
in and making her trapped as the townie tells them some  
shocking news.

TOWNIE #2

(yelling)

Breaking news, Abby Jessica  
Sterling had an abortion! It was  
just announced to the school board,  
and they'll talk a lot about you  
and how ur such a bitch! And to you  
bitch Carney, if you were my wife,  
I'd put you on your knees right  
now, bend you over, and smack the  
shit out of you till ya dead.

TOWNIE #2

You better get you and Abigail back  
to the creamery in Pennsylvania so  
I can rape you. When you leave this  
town, you'll fly out of a cannon  
faster than Mark Patrick picking  
his contestant on the Hoosier  
Millionaire!

TOWNIE #2

You better get the hell out of  
here! Both of ya! I'm sick of it!

EXT. WALMART PARKING LOT- NIGHT

THE CHARACTERS WILL SPEAK IN SPANISH. RAMONA, MARCIA, BRUCE,  
AND SERENA have just left their home in Barcelona to come  
here to Indiana to start a new life. They are waiting to  
hear about their documentation to enter the United States,  
and this is making MARCIA on edge. Living in their car at a  
Walmart parking lot with barely any food to eat, as the  
sisters are creative, and finding a way to make time fly.

RAMONA

(speaking in Spanish)

Mama! Mama!

MARCIA

(speaking Spanish)

What is it honey? I just got some  
good news to share.

RAMONA

Are we U.S. Citizens?

MARCIA

(excited)

Si.

The family is excited and cheerfully claps.

SERENA

That's amazing.

MARCIA

Now it's up to you two to find the strength to get us out. Now I want you at a good college and graduate from high school. I know you can do it. When your father goes to work, we will head to your grandma's and live there for a little while until I get on my feet.

A mellow worker truck is waiting on BRUCE to hop in so they can spend the eight hour journey picking through cornfields to find mellons and corn to put in the bus and transport from city to city. He looks exhausted and is so hopeful for his new found time he can spend in America with his family.

BRUCE

I'm heading to work. I'll see you later.

SERENA

Oh and daddy? Keep this.

BRUCE

A basketball?

SERENA

So you guys can play a game during a break period.

BRUCE

Long were the days of playing in a small league in Barcelona. Now your making it big. I'm proud of you and your sister.

BRUCE boards the bus as his daughters and his wife look on.

SOUND FX: The school bus engine noise.

EXT. LIC'S RESTRAUNT, VINCENNES- DAY

REGINA

Really good ice cream.

ABBY

Yeah... You used to enjoy it when I was a kid. Before the heroin invaded your life.

ABBY

(helping out with her  
kids)

It's okay Amiela... Here. Oh, I'll  
need to change your diaper later,  
you got stinky. Caden, do you love  
the ice cream?

CADEN

Yeah.

REGINA laughs while eating a sundae.

CADEN

I love you mommy.

ABBY

I love the both of you too.

REGINA

Wish your baby daddy would have  
said that to you.

ABBY

He never once said that he loved  
me.

REGINA

Besides I bet this damn school  
board hated you two at first. It  
was so close, down to the wire.  
Like that three overtime game you  
watched with me. Back when I was a  
star player at UConn.

ABBY

(shocked)

Mom! You played for UConn? Like,  
playing for Geno Auriemma?

REGINA

Before that. See before the crack,  
the drugs, and the heroin, I played  
high school basketball here in  
Vincennes. Got an offer to go to  
any college I wanted to, and I knew  
my family over on the east coast.  
That's where Jack Sullivan and  
Casey, your cousins went to school  
at too. They live in  
Massachussetts, you might not know  
who they are.

ABBY

Oh yeah, they lived in Newtown.

REGINA

Well... They got me into basketball. We had greats such as Lusia Harris and Doris Burke to look up to back in the day. So, when you were born I lived in Conneticut for a while, but then moved back with your grandma here in Indiana. Since college hooked me to potential drug dealers, I have not been the same since.

ABBY

So, how did you get messed up?

REGINA

I told you, by drugs and hanging out with men after they raped me too. Your grandpa molested me at three, snorted cocaine at nine, and got pregnant with you as I was playing hoops at Lincoln. Then at UConn, I did well in school, but hung out with the wrong crowd. College is the enemy to a girl's future, and I was kicked off of the UConn team in 1987. Never played basketball since.

ABBY

That explains a lot. Now since you are healing, when will you promise me you can try to get off of drugs today?

REGINA

That is what I am going to tell you. I'm going to North Carolina for treatment.

ABBY

Five times now. Hope this is the last, and please do this for your grandkids and for me. I hope to be a success tale in college.

REGINA

I won't promise I'll get better because you may think I will be stupid, but I will try. I promise.

The two hug each other, and with this one moment of clarity and understanding. This will be the last moment Abby will see her mom for a while.

CUT TO:



INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- DAY

Basketball practice is entering in its fourth day, and today the team seems exhausted. It is just a few days before the season starts, and LUANNE had a rough day in class today. The team seems underperforming.

LUANNE

Practice is worse today than it was five days ago. Is it because of the addition of Abby or what?

ANNA

Coach, we are excited because we just found out we're ranked as the number seven team in the state.

LUANNE

Critics are critics girls! So silly to look at a number and then have a low performance. It just makes me laugh like this is a circus. Let's run that man-to-man, Kathryn you guard on Taylor,

LUANNE

(cont.d)  
stand here.

LUANNE

(cont.d)  
Now I want to see you block her, and mean imagine you are a karate kid, fighting, clawing, to stay alive. That is the man to man. I want you to guard you to guard a player from Jasper to Martinsville.

LUANNE

And on my whistle let's practice some spacing, man-to-man!

SOUND FX: Whistle

LUANNE

(CONT.D)  
Go!

SOUND FX: Squeaky shoes

LUANNE

Excuse me the gym is closed!

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Oh coach, you are always finding a way to kick us out. I mean, you've kicked out the press who want to talk to these girls more.

LUANNE

We don't need distractions now what do you need?

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

I want to introduce you to our new transfer students, Ramona and Serena, they're both international students from Spain, and they played professionally for a small high school league in Barcelona. They wanted to be a part of a bigger club. Find saluitude in America.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Oh and Charli Gumble, has been enrolled to Oaktown. She'll be joinin you tomorrow as well. A ton of newbies, hope you can get used to it.

LUANNE

(shaking hands)

Hey girls. Welcome to America girls. Sounds like you girls play ball? Is there any film?

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

They have a YouTube channel.

LUANNE

Well, can you send me a link to their channel Big K, I need to see how these girls can play. They can practice with us, but I just want to see how good they are before we put them on the court.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Alright will do, I have a meeting to run to, I'll see you wo later. Hey, welcome to Indiana girls.

RAMONA

Thank you. Hello Mrs. Carney.

LUANNE

Grab yourselves a jersey from the rack in the locker room. They are the yellow and white ones from the second closet. I'll give you a shot in the outdoor courts before you come in here.

LUANNE

(yelling)

Hey girls! We got two Spanish players trying out for the team! Let's go outside!

ANNA

Oh my Gosh! Are you Ramona and Serena Popovana from TikTok?

TAYLOR

They are so famous on TikTok... They have three million followers and played for a team in Argentina.

KATHRYN

Your dancing is hilarious. Can we call you Venus instead?

SERENA

Sure. I'm fine being Oaktown's Venus Williams.

RAMONA

I'll be Serena.

LUANNE

Alright girls, hey new girls let's go outside! Hey Delaney!

DELANEY

Yes coach?

LUANNE

Tell the girls that I'll be back in a second.

EXT. OUTDOOR HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COURT

LUANNE

I need you to understand that we have three important formulas as a group. One is to pass, lock the ball, and shoot. Show me what you can do.

SCENES in sequence

LUANNE

Very nice handles!

LUANNE

Stay on her! Move your feet! Move your feet!

LUANNE

(stunned)

Have you two played pro before?

SERENA

In Spain we played for our national team. Why?

LUANNE

Your motion to the basket is close to Sue Bird level. And you, Venus, you could be our best defender on this team. You're a big girl for five foot nine, I need you now more than ever. And, I think we have two more spots left for you two to fill, we have one more girl coming in tomorrow, so... You're on the team. Congratulations.

SERENA

Thank you coach.

LUANNE

Now let's get back to practice.

INT. DINER- DAY

Hillary, Donald, and Isabelle sit at a diner munching on burgers and food. Hillary seems distraught as she is typing an email onto her phone waiting for a response. Isabelle seems worried.

ISABELLE

What's wrong Hillary? You've seemed down since you got cut.

HILLARY

Coach says I'm not cut anymore and has forgiven me for my actions. She said, I need to be more mature before I dress tomorrow.

DONALD

It's just a basketball team. You've tried playin from elementary school at Franklin on and it's never worked out for you. I know you too well to know that I think you've failed at basketball many times.

HILLARY

No I haven't. I have a lisp, and no coach wanted me to play. I just want to be better than Abby. She's a star, I watch your practices, but when she comes she's barely there.

ISABELLE

She has a kid. Two with one more on the way.

HILLARY

I have a child too.

DONALD

Says who? Are you pregnant?

HILLARY

You know Travis the firefighter?

DONALD

He lived with us. He's your baby's dad?

HILLARY

Has custody of him. That's why when you see me or Tracy runaway it's because we have kids and dads too.

DONALD

That explains a lot.

DONALD

(cont.d)

Look I was in a love hate relationship with basketball too, but why I moved you in was because I wanted you to feel safe, that was it, I didn't know about the kid though. Might have to set some stricter boundaries.

DONALD

I'm kinda mad, but... I can hold it in.

ISABELLE

Were you two a couple a one time?

HILLARY

Somewhat, but, no. We've been friends for a while.

DONALD

(frusterated)

I'm so pissed off at you Hillary. You never told me that you had a kid. I want Isa to live with me, I like her, but I was once your boyfriend, and this is how you treat me?! I'm sorry, but you can still stay, but please have the kid with you and not with some damn firefighter.

DONALD

Sorry I need a minute.

HILLARY  
 (crying)  
 I'm such a fuck up.

INT. LUANNE'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

LUANNE is sitting in her living room watching highlights of her first team that she is going to face, alongside Russ, Delaney, and Jeane.

JEANE  
 Now this team looks strong.

LUANNE  
 I read on the paper today that she is being recruited by Stanford, Cal, and Evansville, so... To say she's good is an understatement.

DELANEY  
 She was top ten in defense last year. She's on track to break one of Ali Patberg's records.

JEANE  
 What about theat Sullivan girl or whatever?

LUANNE  
 I heard...(interupted)

LUANNE  
 Sorry, I have to take this call.  
 Hello?

LUANNE  
 (on the phone)  
 Hey Matt? How are you?

CUTS BACK AND FORTH FROM LUANNE'S LIVING ROOM TO A DORMATORY AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY.

INT. DORM ROOM- NIGHT

MATT  
 What?

CUT BACK TO:

INT. LUANNE'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

LUANNE  
 Have you ever heard of Ramona and Serena Papavoa?

CUT BACK TO:

MATT

My girlfriend loves them. They're both Freshman and superstars online.

We will transition to and from LUANNE and MATT until "Thanks son."

LUANNE

I say that because well... We're crunch time on the season, and I had no idea they were that famous online. Just wanted to ask since your social media savvy.

LUANNE

Seems unusual, but I will admit. We could win a state championship in my first year coaching high school basketball.

MATT

Disgracefully after you got fired from Hershey College, then you had the flipout at Baylor.

LUANNE

It makes me regret not coaching well in college, but I am really happy about this team. We fixed our screw ups on defense, and now these two girls will really make our school feel proud tomorrow at the pep rally.

MATT

I'm not going to the pep rally because I have four exams to do tomorrow. It's midterms week before fall break.

LUANNE

Oh... Sorry I have been so caught up in this team and everything I haven't been paying attention to you.

MATT

Actually... So far you have changed and you seem less grouchy. I'm inviting you to watch the Hoosiers women's team play, maybe somebody needs these tickets.

MATT

Have you announced the schedule yet?

LUANNE

I have, it's online and I told the press.

MATT

Well, my girlfriend will be in the crowd. She'll be Facetiming me the whole time. I wish you well.

LUANNE

Thanks son.

LUANNE hangs up the phone and walks back to her couch joining the other coaches in a film session.

INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- DAY

SOUND EFFECT: Crowd cheering

SONG CUE: Marching Band Music (Composed fight song)

The crowd filled with students, parents, and the community are joined in welcome the newest members of their school's basketball team. The excitement is in the air, and the fans cannot wait to see who will play basketball for them next season.

JASON UTAH

(over the microphone,  
yelling VO)

Oaktown High School, please welcome the roster for the 2022-23 Oaktown High School Yellow Jackets!

JASON UTAH

(cont.d)

At guard, a five feet seven inch Soph-o-more, number zero! Tracy Norman!

JASON UTAH

(VO, CONT.D)

At forward, a six inch Junior, number four, Rebecca Sloan!

JASON UTAH

(VO, CONT.D)

At guard, a five foot seven inch Freshman, transferring from Spain, number THIRTY-TWO, Ramona Clinton-Papova.

JASON UTAH

At Center, a six-foot-eleven inch Senior, number FIFTY-FIVE, Rita Aberdale.



## CHEERLEADERS

Number fifty-five, let's go  
Jackets!

## JASON UTAH

And now, introducing the rest of  
our girls for this year's Oaktown  
High School Yellow Jackets!

## JASON UTAH

(VO)

At guard, a five foot four inch  
Junior, number five Kathryn  
Sievers!

## JASON UTAH

At forward, a six foot Senior,  
number ten, Isabelle Algood!

## CROWD

(repeating, chanting)

Where is Abby?

## LUANNE

(on the microphone)

Ladies and gentlemen, may I excuse  
your for a second.

## LUANNE

We're not here to give praise on  
the heels of our star player. We  
have a team right here that is  
ready to go and tackle any of their  
opponents. They are willing to  
work, scrafice, and give it all on  
the line every night! No matter  
what happens on the court or off of  
it. These young women, stand firm  
as believers, optimists, and most  
importantly, will try to win the  
hearts of you. Forget about star  
players, these are your stars.  
These girls will be the girls you  
cheer for every night. Have I made  
myself clear?

## LUANNE

(CONT.D, laughing)

C'mon guys, I'm jokin around.

## ABBY

Guess who's baaaaaaaaaack!

The crowd rises to their feet, even the seniors who are in attendance for the celebration of sport and community scream, hollar, and begin wondering where she is at. The atmosphere changes as girls from elementary schools across Oaktown scream like Harry Styles has just walked into the room. The crowd roars in excitement.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

At forward, a six foot two inch  
Senior, the pride and joy of your  
Melon Pickers, number fifteen  
ABBBBBY STEEERRRRRLING!

SONG CUE: Still Dre by Dr. Dree instrumental

CROWD

(chanting)

Abby! Abby! Abby! Abby!

ABBY stands by the rest of her team, bopping out to her favorite songs as this team is excited, this community is excited, and the fan base is jumping up and down to the team's delight. This should be a hell of a season.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. MELON PATCH FARM- DAY

TRACY

Hey Isa my girl. Got a big game tomorrow.

GERRY

Whoo go girls. Hope you lose.

TRACY

Dad, quick acting like a drunk in here.

GERRY

Aaah! Shit! I urinated on the floor.

ISABELLE

Sir, Imma have to ask you to leave.

GERRY

You're shittin me huh?

TRACY

That's my teammate and that's my friend.

TRACY

He's done this too often it's crazy.

GERRY

Well hell. I'm waitin out here.

TRACY

I got off work early today. Grabbed me a fish from the Stop n Sea in Montgomery.

ISABELLE

Coach is scared about you tomorrow,  
and your ashamtic conditions and  
everything.

TRACY

Oh... I'm ready. Are you?

ISABELLE

Have an english and a math test  
tomorrow but after that... Yes, I'm  
ready for tomorrow.

TRACY

At a girl. Now, I would like some  
apples, two bananas, and some  
fruit.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON- NIGHT

CHARLI

Hey coach!

LUANNE

Hey Charli, why are you on the  
bench on a lot? Seems like you  
don't wanna interact.

CHARLI

My mother died in prison, and I've  
been processing everything. I wanna  
work on my handles a little better.

LUANNE

How's your third week goin and how  
are them grades?

CHARLI

I have three As and an F in French.  
For my other blocked schedule  
courses, I have two Cs and a B.

LUANNE

That's okay, but not up to academic  
standards to play in our first  
game. You might need to start on  
the bench for a little bit.

CHARLI

The bench?! Bitch! I know I ain't  
no bench player! I was burnt at 12,  
and stomped on in prison. Raped and  
treated like trash. You just want  
your star white bitch named Abby to  
block the defense don't you?

LUANNE

(stern)

First of all respect me, and if I hear a cuss word come out your mouth again, I will do everything to punish you, second, in life, everyone starts on the bench, no matter if it's the bottom of the totum poll or down in stocks, everyone is on the bench. Everyone starts as an intern and then has a roll to play.

LUANNE

Life ain't pretty after prison Ms. Gumble. \$250,000 of my money could be gone in the blink of an eye, nothin's guranteed. Nothing... Is guaranteed. After getting a degree or getting out of prison, you stay in here until God gives you a calling to move or to drop dead.

LUANNE

It's a cruel world after all.

CHARLI

That makes sense.

LUANNE

I wanna see you in school tomorrow at 4 a.m. Sharp! For shoot arounds, then tomorrow is our first game against my alma mater. See ya there.

INT. LOCKER ROOM- NIGHT

TEXT FADES IN:

The First Game

Oaktown vs. Vincennes Rivet

TEXT FADE OUT

DELANEY is taping up Abby's left calf,

DELANEY

Does this hurt?

ABBY

No. I'm good. Thanks though.

ANNA and RITA are changing into their jerseys as they look at each other on their way back to the lockers.

RITA

Geez! These jerseys are better than the ones we last wore.

ANNA

Better than my AAU jerseys.

LUANNE

(stern)

Alright girls! Whose ready?

LUANNE

(CONT.D)

All of you should be ready. We've had thirty days to prepare this team, and now just do the gameplan that I instructed. Pass the rock, fly at the glass, tear up the boards.

LUANNE

(yelling)

This is your time! This is your moment! And when one of you ever complains, you better sit down! Alright! Let's do this thing!

The team claps their way out of the locker room as ABBY sits behind them.

ANNA

(yelling and clapping)

Yes Siiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiir!

LUANNE

I had a baby when I was fifteen that I had almost aborted. Raped by my coach, I didn't know what to do. You did the right thing Abby. Your mom will be here too, and your kids. What can you show them? Pride, power, and sexiness. Whenever you're ready.

ABBY

I'm ready.

LUANNE walks out of the locker room, listening to the roar of the medium size crowd, the excitement of the pep band, the cheerleaders, and the spectators. She takes a sigh before walking out of the lockerroom doors.

LUANNE

(sighs)

Welcome to Indiana girls high school basketball Mrs. Carney.

SOUND FX: Open door, small crowd cheering, band playing music, sports ambience.

A very small crowd of about 100 people and mostly male students, the band, parents, and some cheerleaders are at this game.

LUANNE

This is it for a rivalry game? How pitiful.

JEANE

People don't really care bout women's basketball till later in the year.

LUANNE

We'd pack the gym at Baylor.

JEANE

Well this ain't Baylor, sorry. Now let's go coach.

LUANNE

Alright.

DON YANKEE

(V.O.)

Good evening and welcome to Kavanagh Arena on the Oaktown High School campus as a ruckus crowd of two hundred people are here to watch our new coach Luanne Carney, a former coach of the NCAA Division three conference Hershey Cookies, try to cook up a recipe for a winning team this year. The Jackets will face a tough opponent in last year's State champions and arch rivals, Vincennes Rivet. We should have a good one in store here tonight as we welcome you to Hoosier Hysteria on Blazer NINETY-ONE-ONE W-V-U-B. We'll be right back after these words from our sponsors.

The team huddles around their bench, and the Pickers are excited, hungry for victory.

LUANNE

(yelling in the huddle)

Attack the rim! Attack the basket!  
And protect that baby good tonight!  
We don't need any made shots, just  
do what you need to do to win this  
game!

ABBY

Alright! Pickers on three, one,  
two, three!

TEAM  
 (in unicine)  
 Scoop, scoop, pickers!

MONTAGE OF CLIPS:

1. The two teams collect their thoughts and step onto the court.
2. Ref throwing the ball in the air. The Melon Pickers get the possession. The scene is 100% improvised to a real game of basketball, so try to grab some shots that could be shot in a real game.
3. SHOT ON PLAYERS PLAYING #1
4. SHOT ON THE OAKTOWN CROWD CHANTING #1
5. SHOT ON KATHRYN GUARDING ON THE TOP PLAYER IN THE STATE #1
6. SHOT ON COACH CARNEY SITTING ON THE BENCH YELLING AT HER GIRLS.

LUANNE  
 Come on! Attack the rock!

LUANNE  
 (short)  
 Shit! You don't throw the ball to an open man Sax! Where's the defense?

7. SHOT ON VINCENNES RIVET PLAYER SCORING

SWITCHES BACK AND FORTH

8. SCOREBOARD: Oaktown 12, AWAY 21 4:05, first quarter
9. SHOT OF OAKTOWN TAKING ANOTHER ADVANTAGE TO THE BASKET AND SCORING.

ERIN  
 (VO)  
 And that is what I am talking about, Abby Sterling is a fist of might. She can really attack those boards.

10. SHOT OF RIVET PLAYING A DEFENSE AND THE REFS CALLING KATHRYN ON A CHARGE.

LUANNE throws her water bottle in frusteration.

LUANNE  
 (yelling at the ref)  
 This is bullshit!

JEANE

Hey coach! Sit down!

11. SCOREBOARD, Oaktown 42, AWAY 61

12. ANNA passes the ball to RITA who slams the ball down with authority.

13. The matchup is nearing its end as Vincennes Rivet wins and celebrates, stomping and chanting like Baker Mayfield at the Oklahoma/Ohio State game which nearly starts a fight. Rivet beats Oaktown 65-60.

INT. LOCKER ROOM- NIGHT

ANNA

Dang it Kathryn! I told you not to hit the three ball whenever you are open like that! Pass it to me! You just let the seconds tick down like that!

KATHRYN

It wasn't my fault!

ANNA

Oh yes it was! You can't pass melons for nothing! Now you can't pass me the ball? How stupid are you

RITA

Hey Kathryn, Anna! Shut up! It's your fault we lost anyway!

LUANNE

(yells loud, angered)  
You ladies shut up right now!

LUANNE

(furious)  
Women like us sometimes do not know how to shut our mouths, but in those moments where we are down by four and have to climb back, I don't need complainers! Or breakers!

KATHRYN

But... I tried to pass the  
(interrupted).

LUANNE

(yells louder)  
Did I tell you to speak?! Now shut up! You all do what I say! Not what's on your agenda, and you respect me with all of the

(MORE)



LUANNE (cont'd)  
 authority without any discretion!  
 I need one hundred percent of the  
 authority at all times without any  
 disagreements! This is my team not  
 yours!

LUANNE  
 (calm)  
 Alright girls, we have another game  
 at Crown Point in the morning.  
 Let's think ahead to that.

INT. CROWN POINT HIGH GYMNASIUM, DAY

TEXT APPEARS

Oaktown 67 v. Crown Point 30

The CROWN POINT PLAYER #1 gets up angrily from the bench flexing on REBECCA who does not take this too kindly, and does not end up swinging back.

CROWN POINT PLAYER #1  
 Don't foul me you cracker ass  
 mutherfucker! Yo, white ass bit  
 (interrupted).

REF #1  
 Technical foul on number 34 in  
 white, technical foul on black, 13.

REBECCA  
 Shut up! What did you call me?

REF #2  
 (yelling)  
 Hey! Hey! Now break it up!

CHARLI  
 I'm gonna knock yo ass out.

CROWN POINT PLAYER #1  
 Ooh, we got a white hood rat in  
 Gary. Square up bitch or I'll teach  
 your cracker ass drug lord a  
 lesson.

The two teams get into a scrummage against each other as two girls fight and the rest of the coaches try to intervene.

LUANNE  
 Oh shit! Shit! Shit! Shit!

MALE SPECTATOR #1  
 Look at those girls fighting!

MALE SPECTATOR #2  
 World Star!

MEDIUM SHOT: CROWN POINT throwing punches

CROWN POINT OFFICER  
(yelling)  
Okay ma'am, get off of the court.

LUANNE  
(shook up)  
But I'm the coach of the Oaktown girls.

CROWN POINT OFFICER  
Get your team off of the court. You could be arrested if you don't get off of this court ma'am or I will slap cuffs and put you in the Lake County Jail for interference.

LUANNE  
Well I have money for a bail bondsman.

CROWN POINT A.D.  
Hey, don't charge her with anything, she is just helping her team get back into the locker room. Don't worry, I got it.

LUANNE  
(Yelling)  
Thank you... C'mon girls, to LOCKER ROOM NOW! Girls now!

CROWN POINT OFFICER  
Hope I don't see that white bitch on a basketball court ever again. I mean, she's kinda hot anyway.

The girls walk back into the locker room to cool down. The game was called a forfeit by CROWN POINT who lost 61-30.

INT. MOTHER BEARS PIZZA, INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON- DAY

The snow is falling down in Bloomington as MATT, LUANNE's son and LUANNE are sitting at the Mother Bears pizza to chat after LUANNE has been coaching her team, and she hasn't had the chance to follow up with her son. The two get pizza and breadsticks in which they share together.

LUANNE  
So, I bet you heard about us last night?

MATT  
The big fight? The fact you guys are now two and oh going into conference play, and aren't you guys going to play Linton next week?

LUANNE

Yeah. Linton... Stockten?

MATT

Well... I will not go to a game again as long as you are more inclusive into my life then I will accept you.

LUANNE

What do you mean?

MATT

Look! Mom, I don't care about this team, or your rehabilitation. You're only here because nobody could fire you. That's why your down two hours south from me, and you never gave me any sort of love as a kid, for me or my sister. You drove her out of basketball.

LUANNE

It's not me that has changed, it's been the team. This team is saving my life.

MATT

And I've noticed that you have been more humble. Wish you were like that when I was a kid.

LUANNE

What should I do to pay you back?  
What should I change?

MATT

I think you need to change your relationship with my sisters, and your aunt. Then you need to win a state championship, and the more you heal from your opioid addiction that we had to gruesomely go battle in Texas, the more you can get back to Christ.

LUANNE

Don't you think I am getting better?

MATT

(upset)

I think... try a little harder to be in my life before you talk to me again. I have been upset since dad died from his overdose five years ago. So, please! Before you talk to me, give me a sense of purpose to make me love my mom again.

LUANNE

I am so sorry. I was really messed up at the time, and your father was once a prestigious doctor. Then I had no idea what happened after he went to Vietnam. I promised myself that I never would do this again. No more meth, just love for my team.

MATT

Your team is to take care of us first.

LUANNE

Look I screwed up.

MATT

I'm done with this conversation. I have work in thirty minutes which means sitting at Assembly Hall and watching some real ballplayers who love their coach. Bye mom. I hate you, and hope you get better.

Matt walks away from the table and grabs a to go box upfront.

LUANNE is spiralling into a dwindling depression. Anxiety spills over her body like a Gatorade bath. Her world become inclosed just like her brain, as she flashes back, remembering her old, miserable self when she smoked cigarettes and was always drunk as coach of the Baylor Bears.

FADE OUT

INT. TD GARDEN IN BOSTON, 2006 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP-NIGHT

FADE IN:

TEXT APPEARS

2006 NCAA Women's National Championship

Baylor v. UCLA

TEXT FADE OUT

LUANNE looks in her thirties, not on drugs, her husband was alive and doing well, but rittled with cancer and his mom and dad, both narcissists are still alive watching her team play in the national championship game. Overall there is a lot of pain in this gym tonight.

THE FOOTAGE CAN BE SHOT WITH A RETRO CAMERA.

ESPN ANNOUNCER

(voiceover)

And for Coach LuAnne Carney, her career is diminishing, and tonight is a perfect example of what has been a rough road to get back to the championship game after winning back to back titles the last three years.

ESPN ANNOUNCER #2

(VO)

Yeah, this is a sad scene to see here in Boston tonight. For such a respected coach in a respected program, there are no words I have to say for this coach, who has been uptight throughout this blowout of a game.

LUANNE 2006

Sit your ass down Susanne!

LUANNE 2006

(yelling)

Allie, you pathetic dirt trap, you suck at the rim you pathetic shitload! Callie, you're in.

ESPN ANNOUNCER

(VO)

And a technical foul has been called on Coach Carney, could this be her last game as the coach of the Bears.

ESPN ANNOUNCER #2

She better not get thrown out.

LUANNE 2006 is shaking as the modern day LUANNE is trying to stop her former self from getting frusterated and losing her job, and her cool.

LUANNE 2006

Look you dumbass!

LUANNE

Stop!

LUANNE 2006

I need a fuckin' cigarette!

ESPN ANNOUNCER #2

(VO)

She's smoking a cigarette on the court, and she will get a technical foul?! I have no idea what she is doing?

## ESPN ANNOUNCER

Now many people have questioned her mental state these last few years. We know that she has lost her father, and has had a reported drug use which got her suspended in 2003. Now, she's heading out of the locker room as her team could lose in the Final Four against Duke.

SCENES CUT BACK AND FORTH TO:

1. LUANNE in a dark space, hiding and tearing up
2. CUTS to LUANNE 2006 when she talked to the media, beating her belt buckle and yelling at the press who witness her drunken circus.
3. LUANNE relives her days in rehab as she tries to recover from her alcohol issue.
4. LUANNE talks to her mom, who had passed away in 2017 from Alzheimer's as she talks to her daughter.

## GIANNA

(in spirit)

Oh my poor Luey. You have the mind of a queen, and a heart like your father. You have changed, but change starts with doing what you love, and improving your life. Do this for more than just me. You can give girls hope through the eyes of abuse. I know you're tougher than this. You can do this.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, LUANNE'S HOUSE- NIGHT

The girls gather around the small living room to convene in the main living room to gather around for one of the living spaces at her home, which is wider than her main living room, and the girls congregate until LUANNE comes into the room and talks to them.

## TRACY

Why are we here at coach's house?

## ABBY

I like her living room, I wished I could live here.

## TRACY

She seems rich.

## ABBY

Middle class maybe.

JEANE

Alright girls. Coach will be here in a few minutes.

ABBY

By the way, how is your daughter doing?

JEANE

She loves Ball State, she'll be on the basketball team, she's just a walk on but now she's thinking of coaching for us. Thanks for asking, how are your kids?

ABBY

She's fine.

LUANNE walks into the room with a radio and a stack of papers, she is shaking and doesn't know what to say or do, but just speak to the heart.

LUANNE

You wanna know what happened this week? I realized that I can be a screw up sometimes. When I was a college student, I drank too much at Baylor and still got a coaching job five years later. I screwed up in my life, and I see in your community that there are a lot of parents who can't parent, girls that can't be girls because of their fathers, and I have never once seen more meth labs in my life. But I do see you all succeeding.

LUANNE

(CONT.D)

All I ask for is that you improve on your grades, and yourself like me. Think of a future for yourself and your family. Taking care of your family means being here to succeed in academics and athletics. My philosophy is academics first then athletics, then family.

ALANIA

Right before the season starts? Why are we thinking about college when we have to think of surviving first? You don't get what we stand for!

LUANNE

It's not about college, it's about success. That's why I have called on this meeting tonight. Whether college is an option or not. Now, we have a game on Tuesday, and I am doing this so you can be motivated, and you can read these books at anytime.

RITA

Thank you coach. Can we start practice now?

LUANNE

Sure. I just feel like you all have not been that motivated in your academics. Some of you had C's and one of you had an F in English? Who has an F is English? But our practice tonight is all about being motivated to study, so for the next two days, I want you all to study before midterms. Let's move it girls.

RITA

What was that meeting about?

ABBY

I don't know poor grades I guess? You guys need to work hard, Ramona, I saw you look through your sister's worksheet again. Don't do that alright?!

RAMONA

So you called this meeting?

SERENA

I did too. We are just failing as a team and we need to climb back up to get to the top again.

RITA

The top of what, losing a game? Who cares, we have bigger fish to fry.

INT. LAKE HOUSE PORCH, WEST BOGGS LAKE- DAY

RITA

Hey Gloria? Gloria Aberdale? It's time for dinner? We made burgers?

GLORIA

What is a burger?

RITA

What?



GLORIA

You heard me correctly, what is a burger?

RITA

A meat and two sides, come on Gloria!

GLORIA

Yeah, I'm coming in as long as you make those free throws and pass your test.

RITA

We have been dealing with other things, such as my mom passing away and dad going off to jail, now I'm the one having to help you, grandpa, and my sisters and brothers. I deal with crap everyday, and I do not handle it well. My dad did a better job than I did.

GLORIA

Where is my burger?

RITA

Here you go. You're welcome.

RITA

And this one is for Andrew.

RITA

(cont.d)

And this one is for Kade.

RITA

And this one is for Michael, what a male whore.

LAVINA

I heard about your breakups, I'm sorry, you need some help?

RITA

You never talk to me and now you want to help?

LAVINA

Sure. What do I need to do?

RITA

Can you go inside and tell my grandma to eat this burger before it goes stale. Then I have the dishes and other stuff I'll make you do. You have to stay committed to this.

LAVINA

I am.

RITA

But not on the three point line.  
C'mon let's go.

EXT. TRAILER PARK BEDROOM- DAY

ISABELLE

Hey.

HILLARY

(enthusatic but tired)

Hey Trace. Did you happen to know  
where Donald is?

ISABELLE

Uh... No? Why?

HILLARY

Oh I was just curious. I need help  
reading this Great Gatsby shit.

ISABELLE

Oh that's easy. He got shot in the  
end, and explains the passion  
between rich and poor. You might  
not know this about me, but I am a  
straight A student. I applied to go  
to school at Northwestern.

HILLARY

(laughing, then gets  
calm)

How is this easy? This is harder  
than you making a jumpshot. You are  
a beacon of light for this  
community, all of you are. I have  
not known you a lot, but you are  
special. You and Abby.

ISABELLE

Thanks. I don't like talking to  
much about it.

ISABELLE

(cont.d)

I came here because I want to move  
in with you.

HILLARY

We have an extra bedroom, but it's  
filled with Donald's crack pipes.

ISABELLE

Crack pipes?

HILLARY

He's comin off of a addiction.  
Trust me, since we moved in here  
about two years ago, because him  
and I are friends, and we have  
known each other for a while, we  
never dated or anything, but we ran  
away from home at 13 and now we  
live here away from our parents. In  
an abanonded one bedroom trailer.  
The definition of white trash.

HILLARY

This community has destroyed me. I  
was never a junkie until I went to  
Barr Reeve. I hope you go to  
Chicago or wherever and get out of  
this hell hole, but if you want to  
live here for now, Donald and I are  
okay with that. We need someone to  
push us or it's back to the  
cocaine.

ISABELLE

Hey... I... Uh... If you need help  
sure. I will do anything for a  
friend.

HILLARY hugs ISABELLE and what they do from the night on is  
listen to the radio, and dance.

INT. BLAZER 91.1 FM- WVUB STUDIO- DAY

SONG CUE ENDING OF SONG: "Blitzkrieg Bop" the Ramones

SONG CUE BEGINS: WVUB Jingle (:15 seconds)

REBECCA CLARK

Blazer NIENTY-ONE-ONE W-V-U-B, I am  
Rebecca Clark and our time is four  
p.m., joining us in the studio  
today is a legendary coach with a  
firey temper that costed her a job  
at Baylor University in Texas and  
Hershey College in Pennsylvania.  
However, she had an undefeated  
record of twenty-two and oh in  
TWO-THOUSAND-THIRTEEN, and she has  
arrived at Oaktown High School to  
lead her team to a state  
championship. So everyone, to the  
studio welcome Coach LuAnne Carney,  
hello Ms. Carney it is so nice to  
see you.

LUANNE

Great to be back here on another  
radio show, the first one I have  
been on in five years, or so...

REBECCA CLARK

Yep. So, your team has been on a firing start before the start of the Christmas season. Your team is seven and one as we speak, and you are set to play the Washington Hatchets on Tuesday, November 20th in a pivotal matchup to decide the seeding for the V-U Trailblazer Tournament. What do you think has been your strategy going into an important game like this?

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA- DAY

LUANNE

(over the radio)

Well, you know, our girls are strong, not academically as I have seen from them recently, I mean... They have a lot going on, but our girls started off five and one when the season kicked off, but our girls have a strong athletic work ethic. My star player, Abby Sterling is a monster at the rim, but she needs to put in the effort to come to class and work. On the court she is a firing rod. As for our other girls, I can just see a glimmer of hope in their Appalachian hearts, it's just getting them in tuned which is the only problem I have struggled with.

TAYLOR

I don't know why she thinks we're not smart?

ABBY

Maybe she doesn't believe in us. Which is what I have thought all along. Here baby, you need a passaphire? You're a cutie. Yes, you are.

REBECCA CLARK

(VO)

What about your team has been powerful throughout the season?

LUANNE

(VO)

The fact my girls are not in jail is a miracle because this community of Oaktown, besides our mellon

(MORE)

LUANNE (cont'd)

workers have had it very tough. Society has grabbed them by the horns you know, and... If you watch the IU women play they have heart like our girls, and they have dreams like our team. To make it out and do something with their lives. The goal for them is to remember the phrase, character work, team work, home work. That's what builds a band of misfits and makes them become young girls.

RAMONA

You were born to be a mother.

ABBY

It's in my DNA I guess. See when I got pregnant, the guy who loved me left, now I just have to wait for my second boyfriend to come back from the Navy bootcamp. Then we can move out of here.

TAYLOR

Well why aren't you encouraging us more to become a team, not just be a bunch of girls from a small town who don't know anything?

ABBY

Look... I don't want to sound like a jerk, but all of us are struggling...

RAMONA

Stop it! You don't play like a captian. You just let us run the show.

TAYLOR

Yeah, you have given me the motivation these last three years, but I don't know why coach named you captain.

ABBY

Why can't coach do it? Look, I have to go, I have class at Vincennes in an hour.

TAYLOR

Walking away from us? Come on now.

ABBY

(short)

I'm doin all I can. I'm just a single mom with kids to raise. I thought your child's born, so you need to understand. Now I have to go, not to be rude.

ABBY walks away from the group, not in disgust, but in exhaustion from trying to motivate the team, and work towards a common goal.

INT. MAIN GYMNAIUSM- NIGHT

SCOREBOARD: Oaktown 60 AWAY 61

TEXT APPEARS

Bloomington North (6-0) v. Oaktown (5-1)

LUANNE

Alright girls, three point nine left. We'll run the Gate-THREE, I need Abby to have the last shot, but first I need Tracy on number three, pass it to Lavina and pass the rock to Alania, then cross court it to Abby, understood!

REGINA

Get me another drink will ya?

PATRON #1

What do you want?

REGINA

A Sprite please? Maybe some popcorn too.

JEANE

Hi Regina. Long time no see. Let's go girls!

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And now the girls are back onto the court. SIXTY-ONE, SIXTY as the Bloomington North Cougars are coming into Oaktown with seconds left on the clock. Abby in a surprising move is going to inbound for the Jackets, can they win their third straight game this year?

JASON UTAH

(voiceover, CONT.D)

Abby over to Norman, two seconds left...

JASON UTAH

(cont.d)

One more second as Abby  
Sterliiiiing shots! No! Bloomington  
North comes to Kavanagh Arena and  
has beaten the Oaktown Pickers.  
They will go five and two on the  
season, as they meet Hamilton  
Central on Sunday, November  
TWENTIETH. Then off to Washington  
for the VU Tourney.

EXT. MCKINNELLY'S PARKING LOT- NIGHT

REGINA

Hey your daughter was good for me.

ABBY

You... Actually came to my  
basketball game. This is your first  
one.

REGINA

You girls faught hard. You're  
better than I think. I just got out  
of rehab, as you know, and I  
haven't been using heroin for a  
month now, and (interupted).

BRAD

Hey, are you Abby Sterling?

ABBY

Yeah, why?

BRAD

You were amazing on the court  
tonight. My dad's a recruiting  
agent at Indiana University. He  
wanted to meet you sometime. I'm  
Brad Parks, I'm a Sophomore here at  
Oaktown.

ABBY

Are you in choir?

BRAD

I'm in band. I play the saxophone.

ABBY

Cool... Um...

REGINA

You seem mature. I'm Regina, Abby's  
mom. She just had a wail of a game.  
If you want to date my daughter,  
you better come through me first.  
This isn't a dating party here, she  
just lost a game. Now let her be.

ABBY  
(embarrassed)  
This is embarrassing.

BRAD  
You want to come with me and Jeff  
to Washington? I heard they have a  
cool park over there.

ABBY  
No thanks. Here's my number. Tell  
your dad I said hi, and that I am  
interested in looking at IU. In  
truth, West Point denied my  
admission so I'm looking for  
another school to attend.

BRAD  
Well... I hope you have a good  
night. I'll see you soon.

REGINA  
But anyways.

INT. CLASSROOM- DAY

LUANNE  
Do any of you happen to know when  
Mitch Albom had the instinct to  
help his elderly college  
professor?

LUANNE  
Yes... Abigail, you're actually in  
class today.

ABBY  
How sweet... uh... Albom was  
trapped in his own narcissism, and  
he wanted to get out of his life  
working for a crummy newspaper from  
a crummy city, and he met his  
professor to learn a few life  
lessons.

BRAD  
Dang.

LUANNE  
Smart. But, why do you think he  
wanted to go back?

ABBY  
To learn a little more about  
himself. It describes our lives  
like a circle. It's about finding  
the dot, in success and learning,  
in the middle.



LUANNE

I wished you were in class more.  
 Alright guys, tomorrow we will have  
 a lecture on the study of affection  
 in story writing. Then remember you  
 have a short story review due on  
 Thursday.

SOUND FX: Bell Ringing

LUANNE

Have a good one.

LUANNE

May I speak to you Abby?

ABBY

Sure coach. What is it?

LUANNE

(personal, touchy  
 feeling, like a mother)

Is everything okay?

ABBY

Well... My daughter has been  
 very... Sick. She easily has strep  
 throat, and with my mom the way she  
 is, I feel like it has been  
 difficult to manage that and  
 school. I'm sorry I could not make  
 it to practice these last four  
 days.

LUANNE

Okay... Take practice off if you  
 need to, but I am not putting up  
 with you skipping class again. This  
 school is counting on you to be  
 successful. I mean, you have  
 everything going for you, and...

ABBY

(mad)

Coach, thank you, I have to go.

LUANNE

Are you seriously walking away on  
 me?! You're the captian not an  
 instagator.

Abby slams the door in LUANNE's classroom

INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- DAY

ISABELLE

Where's Abby?

ALANIA

Please don't tell the press, but she's got a boyfriend.

RITA

Is that why she is skipping practice after practice?

ALANIA

Must be hard having a baby at EIGHTEEN?

ISABELLE

You know Natalie Tridwell? She is also a teenage mother. She was sixteen when she had her baby.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

You know, I have needed to say this, but since our school was a Catholic institution, Abby is sinning against God. And you girls have to deal with her pathetic bullshit, and I am sorry you have to deal with this. No leader should act the way Abby has. Having a kid one minute on a dark and stary night, and then hanging out with boys the next. So pathetic.

JEANE

Hey Mark! Stop that!

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Stop what? Seeing our team be slimmed down to four players again? Or seeing Abby suffer from her dark and stary night?

JEANE

You're the principal of one of Knox County's smallest high school, and you're telling me that Abby is sinning against God for having a baby?!

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Jesus, we must have a Bloomington elder in our hands, go back to Hoosier land where the hippies smoke weed. Boiler Up!

LUANNE

(yelling)

Hey Big K, we're trying to practice here! Get off of my court!

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

I pay the damn bills at this school, you shouldn't tell me what to do you bitch!

LUANNE

(grabs PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH by his shoulder dragging him to the side corner of the gym)

Don't you ever, call me a bitch in front of my girls. My husband called my daughter a female dog, and it felt so condising I couldn't bare marry him, but he forced me to. Just remember that I am not your male bitch, I'm a WOO Man! Not your doll. Now let me get to practice, as the queen takes her thrown.

LUANNE walks back to her court where she rules her destiny as the coach of the St. John's Basketball team. PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH just watches in disbelief that a woman has actually stood up to him as women in Logoootee and the Wabash Valley don't speak up at all.

LUANNE

Girls, we'll be playin' some music during practice. But I'm doin this because I think we can do somethin special here. We've won six games with our only loss at the start of the season, and I see potential now in all of you.

LUANNE

Enough of the praising! Get on the line! we're doin suicides. On my whistle.

SOUND EFFECT: Whistle blown

MEDIUM SHOT: The eleven girls take on the court, sprinting up and down during their suicide run.

ABBY

Coach?

LUANNE

How dare you Abby! My damn captains' comin in here so late!

LUANNE

(cont.d)

Get on this court, you're running seven minutes late. Unexceptable for our team leader.

LUANNE

Feel empowered sisters. It's time  
to fly.

SONG CUE: "Catch My Breath" by Kelly Clarkson

MONTAGE OF CLIPS:

INT. BARR REEVE HIGH SCHOOL GYM- NIGHT

1. LUANNE talks to her team on the sideline during a timeout session as the Barr Reeve gym hisses at the St. John's girls team.

2. JASON UTAH and his counterpart are sitting on the Barr Reeve sidelines watching the game.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And now the Barr Reeve fans are getting rowdy as the Barr Reeve Vikings lead Oaktown SIXTY-SEVEN to SIXTY-FIVE with just point seven seconds left, and the Spain, Ramona Clinton-Popova is set to go to the line shooting one.

3. Fans booing the team, just a simple shot as the Lady Vikings team come back out onto the court.

ELDERLY FAN #1

(hissing)

I'd slap the dickens out of you!

4. RAMONA comes to the line to shoot one shot. She misses, collects her rebound, the crowd stunned, and she has shot the final shot as she banks in a successful three pointer into the Barr Reeve basket.

5. LUANNE doesn't react to her shot, as her team jump up from the bench and mob RAMONA on center court at Barr Reeve. LUANNE shakes hands along with RON and JEANE.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- NIGHT

6. Oaktown fans storm the court at their gym as the cheers for the girls beating Loogootee.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And going into Christmas Eve, and Oaktown has defeated the Loogootee Lions in dominating fashion! SIXTY-TWO to FIFTY.

7. A neighbor replaces his Loogootee High School sign with a Oaktown Pickers sign going into their next game against St.

Miller's Academy.

8. Man at a diner reads the VINCENNES SUN COMMERCIAL, which reads, "OAKTOWN ARE TEN AND ONE IN CONFERENCE PLAY, KNOCKING OFF FISHERS HIGH 67-50" REGINA, who works at Dairy Queen hands him his breakfast for the morning.

EXT. INDIANA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, SIDEWALK TO IU MEDIA SCHOOL-DAY

9. ABBY and her daughter walk around the IU campus with a group of athletic tour guides who walk a group of students around their campus.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

10. A school bus carrying the team across the country plains of southern Indiana.

11. Team dances to music on the bus on their way to a school.

12. Showing the timelapse of the Oaktown team that had no fans to start the season, now the gym is half packed.

13. Fans excited, jumping up and down at Vincennes University's P.E. Complex arena as Oaktown beat Washington, Rising Sun, and Ben Davis to win the regional championship.

14. Tracy is going up to the free throw line to shoot a pair in their fourth home opener.

15. ABBY is taking care of her two kids.

16. ANNA is watching over her sister who has down's syndrome. They are playing a game and dancing on the Wii.

17. ISABELLE is working on homework while helping HILLARY and DONALD on their English and math homework. They both will get straight A's on their tests.

INT. RITA'S FAMILY HOME- DAY

18. RITA opened her mail box and found letters from universities UConn, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas Tech, Purdue, and Tennessee to name a few of the schools who want her to play basketball for their school.

CUT TO:

EXT. COAL MINE- DAY

19. TAYLOR works in the coal mine working, and digging, and digging some more.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD- DAY

20. RAMONA and SERENA move into a home thanks to some of the money they have made with their NIL deals after getting recruited to LSU as freshman.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN GYMNAISUM- DAY

21. We see the evolution of the fans in the stands. After the first game of the season, there were twenty fans that attended thier first game, now there is a full 3,000 people in the stands. A humoungous turnaround.

All of the other students, mainly girls from the school and community members cheer on the team as they walk to the gym preparing for a basketball pep rally. LUANNE shines proudly representing her girls as they are now on a 14-3 record for the season, and are preparing for a game aganist Shoals that night.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

You can feel a different energy in the air as Oaktown are having their first winning season in over fifty years.

22. Luanne's driving to the Wabash prison as she is listening to her team on the radio.

23. B-Roll of Anna and Rita passing the ball to each other.

24. More lighthearted bus scene

WTHI REPORTER

(VO)

The varisty girls basketball team from Oaktown, Indiana are having a near perfect season as they face aganist their rivals Shoals High on Saturday night. The girls are riding on a fifteen game winning streak thanks to their star player Abby Sterling, center Rita Aberdale, and the brilliant shooting performances by the Clinton-Popova sisters are allowing the Pickers to have their best season in recorded history.

25. B-roll of a restraunt sign reading, "DOORS ARE SHUT BECAUSE OF THE GAME, GO JACKETS!"

26. B-roll of fans in the crowd cheering on their hometown team as their benchwarmer, DELANEY SAKES, takes her first shot of the season.

27. The team celebrates a humongous season win as the fans, are storming the field for a women's basketball team after they beat their division rivals.

28. Scoreboards, Oaktown 78, Center Grove 40

29. Oaktown 30, Washington 20

SPORTS REPORTER

(VO)

This is honestly the best girls basketball team that is playing in America right now. Hear me out the girls of Oaktown, population nine-hundred-seventy people have shined a spotlight on small town America.

CUTS TO NIGHT TIME:

SOUND FX: Fans cheering in the stands.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And for the Melon Pickers, this game has given us a lights out performance by the odd girl out, Tracy Norman. Who is having an unbelievable night with a school record 45 points off fourteen boards and eight steals. She's had an unparralled performance tonight, and... THE CEILING HAS BROKEN! For the first time in thirty years, Oaktown brings the trophy back to where it belongs in good ol' Kavanagh Court!

29. LUANNE grabs her teammates and joins them in the singing of the school's fight song as the students and them sway left to right in a moment of hope for this tiny community.

SONG CUE ENDS

FADE OUT

INT. DAIRY QUEEN- DAY

It is snowing outside, and ABBY is rushing to get back to her car. REGINA is at the cash register all by herself except for the store manager behind the desk, but he smokes while she is on the phone with, you guessed it, ABBY's incarcerated father. She is setting herself backwards and talking to the man who raped her kids. The feeling in the store this morning is eerie and depressing. It feels like if this was the perfect day to be bad this is it.

SOUND FX: Chimes from the top of the door leading into the store.

1. MEDIUM CLOSE UP: Abby walks in with her kids by her side.

REGINA

(yelling on the phone)

I told you, I need my fuckin meds again! No I don't give a shit, when I tell you to keep your fuckin hands of these hoes, you do it! We don't need too cook eggs today any?... Yeah, I know, I work here now because of your ass!... Baby daddy me, you should've been there for my kiads. Now look at you, you washed up Wabash shitface!

ABBY

Hey mom!

REGINA

(on the phone)

Just a minute, here's your All American basketball sensation of a crack addict, Abby Sterling, whose grandma is the gym coach at Jasper.

ABBY

(getting her attention)

Mom!

REGINA

What?!

ABBY

The daycare is closed, and I have been in a such a rush... I have school in four minutes, can you please watch my kids?

REGINA

(pointing down at the floor, mouthing)

Sit them here.

ABBY lets go of her kids and she begins to run back to her car. The snow is getting more intense as the day has gone on, and ABBY is stressed already about an exam she has to take and that leaves the kids all alone with REGINA.

REGINA

(Yelling some more, shaking worse than a leaf)

Yeah! YOU TOUCHED MY DAUGHTER AND... SHIT! YOUR DAUGHTER'S KID IS RUNNIN AROUND THE DAIRY QUEEN LIKE THIS SHIT'S A FUCKIN INSANE ASYLUM! SIT YOUR ASS DOWN OR I WILL SIT IT DOWN FOR YOU.



REGINA  
 (welcomes a guest)  
 Hey welcome to Dairy Queen, how may  
 I help you?

RICHIE #1  
 (stern, points the  
 picture of a robber)  
 Look, I saw you last night, and I  
 think you're the hottest bitch I've  
 ever seen, but yesterday, I gave  
 you some meth. I need my money  
 back!

RICHIE #1  
 (screaming)  
 I need it back now!

REGINA  
 (yelling)  
 YOU BOUGHT MY SHI(interupted)

RICHIE #1  
 I told you to shut up and give me  
 the fuckin money.

RICHIE draws out his gun, and calls in five of his buddies to do the unthinkable. Rob the store, and this leaves REGINA helpless as the drugs dealers rob the Dairy Queen looking for drugs REGINA confenscated.

#### SEQUENCE OF SHOTS

1. CLOSE UP: A gun magazine drops on the floor
2. AMEILA runs up to the cash register area to try and grab the magazine, and begs her grandmother to grab her a toy.

AMEILA  
 (a curious and cute  
 little kid)  
 Where's mama?

RICHIE #1  
 She's right here you little bitch!

RICHIE #1  
 (yelling)  
 HEY BOYS WE GOT US A LITTLE BITCH!

3. AMEILA is screaming, begging for her grandma to help her, but she grabs a crow bar and begins to accidentally hit her daughter with the crowbar, and the two guys take their daughter to the car.

4. REGINA is in a daze as the men go into the Dairy Queen this early in the morning.

SFX: Screaming and just total silence

The men would molest and slash AMEILA's throat in the back seat of their all black van. AMEILA would later pass away, and REGINA is lifeless as the men take over the store. She doesn't even hesitate to call 9-1-1.

CLOSE UP: CADEN covering his ears and grabbing a phone.

INT. MAIN GYMNAISUM- DAY

The team is passing the rock and trying to work on more of their dribbling abilities as DELANEY, RUSS, and JEANE are in the room instructing the girls. LUANNE is in the back of the gym listening to the radio for the latest weather forecasts. The snow outside is making it impossible to do anything, but the girls have had a good sweat in with two hours of workouts in before the big blizzard is coming into Oaktown and to most of southern Indiana.

JEANE

Alright! Erica your up.

ABBY

(gets her pumped up)

Pass it to me, let's go.

RAMONA

One.

RAMONA

Two.

RAMONA

Pass.

ABBY

One.

ABBY

Two.

ABBY

Pass.

KATHRYN

Lay up! Lay up!

The girls clap through the gym and get themselves hyped up. LUANNE walks on center court to tell the girls some news.

LUANNE

(stern)

Girls. Practice is over for today, the blizzard's comin in in an hour, sorry to ruin practice again, but this snow storm tonight will probably have practice be cancelled tonight. I need to head home as much as you girls do, so... Abby let's wrap it up.

ABBY

Alright girls! Family on three, one two, three.

TEAM

Family!

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING LOT- DAY

The girls are walking back to their cars, and along with way as their cars, the girls are playing with snowballs and being playful. ABBY and ANNA are walking back to their cars talking.

ANNA

So what did Mrs. Jefferson give you on your test?

ABBY

(chuckles a little bit)

A plus.

ANNA

A plus? Geez I got a B. Those AP courses are demanding and nonetheless hard. It's not like I need this for Harvard on anything.

ABBY

Oh and how has your college search been?

ANNA

I'm a junior, but I think I wanna go to USI.

ABBY

My brother was a USI/IU transfer so I think you'll like it there. I mean, with the way you have been playing this season, you might be replacing my job pretty soon.

ANNA

Oh there comes the snowfall, I need to head back. And, this is for Ameila, she is the cutest thing. Being a mom doesn't last forever.

ABBY

(shocked)

Thank you it's been hard on me being a parent. Hope all goes well tonight, have a good one.

ABBY walks to her car and she is starting her engine even in the cold weather. ANNA walks to her vehicle as this moment

is a time to forget about practice and go home.

EXT. DAIRY QUEEN PARKING LOT- NIGHT

MEDIUM CLOSE UP: ABBY on the phone with her boyfriend.

ABBY  
(on the phone)  
Thanks Brad, I'll talk to you  
later. Okay... Bye love you.

Abby hangs up her phone and waits on her mom to come back to work. Her mom, looking high again is panicking like she just lost her son, which she did. REGINA runs out of the store crying.

REGINA  
(manic, yelling)  
GOD DAMN IT! DAMN IT!

ABBY  
What's wrong with you know?

REGINA  
I... I... I think I let five guys  
choke your daughter!

ABBY  
(confused)  
What?! You took my daughter to  
work?! Where did she last go?!

REGINA  
I don't know!

ABBY  
(ballestic)  
What?! What the hell is wrong with  
you?! Where is she?! Where is my  
daughter?!

REGINA  
You need to figure this shit out!  
Your baby daddy has an anger issue,  
him and four other guays captured  
your child and called you a bitch  
ass slut who should go to the  
abortion nurse! They took your  
child from my hands and beat the  
shit out of her in their car! She  
just could not stop crying so they  
shook her till she was braindead.

CLOSE UP: Abby's distraught

REGINA  
I think she died!

ABBY runs straight into the restraurant to alert the authorities, but little to be hold, at the back of the store officers were ready to speak with her as the manager was on the phone with her supervisor.

FOLLOWING SHOT:

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD

Mrs. Sterling. Two officers found your daughter dead inside of your father's truck. She died at 10:32 a.m. this morning. We are not sorry about your loss you damn slut. Maybe this was a sign that you need to get the hell away from those condoms and (interupted)

ABBY

(screaming at the top of her lungs)

Enough!

It seems as if the whole town is turning on their most powerful superstar in the town of Oaktown. This in turn is very narcissistic, but this shit happens in southern Indiana. The officer pounces on this opportunity to see ABBY, a bitch in his eyes, cry her eyes out like my mom did when she was tormented by her family when my father got arrested.

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD

(chuckles)

Look at that bitch crying. She left her daughter for dead. You're too young to have a kiad now! Bitch!

OFFICER #2

(raging)

Yeah, it's your last name that gets ya successful round here, not the fact that you play basketball you damn sinner. I needed to call that Amish church when I first heard you were pregnant years ago. At least you ain't a nigger lover like that Lents girl down the street.

ABBY

(about to cry, tearing up)

I did not leave my daughter here intentionall (interupted)

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD

Shut your mouth or I will put your ass in the back of my paddywagon and you're goin to the Knox County Jail, ya understand me? JUST LIKE

(MORE)

OFFICER CHIPINHOOD (cont'd)  
 YA DADDY, JUST LIKE YOUR MAMA! Need  
 me to put the cuffs on ya?

ABBY  
 (shouting, mad)  
 No! No! No! No!

SOUND EFFECT: Cuffs being slapped on Abby's hands.

ABBY is carried away by four police officers to their SWAT car leaving her mother devastated as she shoots up in front of her kids again in a mental breakdown.

INT. LUANNE BEDROOM- NIGHT

LUANNE is almost fast asleep when her TV breaks into a breaking news story. You only hear the dish washer washing dishes in the back of the room, otherwise LUANNE wakes up from a small slumber.

WTHI REPORTER  
 (on TV)  
 We have some breaking news coming into our studio tonight, a prominent high school athlete has been arrested tonight for unmarked charges. She was apprehended at the Dairy Queen in Loogootee. SEVENTEEN year old (sighs) Abby Sterling has been arrested for reasons unknown to the district attorney. Her bond is set at \$10,000 as she persides in the Martin County Jail.

LUANNE  
 (stunned, on the phone with her son)  
 I need to call the girls. I'll talk to you later, it is an emergency... I have to go.

INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- NIGHT

The girls walk into the gym silently, it's one a.m. And the girls are called on for a team meeting about female empowerment to help Abby through this time of crisis in her life.

LUANNE  
 (soft talked)  
 Sit down girls. Sit down. Tonight we fight. We claw, and we scratch like Melon Pickers should. I hate to inform you this but our captian has been arrested and her daughter has tragically passed on to a better place.

LUANNE

(cont.d)

You have a reason to fight. Girls like you make less than what men make in a year in this area. The highest paying jobs are at Crane or Baxter. If boys had pussies they would probably feel more empathetic, or maybe they just don't understand a thing about our vaginal area.

LUANNE

(cont.d)

When you have a baby, you want to protect it, and my parents just like Abby's were addicted to opioids. They died having Schizophrenia, Bipolar, and two when my mom had herpies. I will bond her out, but you girls have to come along for the ride. Girls like you never have a cathedral, an arena, or a stage to perform on to men that a group of white and black, powerful female homospasians can conquer the might of a community. Some women take care of kids, but most importantly, we are women. This was not Abby's fault.

RITA

I agree.

ALANIA

How do you know that?

RAMONA

I would also agree. I'm tired of seeing how some of the men here act anyway. I think this is a state issue, not just a Knox County issue.

LUANNE

That is the type of spirit we need.

JEANE

I bailed Abby out. Let's pay her some respect. Let us pray.

The girls cheer at the site of their teammate back on a basketball floor, but Makayla seems unfazed by the applause, but she is in shock of what has happened to her in the last seventeen hours, and this is when the girls also give her a large hug on center court. Symbolizing that these girls will remain together through any hardship.

INT. JAIL WAITING AREA- NIGHT

OFFICER #3

(yelling)

Bitch! Come on down! You're the next contestant on The Town Is Right!

SUPERINTENDENT PATRICKS

Good evening Ms. Sterling. Rough night huh?

ABBY

(depressed, her head is down)

Don't talk to me. It was my fault I left the kids alone.

PRISONER #1

Hey I knew your mama! It's not her fault she got arrested for meth, the town makes us hores, we prance around because they treat us like shit!

SUPERINTENDENT PATRICKS

We're bonding you out under this one condition, that in our game aganist Fort Wayne Providence next week, you should not play. You're just a distraction to the academic nature of this school district and to the communit(interupted)

ABBY slaps the SUPERINTENDENT in the face.

ABBY

(angered)

Take that the next time you think of havin a male orgasiam. I'm playin, there are not distractions.

JEANE

(crying)

Abby, my girl.

ABBY

How's my son?

JEANE

He's here with me.

THIS WILL BE THE MOST HEARTFELT MOMENT OF THIS MOVIE: CADEN is tearing up and ABBY, a young mom who has experienced abortion, meth, and drugs. She's as resilent and her son will break the mold of what is bravery and solitude.



CADEN

Mommy? I tried... Um... I... Sorry.  
I sorry mama. I'm sorry.

CADEN swells up and cries, falling into his mom's arms.

EXT. DINER PARKING LOT- DAY

A group of protestors from Catholic missionary groups across the United States, and a few senators are standing outside of the parking lot chanting their Christian hate.

PROTESTORS

(chanting in unison over  
and over again)

Hey, hey, hoe, hoe, Abby Sterling's  
got to go, hey, hey, hoe, hoe, Abby  
Sterling's go to go.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS- DAY

The Oaktown team drives past a sea of protestors and policeman. ABBY is not on the bus because of safety reasons. The protestors are swarming the roads leading to their home gym as they had to practice in a remote location on the Vincennes University campus.

LUANNE

Look at these poor folks. Now who  
the hell would want to wake up on a  
Saturday morning and do this all  
day, how shameful.

JEANE

She's just a kid. They're treatin  
her like she's a mass murderer or  
somethin.

DELANEY

This has been hard to watch.

The bus then sits in silence.

LONG SHOT ON THE BUS DRIVING PAST THE PROTESTORS

INT. MAIN LOCKER ROOM- DAY

The girls are waiting for ABBY to come in as they put on their jerseys and shoes as the team just waits and listens to the silent radio call on the radio.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

With just four more games left in  
the Yellowjacket season, but yet a  
remarkable regular season, the

(MORE)

JASON UTAH (cont'd)

girls have decided to not come out for pregame warmups, citing fears of riots across the city of Oaktown as Abby Sterling in a controversial move, lost her child by the hands of her mother. We have yet to know if the girls team is heading out onto the court as we have been delayed for an hour now.

REBECCA

Turn that radio off. We're not playing unless we stand onto the court with our t-shirts on.

TAYLOR

But hell, we're women in Knox County freakin' Indiana! Does anyone care about us? No! Postpone the game.

IHSAA REPRESENTATIVE

Hey Coach Carney, we have recieved word from the Indiana National Guard that the protests outside have turned violent. You need to decide whether we are having the game or not.

LUANNE

Alright girls! Let's walk!

MONTAGE OF CLIPS:

1. ABBY overhears the team talking about a walk out on the court, she gets up from crying on the stool.
2. She stares at a cross community members gave her.
3. BACK TO THE BASKETBALL COURT: The divisive crowd is yelling on the opposing view that Abby allowed her daughter to get killed, but others chant "ABBY! ABBY!"

CUTS BACK AND FORTH

4. FLASHBACK: ABBY holding her daughter on one of her more joyus days before she died, and when life was relieving before her mom was shooting heroin.
5. FLASHBACK: LUANNE finds her daughter killed on the side of her suburban street when she was a high school basketball coach in 1996 in Massachussetts.

FLIPS BACK TO LOCKER ROOM

6. Abby holding her head high as she walks out of the bathroom.

IHSAA REPRESENTATIVE  
C'mon girls! What's the decision?

ABBY  
(gets up in a brave  
courage from the  
bathroom)  
I'll lead the march. Coach, is it  
okay if we have a boycott for two  
games?

LUANNE  
(questioned, but  
confident)  
Yep. We can. C'mon girls, grab your  
stuff.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN GYMNAISUM- DAY

JEANE  
We've been waiting on this floor  
for an hour now.

PA ANNOUNCER  
(on the intercom)  
Ladies and gentlemen, please say  
goodbye to your Melon Pickers, the  
game has been postponed and  
rescheduled for January 29 at 6pm.  
We are sorry for the inconvenience.

MONTAGE OF CLIPS:

SONG CUE: EMOTIONAL CINEMATIC MUSIC, LIKE HOOSIERS IN 1986  
TYPE OF SONG

1. ABBY is wearing a black shirt, black shirt, and black boots and puts her head high along with her fist. The shirt reads, "REST IN PEACE, TO THE MILLIONS OF GIRLS LIKE MY DAUGHTER... MAY US RESPECT!"
2. LUANNE watches her in amazement as the players join her on center court with their heads and fists held high.
3. A little girl, about four or five, is looking on in amazement with what she is seeing. Her mom is numb as her husband looks on at the girls.
4. CLOSE UP: Abby's fist raised high in a sign of female empowerment.

FADE OUT:

BLACK SCREEN

FADE IN:

INT. BASKETBALL COURT- NIGHT

BRAD

Hey. I'm so sorry about your loss.

ABBY

Don't talk to me, I'm pretty busy at the moment.

CLOSE UP: On basketball hoop.

TWO SHOT on ABBY and BRAD AS SHE IS SHOOTING A BASKETBALL TO THE NET.

BRAD

Can't we just talk?

ABBY

Fine, what do you want?

BRAD

I feel like sometimes we are lost in an illusion of how us men are supposed to treat you girls, but... Let me be honest with you. My mom used cocaine every night and died from AIDS a year ago.

ABBY

Your mom Joanne?

BRAD

(talking fast, anxious)

Yep. My dad has been abusive to my sisters, paying off the bills are hard, and since he got let off from his job at Crane, he doesn't know how to grieve, but you do. I don't know where I'd be without you.

ABBY

(shocked, emotional)

I've never had a man say that to me before. How flattering.

BRAD

I'm serious. Every young girl around the county lines are talking about you right now, even two elders I met. Everybody else thought you were crazy, but I don't believe that. Want to join the protest?

ABBY

Every guy says that to me Brad? I don't want to join no protest, and why do we need one when a girl just

(MORE)

ABBY (cont'd)

got raped. I don't need you to leak this to the press, to your friends or to anyone. You don't fully understand how dangerous this is what you're doing. Being the face of the town is one thing, but matching up to abusive men and desperate housewives is another. So, please, let me shoot thanks for the offer.

BRAD

You are... Different.

BRAD kisses ABBY on the lips as he doesn't want to let her go, and gives her a giant hug while the two of them are tearing up.

INT. ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OFFICE- DAY

CLOSE UP and FOLLOWING SHOT on DELANEY and PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH getting the remaining letters from their box as they are scattering the envelopes across their desks from fans and even WNBA players sending their condolences to the star player.

LUANNE

And so... What are the plans moving forward on this proposal to establish a pickleball team?

SOFTBALL COACH

Well, you see the kids need to be active and (interrupted)

LUANNE

We have a tennis team falling off of the ground, and with next year's budget coming out, I will see if the pickleball can wo(interrupted)

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Good morning Mrs. Carney. You will not believe what is in the print today on The Sun Commercial? Luanne Carney, Breaking Barriers in women's athletics. Oh, and your mailbox is pretty fully, the mail man has been waiting out here for hours?

LUANNE

What letters?

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

They were sent from everywhere, Japan, Tokyo, Tennessee, Alabama,  
(MORE)

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH (cont'd)  
 Sue Bird, even Georgia. People want  
 to just get a piece of our star  
 player and her coach.

LUANNE  
 What is this supposed to be some  
 kind of female empowerment crap  
 that I don't need?

LUANNE  
 (cont.d)  
 I can't believe this. We got a game  
 to play tomorrow (looks down)

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH  
 A lady wrote, "Hello Mrs. Carney, I  
 am Gloria Thompson and I was your  
 dorm roommate at Texas in Austin,  
 and you found one of the biggest  
 strengths that I found helpful  
 after I got raped. Couragement. And  
 look at you now, a basketball coach  
 making it to the small high schools  
 to one day the big city. I am so  
 proud of you, and I hope you spread  
 the gospel about how women should  
 be.

INT. BEECH GROVE GYM- NIGHT

TEXT APPEARS

Febrary 2nd

Oaktown (21-2) vs. Beech Grove (19-4)

3 Games Remaining in the season

TEXT FADE OUT

JASON UTAH  
 With just three games to go in one  
 of the more turbulent seasons in  
 Oaktown Lady basketball history, we  
 welcome you back to a half seated  
 Kavanagh Court as finally the girls  
 team is getting traction for this  
 conference matchup with the Melon  
 Pickers and the Beech Groove  
 Hornets.

LUANNE  
 Ramona, dish it to Rita! Dish it to  
 Rita!

SOUND FX: CROWD AMBIENCE MIXED WITH CHEERLEADER SOUNDS

RITA  
Oh c'mon! Give it to me!

LUANNE  
Pass it you Freshman! Pass it!

SOUND FX: Whistle, fans boosing

REF #1  
Foul on white, one two, chop block.

LUANNE  
(furious, stomping her feet)  
God damn it! You refs just suck tonight! Explain to a woman why the hell Rita could get followed underneath?

REF #1  
Ma'am, you have been yellin for a long, long time.

LUANNE  
Eject my ass or I will bark like a damn dog.

REF #1  
Oh really?

LUANNE  
Yes sir!

REF #1  
(blows his whistle)  
You're gone. GET OUT OF HERE!

LUANNE  
What?

REF #1  
(talking over the scores table)  
Technical foul on white, head coach has been ejected, two shots.

REF #1  
Oh now you're really out of here! Go home ma'am! Go home!

LUANNE  
You got control now Jeane, don't screw this up, you may not talk much but I have to go.

MONTAGE OF SCENES:

1. Fans cheering for their school. It's a medium size crowd, but larger due to fan expression and activism. Tonight is

Footloose day so the fans are dressed in 70s gear.

2. ACTION ON THE COURT #1 MEDIUM CLOSE UP, the girls pass the ball around as ANNA shoot a three.

3. MEDIUM SHOT on LUANNE and JEANE sitting on the sidelines, but watching on the girls at hand.

JEANE

Alright girls! Let's run man-to-man and tighten up on the corners

ABBY

I think we should go with a different play on offense.

DELANEY

Well, we'll talk about it then during the timeout.

JEANE

We got four minutes left, keep this lead up and pay attention!

SEQUENCE OF SCENES:

1. Abby grabbing her hands to her hips, hopping around watching a girl make four free throws and miss all of them.
2. BASKETBALL GAME: ABBY gets the rebound from the foul shot, gives it to a wide open KATHRYN who has not been shooting well all game. She knocks in a layup. OAKTOWN lead 70 to 55.
3. BASKETBALL PLAY: 2-1-2 defense as they guard on several Beach Grove offensive players. Make RITA steal and dunk the ball at the other end, making the crowd roar.
4. Seconds are ticking down, and ABBY makes one more shot, a Caitlin Clark three from the top of the mid-circle as she drains it home.
5. The team celebrating with ABBY and hoisting her on her feet.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

An unbelievable performance by Abby Sterling fifty-five points to end a late game blowout over Beach Grove. Listen to this crowd.

INT. LOCKER ROOM- NIGHT

The team goes into the locker room hollaring, joyfully exuberant about their work that the team has worked hard to be throughout the season. The girls hollar, and chant as they walk back into the room holding ABBY high in the sky.



ONE FOLLOWING SHOT OF THE GIRLS CELEBRATING AND THE COACHES  
COMING IN TO JOIN THE ACTION.

LUANNE

(yelling cheerfully)

You did it girl. One down, three to go. It's a doubleheader this Saturday, and it's senior day for six of you, headin off to college, and of course, I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping this winning, joyful tenacity going into the postseason. You all have changed this community, you all have changed this town.

LUANNE

(sighs)

But this is Abby's day. She has not only faced public scrutiny, but she has survived and lived through pain, all of you have lived through abuse, neglect, or somekind of family issue this year. It's been one hell of a year for us, and these are some of the greatest moments of my life. Facing the odds from a sleepy town at a sleepy school, with no post office, no mail station, no firefighters, but you all have the spirit of a carnage mellon. Abby.

LUANNE

(about to cry)

You're the superstar. You made us who we are. You learned how to lead even as life gets more tough, and it sure will be when you get older I tell ya that. Game ball goes to not just you but to the rest of the team.

JEANE

But we also have two special people visiting us today. Abby, I know that you have never gone to a Hoosiers basketball game right?

ABBY

Right?

JEANE

Well, we have two very special guests that have watched you recently, one of which is the one, the only, recruiting manager of the Indiana Hoosiers, and state legend

(MORE)

JEANE (cont'd)  
 in women's basketball, multiple  
 time All American, who has gone to  
 three Sweet Sixteens, and a few  
 Elite Eights, please welcome, Ali  
 Patberg!

ABBY  
 (shocked)  
 What?!

ALI  
 Hello Ms. Supergirl. How are you?

ABBY  
 Doing great Mrs. Patberg.

ALI  
 That is so awesome. So awesome.

The clapping ends. ALI turns to ABBY (possibly her future teammate) and gives the team a few words of advice, as she turns towards ABBY to give her a motherly impression, and to make her feel warm and comfortable.

ALI  
 You know, I see the fire in you.  
 Sue Bird can call us a bunch of  
 little white girls all she wants.  
 Your white skin means nothing to  
 the determination of a young woman.  
 And oh... sorry to leave you out of  
 the conversation Lavina, but you  
 all are doing something extraordinary  
 here in this little town. Your born  
 in a small town, like me. With a  
 dream to continue fighting through  
 your hurt. And... All in all, I  
 think what you are doing here is  
 inspiring to the Hoosier community,  
 so from the bottom of my heart I  
 need to say thank you, all of you,  
 for your attitude and toughness  
 you've shown this season.

ALI  
 (cont.d)  
 Abby, you've been accepted to a  
 full ride scholarship Indiana  
 University.

The team celebrates around her, but Abby knows that she wants better for her family, but is still happy about this momentous occasion.

INT. MAIN GYMNAISUM- DAY

TEXT FADE IN:

Oaktown vs. South Bend Catholic/Silvercreek

The Last Game of the Season

TEXT FADE OUT

The stands are filled to capacity as the Lady Melon Pickers march into their gym for a two game matchup between South Bend Catholic and Silver Creek. But first are the senior ceremonies. RITA, ISA, ANNA, and TAYLOR stand out on mid court with a rose pedal on their left hand and a badge of their graduation on their right. The crowd stands and all you hear is applause.

PA ANNOUNCER

(VO)

And Abby Sterling! Joined by her mother, former All-American and Mrs. Do-it-herself, REGINA Sterling, her grandmother Becky Sterling, and her son Caden. The proudest moment of her playing career is thanking her offensive shooters first and then helping her team second. She hopes to play basketball at Indiana University, Notre Dame, or South Carolina after she graduates. She stands as an Academic All American, has become the first recipient in Oaktown High School history to be awarded the state's highest scholarship honor the Lilly Endowment, and she has scored over 1,000 points, and has 1,000 assists breaking the all time record set by her brother. Congratulations to all of our seniors.

SOUND FX: Clapping from the audience.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

(Grabs the microphone)

And we have one more thing to offer to Ms. Sterling. The Knox County School District, the Knox County Chamber of Commerce, along with the I-H-S-A-A, and Mayor Tute Willenhouse, would like to welcome you to the Indiana All Star team, to the McDonald's All American club, and you are a recipient of the All Scholars Program which will pay for college for all of our students at Oaktown High School, but most importantly, you have saved our school. You have saved this community. You have saved this

(MORE)

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH (cont'd)  
 program. And it is more than just  
 Abby doing this, this is all of you  
 girls. You deserve this  
 recognition.

SOUND FX: The crowd applauds the captian.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH  
 (CONT.D about to tear up)  
 I can't tell you how hard the  
 pandemic was for us. Through the  
 hardest period in academic and high  
 school athletic history, I cannot  
 say thank you from the bottom of my  
 heart for your contributions to  
 this school throughout the shorten  
 season, to the pandemic, and three  
 coaches later we finally have a  
 team during these struggling  
 financial times. This team give me  
 the most joy to come into work  
 everyday, and when I see these  
 girls, they are workin!

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH  
 To Ms. Sterling, just like your  
 uncle Sam Hunningworth, who was  
 Oaktown's first major sports figure  
 the town has witnessed, his number  
 slash your number fifteen will be  
 retired today, and Kavanagh Court  
 will now be renamed after you and  
 your mother Regina as the Regina  
 and Abby Sterling Fieldhouse.  
 Again, I need to say thank you. You  
 are hope for this community.

The crowd rises to their feet, Abby is tearing up and hugs  
 her principal, her teammates, and her fellow community  
 members, along with her kids. She was not supposed to be  
 here.

SONG CUE: You're Simply The Best by Tina Turner

JASON UTAH  
 And listen to this crowd, it's  
 defining in here.

REBECCA CLARK  
 (VO)  
 And wow! What an amazing moment  
 here at Kavanagh Court now renamed  
 the Regina and Abby Sterling  
 Fieldhouse, this makes me about to  
 cry. As a woman you just don't  
 understand the hurt she has had to  
 go through, and mother's take this  
 (MORE)

REBECCA CLARK (cont'd)  
 moment home, record this, and hug  
 your kids as Abby is doing right  
 now.

ABBY  
 (Excited)  
 Wow! Wow!

JASON UTAH  
 This scene is reminiscent to the time  
 Coach K walked out on Duke's  
 fieldhouse in Durham, North  
 Carolina, hope they don't spoil her  
 party like North Carolina did in  
 the Final Four last year.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

1. Abby hits her record breaking three pointer and  
 celebrates with her teammates.

JASON UTAH  
 (VO)  
 And... Jackie Young move over! The  
 girl of the night, Abby Sterling,  
 has broken the record! The most  
 points recorded in a single season,  
 and in a career in Indiana High  
 School basketball history. Listen  
 to these fans, in a sold out  
 stadium here tonight. I'm even  
 getting up and applauding.

2. ISABELLE who has had an impressive game keeps the ball  
 herself

JASON UTAH  
 (VO)  
 And there's the whistle. 87-77,  
 Oaktown smokes both Silver Creek  
 and South Bend Central earlier  
 today. What a beautiful day it has  
 been for this town, this city, as  
 they could earn the number one seed  
 in the state Sectionals tournament.

3. The team waves goodbye to their fans and as for Abby, she  
 is emotional going into the locker room.

REGINA and ABBY watch the jersey is hung up to the rafters  
 at the newly found gym as the crowd is still standing and  
 cheering for their hometown queen.

SONG CUE ENDS

INT. BACKYARD BARBECUE, THE POPOVIA HOUSE- DAY

BRUCE

(shouting)

I have more burgers to cook. Who else wants ribs?

ALANIA

Me.

ABBY

I'll take a burger.

RAMONA

(singing)

Dance monkey, dance monkey, dance monkey oh, oh, oh.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

This is a nice back deck. The girls are havin fun, the TV is blasting, the community is watching the show at the church, and we should be comin up soon for Class 1A.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Hey coach, are we on?

BOB KAVELL

(on the big screen)

And for the girls in the Loogootee Sectionals this one should be a treat. Seven of the best teams will conviene at the home Jack Butcher built.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

Hey everyone, everyone.

LUANNE shushes the crowd, and they fall silent.

HILLARY

Oh my god.

BOB KAVELL

And for the Class 1A Sectional in Loogootee, we have... The Knights of Northview visiting the Lions of Loogootee, as the number six and two seeds. Shoals will play aganist North Daviess to play in the quarterfinals of the tournament, so all of that set aside, this one will be the matchup to watch across the state as the newly seeded girls of Bloomfield, three time state champion will go up aganist, guess who... The Oaktown Lady Melon Pickers,

The crowd roars in delight and some drop their plate in joy. You can hear a crowd from a distant direction cheering as well.

BOB KAVELL

(flushed out by cheering)

... Will take the number one seed in a tournament for the first time in either boys or girls basketball since World War II. The town is crazy about this team, led by Abby Sterling, Serena, Ramona Papaova, Erica Barnsmoore, Isabelle Algood, and Tracy Norman who have put a stamp on this tiny community with the same impact as the Hoosiers women basketball team. Widely respected, widely loved, and trendy on social media. They have the flair to win a state championship this year.

FOLLOWING SHOT: LUANNE is walking back to her car.

Even as the crowd is cheering, LUANNE has one thing on her mind, planning for the first sectional semi-finals the school has seen in decades.

INT. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S OFFICE- DAY

LUANNE

(shocked)

Bloomfield? With Coach Randy Plaxton? He was my assistant for the staff at the A.D. Office, and I coached against him in that oh six championship against UCLA.

RUSS

Hell, he doesn't even know how these girls are passing the ball. They can't even run the picket fence look at that.

LUANNE

That was normal at UCLA, that's why he just ran the motion offense, and that changed college basketball cause no other coach did that except for Coach Summit. I miss her so much.

DELANEY

Who's number eighteen?

RUSS

Stephanie Gas, six foot three, one hundred forty pounds, she's

(MORE)

RUSS (cont'd)

committed to Butler next fall. She's such a freak of nature that the people call her the closest thing to a female Dwayne Wade.

LUANNE

Geez. We gotta have Abby guard on her. Or Ramona, or I know you'll disagree with me but Ester can guard her at the rim. She hasn't played much this season so we need to give her a shot.

DELANEY

What about Carly, our benchwarmer? Or the girl named Abbigal Longwood that we have not started all season, but she's been our team manager?

LUANNE

Now who wants to have a team manager play in a sectional semi-final game? I'll take Ester she hasn't played much this season.

RUSS

Agreed. She can shoot but could be a good rebounder. Nothin like Venus and Serena level, but close to there.

LUANNE

Alright, let's check the grades so our team can stay academically fit.

INT. ENGLISH CLASSROOM- DAY

MRS. JEFFERSON

Alright guys, we have the ILearn Exam coming up, and for some of you this will be the only test you have to take to be determined for college. Once you pass these next two exams, you don't need to take another math class in high school again. Some of you are graduating in a few months, so I will be nice and do something fun for you all after April, but for now I am going to pass out our last exams after midterms that I forgot to get out last week.

MRS. JEFFERSON

Oh and I have updated your grade on Canvas as well.



MRS. JEFFERSON

Isa?

MRS. JEFFERSON

Here is your test.

CLOSE UP on ISABELLE's FACE AS SHE LOOKS UP AT HER TEST.

CLOSE UP #2 ON THE SCORE: A 97%

LUANNE

(VO)

You are academically eligable to go  
off to college. Congratulations.

HILLARY

(curious)

What's the score?

ISABELLE

A 97 percent.

DONALD

(high fives all the way  
around)

That's my girl! Let's go!

INT. KNIGHTSTOWN HOOSIERS GYM- NIGHT

TEXT FADES IN

The Knightstown 1-A Sectionals

Oaktown vs. Bloomfield

SONG CUE: Marching Band Music

TEXT FADE OUT

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH

This one should be somethin.

MONTAGE OF SCENES:

1. A full basketball game is being played as OAKTOWN gains the possession. KATHRYN would shoot the first three of the game.

2. ABBY will hit another three.

LUANNE

That is what I want to see. C'mon  
bring the ball to Erica, she hasn't  
had it today.

3. ABBY passes the ball to ERICA who is coming in for RITA tonight.

4. SHOT #1 PLAYING BASKETBALL

5. SHOT #2 PLAYING BASKETBALL, STOLEN BALL BY KATHRYN
6. A fight amongst two players almost breaks out but the girls control themselves.
7. LUANNE laughing at RUSS's jokes on the sidelines as this game was lobsided.
8. The girls have a shot for playing for the Sectional title which they claim that night.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And Oaktown wins again, defeating North Daviess SIXTY-FOUR to FORTY-FIVE, we are just a few moments away from seeing how the girls will do at regionals.

CUT TO:

INT. JASPER ARENA, JASPER, INDIANA- DAY

TEXT APPEARS:

Jasper Regionals Semi-Finals

Oaktown vs. Princeton

TEXT FADE OUT

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS:

1. Basketball sequence: Hillary takes her first shot of the season and drains a three pointer with the score being OAKTOWN 10- PRINCETON 6
2. Luanne yelling at her girls to back up.
3. Ref blows his whistle

Sequence of shots can be basketball, fans, or locations shots. Can be decided by filmmaker.

CUT TO:

INT. JASPER LOCKER ROOM- NIGHT

LUANNE

They say the final game is the largest crowd in state tournament history. We play the top team in the country in Lafayette Catholic, another small school just like us.

LUANNE

(cont.d)

We have less students than they do. We have less resources than they do. We have less funding than they do, and hell, their Catholic, but so are we. In my time as coach, I coached one game, and in that game I made every player hold a duck. A large rubber duck, because one thing I can tell you that we will glide along the ocean dock and be winners. Let life roll off your back tonight and play at your absolute best. It's a changing time in Indiana, and we are on the catalysts of it.

ABBY

We got one other thing to share.

SOUND FX: Team clapping like in Hoosiers, as a tribute to the original film.

LUANNE

(pumped)

Alright, alright, alright! Let's go!

CUT TO:

INT. JASPER ARENA, JASPER, INDIANA- NIGHT

TEXT APPEARS

Regional Finals

Oaktown vs. Lafayette Catholic of West Lafayette

TEXT FADE OUT

SOUND FX: Crowd screaming, pep band playing music, ambeice crowd noise.

LUANNE

Play the rock and play it well! Go Abby, set the motion!

1. A player for L.C. Wants to drive through the lane but the pass is stolen by one of the Clinton-Papova girls for an easy scope and score.

LUANNE

Move back now, move back! Play smart with the clock!

SOUND FX: Whistle

LUANNE

Come on Regina! I got your ass off the bench for a reason.

REF #3

Hey, you get the hell off this court if you cuss again.

LUANNE

(yelling)

Oh really! You want me to cuss, I'll give you a swear word every time you spank your wife and yank her on the fucking bed (interrupted)

REF #3

You are gone!

LUANNE slaps the referee in the face so hard he falls down to the ground.

LUANNE

Boys move over cause the ladies are comin through!

LUANNE

You take the reigns Jeane I know what you can do.

LUANNE walks off of the court happy to leave and hollering the Oaktown crowd to stand up and cheer for the girls.

JEANE

Alright girls, timeout!

PA ANNOUNCER

(VO)

Timeout Oaktown. A thirty second timeout.

ABBY

Alright, you want me to set the screen, I mean we're up by eleven so we need to play the clock.

JEANE

Set up for a pick n roll then give it to Rita for three.

ABBY

Rita for three?! Are you nuts?! She's seven feet tall? Fine I'll shoot.

ABBY

(cont.d)

Let's go to Seymour baby! Seymour on two, fight back on three, one, two, three.

TEAM  
 (yelling)  
 Fight back!

SEQUENCE of shots include Abby Sterling hitting three, three pointers and Rita hitting a three from the elbow with just one minute left, and all Oaktown can do when they get the ball again is to hold onto it for the win.

JASON UTAH  
 (VO)  
 Hey ladies and gentlemen, your Oaktown Melon Pickers have never gone this far, in this short of time since the beginning of World War II. Never has this team impressed us all and shows everyone in the Knox County community, an inspiration to the state and to the world. I cannot believe I am going to say it... But I will say it.

JASON UTAH  
 (VO, cont.d)  
 Oaktown, you're Pickers have picked up some dirt and are planting seeds to their first semi state apperence in 100 years.

The girls celebrate on Jasper's floor and raise up the regionals championship trophy.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA- DAY

NEWS REPORTER  
 And so now we welcome Ms. Abby Sterling to choose which school she is going to. Take it away.

ABBY  
 Oaktown, you got your girl and now it's time for her to flap her wings and fly into unchartered terrorities called adulthood. I have thought long and hard about this decision. Whether I should stay and raise my son, or if this option would be detremental to my life. Many of you do not want to get out of Knox County, and I will say this, you still have my girl Oaktown, I am never leaving unless God gives me a greenier land to roam. Nothing will replace my hometown and where I came from. Which is why my decision was hard but here we go.

ABBY

(CONT.D)

I have Vincennes University, that is a no.

ABBY

I have decided that I will stay in my home state, and help lead the...

REGINA

(whispers)

Hope she picks UConn or IU...

ABBY

I will carry on the family legacy, but I also want to make my mom proud, so I am moving to...

ABBY

Notre Dame.

SOUND FX: Cheering

The crowd roars in glee and stand up from their seat, they are excited because they know that their home state Hoosiers are going to dominate with her on their team. The majority of the kids and elderly crowd in attendance is standing up and giving her a round of applause.

RAMONA

And myself and Serena are going to Notre Dame as well.

LUANNE

(cheering)

Let's go girls!

INT. TRAILER PARK- NIGHT

DONALD

(yelling, throwing furniture)

Got laid off from another fucking job! So, we're getting a foreclosure!

HILLARY

We're too young!

DONALD

You stay with me you little bitch!

TRACY

Hey don't grab her by her neck!

DONALD

Shut the hell up you little cunt!

HILLARY

C'mon Donnie, let's go to bed.

DONALD grabs a shot gun and wants to plasture his head wide open, but instead of the turning the gun on other people, he turns the gun on himself and begins balling his eyes out.

DONALD

I tried everything I could!

HILLARY stands in the corner of the living room and sobs her eyes out.

DONALD

(rages)

Hillary, I hate you... You bitch!  
Get on the floor like a damn dog!

HILLARY

You've bee(interrupted)

DONALD

Now!

SOUND FX: Multiple gun shots

TRAILER NEIGHBOR

The hell is goin on in there?

Hillary gets shot first in the chest.

TRACY

(sobbing, screaming)

Oh my God! Oh my God!

Tracy attempts to russle with Donald, knocking over furniture as Hillary was shot in the chest, bleeding and dead at the scene. The neighbor tries knocking on the door multiple times before Donald shoots himself and they both die in a pool of blood.

Tracy is horriyified at the scene.

TRACY

(panic)

Call 9-1-1!

EXT. FUNERAL HOME- NIGHT

LUANNE

This one hurts. This one hurts a lot.

JEANE

I know, but the state legislators have known that troubled girls use drugs for years. Besides, half of our team before this year was on

(MORE)

JEANE (cont'd)

drigs before you changed them into grown women.

LUANNE

I have an obligation to coach these girls so they won't be statistics. It doesn't matter the college, it matters what heart they show on the court, and, yeah, Hillary was a bench warmer, but she made a poor decision to hang out with a guy older than her own age, whose also a convict and a former C.O., in our prison.

GERRY

So whatcha wanna do bout semme state?

LUANNE

That's not on my mind right now (interrupted)

GERRY

Hey Ms. Carney, the state keeps callin bout us in semi state, wonderin if we should honor Hillary or not I said, yes, but I also said, let semi state be a coaches decision.

LUANNE

We're playin. I don't care. We're playin on Saturday. No questions asked.

GERRY

Okay, I'll call them back.

GERRY walks back to his truck and calls the IHSAA heads about the championship game.

EXT. SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT- NIGHT

LUANNE and her players are mobbed by a group of photographers, hundreds of them, as they walk into the gym at Seymour for this important state championship matchup.

OFFICER #1

Where to Mrs. Careny, hey! Move out of the way!

LUANNE

Guys back up, back up! We're goin to the locker room.



INT. SEYMOUR LOCKER ROOM- NIGHT

LUANNE

There's an old saying, when it rains it pours. I would love to see you girls make the rain pour on the parade of these girls in Decatur tonight. Spoil their magical dance.

LUANNE

(cont.d)

We are a group of girls from a high school of about 700 kids, and we outplayed our last two opponents. Beat the hell outta them.

LUANNE

(yelling, cont.d)

What I want out of you girls tonight is to win, and I believe you can because in my book you are winners, you're the goddess Athena, Indiana doesn't like girls like us, white, poor, and shit! You know why because in my book, I love all of you and we are winners!

SFX: One girl claps then another one follows.

LUANNE

(cont.d)

Alright girls let me hear it! Let's Go, let's go! Let's go!

The clapping intensifies as the girls hollar, and clap out of the locker room and onto the Seymour gym with the crowd screaming and hollering overhead.

INT. LLOYD E. SCOTT GYM IN SEYMOUR- DAY

1. CLOSE UP SHOT: ON THE FANS FEET JUMPING UP AND DOWN IN A SPRINT FORMATION

TEXT FADES IN:

IHSAA Semi-State Finals

Oaktown vs. Decatur

TEXT FADE OUT

2. CLOSE UP: The shot clock on the score of the game HOME (Decatur) 40 AWAY (OAKTOWN) 30

3. MEDIUM CLOSE UP: On the Oaktown huddle, discussing what to do next.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

This place has been off the walls with excitement tonight because well... We have coaches here, twenty two head coaches from twenty different colleges and universities are begging to see who can come out on top of this intense Semi-State Final matchup to head up to Indianapolis next week. We are in the final minutes of the fourth quarter just two oh nine left to go in this one as Oaktown is trailing by ten. Decatur has been really getting them off the glass tonight.

4. SFX AND MCU: A marching band is playing the song "Great Balls of Fire"

SFX: Basketball buzzer

REF #2

Break, you can come back out, you can come back out.

5. The teams break out of their huddles, ten players step back onto the court for both teams. The ball will be inbounded near the sidelines close to the top of the key near the Decatur sideline.

MARCHING BAND ENDS

SFX: Crowd hollaring, cheerleaders raving

6. PLAY ON THE COURT: Kathryn has the ball and dribbles past the timeline, passing the ball around from Sievers to Papovia, to Barnsmoore, then back to Kathryn near the top of the key.

LUANNE

Shuffle it up! Shuffle it up!

RUSS

Don't just stand there, set the screen! Throw the rock!

RUSS

(CONT.D)

Kathryn throw it now!

JASON UTAH

(VO)

Screen pass over to Abby with her first two points of the contest, she is oh for seven shooting here tonight but gets an incredible layup on the assist from Kathryn Sievers.

PA ANNOUNCER

(VO)

Abby Sterling from Kathryn Sievers.

7. PLAY ON THE COURT multiple angles: The ball is stolen away by RAMONA and her and ABBY go down the court after the interception. ABBY pulls up for 35 feet for a Caitlin Clark type three, a magic trick she has used all season.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

What a pass by Venus, Abby for three!

JASON UTAH

(CONT.D)

Decatur's lead is cut down to five with seconds ticking away, and Coach Lewis will need to call a timeout, and this one is... stolen by Abigail Sterling.

8. ABBY does it again. Another Caitlin Clark type three pointer, which is why she is the leading scorer on the team. The coaches are impressed.

LUANNE

Pull up! Three! Three!

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And with fifteen seconds to go and this contest is slimmed down to a two point game!

REBECCA CLARK

(VO)

And remember there was no timeout called by Decatur their... Just letting this one play on, and seconds are ticking on the clock. They gotta hurry up!

9. The fans hollaring throughout the gym, everyone is on there feet waiting for the big play to happen. Decatur's SHAKIRA RICHARDSON has the basketball and it is...

10. Stolen away by RAMONA, and for the third time in a row, RAMONA resets the offense past midcourt, into the front court we go, and ABBY will make the shot of a life time after she holds on to the ball for a few seconds.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And Richardson, the Trailblazer recruit is the paint, swings it to Tiffany Laung, ten seconds left, and...

JASON UTAH  
 (VO, excited)  
 STOLEN AWAY BY PAPOVIA, AND ALL  
 HANDS ARE ON DECK AS STERLING HAS  
 THE BASKETBALL! FANS ON THEIR FEET  
 HERE IN SEYMOUR... FIVE SECONDS...  
 FOUR SECONDS... THREE... TWO...

LUANNE  
 That's money! That is money!

JASON UTAH  
 (VO, CONT.D)  
 At the buzzer! ABBY STERLING! ABBY  
 STERLING IS SENDING THE JACKETS TO  
 HINKLE FIELDHOUSE! FEBRAURY  
 TWENTY-EIGHTH! FOR THE FIRST TIME  
 SINCE 19-43, THE PICKERS ARE HEADED  
 TO THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME!

LUANNE jumps up and down like Jim Calhoon did when Kemba Walker hit a jumpshot to win a Big East Tournament game. She is too excited to shake hands with the opposing coach. JEANE, at just the age of 80 years old is crying, hugging the coach. The team runs with the fans to midcourt.

JEANE  
 We did it coach! We did it!

RUSS is jumping up and down like he is a little kid at a candy store. He's got to watch how his back handles him, since he has had surgery there before, but he doesn't care.

11. The fans mob midcourt and have a piece of the IHSAA Semi-State trophy. NOW IT'S ON TO STATE!

INT. BUS- NIGHT

SFX: Emergency vehicle sirens, and fans hollaring overhead.

We have headed back to Oaktown where the girls who have just won the semi state championship are thrilled with excitement. The community, and the town itself is hollaring, wailing, and cheering on their beloved Pickers.

The bus then parks outside Oaktown High School and now the celebration is on.

PRINCIPAL KAVANAGH  
 (over the microphone)  
 And now! Pleeeeeeeeeeease welcome  
 your semi-state champion  
 OAKKKKKKKKKKKKKKTOOOOOOOOOOWN LADY  
 Pickers!

SFX: The fans cheering, screaming at the top of their lungs.

BUS DRIVER

(filled with emotion)

Wow! The whole town's out here.  
Girls I am so proud of you all! I  
was a member of the last team that  
won state! Do this for more than  
just yourselves! You've earned this  
moment. Now let's put little ol  
Oaktown, Indiana on the map!  
Congratulations girls, this is  
greatest moment of my life.

SONG CUE: Marching band and cheering, sirens blairing.

EXT. DOWNTOWN OAKTOWN- NIGHT

The team steps out of the bus as they have headed back home to their home in Oaktown. A crowd of about 1,000 people including women, men, church goers, babies, and children are watching history be made as the girls step off of the bus after winning semi-state. The crowd erupts into pure joy with the parents following suit. This is the most delighted the town has been since the moment they learned of going to state.

CROWD

(chanting in unison to  
the fight song)

It is he who say, the Jacket can  
play, through the sweat and the  
tear of an orange. We work and find  
the strength to survive, in the  
dawn of a Wabash night. We are  
yellow. We are all black.  
Yellowjacket, Yellowjacket, storm  
through the pack!

SFX: Crowd cheering and celebrating through the streets.

MATT

Hey mom! Congratulations!

LUANNE hugs her son who has just gotten off of his car and is back home before spring break.

LUANNE

Matthew! I missed you so much!

MATT

I understand.

LUANNE

Look I'm sorry for not being there  
for you. This moment made me  
realize that yes, I am worth  
something, to me, my team, even in  
life. I have found myself here, and  
this team helped me do it.

MATT

Hey, I forgive you now. I think you have shown to me and my sisters the mindset for self improvement. I just needed you to connect with me. I've watched the livestreams, and boy, I was deeply impressed by our team, and by your stability as a head coach. You never had this before. Enjoy this moment. Enjoy it while it lasts because...

SOUND FX: Crowd talking, baby sound and shutting doors.

MATT

(CONT.D)

I brought my sisters, and their granddaughters to see you today. The courts said you can see your grandkids again.

LUANNE tears up in front of her two daughters SALLY and RACHEL as she gets to have the bonding period with her new grandkids. The moments in Texas and Pennsylvania, drug abuse and alcoholism are finally over, and now she can embrace this moment with her family.

MARCIA

(in spanish)

We are so proud of you!

RAMONA

(hugging her mother,  
speaking in Spanish)

Thanks mom!

MARCIA

I work at Crane now, and I am going to head into getting a job through the military so I can help support you two during college. At least your closer to home so we can help you more.

SERENA

What?! That means we can get out of our car now?

MARCIA

(in spanish)

Yes. Your father doesn't need to work much anymore. He had to miss tonight to work in the fields.

RAMONA

Too bad he is missing this moment.

BRUCE

(in Spanish)

Oh, she said I'd miss this moment,  
no I wouldn't.

The whole town is partying like the year is 1999, and it is unbelievable to see the joy of the town come back on this amazing dark night in February, and now this utter happiness. A town of mellow pickers is now turning into a town of celebration and hope.

REPORTER #1

Oaktown High School is heading back to the state championship for the first time since World War two, and this will be the first ONE A state championship game for the girls team in school history. Now as the celebrations last through the night in this sleepy, but yet excited mellow picking community, Oaktown will head to Indianapolis and face Riley High School of South Bend. The team has all five of their starters going to Division one schools in the fall. Their front court is considered as the best front court in America, and the big question for Oaktown now has to be centered on what to do to block Cassidy Whesslehead and Deborah Jones. Oaktown needs to dominate, but we need to see how this tiny school can compete with a former 4A competitor. Back to you.

FADE OUT

INT. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S OFFICE- DAY

LUANNE

The advantage is on our side, right Abby?

ABBY

Yeah. Whesslehead seems tough behind the rim. We should be in for a rough one.

LUANNE

That is why I will have you guarding Cassidy.

ABBY

Me?

LUANNE

C'mon Abby, you're stronger than this. You blocked the paint for the number two recruit in America who played for South Bend Central, so why are you telling me that you can't guard her but you can other girls?

ABBY

I have more motivation, but she is tough and tall at the rim.

LUANNE

Well so are you. You're small but you can give her a hell of a hard time inside the paint. We may not be the best front court in the world, but I saw you and Ramona and Kathryn get that damn ball in the backcourt. I think you can it.

ABBY

Thanks coach. I am just waiting for hear from IU if I got accepted to the family dorms. I got a girl on the way (interupted)

LUANNE

Another girl?

ABBY

Yeah.

LUANNE

God has sure gave you a gift. I think since Amelia died she gave you an off spring to take care of now. How's your mom?

ABBY

She's still in jail for neglect and child abuse.

LUANNE sits back in her chair about to say another word to her but she can't think of anything else to say.

LUANNE

I left my kids alone before. You know I did heavy drugs at Baylor, and was too washed up with a large NCAA coaching salary. Now I'm back here after the alcohol got me. I served as a volunteer c.o. At Wabash Valley, and that was when my life changed. I had a son at thirteen and two daughters before twenty five. The two daughters got

(MORE)



LUANNE (cont'd)  
 me out of prison life, as I saw  
 them last week. I am a grandma now,  
 so not to brag.

ABBY  
 Oh congratulations.

LUANNE  
 Thank you Abby.

SFX: Phone ringing

LUANNE  
 Oh, I'm getting a phone call, hope  
 you have a good night now.

ABBY  
 Thanks you too.

SFX: Picking up the phone.

LUANNE  
 (on the phone)  
 Hello?... Oh don't worry, I'll be  
 down there as soon as I hang up the  
 phone.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- DAY

RUSS is in the hospital after suffering a major heart  
 attack, and LUANNE has had to comfort JEANE and her daughter  
 DELANEY bedside.

JEANE  
 He just got up and then sloached  
 back. He's complained of pain his  
 chest but I thought he ate too  
 much.

DOCTOR #1  
 He's got a corroded artery, and  
 that might have led to his heart  
 attack. We need to keep him here  
 for tonight and we'll see about  
 surgery in the morning.

JEANE  
 Surgery on what?

DOCTOR #1  
 He might need a angioplasty, but if  
 that doesn't work his heart is  
 getting weaker. So we might need  
 open heart surgery later, but it's  
 nothin to worry about right now.

JEANE

This is hard to hear. We have to be out of town of Wednesday for a basketball thing at the school, and (interrupted)

LUANNE

You guys can skip all that hurrah of basketbakll, but I need Delaney, and then Erica our bench warmer can help us out.

JEANE

(sighs)

I need extra time to talk about the surgery.

DOCTOR #1

Well I need to know by tomorrow afternoon or he could die.

JEANE

I'll let you know in five minutes or less.

DOCTOR #1

Okay, sounds like a plan.

The doctor walks away and goes back to her desk.

LUANNE

Hey, skip the hurrah, I got this.

JEANE

I trust you coach, but I'll need Delaney to be here with me.

LUANNE

Are you sure?

JEANE

(worried)

Positive. Yeah. I lost my dad to a heart attack so this is very hard for me. It seems like pain is comin to the surface.

LUANNE

Well, the whole team has your back, but I hope he gets better, real soon. Let's say a prayer.

INT. MAIN GYMNAISUM- DAY

LUANNE

(bowing her head)

Father, bless the Hager family with the most positive outcome to occur

(MORE)

LUANNE (cont'd)  
 after Russ has surgery. May him  
 live to see another day, we'll win  
 this one, this state championship  
 for him. This mission was never  
 complete without the family, so I  
 hope you understand the longing of  
 our prayers.

INT. TRACY'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

TRACY  
 (whispers)  
 Psst. Psst. Derek?

TRACY  
 (whispering)  
 Grab Sabrina we're leaving. I just  
 have a really bad feeling somethin  
 may happen to ya'll. C'mon.

EXT. DRIVEWAY OF HOME- NIGHT

SOUND FX: Crickets and doors slamming.

In the middle of the night TRACY and her siblings are running away from her father who tonight is experiencing an alcoholic rage. He knows his daughter is succeeding her so she has to leave and protect her family to get out too.

TRACY  
 Oh shit!

FRANCESKA runs out of the house and taps TRACY's car with her hand.

FRANCHESKA  
 Hey? What are ya'll doin?

FRANCHESKA  
 (yelling)  
 WHAT ARE YA'LL DOIN?

TRACY  
 Get in!

ROGER  
 (screaming like a man  
 with bipolar disorder)  
 THE GIRLS DON'T LEAVE ME! COME  
 BACK! COME BACK!

NEIGHBOR #1  
 What the hell are they doin!

NEIGHBOR #1  
 Shoot her ass! Shoot them!

ROGER

Stop the fucking car now you  
pathetic bleeding bitches! Tracy you  
dumb fuck!

ROGER is meanicngly walking around her car with a gun in  
his hands.

ROGER

I thought the girls never left me!  
I thought the kids never left me!  
WNBA my ass! Say goodnight to your  
dreams.

TRACY

Let's go!

SOUND FX: Car swirving away and five gun shots.

TRACY is trying to save her siblings and mother as her  
father has been getting into an alcoholic rage, and now she  
is trying to make her family be more safe from her father  
who is running down the stairs of their home. Blood is then  
splattered all over the front and back of the vehicle. TRACY  
and her siblings are gone in a flash.

FRANCHESKA

(screaming)

Oh my god! Oh my god! Tracy!  
Traaacy! Are you okay? Are you  
okay? Please God speak to me! My  
kids are dead!

ROGER

Now you're goin you no good pathetic  
fat bitch!

FRANCHESKA gets into a fight with her husband as he shoots  
her but misses her lungs. She tackles him to the ground and  
a bystander has called the police.

INT. LUANNE'S KITCHEN- NIGHT

LUANNE is on the floor of her kitchen sobbing, and that is  
all she is doing is breaking down as if she lost a closest  
member to her family.

SOUND FX: A woman crying and the radio

ONE SHOT: LUANNE crying.

JASON UTAH

(saddened on the radio,  
VO)

We have an unbelivable tragedy on  
our hands tonight as Abby  
Sterling's right hand girl, Oaktown  
guard Tracy Norman has died tonight  
(MORE)

JASON UTAH (cont'd)  
 at the tender age of seventeen  
 years old. Her four brothers and  
 sisters were also pronounced dead  
 at 2:30 this morning from gun shot  
 wounds to the head, neck, and  
 groin. The suspect, sixty year old  
 ROGER Norman, a professor at  
 Vincennes University has been  
 arrested on several drug and abuse  
 convictions. Tonight, again anyone  
 coming on our airwaves this morning  
 Tracy Norman, Oaktown's fourth  
 leading scorer has died today at  
 seventeen years old.

CUT TO

INT. LOCKER ROOM- DAY

LUANNE is continuously walking around the empty locker room looking for answers to her unsolved questions of how this team should move forward, and what should the community know about how to prevent another tragedy like this from happening again. She is walking around dazed, depressed, and confused.

INT. CLASSROOM- DAY

The girls are now sitting down calmly watching LUANNE in a depressed mood because of the death of TRACY.

LUANNE  
 (depressed, sighs and the  
 cries a little bit)  
 Girls.

LUANNE  
 (CONT.D)  
 I don't know how I should approach  
 this.

LUANNE wipes away the tears from her face.

ABBY  
 It's alright coach.

LUANNE  
 Thanks Abby. You keep me strong.

LUANNE  
 (CONT.D)  
 We're goin to state, next Saturday,  
 and that was the original plan and  
 it will stay that way. I have  
 played basketball through a death  
 before and this one is even harder  
 for all of us. Sorry...

ABBY

I have this. This is a brick.

LUANNE

A brick? What is this Abby?

ABBY

My grandma told me before she passed away, our love is equal to a ten pound brick. Your heart is the soil and the knowledge you share can be the new foundation for a new home. May Tracy not be in vein, but may her be a triumph of the brick. She was powerful, mighty, and funny. I have so much from you girls, and we lost one of our own. My grandma told me life is precious, and you hold a brick near your heart and never let go. Tragedy is what builds a man into a superman. We can do it too.

ISABELLE

(gruff, emotional)

A man once said, she was powerful not because she wasn't scared but because she went on so strongly despite the fear. Our emotions are high, or lives in the narcissitic hell hole are at stake. We have proven to a mostly male populated community. This is a lesson for all of us to get out of this community, and make better of our lives. A powerful woman carries multiple bricks of love and compassion. If men don't get it we can't do it alone.

ABBY grabs the brick out of her backpack and places it on LUANNE's desk. The team feels moved by their statements and hand LUANNE a patch with the initials T-N-T.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA- DAY

CINEMATIC MUSIC

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS:

1. The team is walking out of the cafeteria doors on a Thursday afternoon as the whole school gives them a round of applause on their trip to Indy.
2. MCU: The bags going into the custom made bus designed for them.
3. LS: Of the bus, and a truck will follow them reading "OAKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, 26-1, LAST STATE TITLE 1943," plus

over three hundred cars filled with parents and family.

4. B-ROLL: The bus driving on the interstate.

5. The views of Vincennes, Bloomington, and Martinsville, Indiana.

6. MCU: On the girls sitting in the bus in silence to their hotel.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

REPORTER #2

Is your team ready for the moment to shine from a small town in Indiana to being noticed by LeBron James.

LUANNE

LeBron James? Huh... Well... We are as ready as we are. We've practiced, we've outsmarted, and will out coach our opponents. We're playing through tragedy, and I think we can yes get the job done.

LUANNE

(closer to the mic)

In otherwords, the show is on.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HINKLE FIELDHOUSE- DAY

TEXT APPEARS

The IHSAA Class 1A State Championship Game

Oaktown vs. Riley

TEXT FADE OUT

ANNOUNCER #1

Broadcasting live from Indianapolis, Indiana, the crown jewel of high school basketball that attracts people from all over the world. Let me tell ya, I have never been in a bigger stadium with a bigger crowd pumped up in my life. These emotions in this building are comparable to an NCAA Final Four match or Game Seven of the NBA Finals.

ANNOUNCER #2

Westwood One is proud to broadcast a pivatol game in high school hoops  
(MORE)

## ANNOUNCER #2 (cont'd)

that is so exciting that the Indianapolis Star has called this matchup a toss up. The Lady Pickers from Oaktown, Indiana have not only used activism, but also courage to get through this season. This as the Hoosier state is now making room for girls hoops to be alive and well. Teri Moran, Larry Bird, and Ali Patberg are three famous celebrities that are here tonight to watch this high school basketball matchup.

## JASON UTAH

The single largest crowd to ever attend a women's high school basketball game in the state of Indiana is on hand tonight for what will be a thrilling I-H-S-A-A State Championship Game. The matchup we have all been waiting for is the Class 1A title which was moved from it's normal 11 am time to now being rescheduled to 9 pm on a Saturday night in Indianapolis. Glad to have you along with us for the final game of the regular season, the Championship game in fact. As tickets for the championship were sold out in less than 10 hours. It's the Tigers of Riley High School, versus ladies of Oaktown. Now with the opening ceremonies we will go courtside for the public address.

LS: Of the court and the fans in the stands.

## PA ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentleman welcome to the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class ONE A State Championship game at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana for tonight's championship game between the visiting Riley High School Tigers of South Bend, Indiana and the home team the Oaktown Melon Pickers from Oaktown, Indiana.

## PA ANNOUNCER

(VO)

Oaktown was hit with an incredible tragedy on Tuesday night as Oaktown High School guard Tracy Norman

(MORE)



PA ANNOUNCER (cont'd)  
 unexpectedly passed away along with  
 her brothers Derek and Cody, and  
 her sisters Sabrina and Chloe. She  
 was selected by the Indianapolis  
 Gazelle to the third team all  
 Indiana lineup. She scored 900  
 points and racked up a state total  
 of over seventy rebounds. For  
 college she dreamed of attending  
 Valporasio University. Oaktown High  
 School will be wearing a red and  
 yellow patch on the left hand  
 corner of their jersey reading the  
 initials T-N-T. We honor the life of  
 Ms. Norman and her family.

SOUND FX: Silence for twenty seconds.

PA ANNOUNCER

(VO)

Thank you.

PA ANNOUNCER

(VO)

And now if you are able please rise  
 and honor America with the singing  
 of our national anthem. The All  
 Female Chorus and Band representing  
 all 682 high schools in the state  
 of Indiana, will be led tonight by  
 the direction of Mrs. Alex  
 Taylor-Collins from Forest Park  
 High School. Presenting a dash of  
 colors and honoring America with  
 our Star Spangled Banner.

ABBY

Let's win this for the small towns  
 and the little girls who never  
 thought they would have a chance.

CHOIR and BAND sings and strum to the entire Star Spangled  
 Banner from start to finish.

PA ANNOUNCER

(VO)

And now here are the starting  
 lineups.

The stadium's lights go to black. It's game time. Then the  
 lights turn back on as soon as the montage starts.

MONTAGE:

1. The players get themselves ready for the starting  
 lineups, as the flashing lights hit Abby's face. She is  
 ready for this moment.

2. CLOSE UP ON BASKETBALL IN REFEREE'S HANDS

3. The Riley High School team is patting their stomachs as the ball is tipped.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And here we go in the state championship game. A capacity crowd on hand here this evening.

MONTAGE #2:

4. KATHRYN is passing the ball to ABBY who scores a layup to score a basket into the hoop.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

Kathryn Sievers, gets the ball down the lane kicks it out to Sterling for the layup by Sterling and she scores the first points of the game.

REBECCA CLARK

(VO)

This will be a back and forth matchup between big guards and stronger forwards, this place is already electric as both teams start out of the gate with a motion offense.

5. INTERCEPTION by ALANIA as she allows Rita to score on a dunk.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

And the ball is stolen away, and in the opening minutes Riley is struggling, and Rita... WITH THE SLAM! A ten nothing run for the Pickers as Coach Moore has to call time out with just five minutes left in the first half. Deborah Jones looks winded out there.

In the huddle, the camera will constantly move.

LUANNE

(cheerful)

Yes! Yes! That is what I am talking about! Stay this way the whole game and we got somethin special.

MONTAGE OF SLOW MOTION CLIPS:

6. The game gets physical and these next six clips are monumental in creating an atmosphere of toughness and grit.

FIRST SCENE: KATHRYN gets knocked over near the rim, but she gets back up and scores while her nose is bleeding.

7. ABBY through the lane as she gets a layup to score her tweleth point of the contest.

8. The fans are in shock as a Riley player gets thrown out of the game.

9. Riley's shot near the rim is blocked by TAYLOR who gives it back to Isabelle.

GERRY

That's my girl! That's my girl!

10. SCOREBOARD: Oaktown 59-Riley 62

11. With the seconds ticking away through the second half, Abby hits a game tying three. The crowd goes nuts.

JASON UTAH

And we are going into Overtime here at Hinkle Fieldhouse.

12. BASKETBALL play as TAYLOR gives the ball to ABBY again.

ANNOUNCER #2

(VO)

Norman inside to Papaova. Papova kicks this back out to Abby Sterling for three! She knows how to tickle the twine and score.

LUANNE

Run back girls! Run back!

13. A Riley player is trying hit the ball for three and she misses.

ANNOUNCER #1

No Good! Double overtime in Indy.

TEXT FADE IN:

St. John's 67- Riley 67

TEXT FADE OUT

ANOTHER PLAYING SHOT of the girls playing basketball.

ANNOUNCER #2

Triple overtime... Unbelievable these girls know how to put on a show.

14. SHOT OF GIRL TRYING TO MAKE A SHOT.

JASON UTAH

Sterling with a record about to be shattered of 60 points and ten rebounds, the all time leading scorer in state championship history.

SOUND FX: The crowd chanting, and music stops.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- DAY

ANNOUNCER #1

(on TV)

It has been a thriller in Indianapolis.

RON

I have no words... C'mon girls!

NURSE

C'mon now, you're in Hatchet country.

JASON UTAH

Barnsmoore to Norman, and Ramona Clinton-Papova has 26 tonight as she hits her fifteenth two point basket of the night.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HINKLE FIELDHOUSE- DAY

ANNOUNCER #1

Three seconds...two seconds... And will Riley put up a shot here?? NO! We are going into four overtimes! Wow! A state record might be shattered in just a few minutes. This is the longest girls basketball game ever played in Indiana state championship history!

REGINA

C'mon baby! You're tryin!

ANNA

Coach I'm ti(interupted)

LUANNE

Shut up! No whiners on my team!

ABBY

(yelling)

Girls! I don't give a shit what the score is on the board, or who is going to take a final shot, but I know on God's green pastures that

(MORE)

ABBY (cont'd)  
 shot will be mine! GOD DAMN IT, IT  
 WILL BE MINE! MINE!

LUANNE  
 You wanna pick and roll or do the  
 latter?

RITA  
 Latter!

ABBY  
 (screaming)  
 Latter girls, latter! This is our  
 last chance! We've proven to all  
 these men, women, and kids that we  
 can and will survive! WE'RE TRUELY  
 FEMININE SO EMBRACE IN IT! So let's  
 make the most out of this moment.  
 THE MOST OF OUR WORK! Right here!  
 Right now!

TEAM  
 (chanting in unison)  
 Right here, right now, right here  
 right now!

ABBY  
 Family on three, one, two, three...

TEAM  
 Family!

Both teams break out of their huddles.

LS: On the girls getting back onto the court to finish this  
 long winded game.

JASON UTAH  
 (excited)  
 And she holds it. Between her toes  
 and her feet, Abby Sterling has  
 just herself and her opponents to  
 work with as the clock is ticking  
 down again... Ten, nine, eight...

LUANNE  
 Take your time big girl! You got  
 this!

1. The fans on their feet.
2. An iconic part, as the girls rally around ABBY who hits a  
 game winning three from Caitlin Clark range.

JASON UTAH

(VO)

Fans are on their feet, no one is sitting down! Five, four, three, two... STERLIIIIIIIING!

3. The players exploding in happiness. LUANNE has jumped like Kirby Smart winning a national championship, the whole crowd is causing the place to shake.

JASON UTAH

(CONT.D, VO)

FOR THREEE! ABBY STERLING WILL LET THE PICKERS SCOOP! OAKTOWN HIGH! YOU... HAVE WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME! UNBELIEVABLE!

MONATGE OF SCENES:

1. OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT: LUANNE gets up from her seat and mobs center court with her girls. Her now State Championship winning girls as every one of her players mob mid-court with celebration and utter glee.

2. Riley's coach consuels his players and walk back to their locker room.

3. ABBY is hosited on her shoulders as her teammates are crying, her team celebrating as the confetti is falling down for their one shining moment.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- DAY

4. The Hagers are celebrating the huge accomplishment as the nurses look on in shock, but concern so RUSS does not have a heart attack again.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HINKLE FIELDHOUSE- DAY

5. The girls celebrate on the Hinkle Fieldhouse floor. It feels as if they have won the NBA Finals. A small school with small roots have done the absolute unthinkable. Winning a state championship game.

IHSAA REPRESENTATIVE

And the winner of both Mrs. Basketball and now the 2022 IHSAA Girls basketball mental attitude award, goes to a true champion. A warrior for her team, that has brought a small town of nine hundred people or so to their feet. To recieve the IHSAA State Championship trophy. A future

(MORE)

## IHSAA REPRESENTATIVE (cont'd)

Indiana Hoosier, and the girl who broke Jackie Young's all time points scoring record in a single season. You know her it's Abby Sterling! Come up here Ms. Sterling.

6. ABBY cries as she walks to the podium and receives the highest honor a high school athlete in Indiana can receive with her son CADEN by her side. They take pictures and receive the trophy.

7. The team celebrates with the trophy in Abby's hands as the camera lights are flashing and the fans all want a taste of a little bit of history.

8. A PHOTOGRAPH then ZOOM OUT of the photo of the state championship team, as we head back to Oaktown High School where history began.

## INT. MAIN GYMNASIUM- DAY

The team are full of grown adults. The year is 2043, and even though the future seems bright, the team explore the newly built gym designed in Abby's honor, and they reminisce on the times they became state champions in 2022.

## RAMONA

(VO)

I remember this team for their passion. Their grit and determination.

## DELANEY

(VO)

This was more than Abby's story, or Rita's story, or Taylor's story. This is a story for Indiana. A story for my grandkids that I got to help win the first state championship Oaktown has ever had.

## ABBY

(VO)

Everytime I step on that court, I think of my daughter. I think our lives, I think about how women can become great. All I have to say to my haters, our doubters, and our least loyal of crowd who ignore the absence of Title nine, and the greatness you can do. I need to tell you girls, you can make through of any situation. You are powerful, we are strong, and this state championship gave me the chance to tell my second daughter

(MORE)

ABBY (cont'd)  
you can be anything you want to be.  
You are woman. Because you can be  
many things.

SONG CUE: "Catch My Breath" by Alex Goot & Against the Current, cover of "Catch My Breath" by Kelly Clarkson.

ABBY walks on the basketball court in which she started playing high school ball, and now she walks in the gym with five kids, and her mom as they stare at the championship banner, and the picture of the team on the rafters.

CLOSE UP: On her daughter's eyes staring at the poster.

FADE OUT

ROLL CREDITS AND FINAL CLIPS OF A BOOK called BASKETBALL and how the girls game is beginning to revolutionize the state of Indiana and bring in new awareness of Title XI awareness thanks to it's 50th anniversary, and the Indiana Hoosiers women's basketball team and their magical run with Teri Moren, Patberg, and to the Hoosiers teams from 1983, 2001, 2017, 18, 19, 2021, 2022, and 2023. This whole credit scene is based on the idea that this is a female game as much as it is a women's game. In a state like Indiana where men are abusive girls now have a say and can finally stand up.

THE END



