

EDDIE

Screenplay by

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Revisions

July 20, 1995 (blue)

July 31, 1995 (pink)

Director: Steve Rash

**Producer: David Permut
Mark Burg**

EDDIEGRAM

July 31, 1995 (pink)

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. Due to the extensive amount of revisions, the script has been reformatted and the page numbers are consecutive (no "A" pages, etc.).**
- 2. JIM WEBB has been changed to WALT FRAZIER. This change has not been asterisked.**

FADE IN:

1 VERY CLOSE ON ANNOUNCER'S MICROPHONE

1

sitting on a table. A hand reaches in and presses the "talk" button.

The lower profile of a face leans toward the microphone.

EDDIE (O.S.)

Okay, we're back! It doesn't get any better than this! No, sir! Not in Almighty Heaven itself! The streets of the Big Apple must be on fire with excitement!...

2 INT. VARIOUS CARS - CLOSE ON VOLUME KNOBS - SIMULTANEOUS - NIGHT

2

being turned up.

CLOSE ON EACH DRIVER

All listen to Eddie call the game. Riveted.

EDDIE (V.O.)

And don't forget, folks, this game is being brought to you by Mike's Limo Service...

3 INT. SAN ANTONIO STADIUM - NIGHT (GAME #1 - VS. SAN ANTONIO SPURS)

3

*

The game.

EDDIE (V.O.)

Thirty seconds left. Our beloved Knicks lead the Spurs by two. ... Knicks ball. Darren 'The Preacher' Taylor brings it upcourt...

*

*

*

DARREN TAYLOR, the Knicks' short, white guard.

EDDIE (V.O.)

(continuing)

... he passes over to Duncan. If San Antonio's gonna put anybody at the free-throw line, it's Duncan...

JAMAL DUNCAN, the 21-year-old rookie sensation with an UNPRONOUNCEABLE LOGO shaved into his head.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

EDDIE (V.O.)
(continuing)
... the way he shoots from the
charity stripe, you can
understand why they call 'em
'foul shots'. He dishes off to
Hastings...

TERRY HASTINGS heads up court.

EDDIE (V.O.)
(continuing)
... Hastings was an All-Star last
year, but since his wife said
sayonara, his field goal
percentage has dropped 26
percent.

Hastings passes down low to IVAN RADOVADOVITCH, 26, a
Russian who after four years in the League still doesn't
have a grasp of the English language.

*
*

EDDIE (V.O.)
(continuing)
... Radovadovitch pivots with the
ball. Our man Ivan's the Terror.
That is, until he's playin'
defense, when he becomes Ivan the
Terrified.

He passes to STACY PATTON, the team's star.

EDDIE (V.O.)
(continuing)
... He passes to Patton, wide
open at the top of the key. Run
some time off the clock!!...

Patton fakes right and dashes left toward the basket.

EDDIE (V.O.)
(continuing)
... No! They're suckering you
inside!...

Patton drives the lane and tries a miracle shot. No
chance. COACH BAILEY of the Knicks shrugs on the
sidelines.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

EDDIE (V.O.)
(continuing)
Patton's still grandstanding and
Coach Bailey's not doing anything
about it... Why do I let myself
believe?! Why?!...

* As the Spurs rebound the ball, a PHONE RINGS. And again.

4 INT. MIKE'S LIMOUSINE SERVICE - NIGHT

4

PULL BACK to reveal -- a small color TV screen.

Glued to the set, EDWINA "EDDIE" FRANKLIN, wearing a New York Knicks shirt, calls the play-by-play into her radio dispatch mike. No ordinary fan, the game has obviously taken its toll.

Behind the ultimate fan, a sign reads: "MIKE'S LIMOUSINE SERVICE".

EDDIE
(into mike)
Hold on, Knickerbockers, we're
having a technical difficulty.

The PHONE on the desk keeps RINGING. Eddie reluctantly answers.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Mike's Limo... Oh, Achmed, it's
you. Come in and pick up the
white stretch. After The Plaza
drop, rotate, drive into the
wings, and make a fast break down
the FDR to the Long Island
Expressway...
(into mike)
... Spurs shoot a three. It's
good. Urghhh!!...
(a bullet through
Eddie's heart)
Coach Bailey calls a twenty-
second time-out with twelve long,
endless seconds left! A sporting
lifetime!...

5 INT. EARLIER "CARS" - SAME TIME

5

REVEAL -- all fellow limo drivers, including one we will come to know as MOHAMMED, listening to Eddie over their limo dispatch RADIOS.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

EDDIE (V.O.)
Ivan has been getting mugged down
low all game -- Hastings is
aching and Patton is building a
house with all the bricks he's
puttin' up...

* 6 OMITTED

6

7 INT. MIKE'S LIMOUSINE SERVICE - CONTINUOUS

7

EDDIE
... If Bailey had an ounce of
basketball brains, he'd go to
Duncan for the shot... so what
does he do?
(beat)
He goes to Patton!

The TV goes dead.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Aaarrgghhhhh!!!!

Eddie looks around for the remote control. Behind her
stands MISCHA (MIKE), a pissed-off 48-year-old Russian
holding a remote control. His English is... fair.

MISCHA
I say no more basketball.

EDDIE
Jesus Christ, Mischa! Fire me,
demote me, but for the love of
God, turn on the game!

MISCHA
I pay. You work, not watch TV.

Mischa shakes his head and Eddie lunges at him and the TV.
They struggle to turn on/keep off the TV, mimicking the
basketball game -- Mischa "defending", Eddie trying to
reach "the basket". Finally, Eddie grabs the TV, still
"blocking Mischa out", and TURNS it ON just in time to
see...

8 ON TV

8

Hastings takes the ball into the San Antonio end. Five
seconds left. Ivan is covered under the basket, but
Duncan is wide open.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

EDDIE (V.O.)
Duncan! Go to Duncan!!

Three. Hastings forces the ball toward Duncan, but...
Patton steps in front of the pass, deflecting the ball
toward a San Antonio player. One. The BUZZER sounds.

9 INT. MIKE'S LIMO SERVICE

9

EDDIE
Nooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Eddie lies sprawled out over the dispatch desk. Totally
spent. Mischa drops a set of keys next to Eddie on the
desk. Clank.

10 EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

10

11 INT. EDDIE'S LIMO (MOVING) - DAY

11

REVEAL Eddie driving a limo, listening to sports radio's
WALT FRAZIER.

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)
... the sale rumors have heated
up again. The Knicks, who at 14
and 39 have sunk to new lows this
season, have announced a press
conference this afternoon.

Suddenly, Eddie's limo dispatch RADIO CRACKLES...

MOHAMMED (V.O.)
Edd-Dee, where is Empire State
Building?

Eddie turns down the sports show.

EDDIE
Why don't you call Dispatch,
Mohammed?

MOHAMMED (V.O.)
Mischa very mean.

Mischa's voice breaks in over the radio.

MISCHA (V.O.)
I hear that.

EDDIE
Good. Where are you, Mohammed?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

MOHAMMED (V.O.)
Corner of 34th and 5th.

12 INT. DIFFERENT LIMO - SAME TIME

12

MOHAMMED, one of the drivers from before, sits in his limo.

EDDIE (V.O.)
Alright. Got a pen handy?

He grabs one.

MOHAMMED
Oh, yes.

EDDIE (V.O.)
Okay, look up.

Mohammed looks out his window to see the Empire State Building staring him in the face.

MOHAMMED
T'ank you.

13 INT. EDDIE'S LIMO - SAME TIME

13

Eddie rolls down the limo partition to REVEAL her passengers: a group of kids from her neighborhood, including SULI and JEROME. In the front seat sits MALIK, 12.

EDDIE
Don't forget to run the ball
upcourt. Those guys are big but
slow.

*

MALIK
Yeah, we're gonna smoke 'em. I'm
gonna play like Stacy Patton!

EDDIE
What? You ain't gonna pass
either?

The CLANKING OF GLASS can be heard from the back. Eddie looks in the rear view mirror.

EDDIE
(continuing)
How many times do I gotta tell
you guys not to touch anything in
the refrigerator? I gotta pay
for that.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

SULI (O.S.)
Sorry, Eddie.

Still looking in the rear view mirror:

EDDIE
And don't think I don't see that
Yoo-Hoo in your hand, Jerome.

Jerome blushes. Busted.

14 EXT. CITY BASKETBALL COURT (AKA "EDDIE'S BASKETBALL"
COURT) - ESTABLISHING - LATER

14 *

Across the street from a police station, the court is enclosed by a chain-link fence. Within the neighborhood, the court looks to be one of the only things that has been reasonably maintained. Three other neighborhood KIDS are waiting outside the court as Eddie, Malik, Suli and Jerome walk from the limo to the locked gate.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

CLOSE ON Eddie as she takes the key to the court and unlocks the padlock and chain on the gate door.

EDDIE
While I'm gone, run the weave and
practice your free thro...

The SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS interrupts. Eddie turns to see a WINO stumbling to stand up against the outside of the fence. A broken bottle of wine lies at his feet. He reaches up and grabs onto a homemade sign that is fastened to the fence. He stumbles again, pulls the sign off of the fence, and drops it on the ground. Eddie storms over.

*
*
*
*
*

EDDIE
(continuing)
Get your nappy ass away from my
court! You're settin' a bad
example.

*

WINO
(slurring)
I am not a role model.

The Wino staggers off. Eddie returns the sign to its spot on the fence. We see that it reads: The Rick Franklin Memorial Court.

*
*

Eddie starts to pick up the glass when we HEAR Mischa's voice thundering over the limo RADIO.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

MISCHA (V.O.)
Eddie! Eddie!

EDDIE
Damn!

Eddie runs to a trash can, throws the glass out, and then
rushes back to the limo.

MISCHA (V.O.)
Eddie!

She stops and does a half-turn toward the basketball court
and sees that the kids are playing now. They're okay.

EDDIE
Okay. Shit!

She hops into the limo, stretches out across the front
seat, and grabs her radio mike. As she speaks, she
positions herself behind the wheel. The limo pulls out.

EDDIE
(continuing; into her
dispatch radio)
Damn, Mischa, you should see this
uh...
(she now speaks in
Russian with
SUBTITLES)
... traffic jam! Whew! Cars
backed up for miles.

AA15 INT. MIKE'S LIMOUSINE SERVICE

AA15

MISCHA
I know you speak shit when you
use Russian, Eddie.

AB15 INT. EDDIE'S LIMO (MOVING)

AB15

Eddie leans on her horn to simulate a traffic jam.

EDDIE
(pretending a Man's
irate voice)
Bitch!
(as Eddie)
Eat my feet!
(as Man)
Love to!
(as Eddie)
In your dreams.

A15 INT. MIKE'S LIMOUSINE SERVICE

A15

MISCHA
Airport pickup waiting. Move
ass.

*

(in Russian, with
SUBTITLES)
Your next demotion is called
unemployment.

B15 INT. EDDIE'S LIMO (MOVING)

B15

EDDIE
(in Russian, with
SUBTITLES)
I couldn't stand the pay raise.

C15 EXT. STREET - HIGH ANGLE

C15

as Eddie slaloms through the clear, empty streets.

15 EXT. JFK AIRPORT - PRIVATE TERMINAL - LATER

15

Eddie's LIMO SCREECHES up to a fancy jet. Her fare, a
jovial TEXAN, sits on the steps of his plane talking on
his cell phone. Eddie gets out of her limo to load his
bags.

*

EDDIE
You the guy going to The Plaza
Hotel?

TEXAN
Yeah, and I have been for the
last ten minutes.

EDDIE
Well, we all got our crosses to
bear.

As she struggles with his bags...

EDDIE
(continuing)
Damn, you movin' here or
something?

TEXAN
(waiting by the limo
door)
Are you gonna open my door,
honey?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

EDDIE

Listen, Roy Rogers. 'A', I ain't
your honey. And 'B', you got two
hands. Can't you see I'm busy
loadin' your dresser drawers?

(continuing to
struggle)

Damn, whatcha got in here,
Trigger?

The Texan almost smiles before letting himself in the
limo.

A16 EXT. NEW YORK CITY

A16

As the limo speeds toward town.

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)

... Welcome back to WFAN, Fan
radio. Well, it's official.
Early this morning, flamboyant
oil man Wild Bill Burgess
purchased our slumping Knicks.

16 INT. EDDIE'S LIMO - HIGHWAY (MOVING) - LATER

16 *

Eddie drives, and reacts to the bad news on Walt Frazier's
sports call-in show on the RADIO. The limo's tinted glass
partition is up.

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)

And Coach Bailey didn't exactly
roll out the welcome mat...

BAILEY (V.O.)

(sound bite)

... As long as he stays out of
the way and lets me coach my way,
my style, I'm sure we'll be
fine...

EDDIE

Yeah, last-place style.

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)

So, let's find out. We've got
Wild Bill live right now on Knick-
Talk. So, what are your plans
for the team?

*
*

WILD BILL (V.O.)

The plans are entertainment, Jim.
We're gonna put on the best damn
show in the NBA!...

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 16

Eddie grabs the limo's car phone, hits speed dial. Beat.

17 INT. RADIO STATION - SAME TIME 17

The PRODUCER of Walt Frazier's show answers the control booth phone.

EDDIE (V.O.)
Put me on with this moron.

PRODUCER
(to Jim)
Guess who?

WALT FRAZIER smiles and pushes the button to take the call.

WALT FRAZIER
(into mic)
Here she is, folks. Coach
Bailey's biggest fan, Eddie
Franklin. What have you got to
say to Wild Bill?

18 INT. EDDIE'S LIMO - SAME TIME 18

EDDIE
(into phone)
You want to put on a good show?
Start it with a human sacrifice
of Coach John Bailey.

WILD BILL (V.O.)
(laughing)
Hell, if people'd buy tickets, I
might consider it, honey.

EDDIE
(into phone)
I ain't your hon...

Eddie freezes. Beat.

IN REAR VIEW MIRROR

She rolls down the glass partition a crack. Enough to see the Texan, speaking on his cell phone, looking at her.

Beat. She rolls the window back up.

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)
You still there, Eddie?

Eddie rolls the window back down. More this time.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

EDDIE
 (into phone)
 Holy shit...

The Texan's eyes go wide as he hears her over his phone as well as in the front seat. She starts to roll the window back up, but now he begins to roll it down. Embarrassed, she reaches over to roll it back up. As they battle for control of the window...

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)
 Sorry to cut you off, Eddie, but
 the FCC has rules.

19 EXT. HIGHWAY - LIMO - SIMULTANEOUS

19 *

The SCREECHING OF BRAKES as the limo violently swerves and almost loses control.

20 OMITTED

20

21 EXT. PLAZA HOTEL - LATER

21

Eddie unloads Wild Bill's bags as he stands nearby.

EDDIE
 The Russians think it's all about scoring; that's why Ivan can't play defense. But your rookie can! You could get some minutes out of Sparks -- Patton is your most talented player, but unfortunately he knows that better than anybody. And he doesn't pass! He's averaging zero-point-two assists per game! Hey, you want me to carry these up to your room?

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

WILD BILL
 No! Uh, I mean, that's quite alright. I'll get the bellhops.

EDDIE
 You sure? I got tons more ideas.

WILD BILL
 I don't doubt that for a moment.

Eddie is surprised as she looks up and sees DONALD TRUMP emerge from The Plaza and greet Wild Bill warmly.

A22 EXT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATE DAY A22

An older brick apartment building reflects a modest but hard-earned New York lifestyle. We HEAR OVER A TELEPHONE RING and ANSWERING MACHINE pick up.

EDDIE'S OUTGOING MESSAGE (V.O.)

Okay, it's an easy one today.
What was Earl Monroe's nickname?

B22 INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS B22

Eddie's OUTGOING MESSAGE CONTINUES OVER as the elevator doors open, revealing Eddie. She goes to her apartment door right next to the elevator and hears the machine on the other side. She rushes to get the keys in the locks.

EDDIE'S OUTGOING MESSAGE (V.O.)

Leave the answer or a message,
but don't waste half my tape just
thinking about it.
(BEEP)

CLAUDINE (V.O.)

Hey, girl, it's Claudine.

Eddie is hurrying to unlock the last lock.

EDDIE

Damn!

She gets the door open.

22 INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 22

Eddie enters and heads for the phone.

CLAUDINE (V.O.)

Mmm-mmm-mmm! Have I met a guy
for you!

Eddie has reached the phone, but she reflexively pulls her arm back away from picking up when she hears that last remark.

CLAUDINE (V.O.)

(continuing)

Hope you don't mind, but I gave
him your number earlier.

EDDIE

Aw, no...

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22 *

CLAUDINE (V.O.)

See you tonight.

Eddie picks up the phone quickly just as Claudine hangs up.

* EDDIE

Wait, Claudine. Claudine?
Shoot.

She hangs the phone back up. We now see that Eddie's apartment is a Knicks shrine, with every bit of New York Knicks paraphernalia imaginable. More than the Garden sells. Lampshades made of pennants, a glass table supported by four B-balls as legs, etc. Eddie hits the playback button on her machine and, as she crosses out of frame to close the apartment door, we HOLD:

On a bookshelf stands a picture of her and her late husband, Rick, African-American, handsome, at Madison Square Garden during a Knicks game. They are sitting with the individuals we will come to know as the "Section 221 Gang". There's a wedding photo of the two in front of a church, dodging rice being thrown by a police Honor Guard. Another shows Rick and Eddie (both wearing matching Knicks jerseys) and the younger Malik, Suli, Jerome at "Eddie's court". Handwriting on the picture reads: "To the only person I'd miss a Knicks game for. Love, Rick."

One last picture shows a smiling Rick in his NYPD uniform, his badge and Medal of Honor hang over the picture. Stuck in one corner is a small newspaper CLIPPING relating to his death. The machine has started its playback.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

It's Mark. Okay, I think Earl
Monroe's nickname was the Oyster?
Right?...

Eddie is back at the machine. She presses fast forward on the answering machine.

EDDIE

Earl the Pearl, you moron.

BEEP!

VINNIE (V.O.)

Dis is Vinnie Torlatino. I got
jo number from your friend,
Claudine.

Eddie reacts and heads into --

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS ACTION

She reaches into her refrigerator and pulls out a head of lettuce. Well, kind of. She unscrews the bottom of the "lettuce head" -- actually one of those Hide-a-Safe devices. Reaching in, she removes her coveted Knicks tickets, takes two, and replaces the "lettuce".

VINNIE (V.O.)

And who's dis friggin' Earl
Monroe? Yo' boyfriend?

Accidentally shutting the refrigerator door too hard, she knocks off a handful of the hundred or so Knicks magnets.

23 INT. EDDIE'S BEDROOM

23

Eddie opens up her closet. Five different Knicks jerseys, each with the number of one of the starters, hang side by side.

EDDIE

What's a girl to wear...

24 EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - SUBWAY STATION (GAME #2
- VS. LOS ANGELES LAKERS) - LATE AFTERNOON

24

The crowd, if you could call it that, streams toward the entrance. Among them, Eddie and her dressed-to-the-nines best friend, CLAUDINE.

A25 EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - MARQUEE

A25

In addition to the jersey with Nate Wilson's number, Eddie wears every possible piece of Knicks attire.

B25 INT. GARDEN - TICKET LOBBY

B25

Claudine's head zigzags back and forth, glancing at the male fans around her. Eddie notices her lagging behind.

EDDIE

Man, Claudine, every time I bring
you, you dress like you're
working the game, not watching
it.

CLAUDINE

I am working it. Best ratio in
town here, fifty guys for every
girl.

(CONTINUED)

26 INT. ENTRANCE TO THE TUNNEL

26 *

Coach Bailey talks with longtime New York Assistant Coach KARL ZIMMER. In the b.g., Wild Bill approaches. Seeing him, Bailey chuckles. What a joke.

WILD BILL

Can I have a word with you, Coach Bailey?

BAILEY

'Course. Your team.

WILD BILL

Our team. Listen, I saw the game on TV last night, and we need more spirit. Why don't you fire the boys up out there? Get the folks into it.

BAILEY

Look... Mr. Bill, I'm a coach. The cheerleaders are the ones in the short dresses.

Bailey walks off.

27 COURT AND KNICKS BENCH - MOMENTS LATER

27

Eddie and Claudine cut through the stands right behind the Knicks bench, finally taking a pair of seats three rows back.

A28 EDDIE'S POV - THE COURT

A28

The Knicks warm up. Coach Bailey stomps toward the bench.

EDDIE

C'mon, Bailey! Why don't you show a little imagination out there! I've seen better plays at the YWCA! And give Hastings a rest?! I saw the shoot-around. His head's a million miles away! Play Nate Wilson! Or the rookie Joe Sparks!...

Bailey glares at her as he reaches the bench.

(CONTINUED)

A28 CONTINUED:

A28

EDDIE

(continuing)

Don't you look at me like that!
I pay good money to watch your no-
imagination, bad-shot-selection,
poor-clock-management, lily-white
ass coach my team.

(pointing)

See that sign up there!? John
3:16? That ain't from the Bible,
it's your sorry-ass road record!!
You know who you are? You must
be the anti-coach!

*

Nearby fans start to laugh.

28 FROM THE TUNNEL

28

Wild Bill sees it all.

29 ON KNICKS BENCH AND STANDS BEHIND BENCH

29

Bailey has had enough. He snaps his fingers at a nearby
USHER and points at Eddie.

The Usher approaches.

USHER #1

May I see your tickets please?

Eddie and Claudine get up out of "their" seats. Bailey
watches them go, locking eyes with Eddie.

BAILEY

(waving)

Buh-bye.

A30 INT. STANDS - EXPENSIVE SEATS

A30

Eddie and Claudine start heading up the stairs to their
own seats. Going from the monied courtside seats toward
the nosebleed section visually should be like traveling
from Park Avenue to the Bronx.

EDDIE

The lawyers, CEOs and movie stars
pay \$8,000 a year for those seats
and only show up when we're
winning. Those ain't fans, those
are tax write-offs.

Eddie looks back at the court.

B30 EDDIE'S POV FROM THE EXPENSIVE SEATS B30

The visiting L.A. LAKERS are introduced, to scattered boos.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
(to be determined)

C30 INT. STANDS - MODERATELY PRICED SEATS C30

A few fan banners line the railing: "Wake Me When It's Over!", "For This I'm Missing 'Baywatch'?", etc.

D30 EDDIE'S POV FROM MODERATELY PRICED SEATS D30

The Knicks' starting FIVE are introduced by the Garden Announcer. (The following will continue V.O. through scene 30.)

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Ladies and gentlemen: introducing the starting lineup for your New York Knicks! At Center, standing tall at seven feet, from the Republic of Georgia -- and I don't mean Atlanta -- Ivan Radovadovitch.

(CHEERS)

At Guard, six-feet-four inches tall, Darren Taylor.

(CHEERS)

At Guard, at six foot six, Jamal Duncan.

(CHEERS)

At Forward, standing six foot eight, Terry Hastings.

(MORE CHEERS)

At Forward, six-foot-ten-inch Stacy Patton.

(BIGGER CHEERS)

And Head Coach of the New York Knicks, John Bailey!

Scattered cheers and a few boos.

E30 INT. STANDS - CHEAP SEATS E30

A FAIR-WEATHER FAN hangs a "Knicks Stink" banner as Eddie and Claudine pass.

EDDIE
(to Fair-weather Fan)
They do not stink. They're one player short.

(CONTINUED)

E30 CONTINUED:

E30

FAIR-WEATHER FAN
Yeah, Clark Kent.

30 INT. GARDEN - SECTION #'221'

30

After quite a climb, Eddie and Claudine have just arrived.
Home sweet home. Section 221.

Claudine leans on the back of a seat for a moment,
catching her breath, wiping sweat from her brow.

EDDIE
You alright?

CLAUDINE
Huh? No, fine, fine. I love
this climb. It's good for my
thighs.

This is a close-knit rafter community of die-hard fans.
BIG AL (the name says it all), with a lap full of
concessions, waves to Eddie. There's an elderly couple,
HELEN and FRED PEPELOWSKI; Fred has his head back when
Helen sees Eddie and Claudine.

HELEN
Hello, girls!

Fred's head pops up, revealing a bloody tissue hanging out
of one nostril. He's about to say hello when:

HELEN
(continuing)
No, Fred, you keep your head
back.

He does, and Helen turns back to Eddie and Claudine.

HELEN
(continuing)
We've just got to get better
seats next year. He must lose a
pint a season.

Also in the Section are BAG #1 and BAG #2, two guys who
always wear bags over their heads. With the bags on, they
are all but impossible to tell apart... to the non-221
crowd.

EDDIE
Hey, Eric, Keith. You switched
seats.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

BAG #1
(shrugs)
Thought it might help.

31
thru OMITTED
32

31
thru
32

33 DOWN ON COURT - (#221 & COURT LEVEL POV)

33 *

The Knicks are all standing on the court.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
... And now, New York, there's a
new sheriff in town! Say hello
to Wild! Bill! Burgess!

Simultaneously, "NEW YORK, NEW YORK" BLASTS over the
Garden SPEAKERS. The Knicks DANCE TEAM, a group of 12
nubile young ladies dressed in cowboy hats and six-
shooters, run out onto the floor followed by a cowboy suit-
wearing Wild Bill on horseback -- a horse wearing high-
tops.

A34 EDDIE AND CLAUDINE

A34

Claudine is enjoying the "show". Eddie is reviled.

EDDIE
Ohmygod.

B34 INT. GARDEN (#221 & COURT LEVEL POV)

B34

A SMALL REMOTE-CONTROLLED PROMOTIONAL BLIMP rises and
circles above the crowd. Its side reads: Wild Bill
Welcomes You!

Not sure what to think, the fans CLAP politely as Wild
Bill stops at center court.

WILD BILL
I want you all to know, we're
gonna give you a big-time NBA
show every night. And as a
special 'Gettin'-To-Know-Ya'
offer, wear a pair of knickers to
any remaining home game and get
all concession items half price.

The APPLAUSE grows. Maybe this guy is alright.

WILD BILL
(continuing)
Now, let's start the Wild Bill
era off with a bang!

(CONTINUED)

B34 CONTINUED:

B34

Wild Bill points toward the far end of the court. BOOM!
TWO FIREWORKS soar toward the ceiling. A THIRD ROCKET
takes off erratically and hits WALT FRAZIER'S RETIRED
JERSEY, knocking it off the rafters; it bursts into flames
and floats to the ground a mass of burning embers.

A HORRIFIED GASP fills the Garden.

C34 EDDIE AND CLAUDINE

C34

Eddie is horrified.

CLAUDINE

Whoops.

EDDIE

That was Walt Frazier's jersey.

AD34 ANOTHER PART OF THE STANDS

AD34

A COLORFUL MALE FAN, wearing a pink Afro wig and painted
head to toe in orange and blue, is freaking out over Walt
Frazier's jersey.

COLORFUL FAN
(barking almost
unintelligibly)
(Making funnier: to come)

He seems to start crying, pulling at the sides of his wig.

D34 FROM EDDIE'S POV - COURT (#221 POV)

D34

A SECURITY OFFICIAL rushes over with a fire extinguisher
to snuff out the fire.

The fans mumble darkly, some laugh, some curse. The
players chuckle darkly.

WILD BILL
(into mike, beat)
And don't forget our honorary
coach contest at the end of the
first quarter. Now let's play
some basketball!

34 ON KNICKS SIDELINE - SIMULTANEOUS

34

The team huddles around Coach Bailey.

BAILEY
(snorts)
What a side show!

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34 *
*
*

Patton sits off to the side, a towel over his head.

BAILEY

Okay, guys, try and remember we
have a game to win. Hastings,
take the jumper if you're open.
If not, look for Ivan down low.

Ivan's eyes light up.

IVAN

Ivan make basket.

(He pronounces his name "EE-VAHN".)

Patton enters the huddle.

PATTON

If Stacy Patton don't shoot,
Stacy Patton don't play.

From the huddle, NATE WILSON, the aging veteran, grabs the
towel from Patton's head.

*
*

NATE

Pay attention. And quit
referring to yourself in the
third person, asshole.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

TAYLOR

Guys, could we watch the
language, please?

IVAN

Ivan make basket.

PATTON

(to Wilson)
Back off, old timer.

BAILEY

I'm warning you, Patton.

Meanwhile, Duncan grazes the shaved logo in his hair and
winks at a young woman sitting behind the Knicks bench.
He nods at a BALLBOY, who knows what to do.

Zimmer chimes in.

ZIMMER

Excuse me, Coach, but I'd look
for Duncan...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

HASTINGS
(looking into the
stands and turning to
Taylor)

I can't believe she used my
tickets to bring her divorce
attorney.

The REF enters their huddle.

GAME #2 REF
Play ball.

35 THE COURT (POV FROM #221)

35

The Knicks walk onto the court for tip-off against the Los
Angeles Lakers.

36 IN #'221'

36

BAG #2
Let the torture begin...

37 ON COURT - MONTAGE OF FIRST QUARTER (FROM #221 POV)

37

2:1 Patton selfishly takes a bad three-point shot and
misses.

2:2 Hastings' lack of concentration allows the ball to
be stripped from behind by NICK VAN EXEL.

A38 INT. OWNER'S BOX

A38

as Wild Bill is ushered in by his ambitious assistant JOE
NADER.

*

B38 WILD BILL'S POV OF SCOREBOARD

B38

The Lakers lead 8 to nothing. TILT DOWN TO REVEAL:

*

2:3 (TBD action)

2:4 (TBD action)

C38 ON SCOREBOARD

C38

as the Lakers' lead increases.

D38 ON COURT FROM #'221' POV

D38

2:5 Duncan attempts a monster dunk and is fouled.

(CONTINUED)

D38 CONTINUED:

D38

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Now shooting two free throws,
Jamal Duncan.

Duncan brushes the logo shaved in his head and proceeds to miss the first free throw.

*E38 IN #'221'

E38

reacting in agony. Bag #1 and Bag #2 switch back to their
(apparently) original seats.

*
*

38 ON COURT FROM OWNER'S BOX POV

38

2:6 Duncan misses the second free throw. The Lakers
get the rebound and bring the ball upcourt. ANTHONY
PEELER gets an easy lay-up.

EDDIE (O.S.)
For the love of God, Bailey!!

Wild Bill's POV TILTS UP TO Section 221.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Patton's not posting down low!

39 OWNER'S BOX

39

The screaming has caught the attention of Wild Bill. He
turns to Nader with a smile.

WILD BILL
I'll be a pig in a coat
factory...

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

NADER
(watching Eddie)
That's the loudest woman I've
ever heard.

WILD BILL
(getting an idea)
Hey, Nader, let's stack the deck
a little.

40 ON SCOREBOARD

40

The first quarter mercifully ends -- "Lakers 24, Knicks
15".

*
*

41 SECTION #'221'

41

EDDIE

Bailey should be going to Ivan more. They just signed a truce in Croatia yesterday. He scored 32 points after last year's cease-fire.

The others all stare at her in awe.

FRED

Wow. Now that's a stat!

A42 ON THE COURT - A FEW MINUTES LATER

A42

as the Dance Team finishes its number.

42 ON COURT

42 *

The GARDEN ANNOUNCER stands at the scorers' table with a microphone. Nader stands behind him, looking over his shoulder at the list of winners.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER

... And the three seat numbers chosen for a chance to shoot to be honorary coach for a night are... Section 109-B, seat 24, Section 21-A, seat 46, and Section 221, Row T, seat 1.

As soon as he finishes saying "1", an ear-piercing SCREAM blasts through the arena.

A43 OMITTED

A43 *

43 INT. STADIUM STEPS AND KNICKS BENCH

43

Eddie comes running down the steps. She shows Usher #1 her ticket. He gives her a basketball and directs her out to the court. On the way Eddie passes Bailey.

EDDIE

I know what you're thinking -- if this ball leaves my hands and goes through that hoop -- your worst nightmare has just begun!
(beat)
And you're right. Except for the 'if' part...

Bailey smirks, arms folded.

A44 ON THE COURT

A44

CAMERA TRACKS PAST the shooters...

... past Eddie, who's DRIBBLING the basketball to "warm it up", past TRACEY, a 13-year-old white girl who's tossing the ball up and down like a "potty shot", to SHELDON, 18, athletic-looking young black man.

* The Garden Announcer points to Tracey, who takes aim and shoots and... it misses by about four feet! We HEAR the FANS REACT (some laugh) -- "Ouuu."

The Garden Announcer points to Sheldon, who goes up, takes the ball, bounces it, and shoots... air ball. We HEAR the FANS REACT (some laugh) -- "Booo."

The Garden Announcer points to Eddie, who steps up to the three-point line.

B44 SECTION #'221'

B44

221 CREW
Eddie... Eddie!... Eddie!

44 ON COURT

44

Beat. Eddie looks around her. At the crowd. The bench. The scoreboard. If this ain't heaven...

EDDIE
It doesn't get any better than this.

IN SLOW MOTION

Eddie dribbles the ball. Then she aims, bounces, aims, bounces, aims and shoots.

The shot arcs toward the basket. Swoosh! The crowd erupts. Eddie falls to the court, kicking and screaming with glee.

45 OWNER'S BOX

45

Wild Bill looks down to see:

A46 WILD BILL'S POV

A46

As Eddie clowns to the crowd, the Garden Announcer hands her a jersey. Eddie looks at it, then turns it around for the fans to see -- it says HONORARY COACH on the back. She puts it on and she mugs for the crowd as though posing for fashion shots.

(CONTINUED)

A46 CONTINUED:

A46

GARDEN ANNOUNCER
Our honorary coach this evening
will be Edwina Franklin.

More applause from the fans, and amusement.

46 ON COURT

46

Coach Bailey and the Knicks break out of their huddle. Of course Bailey sees...

Eddie taking his seat on the end of the bench. She is in open awe as the players walk her way.

EDDIE
Stacy Patton?! Damn! How ya doin'? I'm Edwina Franklin. You can call me Eddie. I'm the new honorary coach. Listen, about your play this season...

Patton stares at her. Are you shittin' me? He walks away. Bailey whistles over to the Security Guard and points at Eddie.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Hey Bailey, look at this.

She turns around. The back of her jersey reads: "HONORARY COACH". She wiggles her butt as an exclamation point. Bailey isn't thrilled. The Security Guard shrugs.

47 ON COURT AND KNICKS BENCH

47

2:7 Fast and furious action.

Eddie has never seen it before from this angle. She sits open-mouthed.

2:8 The Knicks come downcourt. Duncan passes it to Hastings. The Ref moves in to cover the play, blocking Eddie's view. *

EDDIE
Hey! You're in my way! Move!
Move! Move!

She moves left, he moves left. She moves right, he moves right. Every move she makes, he makes a move that blocks her view of the ball. (Think Chaplin.)

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

EDDIE
(continuing; in
frustration)
Hey! Get out of my way!

The Ref turns and stares at her in stunned disbelief as behind him Ivan passes back to Hastings, who is immediately double-teamed. Hastings, not realizing the Ref has now set a pick, crashes into the Ref and bounces into Eddie's lap.

The whole row of chairs tumbles over and Hastings ends up on top of Eddie, nose to nose.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Damn! It does get better!

AA48 INT. COURT

AA48 *

2:9 Nick Van Exel over to PIG MILLER, who ally-oops to CEDRIC CEBALLOS. Two points.

2:10 A quick fast break by the Knicks starts with Taylor inbounding to Duncan, who passes to Hastings, up to Ivan, who turns and shoots only to have the ball blocked by VLADE DIVAC. Kick out to Van Exel. He jams! Taylor throws away the inbounds.

*

TAYLOR
Gosh darnit!

*

Eddie chews on a towel trying to restrain herself from the garbage ball she watches.

A48 ON SCOREBOARD

A48

"Lakers 47, Knicks 33".

*

48 OWNER'S BOX

48

A SECRETARY enters and hands Nader a computer printout. Wild Bill continues watching.

NADER
Tonight's attendance figures, Mr. Burgess.

WILD BILL
I don't need the numbers. I can see this place is as empty as a convent on the Fourth of July.

49 OMITTED

49

50 ON THE KNICKS BENCH AND COURT

50

Eddie can't take it anymore. She bolts out of her seat.

EDDIE

Jesus, Patton, look for Ivan down low! Duncan, flare out on the wing! Hey, Taylor! TAYLOR! TAYLOR! WHAT'RE YOU AFRAID OF? SHOOT! SHOOT! SHOOT FROM THE PERIMETER!

A51 EDDIE'S POV

A51

2:11 Vlade charges into Ivan, but the Ref blows his whistle and points a defensive foul against Ivan.

It is a tremendously unpopular call with the fans who BOOOO, but it's even more unpopular for...

B51 ON THE SIDELINES (AND '221' POV)

B51 *

EDDIE

(jumps to her feet)
WHAT?!!!! Are you blind?! Get that dumb-looking, plastic, off-the-rack rug out of your damn eyes and you might see what the hell's goin' on!!

And the fans LOVE this! THEY CHEER! The Ref wheels around and calls a "technical" on the Knicks bench.

And the fans go even MORE crazy! Bailey comes over and explodes at the Ref! In the b.g., the players gather at the key for the technical free throw. They are beginning to react to Eddie's presence on the bench.

BAILEY

What're you doing?! She's just a fan!!

GAME #2 REF

She's on your bench -- so either shut her up or get her out of here!

BAILEY

Delighted.

Bailey signals to the Security Guards.

EDDIE

What?!

(CONTINUED)

B51 CONTINUED:

B51

As the Security Guards escort Eddie away, the FANS BOO.
As Eddie is led toward the tunnel...

CROWD
(chanting)
ED-DEE!! ED-DEE!! ED-DEE!!

* C51 POV FROM OWNER'S BOX

C51 *

At the tunnel, Eddie slams down her towel. The crowd
applauds.

51 OWNER'S BOX

51

None of this is lost on Wild Bill.

WILD BILL
What's Bailey doin'? The fans
love her.

52 ON COURT - DOLLY SHOT

52

2:12 Vlade is handed the ball, makes the first free
throw. The game continues with new-found zest from
the Knicks. The rebound becomes a loose ball. Taylor
dives for it and flips it to Hastings. Van Exel
stays with Hastings as he brings the ball upcourt.
Van Exel cuts his drive to the basket off.
Hastings spins to the middle and slings a no-look
pass to Ivan, who shoots and scores. Duncan steals
the inbound pass and rifles it out to Hastings, who
drills a three. The crowd cheers. The HORN SOUNDS,
ending the first half.

*

53 OMITTED

53

A54 ON SCOREBOARD

A54

Halftime score: 52-46.

54 INT. ENTRANCE TO TUNNEL

54

Eddie waits with her head down. The players bound down
the tunnel and disappear. Coach Bailey rounds the corner
with some Lakers as the Dance Team exits the tunnel.
Seeing Eddie, Bailey is about to light into her when a
camera crew and Walt Frazier stop him to do his halftime
report.

*
*
*

WALT FRAZIER
Coach, what happened there at the
end of the first half?

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

BAILEY
Pure crap, Jim. Pure crap. We
have P.T. Barnum running the
team.

A55 INT. TUNNEL

A55

They turn into the tunnel. Wild Bill heads from the
tunnel toward Eddie. Nader tries to keep up.

EDDIE
I'm real sorry about that, Mr.
Burgess. I didn't mean to hurt
the team...

Wild Bill blows past her and confronts Bailey on camera.

WILD BILL
What in Sam Hill are you doin',
Bailey?! The fans loved her.

BAILEY
(pushing the camera
away)
I'm not the ringleader of your
circus! I'm coaching a
professional basketball team!

EDDIE
Then why the hell aren't you
playin' Nate Wilson?! He's got
the experience this team lacks
and you're making him sit on the
bench...

Bailey looks at Eddie in disbelief, then at the camera
that is capturing all of this. He turns to Wild Bill,
ready to blow.

BAILEY
(to Wild Bill,
indicating)
I am not going to stand here and
listen to this crap from some
stupid fan.

WILD BILL
At least that fan was making an
attempt to coach!

BAILEY
Keep pushin' me! I am this
goddamn close to walking!!!

(CONTINUED)

A55 CONTINUED:

A55

WILD BILL
There's the door!

Eddie's jaw drops.

*

BAILEY
Don't tempt me, 'Tex'!

WILD BILL
When you challenge a Texan, you
better be ready to draw.
(points finger as gun)
You're fired!!

*

BAILEY
Big mistake, bubba!!

As Bailey storms out past Eddie, they catch glances.

EDDIE
Buh-bye.

She waves as he roars off. Wild Bill recovers enough to realize the cameras are still rolling. After a beat, inspiration hits...

WILD BILL
So, Eddie, how'd you like to lead
your Knicks to victory tonight?

*

EDDIE
What do you mean, 'lead'?

*

WILD BILL
I mean, instead of being just an
honorary coach, how would you
like to be Head Coach for the
second half?

*

EDDIE
Damn.

*

WILD BILL
I take it that means yes.

NADER
Uh, excuse me, sir. But
shouldn't you ask the players
first?

(CONTINUED)

A55 CONTINUED: (2)

A55

WILD BILL
Hell, they're pros. They'll
handle it just fine.

*

55 INT. KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

55

Zimmer and the team huddle around Wild Bill and Nader.

PATTON
Stacy Patton's ass ain't playin'
for no woman!

WILD BILL
How much does Stacy Patton make
per game... if he plays?!

Wild Bill snaps his fingers at Nader, who already has his
calculator out.

NADER
\$32,416.89.

WILD BILL
Anybody else not playing tonight?
(beat)
Don't worry, Coach Zimmer is
gonna handle the basketball. You
guys just focus on the game and
'Coach' out there'll just jump
up'n down and holler a bit.
(to Zimmer)
We'll sort this whole mess out
tomorrow. Hell, probably get
some good PR outta all this. So
how 'bout a victory, guys?

IN A CORNER

The Knicks' tall, white, dumb rookie, JOE SPARKS...

SPARKS
Kind of like win one for the
Gipper?

The guys all stare at him and shake their heads.

PATTON
Damn, you're stupid.

*

*

DUNCAN
Baby's much finer than the
Gipper. I don't ever remember
wantin' to slam-dance with the
Gipper.

*

A56 INT. SECTION #'221'

A56 *
*
*

Big Al sits down with an armload of food.

56 INT. GARDEN - LATER

56

The fans return to their seats as the teams warm up before the second half, having switched courts.

*

* 57 INT. TUNNEL AND COURT

57

Eddie waits with Wild Bill. Terrified.

WILD BILL

Relax. It's only showbiz.

A58 POV FROM SECTION #'221'

A58 *

Eddie and Wild Bill head out onto the court.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(over P.A.)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with, uh, great pleasure that we announce that John Bailey will no longer be coaching the Knicks...

The fans go nuts. They hated the guy. The Garden Announcer, seated at the scorers' table, stops and looks over at Wild Bill. Are you sure? Wild Bill points. Do it.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(continuing; over P.A.)

... Please welcome, uh, the new hon... head coach of the New York Knicks for the rest of tonight's game -- Ms. Edwina Franklin!

The amused fans cheer as an awestruck Eddie comes onto the court led by Wild Bill. A moment of sheer terror, then... a smile. The biggest of her adult life. Beat. She heads over to the scorers' table.

58 INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - SIMULTANEOUS

58

Not exactly Fifth Avenue. Sparsely furnished. Malik, Suli and Jerome watch EDDIE ON TV along with Malik's mother, RAE JONES.

*

MALIK

What did they just say?

59 INT. GARDEN - COURTSIDE - SCORERS' TABLE - SAME TIME 59

Eddie whispers something to the Garden announcer, then walks to the Knicks bench. The Garden announcer grabs the stadium mike again.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER
... The new head coach of the New
York Knicks... Edwina Franklin!!
(aside to a bewildered
seatmate)
She wanted to hear her name again
over the P.A.

60 SECTION #'221' 60

Stunned silence. Everyone stares at everyone else.
Broken finally by:

CLAUDINE
You go, girl!!

Beat. Pandemonium breaks out in Section 221.

BIG AL
(biting into a burrito)
This is the greatest thing that
ever happened to me and it didn't
even happen to me!

The 221 Crew continues jumping and hugging one another.

61 NEAR LAKERS BENCH 61

The Refs huddle with the Lakers COACHES thumbing through: *

GAME #2 REF
There's nothing in the rule book.
You wanna file a protest, be my
guest.

LAKER COACH
Damn right I will. *

62 GARDEN - LATER - OVER THE SCOREBOARD TO THE CROWD 62

Well into the second half, the crowd has lost its steam.
The Knicks are losing, 77 to 68.

63 ON COURT (SAME DOLLY SHOT AS 2:12)

63

2:13 The Lakers miss a shot. Rebound, outlet pass to Patton. Van Exel is guarding Patton. Patton puts a move on Van Exel and blows by him for what should be an easy basket. Instead of the easy lay-up, Patton goes for a tomahawk jam. It careens off the flange!

* 64 ON COURT AND KNICKS SIDELINES

64

EDDIE
(to Zimmer)
What the hell was that?

ZIMMER
Don't tell me. Tell him.

As Patton saunters back down court...

EDDIE
Keep trying, Mr. Patton.

ZIMMER
Bravo. You should be a motivational speaker.

Van Exel runs alongside Patton.

VAN EXEL
I believe your mother was talking to you.

2:14 He brings the ball up and is blocked by Patton, but executes a killer crossover, takes out Patton and puts up a three-pointer. It goes in.

On the way back, he yells to the Knicks bench:

VAN EXEL
(continuing)
What's the matter? Cat got your tongue, 'Coach'? So quiet, I can't tell if you're coaching or praying over there.

Knocking her from her shell...

EDDIE
I'm praying! Praying I never go to your barber.

*

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

2:15 Taylor brings the ball upcourt and passes to Patton, who is double-teamed. Taylor breaks for the basket, totally clear, waving for the ball. But Patton forces an impossible shot so the ball is blocked and lost to the Lakers.

Eddie is growing frustrated.

EDDIE

(continuing)

Patton, what the hell kind of shot was that?! Find the open man, damnit! Pass the ball.

The final buzzer sounds. Eddie looks up at the...

65
thru OMITTED
66

65
thru
66

67 SCOREBOARD

67

... and it's "Lakers 118, Knicks 112."

68 INT. GARDEN - KNICKS BENCH - AFTER THE GAME

68

The arena is nearly empty. Claudine comes down the last stairs and finds Eddie sitting on the bench alone.

CLAUDINE

Look at the bright side. At least you had a good seat.

Wild Bill approaches.

WILD BILL

Cheer up. You didn't lose any ground.

EDDIE

Yeah, but we should have won.

WILD BILL

Come on back. Let's face the music.

68A
thru OMITTED
68B

68A
thru
68B

69 INT. KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

69

Wild Bill faces the REPORTERS while Eddie and Claudine stand to the side. Nader looks on.

REPORTER #1

Wild Bill, what happened with Coach Bailey?

*

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

REPORTER #2
Another Knicks loss. What are
your plans for the future?

*

REPORTER #1
Is it true that Pat Riley is
coming back?

*

A MAGAZINE REPORTER approaches Eddie.

*

REPORTER #3
I'm with People Magazine. We'd
love to do a feature on you.

Wild Bill overhears the exchange.

WILD BILL
Calm down, fellas. A little
quiet. I have an announcement
that will answer all your
questions. Meet the new head
coach of the New York
Knickerbockers, Ms. Edwina
Franklin!

The Reporters turn toward Eddie and she faints.

70
thru OMITTED
73

70
thru
73

74 INT. MIKE'S LIMO SERVICE - SIMULTANEOUS ACTION -
NIGHT

74

Mischa and Mohammed watch the portable TV.

MARV ALBERT (V.O.)
NBA history was made tonight, but
it didn't have much to do with
the game. Die-hard Knicks fan
Eddie Franklin won a midgame
promotion to become coach.

INSERT ON THE TELEVISION

MARV ALBERT reports. Over his shoulder, a PHOTO of Eddie
just prior to her fainting at the press conference.

MARV ALBERT
One thing can be said about
Franklin -- the fans LOVED her!
Which is something you couldn't
say about John Bailey.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

BACK TO SCENE

Mischa chokes on his sandwich. Mohammed claps his hands in joy and dances around.

MOHAMMED

Yes! Yes! Yes! Deese prove
anything can happen in dis
country. Maybe someday I will be
boss and you will drive for me
and, and...

(getting all excited
and worked up)

... And then I will squishing YOU
like worthless waterbug...

(he dances, as if
squishing a cigarette
butt viciously!)

... like you squishing me all the
time!

Mischa continues to choke and Mohammed comes over and starts patting him on the back, trying to help him out.

MOHAMMED

(continuing; as he pats
Mischa's back, giddy
with glee)

... Oh, happy happy. I am so
happy for Edd-Dee, yes...

75 INT. WILD BILL'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

75

Wild Bill, with Nader next to him, stares at the TV. On his desk sit the New York papers, sports-page headlines up. On the Daily News: "BAILEY FANNED OUT." On Newsday: "FAN-DEMONIUM!" On the Post: "HEADY EDDIE!"

On the TV is ESPN's:

CHRIS BERMAN

(on TV)

... Last night, Edwina 'Don't-
Call-Me-Aretha' Franklin made her
mark on the NBA. Where did Wild
Billy find this filly...?

NADER

Looks like you were right.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

75 *

WILD BILL

Well, tickle my ass with a garden
tool.

(wisely to Nader)

Sell the sizzle, not the steak.

Nader nods, though clearly not getting it.

CHRIS BERMAN

(on TV)

We look to the Garden tonight as
the Knicks take on the Indiana
Pacers -- where the question
remains: can she coach?

76
thru OMITTED
81

76
thru
81

82 EXT. EDDIE'S BASKETBALL COURT - CLOSE ON EDDIE - DAY

82

The sound of DRIBBLING BASKETBALLS can be heard in the
background.

EDDIE

Come on, guys! Teamwork! Hit
the open man! Ten seconds left!

REVEAL a Youth League game in progress at Eddie's court.
A few scattered parents, fans, etc., watch.

ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE LOCKED GATE TO THE COURT

a slew of REPORTERS and CAMERAMEN wait, watching the game.
Claudine appears to be guarding the gate.

ON THE COURT

As ordered, Jerome races downcourt, looks and feeds a wide-
open Suli for an easy lay-up.

AT THE BENCH

Next to Eddie, Malik sits silently. Behind them, Malik's
mother Rae looks at the Reporters behind the gate, then at
her son sitting on the bench.

AT THE GATE

Claudine approaches a HANDSOME REPORTER through the fence.

CLAUDINE

I can get you an exclusive with
Coach Franklin.

The Reporter appears interested.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

The REF, a half-uniformed cop, blows the whistle, ending the game. As the kids race over to Eddie to celebrate their victory, Malik's mother Rae approaches.

RAE

What in the hell's the idea of sittin' my son for the entire second half?!

The kids all look at her. What's she gonna do?

EDDIE

(to kids)

Would you all excuse me for a minute? Mrs. Jones and I need to discuss a few things.

Eddie discreetly pulls Rae off to the side.

EDDIE

(continuing)

Your son got a D-plus in English.

RAE

What's that got to do with him playin' ball?

EDDIE

Everything. And the question shoulda been, 'Why'd my son get a D-plus?' Now, number one, don't ever talk to me like that in front of my team. And two, I suggest you take a more active role in your son's life or instead of watchin' him on a court, you'll be watchin' him in a court.

A HORN honks and a limo arrives. Mohammed waves. Eddie walks to Claudine.

EDDIE

(continuing; re: the Reporters)

This kind of pressure is the last thing these kids need.

Claudine seems to understand what she's saying.

CLAUDINE

I guess I just got promoted to coach, too.

(CONTINUED)

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82 CONTINUED: (2)

82 *
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Eddie smiles appreciatively and heads through the Reporters to the limo. The kids, still on the court, rush to the fence.

83 INT. GARDEN TICKET LOBBY - THAT AFTERNOON (GAME #3 - VS. INDIANA PACERS)

83

A line of people buying tickets -- twice as many as the night before and many of them wearing KNICKERS. Eddie slips through.

*

A84 INT. GARDEN - TURNSTILE AREA

A84

Eddie approaches Odell and hands him her ticket. Odell looks down at it.

ODELL

You don't need a ticket anymore,
Eddie. Good luck... Coach.

She smiles. Coach Franklin enters the Garden.

84 INT. KNICKS LOCKER ROOM

84

Eddie comes in to meet the players for the first time as head coach -- they're just about to go out onto the court.

EDDIE

Hi, I'm Eddie Franklin!

And they look over at her. Some are amused, some are not. Eddie goes through and shakes everyone's hand.

EDDIE

(continuing)

Hi, hello, hi, hi, hi, hello, how
ya doin'? Hi, hey, hello, hi,
hi...

Some actually say hello back, some don't say anything, just give her a perfunctory nod, some don't do anything at all. No one takes her seriously. It is not a warm reception.

EDDIE

(continuing)

I know about all of you -- I've
followed your careers since your
college days... some since high
school...

In walks Karl Zimmer.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED:

84

EDDIE

(continuing)

But you know nothing about me, so let me tell you about myself. I have been a fan since I was eight. I have seen over 1,000 Knicks' games. My father was a Knicks fan, my late husband was a Knicks fan, and if I ever marry again, I will marry a Knicks fan.

(beat)

This sounds like an AA meeting.

No reaction.

EDDIE

(continuing)

I have read nearly every book on basketball, and I have NEVER lost a bet on a NBA championship game...

(still bitter)

... except that time Boston beat the Lakers with that bogus technical.

There's some grumbling in support of this.

EDDIE

(continuing)

This is the most exciting thing that's ever happened to me. It's a dream beyond my wildest dreams. I have watched you all play, and you're all terrific. This team has all the talent in the world, and it's in last place. Why is that?

At this point, the team's starting to lose focus -- their minds are drifting away, looking around; Hastings adjusts his jock, Duncan's touching up his logo.

EDDIE

(continuing; to Patton)

Stacy Patton -- you're a very talented man -- but I see you taking shots you shouldn't be taking. I want to see you passing more.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED: (2)

84

EDDIE (CONT'D)

(to Taylor)

I've seen you shoot from the outside -- go for it, shoot from the perimeter.

(to Duncan)

You can lead the division in rebounding, but...

(emphasizing)

... you've got to work on your foul shot.

(to Hastings)

You could be terrific, but you have... no concentration.

(to Wilson)

Nate -- I can't think of anything you're doing wrong -- other than your inability to clone yourself.

(to Ivan)

Do you know what the word 'defense' means?

IVAN

Ivan make basket.

EDDIE

I thought so. We got to work on that. That's it for now!

(claps her hands)

Let's... let's get out there and win one!.

The players exchange looks and walk off, mumbling.

SPARKS

(to Duncan)

I don't understand -- is she the Gipper or not?

DUNCAN

Damn! You are so white!

Nate remains.

NATE

I'll be honest with you -- I'm surprised. I thought you were going to make a complete fool of yourself, but I'm wrong. Everything you just said was right on the money.

EDDIE

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

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84 CONTINUED: (3) 84

NATE
But... you didn't say nothing
Bailey didn't say. *

And Nate walks off. CAMERA PULLS TO A CLOSE SHOT OF
EDDIE. Eddie is concerned.

85 OMITTED 85

86 OWNER'S BOX (LATER) 86

Wild Bill sits with Joe Nader watching the human dollar
signs take their seats.

WILD BILL
Well, call me Jane and blow smoke
at the moon. Looks like we got
some folks here tonight.

NADER
Four thousand more than last
game.

CAMERA PANS TO the stadium -- it's damn near half full.

87 thru 87
90 OMITTED thru
90 90

91 ON THE COURT 91

At the scorers' table:

MARV ALBERT
... I'm Marv Albert coming to you
live from The Garden for what
promises to be the biggest media
event in the NBA since Michael
Jordan's return... The world
will find out tonight if die-hard
Knicks fan Eddie Franklin can
coach.

92 ON COURT - MOMENTS LATER 92

Ivan prepares for tip-off against Indiana. The Ref tosses
it up. Knicks get the ball. The crowd roars.

93 ON THE SIDELINE 93

Eddie is stalking the sidelines. No matter what she says,
the players aren't listening to her.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

EDDIE

Duncan -- run! Get back on 'D',
for Chrissakes! Run! They've
got the ball!

(beat)

Penetrate! And look to dish!

(beat, running)

Hastings, what're you afraid of?
Crash the boards!

(beat)

Patton! Patton! You're not
boxing out! Box...

(beat)

Duncan! Are you asleep?

(beat, running)

Taylor! Shoot the damn ball!
What're you waitin' for? A sign
from God?!

(beat, running)

What the hell kind of shot was
that? Ivan, force him out of the
post! Stay in there! Take the
charge!

We hear the FINAL BUZZER.

94
thru OMITTED
96

94
thru
96

97 SCOREBOARD

97

"Indiana 118, Knicks 103." TILT DOWN to REVEAL:

*

98 ON THE COURT

98

Game's over -- Eddie is VERY frustrated.

The guys come off the court, get their sweats, and head to
the locker room. Eddie doesn't even look at them.

Fans get up to leave. Wild Bill comes down.

WILD BILL

(shakes Eddie's hand)

I'm as excited as a squirrel on
a pontoon -- you were great down
there!

EDDIE

We lost by 15.

*

WILD BILL

Certainly it didn't have anything
to do with you not trying.

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED:

98

EDDIE
Yeah, well... yeah.

WILD BILL
(pats her on the back)
You're puttin' on a terrific
show.

99 KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

99

Eddie comes into the locker room -- and there's a lot of
naked men, a lot of naked butts, and she's making a point
of keeping her eyes up. Guys are walking in, walking
away, etc. They hear her, but don't pay too much
attention.

EDDIE
(loudly)
Alright! Alright! Listen up
here!

Someone turns up a BOOMBOX.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Excuse me, but I'm talking here.
(turns boombox off)
I don't know what you guys are
thinking out there. You're doing
whatever you damn well please,
and you're losing. You're in
last place in the division. Do
you WANT to be in last place? Is
that it?

Hastings walks in. Eddie glances below his waist and
whatever Hastings has down there -- it must be ENORMOUS!

EDDIE
(continuing; jumps
back, laughing from
embarrassment)
WHOAH!! OHMYGOD! JESUS-CHRIST-
ALMIGHTY! That is one...

HASTINGS
Excuse me...

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED:

99

EDDIE
 (hides behind someone,
 looks, then looks away
 quickly)
 That's downright Jurassic...
 (embarrassed)
 I'm sorry, it's just... I
 never...
 (gives up)
 ... I'll talk to you tomorrow!
 (walks off)
 Give it some peanuts quick before
 it bites me.

99A
 thru OMITTED
 100

99A
 thru
 100

A101 EXT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

A101

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)
 (on radio)
 ... despite the enthusiasm of the
 fans, Franklin is having the same
 problems John Bailey had -- they
just won't listen.

B101 INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT

B101

Malik, Suli and Jerome are listening to Eddie's new STEREO
 SYSTEM.

WALT FRAZIER (V.O.)
 (on radio)
 It may be too early to tell, but
 Franklin could end up the Rodney
 Dangerfield of basketball -- she
 just doesn't get any respect.
 (sting)
Especially from her own team.

Eddie enters from her bedroom dressed for travelling, with
 her suitcase in her hand.

JEROME
 (shuts it off)
 Is that true?

EDDIE
 Yeah.

MALIK
 Why won't they listen to you?

(CONTINUED)

B101 CONTINUED:

B101

EDDIE

I don't know.

(beat)

I don't know.

101 EXT. MINNEAPOLIS AIRPORT - DAY (STOCK)

101

The team plane lands.

102 INT. MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL - FANCY SUITE - DAY

102

Eddie enters carrying her heavy winter coat. Her jaw drops. As the coach, she gets a suite. Wow! This room has it all. VCR by the TV, etc.

*

THE FANCY SUITE - BATHROOM

Eddie sits on the sink glancing over the goodies. The bathroom has more toiletries than many drugstores, built-in hair dryer, a telephone with TWO lines. She is on the phone.

EDDIE

Claudine, guess where I am? In the bathroom, on the phone, two lines! Can you imagine? I can put two people on hold while I pee!

(face falls, annoyed)

What do you mean? Why the hell would I lie? Here.

(she points the phone into the toilet and flushes)

See? Damn straight. This is a three-and-a-half-star hotel. It'd suck your behind right in there if you weren't careful.

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103 INT. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES PRACTICE FACILITY
WEIGHT ROOM - NEXT DAY

103

Some of the Knicks players are working out. Lifting. Grunting. Sweating. Eddie is there, looking a little uncomfortable. She looks over toward the bench press where Stacy Patton is lying down, napping, with a towel covering half of his head. Zimmer enters.

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EDDIE

So what do we do now?

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED:

103

ZIMMER

We? Well, this half of we will be getting the team ready for tonight. Your half of we can go practice waving her little towel above her head if she'd like.

EDDIE

I'd like to help.

ZIMMER

Good for you. Why don't you go see if Patton wants a blanket?

Zimmer heads out the door to the practice facility. Eddie follows right behind him.

A104 INT. PRACTICE FACILITY - COURT (CONTINUOUS)

A104

Zimmer enters, Eddie following.

EDDIE

(still talking about Patton)

He doesn't practice on game days? No wonder it takes him an average of four minutes to score his first point.

Zimmer shoots her a look. How'd she know that? From across the court we HEAR:

HASTINGS (O.S.)

That's bullshit.

Eddie glances up to see Hastings talking to his ATTORNEY. Hastings kicks a ball into the stands. It heads right toward Eddie and she ducks out of its path, dodging it.

EDDIE

(to Zimmer)

Contract problems?

ZIMMER

Marital problems. I think his wife is filing for a divorce.

A flash goes off from the far end of the practice court. Eddie turns and sees Duncan, posing for a camera with two scantily clad WOMEN under the far rim. Also gathered are VARIOUS BUSINESS and CREATIVE ADVISERS.

(CONTINUED)

A104 CONTINUED:

A104

EDDIE

What the hell is Logo Boy doing
over there?

ZIMMER

Shooting the cover to his new rap
CD.

EDDIE

All those people to shoot a CD
cover?

ZIMMER

(pointing them out)
Agent, manager, bodyguard,
accountant, and hair dresser.

EDDIE

Hair dresser?

ZIMMER

Gotta keep the logo lookin' good.

Beat. At the other end of the court, a few of the other
players are playing horse for money.

EDDIE

Maybe I should start practice.

Zimmer laughs wryly, looking down.

EDDIE

(continuing)

What? Is that wrong?

ZIMMER

No, Coach. Go right ahead...

EDDIE

Hey, I could really use your
help.

ZIMMER

(after a beat)

Amazing. You step in here and
take a job that should have been
mine and now you want my help?!
You're the head coach. So if you
want to rock the boat, go for it.
But when people start falling
overboard, I don't intend to be
one of them.

(CONTINUED)

A104 CONTINUED: (2)

A104

EDDIE
(angrily)
The only boat that doesn't rock
is one that's goin' nowhere!

*

Beat. Eddie walks off to center court and blows her
whistle. The players stop momentarily... then continue
doing what they're doing. Zimmer watches, trying not to
laugh.

*

*

Eddie walks over to the aging veteran Nate Wilson, who
takes shots from half court.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Hey, Wilson, quit fooling around
and shoot only from game-
situation positions.

So Wilson does just that. He walks over to the bench,
sits down and takes a shot. Eddie can't help but smile.
Zimmer lets out his laugh. Eddie walks to Nate.

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EDDIE
(continuing)
How come you're being so nice?

NATE
I'm old.

EDDIE
Too much trouble to cause
trouble?

NATE
Something like that.

She nods, then walks back to center court. Seeing all the
players screwing around, she raises the whistle to her
lips, thinks better of it, then just walks off the court.
Wilson and Zimmer watch her go.

*

104 OMITTED

104

A105 INT. TEAM BUS (MOVING) - ATLANTA - DAY

A105

Eddie sits at the front of the bus looking over the final
stats. From the stat sheet, we see the Knicks just lost
to the Timberwolves.

In the back of the bus, the team doesn't seem to care too
much.

105 OMITTED

105

106 INT. ATLANTA HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

106

In the living room, Eddie turns on the TV, clicking through the channels.

DUNCAN (V.O.)
(on TV)
... I wear Flight Cruisers by
Azia. It's not just my shoe,
it's my name!

He points to the logo shaved into his head.

Click!

PATTON (V.O.)
(on TV)
... If you wanna smell like Stacy Patton, you gotta wear the same cologne as Stacy Patton. That's why I call my scent... Stacy Patton! Click!

IVAN (V.O.)
(on TV)
... Dat is vhy I'm Hooked on
Phonics...

The DOOR BUZZER SOUNDS. Eddie crosses to the front door and opens it.

A107 INT. DOORWAY

A107

DEBRA and DONNA, two of the sleaziest hookers we've ever seen. If bosoms were meaningless, these two would be out of business.

DEBRA
Hi, we're here for the coach.

EDDIE
I'm the coach.

Debra and Donna exchange looks.

DEBRA
Oh well, uh... Hi, I'm Debra,
and this is Donna...

DONNA
How do you do?

(CONTINUED)

A107 CONTINUED:

A107 *

DEBRA

Uh... Dixie and Dolores couldn't
make it, but they said to send
their regards.

Eddie just stares at them.

DONNA

I want more money for this.

Beat. Eddie slams the door!

107
thru
108

OMITTED

107
thru
108

109 INT. ATLANTA OMNI STADIUM - SIDELINE - NIGHT (GAME #5
- VS. HAWKS)

109 *

The fans hassle Eddie hard.

A110 ON THE COURT

A110 *

At the free-throw line, Taylor lines up to shoot.

FROM TAYLOR'S POV

He looks up to see the fans hold up posters of Eddie's
face superimposed on a fat woman in a bikini. Taylor
closes his eyes.

The free throw misses.

110 ON THE SIDELINES

110

Eddie approaches Patton.

EDDIE

Stacy, listen, we need you to...

PATTON

You want to talk to Stacy Patton,
call his agent.

111 INT. SCOREBOARD

111

Final score: "Hawks 96, Knicks 85."

112
thru
114

OMITTED

112
thru
114

115 INT. JFK AIRPORT - ARRIVALS TERMINAL - NIGHT

115

The team deplanes to a deserted terminal. Last off,
alone, walks Eddie.

(CONTINUED)

115 CONTINUED: 115

Trudging through the terminal, she picks up a newspaper. On the back sports page, the headline reads: "THE KNICKS HIT THE FAN. Knicks on Six-Game Losing Streak. Home Tomorrow Against 76ers."

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Eddie drops the paper and continues her trek.

* 116 EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - MARQUEE - DAY (GAME #5A - VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS) 116 *

An hour before gametime. A smallish crowd. Malik, Jerome and Suli exit the black stretch limousine driven by Mohammed and run inside.

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116A thru 117A OMITTED 116A thru 117A

118 INT. TUNNEL OUTSIDE KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 118

Eddie waits outside the locker room door. Malik, Suli and Jerome walk up, escorted by a SECURITY GUARD.

*

JEROME

This is awesome! We're going into the Knicks locker room!

SULI

This is cool.

She smiles and opens the door....

119 KNICKS LOCKER ROOM 119

Eddie shows an awestruck Malik, Jerome, and Suli past an ESPN video crew through the usual milling crowd of agents and hangers-on over to Duncan, who talks to a sexy MODEL.

EDDIE

Hey, Logo Boy. There's someone I want you to meet.

*

DUNCAN

Later, baby. I'm doin' business. (back to Model)

Anyway, we'll shoot the rap video at my place in Saint Bart's. Me. You. My jacuzzi.

Embarrassed, Eddie moves them over to Hastings, who talks on a cell phone. He sees them coming and waves them away.

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED:

119

HASTINGS
(into phone)
Fifteen thousand a month! What
am I, Kevin Costner?! That's not
alimony, that's the lotto!

Wilson looks up and smiles at the kids. Malik makes a
beeline... past him. Right to his idol, Stacy Patton.
Patton looks up from tying his shoes. Beat. He looks
back down.

MALIK
Excuse me, Mr. Patton... could I
please have your autograph?

PATTON
(still tying his shoes)
Stacy Patton don't give
autographs.

Malik is crushed. Seething, Eddie shows her "other" team
to the locker room door.

EDDIE
Why don't you guys go find your
seats, I'll see you out there.

They leave. Eddie turns, fire in her eyes. She slams a
locker door. Everyone looks up. Silence.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Agents, lawyers, models, 'yes'
men, hangers-on, homeboys, white
boys, leeches and bloodsuckers
and hairdressers --

Duncan's HAIRDRESSER looks up.

EDDIE
(continuing; to the
SECURITY GUARD)
If they ain't wearing a Knicks
uniform, get 'em the hell out!!

He smiles. His pleasure. The crowd protests as he starts
moving out the nonteam members.

As the last one leaves, Eddie turns toward the team and
explodes.

(CONTINUED)

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119 CONTINUED: (2)

119

EDDIE

(continuing)

Who in the hell are you guys,
huh?! I thought you guys were
the Knicks! I thought you were
professional basketball players!
Not rappers and pitch-men and
pick-up artists or just plain
assholes!

TAYLOR

(reflexively covering
his ears)

Eddie, please!

EDDIE

Oh, Taylor, save it for church!

Zimmer stares at her. Wow.

EDDIE

(continuing)

I used to sit up there in 221
every game and cheer so loud I
could barely talk the next day.
I paid \$1,600 for a pair of
season tickets and I used to
think you were heroes. Now I see
you're just a bunch of spoiled
brats! I guess I shoulda known
better, being an adult. But
there are still kids out there
who actually look up to you guys.
Or at least they did.

She turns and leaves the locker room, slamming the door on
the way out. Most of the team sits in embarrassed
silence.

TAYLOR

Sixteen hundred for a pair of
tickets. Makes you think.

PATTON

Yeah, girlfriend had some shitty
seats.

A120 COURT

A120

Eddie is watching, arms folded and quiet.

B120 SCOREBOARD

B120

Final tally. "76ers, 126. Knicks, 93."

C120 EXT. EDDIE'S COURT - NEXT DAY

C120 *

CLOSEUP of a paintbrush painting a white line on asphalt.
 PULL BACK TO REVEAL Jamal Duncan painting a permanent free-
 throw line. Nate Wilson is tightening the bolts on a new
 OFFICIAL NBA BACKBOARD.

Malik, Jerome, and Suli round the corner and are surprised
 to see their heroes fixing up their court.

(DIALOGUE TO FOLLOW in which
 Duncan accidentally discovers his
 own foul-shooting weakness while
 instructing Malik.)

D120 OMITTED

D120 *

E120 INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - DAY

E120

It's practice. The players are there on the court. Eddie
 enters. No one looks at her. She walks through the
 court, passing them. She ends up by Ivan, who is
 practicing his free throw.

EDDIE
 Ivan, last night you had four
 fouls in the first half. You
 can't back away on defense.

She notices that Ivan's expression has not changed once.
 He's not getting this.

EDDIE
 (continuing; now in
 Russian with
 SUBTITLES)
 Hold your ground and take the
 charge.

The other players turn and look at her. Does she know
 Russian? Ivan seems to get it a bit as Eddie throws the
 ball to him and takes a defensive position under the
 basket.

EDDIE
 (continuing; still in
 Russian with
 SUBTITLES)
 Drive the lane hard.

Ivan gently drives to the basket, afraid to hurt Eddie.

(CONTINUED)

E120 CONTINUED:

E120

EDDIE
(continuing; back to
English)
No, like in a game.

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Ivan drives a little harder. Other players gather around.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Can't anybody drive hard?

Patton steps forward.

PATTON
Stacy Patton will try.

Patton grabs the ball from Ivan, stands at the foul line a moment, dribbling, tauntingly. Eddie plants her feet. Patton heads for the basket and plows down Eddie, flattening her on his way to a monster dunk. There is silence all around.

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DUNCAN
Holy shit!

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TAYLOR
Gosh darn!

*

Suddenly, Eddie jumps up from the floor, elated.

*

EDDIE
Now that's taking a charge!

*

The players, all but Patton, can't help but be impressed.

*

F120 INT. GARDEN - TAPE ROOM - DAY

F120

Hastings, headphones on, reads Sports Illustrated as he gets taped. A few other players are still around. Eddie enters and pulls one of the headphones off.

EDDIE
(to TRAINER)
You want to give us a minute?

The Trainer leaves.

EDDIE
(continuing; to
Hastings)
What's up, Terry?

(CONTINUED)

F120 CONTINUED:

F120

HASTINGS

What are you talking about?

EDDIE

The missed lay-up last night.
The lack of consistency. No
concentration. What's going on?

HASTINGS

What are you? My coach or my
therapist?

Beat. Hastings looks away.

EDDIE

You still love her, don't you?

HASTINGS

Shit, I had this thing on the
road in Phoenix last season. It
was stupid. I was lonely. Now
she thinks that's all I do out
there. She won't even talk to
me. My lawyer talks to her
lawyer.

EDDIE

Were you in love with that girl
in Phoenix?

HASTINGS

(scoffs)

No!

EDDIE

That's not what your wife thinks!
She thinks you don't love her.
You got to apologize, and keep
apologizing until she tells you
to stop, you got to tell her you
love her until she tells you to
stop, and... did you send
flowers?

HASTINGS

No.

EDDIE

YOU DIDN'T SEND ANY FLOWERS?!
Ooooh -- BIG mistake! NOW, you
gotta send a LOT of flowers!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

F120 CONTINUED: (2)

F120

EDDIE (CONT'D)

You gotta send a lot of flowers
just to make up for not sending
flowers in the first place! You
do love her, don't you???

HASTINGS

I think about her all the time.

120	INT. GARDEN - ON JUMBOTRON SCOREBOARD AND CROWD (GAME #6 - VS. HOUSTON ROCKETS)	120	*
	It's the fourth quarter, the Rockets lead 63 to 56.		*
AA121	DOWN SHOT THROUGH BASKET	AA121	*
	6:1 Rockets jam! Ivan takes it and steps out of bounds.		*
AB121	ON COURT	AB121	*
	6:2 Ivan inbounds to Duncan, who feeds Patton at midcourt. HARRY holds Patton up. Duncan breaks in the b.g. Patton foolishly takes a shot from just inside three-point range.		*
	6:3 Rockets get the rebound, feed to MARIO ELLIE, who has a 2-on-1 fast break with CLYDE DREXLER. DOLLY back as Ivan backpedals, outnumbered, trying to cover them both. He commits to Elie, who passes to Drexler. Ivan, off-balance, tries to block Drexler and is called on a foul; we RISE as Drexler jams it.		*
AC121	KNICKS' SIDELINES	AC121	*
	Eddie takes her clipboard and smashes it over her chair. The once-quiet crowd roars to life.		*
A121	EDDIE'S POV OF SECTION #'221'	A121	
	Especially the 221 Crew. They wave.		
B121	KNICKS' SIDELINES - POV FROM #'221'	B121	
	Eddie looks up and waves. She calls over an USHER and whispers something to him.		
C121	ON-COURT	C121	*
	6:4 Spectacular play from recognizable NBA players!		*

D121 KNICKS' SIDELINES

D121

EDDIE
C'mon, Stacy! You got Superglue
on your hands?! Pass!!!

Eddie shoots a glance to the:

E121 COURTSIDE SEATS

E121

The 221 Crew now sits with the best of them. In their
glory. They high-five.

BIG AL
Oh my God.

HELEN
What's wrong, Al?

BIG AL
We got waitresses down here.

FRED
(eyeing one)
Hot ones.

Helen gives him a sharp elbow.

F121 ON COURT (LATER)

F121 *

6:5 The Rockets have the ball, play gloriously
against the Knicks.

*
*
*
*

121 KNICKS SIDELINES

121 *

Eddie patrols the sidelines, waving her towel, whipping up
the fans. She leads them like a conductor leading her
orchestra. She points to one side of the stadium: Dee!
The other: fense!

122 ON COURT

122

6:6 Taylor feeds the ball to Patton in the low post.
Drexler, covering Hastings, doubles down on Patton.
Hastings breaks for the basket.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

EDDIE
(to Patton)
Hit the cutter!

But Patton tries to dribble out of the double and is
forced into the corner near Eddie.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED:

122 *

EDDIE
(continuing)
Give it up!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Ignoring her, Patton turns for a fade-away jumpshot. It is blocked by Horry and picked up by Drexler, who is immediately fouled by Patton reaching in. The Ref blows his whistle.

A123 KNICKS' SIDELINES

A123 *

Eddie groans.

EDDIE
(hollering)
Patton, get over here!
(to Ref)
Sub!

*
*

ZIMMER
What are you doing?

EDDIE
Rocking the boat.
(to Wilson)
Nate, I hope you got some
leadership left in those knees.

NATE
Why?

EDDIE
(grabbing Nate)
Wilson, get in there for Patton!

*

The players on the bench look stunned. What's she doing?

PATTON
What?! What are you trying to
say to Stacy Patton?

EDDIE
Tell Stacy Patton to sit his ass
at the end of Eddie Franklin's
bench!

TAYLOR
It's about fucking time.

The other players react. Not sure if they're more shocked by Eddie's outburst or The Preacher's. Call it a tie.

(CONTINUED)

A123 CONTINUED:

A123

The players, led by Taylor, charge back onto the court.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Now in for Stacy Patton, Nate
Wilson!

123 ON COURT - LATER

123

6:7 (Same camera setup as 6:5) Duncan feeds Nate in a low post. He's immediately double-teamed. Duncan breaks to the basket. Without looking, Nate tosses the ball over his head to Duncan, who takes it in for an easy lay-up.

In the f.g., Eddie turns and smiles. She extends her hand over the sideline for a no-look high-five with Nate as he heads up the court.

6:8 Horry, guarded by Nate, passes the ball to Drexler, who is guarded by Hastings. As Horry sets the pick for Drexler:

WILSON
(to Hastings)
Pick left! Pick left!

Drexler dribbles toward the pick.

WILSON
(continuing)
Switch!

He jump-switches. Horry rolls, Hastings steps in and steals the pass. Ally-oop score by the Knicks! The crowd loves it.

6:9 Taylor brings the ball upcourt and passes to Nate, who is immediately double-teamed opening up Taylor who breaks for the basket. Nate fakes a jump shot, splitting the double team, and passes between them to the perfect place for Taylor to make a perfect lay-up. Taylor smiles, points at Nate, thanking him for the assist.

A124 ON SCOREBOARD

A124

The Knicks have won.

124 ON COURT AND COURTSIDE SEATS - AFTER THE GAME 124

They won. The crowd celebrates. As the players leave the court celebrating, Eddie retrieves the game ball from the Ref, heads over to Wilson and hands it to him.

EDDIE

Here. Those knees deserve it.

* Beat. Nate walks over to Malik standing courtside with the 221 Crew and Jerome and Suli. Beat. He hands the stunned youngster the ball.

125 INT. GARDEN - KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 125

as the media surrounds her...

EDDIE

It's just one win...

126 INT. GARDEN - KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - AFTER ANOTHER GAME 126

EDDIE

... Just two wins...

127 INT. GARDEN - KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - AND ANOTHER 127

EDDIE

... Three wins in a row...

128 EXT. BARNEY'S - DAY 128

Eddie and Claudine arrive outside of Barney's in the white stretch limo driven by Mohammed. As they get out:

CLAUDINE

Girlfriend, you're the shit now.
If you're gonna talk the talk,
you gotta walk the walk.

They enter.

129 INT. (TBD) - EDDIE 129

in a "traditional" African outfit -- dashiki, etc.

EDDIE

Too... political.

130 EDDIE 130

in a kind of '70s Elton John outfit. Big glasses, glittery, tall, tall platform shoes.

(CONTINUED)

130 CONTINUED:

130

EDDIE
I feel like Elton John's love
child with Superfly.
(or)
It's too... too.

131 EDDIE

131

turns around in a Madonna-inspired Gaultier, complete with
silver bra with gigantic metallic pointy hooters.

EDDIE
It's perfect!
(off Claudine's
reaction)
I'm KIDDING!

132 EDDIE

132

from behind a dressing screen.

EDDIE (O.S.)
Uh HUH!

Eddie peeks over a dressing screen.

EDDIE
(continuing)
What do you call a man in women's
clothing?

CLAUDINE
What?

EDDIE
A transvestite. What do you call
a woman in a man's clothing?

CLAUDINE
What?

EDDIE
(steps out from behind
screen in dark three-
piece Armani suit)
Armani.

CLAUDINE
That is perfect.

Eddie looks sensational!

GARY GLITTER'S stadium anthem, "Rock and Roll Part 2 (The
Hey Song)", begins to play.

133 OMITTED 133

134 INT. GARDEN - TICKET LOBBY - DAY 134

A long line snakes out the door.

135 OMITTED 135

136 INT. GARDEN - PREGAME - NIGHT (GAME #7 - VS. SACRAMENTO KINGS) 136

Full. Eddie does an interview with a local TV station. "Eddie" signs hang everywhere. A banner hanging behind her reads: "Damn! It doesn't get any better than this!"

137 COURTSIDE 137

The 221 Crew sits in the luxury seats. But... the USHER comes over with NEW YORK MOVIE PERSONALITIES. The Usher points to their tickets. *

The 221 Crew protests.

HELEN

Oh, yeah, now that we're winnin' you show up.

138 OWNER'S BOX 138

Wild Bill watches on with Joe Nader and a group of well-dressed MEN, including ALAN HARRIS. Nader shows Wild Bill a computer printout. The smile on his face says it all.

139 ON COURT 139

7:1 The Knicks look awesome. Wilson gets fouled hard. He comes off the court rubbing his aching knees. Eddie gives him a pat on the butt. Patton sits on the end of the bench. *

140 INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE 140

"Miracle? Six in a Row for Knicks!"

141 INT. GARDEN - CLOSE ON EDDIE - DAY 141

sitting on the bench. Alone. She shakes her head and points. On the court a number of well-built MEN try out for the soon-to-be coed cheerleading squad. Eddie gets up and points to her tush. The Men turn around and shake it! Eddie turns to high-five Claudine sitting next to her, "helping" with the selection process.

142 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY 142

Eddie patiently signs autographs for a growing crowd of fans.

143 INT. KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - "SECRET DEODORANT" COMMERCIAL 143

Ivan holds up the Secret deodorant roll-on stick.

IVAN
Secret. Strong enough for da
center...

Eddie steps in and grabs the deodorant stick from him.

EDDIE
... but made for the coach!

144 INT. GARDEN - KNICKS LOCKER ROOM 144

Eddie has the entire team, except for Patton, gathered around her as she diagrams plays on her chalkboard.

145 INT. GARDEN - KNICKS SIDELINE - NIGHT (GAME #8 - VS. MILWAUKEE BUCKS) 145

The sold-out crowd rocks the house to GARY GLITTER'S SONG which BLARES over the stadium speakers in unison with us. During the "Hey" part of the song, the entire crowd roars, "Eddie!" What a spectacle! The new male dance team members look embarrassed in their shorts.

A146 ON COURT A146

Eddie goes toe to toe with the same Ref from her honorary coach days. When he walks away, she mimics and mocks him. He turns. Uh-oh. He gives her a technical.

She runs up to him, rips the "off-the-rack" toupee from his head, and tosses it to the crowd. The Ref ejects her from the game.

The crowd gives Eddie a standing ovation as she leaves the court.

146 INT. ED SULLIVAN THEATRE - NIGHT 146

DAVID LETTERMAN
... And the number-one reason why
Eddie Franklin has the Knicks
playing so well: coed showers!

PAUL and his BAND start PLAYING as Eddie enters the set to thunderous applause.

147 EXT./INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

147 *

From a nearby rooftop, we see Eddie, Zimmer and the other ASSISTANT COACHES sit in front of her new BIG SCREEN TV with a stack of tapes next to her, watching game tapes. Carry-out food lies scattered all around. It's been a long night.

*

148 INT. GARDEN - TIME OUT - NIGHT (GAME #9 - VS. PHOENIX SUNS)

148

The coed Knicks cheerleaders lamely lead the crowd. Disgusted, Eddie rushes out, grabs a pair of pom-poms, and goes wild. Now this is cheerleading... like you've never seen!

149 KNICKS LOCKER ROOM - WAIST-UP SHOT - NIGHT

149

as Eddie addresses her naked players. REVEAL a waist-high set of makeshift curtains in front of the players.

EDDIE

Great game, guys. Hell of a fourth quarter!

She turns to leave and looks back at Patton.

EDDIE

(continuing)

And you do have a very attractive penis.

The players laugh and whoop. Patton ignores this.

150 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

150

Eddie races down the street. REVEAL a huge mob of fans chasing their hero, pens and paper in hand.

151
thru
157

OMITTED

151
thru
157 *

A158 EXT. LAX - DAY

A158 *

The team plane is landing.

*

158 EXT. LAX - PRIVATE TERMINAL

158 *

The team is getting off the plane as Zimmer talks on his cellular phone.

*

*

*

ZIMMER

So it's official? Okay.

*

He hangs up. Eddie's behind him, overhears.

*

(CONTINUED)

158 CONTINUED:

158 *
*
*
*

EDDIE
What's official?

ZIMMER
Bailey just got the Charlotte
Hornets job.

EDDIE
What, they don't have any fans?

*

Beat.

ZIMMER
I was up for that job.

EDDIE
Damn, Karl. I'm sorry. You're
a good coach. Your time will
come.

ZIMMER
Not with the Knicks it won't.

*

EDDIE
What's that supposed to mean?

ZIMMER
It means that everybody in New
York loves you.

*

*

159
thru OMITTED
161

159
thru
161

162 OMITTED

162 *

163 OMITTED

163

A164 OMITTED

A164 *

164 INT. FORUM - NIGHT (GAME #11 - VS. LAKERS)

164

Pregame. The teams go through their pregame warm-up. At
center court, Ivan has an exchange with VLADE DIVAC in
Croatian.

VLADE
Os dwoh oyo yalp tsnaiga eth
Sreppicl?

SUBTITLES: "So how'd you play against the Clippers?"

IVAN
Tsniaga Sreppicl, Navi ekam ynam
teksab!

(CONTINUED)

164 CONTINUED:

164

SUBTITLES: "Against Clippers, Ivan make many basket!"

165 NEAR BENCHES

165

Eddie talks to the Lakers coach.

*

LAKERS COACH

*

Good luck, Coach.

EDDIE

You, too.

Eddie and the Coach shake hands and head toward their benches. Eddie turns back.

*

EDDIE

(continuing; handing
the Coach a piece of
paper)

*

*

Do you think I can get an
autograph?

The Coach nods and takes the paper.

*

LAKERS COACH

*

Sure.

EDDIE

Not yours. Jack Nicholson's.

166 INT. LOS ANGELES HOTEL ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

166

A BELLHOP lets Eddie into Hastings' room. She carries flowers.

EDDIE

... I was on the phone three
hours talkin' his wife into this.
Her plane's comin' in at eight.
She'll be here by nine to
surprise him. Send up the best
champagne, best caviar, the best
everything you got and charge it
to this room.

(showing him key)

Ah, hell. And bring more
flowers.

L.A. BELLHOP

(rubbing his
fingertips)

I could get into big trouble for
this.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

166 CONTINUED:

166

EDDIE (CONT'D) EDDIE
(slipping him a twenty)
It's for a good cause.

L.A. BELLHOP
Gotcha.

He opens the door to leave, then suddenly ducks back in.

L.A. BELLHOP
(continuing)
I think Mr. Hastings has other
plans.

Eddie peeks out the door. Hastings and a beautiful,
shapely WOMAN come down the hall arm in arm. Eddie closes
the door, trapped in the room.

EDDIE
That liar!

The door starts to open. Eddie bolts under the bed. The
Bellhop opens the minibar. Hastings and the GROUPIE
enter.

L.A. BELLHOP
(rubbing his fingers
again)
Just checking the minibar, sir.

Hastings tips him. The Bellhop exits. Hastings and the
Groupie grope their way toward the bed.

HASTINGS
Do you always let strange men
take you up to their rooms?

GROUPIE
Only when their team is on a
winning streak.

HASTINGS
You are one beautiful woman.
C'mere.

And they flop onto the bed -- BANG on Eddie's head!

GROUPIE
Tell me you love me again.

HASTINGS
(kisses her)
I love you. I love you.

(CONTINUED)

166 CONTINUED: (2)

166

GROUPIE

Oooh -- sounds like Barry White.

UNDERNEATH THE BED

Furious, Eddie looks up as the bedsprings sag. She punches the mattress but only hurts her hand.

We hear chuckles, kissing, then a zipper.

GROUPIE (O.S.)

Oooh, what's this?

HASTINGS (O.S.)

Say hello to 'coach', baby.

GROUPIE (O.S.)

Well, hellooo, Coach.

Hastings moans and the BED starts to CREAK. The sagging mattress pummels Eddie. She yells in pain and scrambles out from underneath. She stands up in the dark room.

EDDIE

You better put 'Coach' back in your pants, you low-life. And get that damn tramp outta here before I throw her out myself. I can't believe I fell for your bullshit.

The Groupie jumps off the bed.

HASTINGS

What the hell are you doing in my room?

GROUPIE

(to Hastings)

Who is this person?

EDDIE

Who am I? Who are you?

GROUPIE

I'm...

EDDIE

(interrupting)

I don't want an answer! It was a rhetorical question -- it does not require an answer! And I don't care who you are!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

166 CONTINUED: (3)

166

EDDIE (CONT'D)

I don't want to know your name!
I know who you are -- you're a
tramp -- and I'll tell you who
this is, this is a married man...

(grabs his finger,
points to his ring)

... You see that? How do you
think his wife would feel about
this? How would you feel if
someone did this to you?!!

(to Hastings)

And you! Saying how you learned
your lesson! Telling me how much
you love your wife, how you're
thinkin' about her all the time --
were you thinking about her
now?!! Were you thinking about
her when you were on this bed
saying, 'I love you' to this...
this... common street ho?!

The Groupie is surprisingly NOT upset. In fact, she's
curiously AMUSED. And so is Hastings.

HASTINGS

(calmly)

As a matter of fact, Eddie, I
was.

Eddie slowly realizes what's happened -- that this is no
groupie. Eddie looks at the "ho", and back at Hastings.
Eddie feigns "dignity". She extends her hand calmly...

EDDIE

Hello, Mrs. Hastings, permit me
to introduce myself, I'm Eddie
Franklin -- I am the coach and
resident loud mouth for the New
York Knicks.

BETH ("GROUPIE")

(shakes Eddie's hand)

Pleased to meet you, Eddie. My
plane got in early.

EDDIE

Will you excuse me please -- I
have to go... kick myself in the
ass.

(goes to door, stops,
turns back)

And Hastings -- do me a favor?

(CONTINUED)

166 CONTINUED: (4) 166

HASTINGS
What's that, Coach?

EDDIE
Please don't call me Coach
anymore.

*167 OMITTED 167

168 INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE 168

"Eddie Storms West Coast!" The picture shows Eddie and
JACK NICHOLSON.

169 INT. RADIO STUDIO - DAY 169

WALT FRAZIER
And the Knicks return home, three
games out of the play-off hunt.
Wow!

170 INSERT - SPORTS ILLUSTRATED COVER 170

of Eddie talking to Nate Wilson. The headline reads: "New
Coach, Old Player Lead Knicks Turnaround!"

171 thru 174 OMITTED 171 thru 174

175 INT. CHARLOTTE COLISEUM - NIGHT (GAME #12 - VS.
CHARLOTTE HORNETS) 175

At the free-throw line, Eddie is helping Duncan with his
follow-through. The Hornets' new coach, John Bailey,
stands at the scorers' table as the teams warm up.

Eddie approaches. Beat.

EDDIE
Good luck tonight, Coach.

Beat.

BAILEY
Quite a win streak you got going
there, Coach.

EDDIE
Thanks.

BAILEY
I wasn't talking to you.

Eddie turns to see Zimmer standing behind her. Bailey
walks over to him and offers his hand. Beat.

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED:

175

ZIMMER
Fuck you, John.

BAILEY
Always a bridesmaid, never a
bride.

Bailey walks back to his bench. An awkward silence
between Eddie and Zimmer.

EDDIE
You're rocking the boat.

ZIMMER
Maybe that's why I'm feeling so
sick to my stomach.

176 MINUTES LATER

176

12:1 The opening tip-off.

12:2 (Play TBD)

12:3 On another play, the ball is batted by two
players and bounces out of bounds.

Nate Wilson and two of the Hornets dive for the ball, but
Nate is caught between them, going down. With a sickening
"pop", Nate's knee goes out.

The two Hornets freeze, trying not to move. Everyone on
the court knows what this means.

A177 ON THE COURT

A177

Eddie and Zimmer rush out to Nate, both calling an injury
time-out.

EDDIE
(to Nate)
Is it bad?

NATE
(in pain)
This is the one, Eddie.

EDDIE
Maybe it's not. You can't be
sure.

NATE
It's over.

*
*
*
*
*

B177 ON THE COURT

B177

As they help Nate off the court, an OBNOXIOUS FAN taunts the Knicks.

OBNOXIOUS FAN

One down, four to go.

Eddie shoots the Fan a look and sees Patton removing his sweats.

EDDIE

Where you think you're goin'?

PATTON

Looks like you ran outta options
and you'll be needing Stacy
Patton.

EDDIE

You gonna pass?

PATTON

Stacy Patton's gonna play his
game.

Beat.

EDDIE

(calling down the
bench)

Sparks, get ready to go!

SPARKS

(jumping off the bench)

Where?

DUNCAN

(shaking his head)

He can't possibly be that white.

Eddie points at the court. Sparks struggles to undo the
snaps on his sweats. And struggles. They won't budge.
Duncan rolls his eyes.

As Sparks gets to center court, he decides to just pull
them down. Doing so, he accidentally takes his shorts
with him, mooning half the stadium! The crowd applauds.
An OLD LADY faints.

OBNOXIOUS FAN

Nice ass! Get some sun!!

*
*
*

*

177 KNICKS BENCH - LATER

177

It's late in the back-and-forth game.

12:4 Hard pass to Sparks! Sparks is stripped of
the ball. Zimmer calls time-out.

*

ZIMMER

Sparks is looking a little raw.
Should we put in Patton?

*

As Sparks jogs over to the bench...

EDDIE

He'll be all right.

178
thru OMITTED
179

178
thru
179

180 KNICKS BENCH

180

OBNOXIOUS FAN

Sparks! Is 34 your number or
your IQ?! Run, Forrest, run!!

Eddie calmly walks over to him. She puts her arm around
him.

*

EDDIE

Listen, I respect the enthusiasm.
Hell, I was one of the best
myself. I'm one of you. But the
tables have turned. I'm the head
coach now and I have to protect
my players. So if you must yell
at somebody, make it me and give
my guys a break. I can handle
it.

She pats him on the head and walks away.

OBNOXIOUS FAN

(to Eddie)

Handle it?! Handle this!

Eddie stops and turns to see the Obnoxious Fan holding his
crotch. She walks over to him. Whack! She lays him out
cold. The Knicks crack up.

OBNOXIOUS FAN

(continuing; getting
back up)

Heyyyyyy!!!! C'mon, Ref! She
assaulted a fan! Fine her!
Suspend her!!

The Refs approach Eddie.

(CONTINUED)

180 CONTINUED:

180

GAME #12 REF
All right, what happened?

EDDIE
Uh... he pinched my ass?

GAME #12 REF
Okay, then.
(to Eddie)
From every ref in the League,
allow me to be the first to say
thank you.

A181 INT. HORNETS' LOCKER ROOM - HALFTIME

A181 *

Bailey is diagramming plays on the blackboard, but the
HORNETS are more interested in the HALFTIME SHOW on TV:

*
*

BAILEY
Go straight at Sparks.

MUGGSY
The rookie's diaper is showing.

*

B181 ON COURT INTO THE SECOND HALF

B181 *

The game continues.

*
*
*
*
*

12:5 Another hard pass to Sparks. The Hornets run
all over him. Eddie still refuses to put in
Patton.

The BUZZER SOUNDS. Hornets win. As the Knicks jog off
the court...

181 INT. CHARLOTTE COLISEUM - IN THE TUNNEL

181

The defeated Knicks enter the tunnel. As Eddie enters the
tunnel, she sees Bailey talking to a REPORTER.

BAILEY
... Sure they got lucky for a few
games. But now that it's getting
to be crunch time, their true
colors are starting to show.

*
*
*
*
*
*

Eddie passes him; a moment of eye contact.

BAILEY
(continuing)
I mean, I can't be too excited
about beating a team without a
coach.

(CONTINUED)

181 CONTINUED: 181

Eddie keeps walking. *

182 QUICK MONTAGE - NEWSPAPER HEADLINES 182

A) "Knicks Nip Nets"

B) "Duncan Plays Like All-Star, Patton Still MIA"

C) "Six Games Left for Knicks"

D) "Only 2 Back"

A183 EXT. EDDIE'S COURT - CLOSE ON THE NET - DAY A183 *

Malik, almost at net level, dunks the ball. *

MALIK *

Yes! *

The CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL Malik and Suli on the shoulders of Duncan and Taylor. A 1-on-1 on 1-on-1 game is in progress. *

B183 AT THE PAYPHONE AT THE CORNER OF THE COURT - CONTINUOUS B183 *

Eddie is on the phone. Behind her, Jerome is sitting on the bench, looking pouty and frustrated, wanting to play. *

EDDIE *

Ma'am, what can I tell you? He's just not playing well with the other boys. I'm so sorry I had to call you, but I know that he'd listen to you. *

183 EXT. PATTON'S MANSION - DAY 183

Patton exits his home for practice. His black stretch limo waits in his driveway. Patton hops in the back.

184 INT. PATTON'S LIMO - CITY STREET (MOVING) - LATER 184 *

Stacy sits in the back of the limo. He looks out the window. He looks again.

PATTON

(over intercom)

Hey, man. What damn route you takin' Stacy Patton? This ain't the way to practice.

He rolls down the glass partition, revealing his driver:

(CONTINUED)

184 CONTINUED:

184

MOHAMMED
Deese is shortcut, sir.

PATTON
Shortcut my ass.

MOHAMMED
You's very funny, Mr. Stacy.

185 EXT. CITY BASKETBALL COURT #2 (NOT EDDIE'S COURT)

185

The limo stops in front of a city court. A top-level pickup game in progress.

A186 INT. PATTON'S LIMO (STOPPED)

A186

PATTON
What the hell's goin' on?

MOHAMMED
Uh, engine die. I call for you
'nother limo. Be here soon.

186 ON COURT

186

The game comes to a halt as the guys see the limo sitting there. Not a common sight around here. They head over. Reaching the limo, the window rolls down.

PICKUP PLAYER #1
Damn. You're...

PATTON
Stacy Patton.

The PLAYERS circle around the car. From the pack, RUMEAL SMITH, 20s, emerges, ball in hand.

SMITH
What? You gettin' no P.T. with
the Knicks so now you wanna run
with us?

An "Ouuu" floats over the pack. Beat.

PATTON
Shit, street boy, Stacy Patton'd
whup yo' ass.

SMITH
Not from the back of a limo.

The other street Players go nuts.

187 PATTON

187

exits the car and walks onto the court. Smith follows. At the top of the key, Patton "checks" the ball in with Smith. Here we go...

Patton arrogantly dribbles at Smith, a huge smile on his face. Patton makes a fancy move and -- Smith steals the ball, takes it out and charges the basket, slamming it home.

SMITH

Michigan. Sweet 16. Four years ago.

Patton nods, pokes the ball out from under Smith's legs, does a wicked spin move to the hoop. Reverse slam.

PATTON

NBA. All-Star. First-round pick.

Smith raises his eyebrows. Impressive. Patton pulls up. Nails a three. Patton takes the ball out again. Puts up a three from the same spot. Miss. Smith grabs the rebound, turns and drills his own three.

The other guys go wild.

QUICK MONTAGE

As the two guys trade incredible baskets. Patton for a short jumper. Smith for a leaning one-hander, etc. EDDIE approaches and stands on the outside of the fence, watching. Finally, Patton drives the lane for a monster dunk. Game over.

A188 ON PATTON

A188

as he approaches Smith and hands him the ball.

PATTON

Not bad. You pushed Stacy Patton.

From behind them, an AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN walks across the court.

WOMAN

(shouting out to them)
Mister All-High-And-Mighty
Superstar forgot that there are
other brothers who can put the
ball in the basket.

*

(CONTINUED)

A188 CONTINUED:

A188

Smith steps forward to fend off the Woman, who's obviously a crazy fan.

SMITH
Come on now, lady.

WOMAN
(eyes deep on Patton)
You ain't nothin' until you stop
your ball-hoggin'.

SMITH
Lady, he don't need to be
listening to none of your
bullshit.

Suddenly, Patton grabs Smith by the shirt and pushes him up hard against the fence.

PATTON
Watch how you talk to my mother!

Smith looks shocked, then terrified. Patton lets him down.

SMITH
I'm sorry, ma'am.

Patton turns to her.

PATTON
(apologetically)
Mama...

B188 EXT. STREET

B188

Eddie is waiting beside the limo. Patton and his mother are crossing the street, approaching. Stacy's Mother is still going on.

STACY'S MOTHER (WOMAN)
Now get off that bench, start
passing the ball, and don't make
me have to come out here again.

They have reached Eddie, who turns to Stacy's Mother.

EDDIE
(winking at her)
I think we've fixed the problem,
Mrs. Patton.

(CONTINUED)

B188 CONTINUED:

B188

STACY'S MOTHER
(turning, cutting her
off)

Don't 'Mrs. Patton' me! I
haven't even started with you,
honey.

*

EDDIE

Oh, please don't call me honey...

STACY'S MOTHER

Shut up! My boy is the best damn
player on that team of yours. He
don't belong on the sidelines,
watching. Now, I'm the one who
got him from the pickup games to
the NBA and I surely didn't put
in that time to have you come
along, set him down, and put a
towel on his head!

*

And as she goes on, Eddie just listens and nods
submissively.

188 INT. WILD BILL'S OFFICE

188

Wild Bill is unwrapping the top of a bottle of champagne.

ON THE TV

Marv Albert is reporting.

MARV ALBERT (V.O.)

... and with Charlotte's loss,
all eyes will be on Madison
Square Garden tomorrow night for
the Knicks-Hornets match-up for
the last play-off spot.

EDDIE AND NADER

enter.

EDDIE

You wanted to see me?

WILD BILL

(buoyantly to Eddie)

There she is!

He pops the champagne cork right over her head, startling
her. Nader runs to retrieve the cork.

(CONTINUED)

188 CONTINUED:

188

NADER

I'll get that!

Wild Bill pours and hands Eddie a glass.

WILD BILL

Here's to getting us into the
play-offs.

EDDIE

Whoa! Isn't this a little
premature?

WILD BILL

Think of it as encouragement,
sweetheart. A little incentive.
I've been talking with some folks
about the future of you and the
Knicks, Eddie. We get into these
play-offs and you are going to be
sitting prettier than a one-
legged cat in a pie-eating
contest.

Nader is crouched on all fours, searching through a potted
plant.

NADER

(regarding the cork)

There you are.

EDDIE

(after a look to Nader,
back to Wild Bill)

You've been talking about my
future?

WILD BILL

How does two million over the
next three years sound?

Eddie's jaw drops.

WILD BILL

(continuing)

Built-in escalators if the team
keeps winning.

Eddie's jaw drops again. Wild Bill grins.

WILD BILL

(continuing)

Hell, I can even work you into
the sale of the new luxury boxes.

(CONTINUED)

188 CONTINUED: (2)

188

EDDIE
(excitedly)
Get out! Those things can go for
half a...
(then quickly turning,
suspiciously)
Wait. Luxury boxes? Where are
you building those?

Wild Bill and Nader stare at each other for a beat, enough
for Eddie to read all she needs to know from their faces.

EDDIE
(continuing; horrified
at the realization)
Oh my God! You're selling the
Knicks!

WILD BILL
Damn right I am. If we can just
get into the play-offs, we've all
got a sweet deal with St. Louis.

EDDIE
St. Louis? You can't move the
team to St. Louis!

WILD BILL
For the kind of profit they're
talking about, I sure can.

EDDIE
Well, not with me you're not. I
won't let you take my Knicks
away.

WILD BILL
You can be a part of this,
Edwina, but you can't stop it.

EDDIE
(heading for the door)
Watch me. When the fans find
out, they'll lynch your greedy
ass.

WILD BILL
They won't find out. As a fan,
you can say anything you feel
about the team, Eddie. And you
always did. But now you're an
employee; you signed a
nondisclosure contract. Violate
that and you lose everything.

(CONTINUED)

188 CONTINUED: (3)

188

EDDIE

(turns around)

Why are you doing this? Don't
you know how much this team means
to us?

WILD BILL

This team is a business. This
game is about licensing and
broadcast rights and market
shares and guaranteed contracts.
The real players here are the
lawyers and accountants. And
they're playing at a level you
never dreamed of. Professional
sports ain't about the won-loss
column anymore. It's about the
profit-loss column. The bottom
line. I'm a businessman, Eddie,
and you're one of my business
promotions.

Eddie stares at him a moment, disgusted. Then she turns
and heads down the hall.

189 EXT. EDDIE'S BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

189

Eddie, all alone, shoots baskets from the free-throw line.
One. Two. Three in a row.

Long beat. She's lost in thought as she looks around the
Rick Franklin Memorial Court, looking better than it ever
has before. Finally, Eddie retrieves the last shot and
lines up on the foul line again. Beat.

Then the automatic timer suddenly shuts the court light
off, leaving Eddie in silhouetted darkness, unable to make
her last shot.

190 OMITTED

190

191 INT. WILD BILL'S OFFICE

191

Nader bursts in.

NADER

You might want to turn on the TV
quick!

Nader does it for him.

(CONTINUED)

191 CONTINUED:

191

ON TV

EDDIE (ON TV)
I'm here to offer my official
resignation as coach of the New
York Knicks.

* A GASP can be heard from the Reporters.

192 EXT. GARDEN - SIMULTANEOUS ACTION

192

Eddie stands among the Reporters in front of the Garden.

EDDIE
I love this team, but I can't be
its coach. I'm just a fan...
(into camera, as though
to Wild Bill)
... and I hope I can keep on
being that.

Eddie walks from the bank of mikes toward a waiting taxi
as the Reporters begin yelling questions. As she gets in
the limo:

*

REPORTER #4
Eddie, does this mean you're not
coaching the last game on Friday?

EDDIE
I'm sorry, Paul.

As she gets into the limo:

REPORTER #4
But why, Eddie? Why quit now?

193 OMITTED

193

A194 INT. WILD BILL'S OFFICE (SAME TIME)

A194

Wild Bill and Nader watch TV as Eddie ponders her choices
of how to answer.

WILD BILL
(under his breath)
Don't you do it...

EDDIE (V.O.)
(on TV, sighing)
No comment on that.

She closes the taxi door.

*

(CONTINUED)

A194 CONTINUED:

A194

WILD BILL
Atta girl!
(to Nader)
Get me Zimmer on the phone, fast.

194 EXT. EDDIE'S BASKETBALL COURT - DUSK

194

Eddie picks up around the deserted court.

Claudine walks up along the fence. Long beat.

CLAUDINE
I went by your apartment. The
crew from 'Hard Copy' said you
weren't home.
(beat)
You didn't really quit because
you're having Stacy Patton's love
child, did you?

Eddie glares at her, then keeps picking up glass.

CLAUDINE
(continuing)
I didn't think it was true,
either.

EDDIE
(re: empty court)
Shouldn't the kids be at
practice?

CLAUDINE
Their season ended two weeks ago.

Beat.

EDDIE
How'd we do?

CLAUDINE
They had a better coach before I
took over.

EDDIE
I don't know about that.

CLAUDINE
Malik wanted me to give you this.

Claudine hands Eddie a piece of paper.

(CONTINUED)

194 CONTINUED: 194

INSERT - MALIK'S REPORT CARD

Next to his English class is a grade: "B+".

ON EDDIE'S REACTION...

195 thru 205 OMITTED 195 thru 205

206 EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT 206

A number of searchlights crisscross the night sky as the sold-out crowd heads into the stadium.

207 OMITTED 207

208 INT. GARDEN - SAME TIME (GAME #13 - VS. CHARLOTTE HORNETS) 208

Wild Bill's promotional blimp circles inside the rapidly filling stadium.

209 OMITTED 209

210 INT. GARDEN - ON THE COURT - NIGHT 210

Bailey approaches Zimmer during pregame shoot-around.

BAILEY

Mighty big pair of shoes you have to fill. Even if they are high heels.

(laughs)

I hope you're up to the challenge.

ZIMMER

John, I've been around a long time and I learned from the best.

BAILEY

Thanks, Karl.

ZIMMER

I wasn't talking about you.

Zimmer smiles and walks back to his bench, leaving Bailey standing there.

211 SECTION #'221' 211

Claudine and the gang take their seats. Eddie's seat remains empty.

(CONTINUED)

211 CONTINUED:

211

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
... and now, the starting line-up
for your New York Knicks!

212 OMITTED

212 *

213 INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

213 *

Eddie puts a videotape in her VCR. She sits down on her
sofa, remote in hand. CLICK. The TV goes on first.

The game is on. The Knicks are still being introduced.
Eddie sighs and hits the play button. CLICK. The VCR
takes over and the TV now shows the KIDS, about three
years ago, playing basketball on the city court.

YOUNG MALIK (V.O.) (ON VIDEO)
Rick... Rick!
(the CAMERA turns
toward Malik)
Watch!

RICK (V.O.)
(operating the CAMERA)
I gotcha. Magic Malik Jones
passes over to Jumpin' Jerome
Spencer. He shoots. It's good!

On the sofa, Eddie smiles.

214 INT. LIVE ACTION AT THE GARDEN - NIGHT

214 *

13:1 In the first quarter, the Knicks take an early,
slight lead. Sparks makes a 3-pointer. The team
is pumped, wanting the play-offs.

215 ON THE VIDEO IN EDDIE'S APARTMENT

215 *

Rick has turned the CAMERA toward Eddie, who is watching
the kids play.

RICK (V.O.)
Hey, lady, nice legs.

Eddie turns to the CAMERA and smiles.

YOUNG MALIK (V.O.)
C'mon, Rick. Don't let her
distract you like that.

RICK (V.O.)
No use, Malik. It's been
happenin' for years.

(CONTINUED)

215 CONTINUED: 215 *
*
* YOUNG MALIK (V.O.) *
* Watchin' a video of her ain't *
* gonna help us improve. *
*
* RICK (V.O.) *
* It helps me. *
*
* Eddie turns and laughs. The kids all roll their eyes. *
*
216 INT. GARDEN - SAME TIME (SECOND QUARTER) 216 *
*
* 13:2 MUGGSY BOGUES strips the ball from Taylor. *
* There is a brief struggle for possession. *
*
* WIDEN TO REVEAL the score: "Hornets 46, Knicks 40." *
*
A217 ON THE VIDEO A217 *
*
* Eddie is now operating the camera. The kids are gathered *
* at the bench, getting instructions. The CAMERA moves *
* through the kids to find Rick, sitting on the bench. This *
* is the first time we've seen Rick ALIVE. *
*
B217 ON THE SOFA B217 *
*
* Eddie sits up to watch him closely. *
*
* RICK (V.O.) *
* Now let's talk defense. *
*
C217 ON THE VIDEO C217 *
*
* RICK (V.O.) (ON VIDEO) *
* (to the kids) *
* First. You gotta remember that *
* the other guys are always gonna *
* try and get you to play their *
* game. But you can't let them run *
* the court. You get control of *
* the lead -- and you send them the *
* message that this is your game *
* they're playing. This is your *
* court they're on. *
*
D217 ON THE SOFA D217 *
*
* Eddie is hearing her husband's words. *
*
217 OWNER'S BOX 217 *
*
* Wild Bill, Nader, Alan Harris and a couple of ST. LOUIS *
* BUSINESSMEN are in evidence. *

(CONTINUED)

217 CONTINUED:

217

NADER
Missouri Knicks! Sounds pretty
good.

Nader looks over at Wild Bill for approval. It isn't
there.

A218 KNICKS' SIDELINE

A218 *

Patton sits at the end of the row, pouting. He has his
sneakers off.

218 ON THE COURT

218

13:3 Sparks is guarding Mourning. LARRY JOHNSON is
guarded by Hastings. Johnson beats Hastings to
the paint. Sparks comes over to help, but
Johnson powers over him for a master slam.
Sparks picks himself up, inbounds to Taylor
almost at halfcourt. He starts to bring the
ball across -- it's stolen by Muggsy, who is
now 1-on-1 with Sparks coming upcourt.

Trying to cover the much-shorter Muggsy, Sparks
fakes a low crouch position, giving Muggsy the
avenue to dribble the ball between Sparks' legs
for the easy lay-up.

A219 INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - ON THE VIDEO

A219 *

Eddie still operates the CAMERA as the kids wrap up the
practice. Rick is gathering his stuff at the bench.

RICK (V.O.) (ON VIDEO)
Okay, if you guys promise to show
up three times a week after
school, this'll be your home
court. Just like the Garden is
for the Knicks. But you guys
gotta promise. You can't quit on
me, deal?

The kids all nod. From behind the CAMERA:

EDDIE (V.O.)
What's my deal, Coach?

Rick walks TOWARD the CAMERA.

(CONTINUED)

A219 CONTINUED:

A219

RICK (V.O.)
Hmmm... that's gonna take some
negotiating. Malik, take this
thing.

Rick takes the video CAMERA from Eddie and hands it to
Malik, who then aims it back up at Eddie and Rick as they
hug.

YOUNG MALIK (V.O.)
Ooh, Coach is working the
perimeter!

YOUNG SULI (V.O.)
What hands!

Rick and Eddie laugh in each other's arms.

RICK (V.O.)
(to Eddie)
It doesn't get any better than
this.

The image is frozen on the TV screen.

ON THE SOFA

Eddie's eyes say everything as she looks at the screen.
She waits a beat before clicking off the VCR.

B219 ON TV

B219

The game is in progress.

MARV ALBERT (V.O.)
... And it doesn't get any worse
than this for the Knicks.

13:4 Mortified, Sparks again inbounds the ball, but
Muggsy, watching Taylor's eyes, spins around
and deflects the ball to the sideline.

C219 KNICKS' BENCH

C219

Patton is still sulking at the end of the bench. The
tipped ball rolls right to him. He picks it up and walks
deliberately toward Zimmer as behind him the Referee
vainly tries to get the ball. Zimmer takes the ball,
gives it to the Ref.

D219 CHARLOTTE BENCH

D219

Bailey, as Sparks lumbers by him:

(CONTINUED)

D219 CONTINUED:

D219 *

BAILEY
I knew I drafted you for a
reason! (Gem to follow.)

*
*
*
*
*

E219 BAILEY'S POV OF COURT

E219 *

13:5 Sparks takes his position
under the basket. Taylor flips
him an ally-oop, which Sparks
thunders home.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Mercifully, the BUZZER SOUNDS, ending the first half.
RACK TO the SCOREBOARD as the Knicks reduce the Hornets'
lead to 10 ("51 to 41").

219
thru OMITTED
220

219
thru
220

221 ON THE COURT - HALF TIME

221 *

Three Dance Team Members hold a water balloon slingshot.
They "load" a bundled-up T-Shirt to shoot out into the
crowd.

The Girls pull the SLINGSHOT way back and... WHOOSH!...
send the T-shirt way up into the third balcony. The Girls
begin loading another T-shirt.

GARDEN ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Folks, this T-shirt goes to the
side that makes the most
noise...!

*

Some of the crowd (whoever's interested) scream as the
slingshot fires again. But instead of being caught by a
fan, the T-SHIRT PROJECTILE hits...

*
*

The MINIBLIMP circling above. THWACK!! The midair
collision sends the blimp spinning for a second before
finally heading... up.

The looks on the faces in the audience tell you exactly
where it's heading.

222 OMITTED

222 *

A223 RAFTERS

A223

The out-of-control blimp continues heading straight for
Bill Bradley's retired jersey.

Contact. The MINIPROPELLERS of the blimp get tangled with
the SHIRT and... BUZZZZZZZ... shirt pieces start flying
everywhere.

B223 INT. STANDS

B223 *

That Colorful Fan, pink Afro, painted orange and blue, is again having a fit.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

COLORFUL FAN
Not again! What's happening?
(crying)
IT'S ALL OVER!!!

223 OMITTED

223

224 ON THE COURT (THIRD QUARTER)

224 *

The teams prepare for the start of the second half.

13:6 The half starts and the Hornets in-bound score a quick basket to take a 12-point lead. (Let 'em play!)

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

13:7 Hornets score again (let 'em play).

13:8 And again (let 'em play), their lead is now 16. Dead silence overtakes the stadium. Zimmer calls time-out.

Then from high above:

EDDIE (O.S.)
C'mon, you guys!! Goddamnit,
you've worked too hard to quit
now!! You deserve to be in the
play-offs!!

225 SECTION #'221'

225

The 221 Crew turns to see Eddie coming, standing in the aisle.

Fans all around start turning to see her. A buzz races through the crowd, "It's Eddie!" Realizing what she's done, Eddie quickly sits down, trying to hide. Too late.

A226 GIANT STADIUM TV

A226

Eddie now appears on the screen.

226 OWNER'S BOX

226

WILD BILL
I'll be damned.

227 SECTION #'221'

227

Big Al turns to Eddie.

BIG AL
Welcome home.

EDDIE
(realizing that it does
feel like that to her)
Thanks, Al.

Eddie looks up and sees Bill Bradley's jersey.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Shit... not Bradley, too!

228 THE CROWD

228

The chant starts somewhere in the stadium.

CROWD
Eddie! Eddie!!

Slowly at first, but it quickly builds:

ENTIRE CROWD
Eddie!! Eddie!!!

229 ON KNICKS BENCH

229

The players all look up toward 221. Beat. Stacy Patton leaps into the stands... and heads up.

230 OWNER'S BOX

230

Stunned reactions from all as they watch the unfolding spectacle.

231 SECTION #'221'

231

Patton climbs still higher until finally arriving at 221. He stares face to face with Eddie. Beat.

PATTON
We need you down there... Coach.
(beat)
I need you.

EDDIE
'I'? What happened to Stacy
Patton?

(CONTINUED)

231 CONTINUED:

231

PATTON

He's still sittin' his ass on the
end of Eddie Franklin's bench.

Eddie rises, then stops.

EDDIE

Wait. I can't.

PATTON

Can't doesn't get us to the play-
offs, Coach.

He grabs her hand and they head down to the court.

232 OWNER'S BOX

232

Wild Bill spots Patton and Eddie.

WILD BILL

What the...?

233 IN THE STANDS

233

Eddie and Patton snake their way down through the crowd.
They pass by Stacy's Mother, who is sitting in the stands
with Rae Jones and the kids.

*

STACY'S MOTHER

(proudly to Rae)

Now, you'll get to see my boy
play some ball.

Eddie heads for the Knicks bench.

*

A234 OMITTED

A234 *

234 KNICKS BENCH

234

The crowd noise gains in intensity. The Knicks' huddle
parts like the Red Sea as Eddie arrives. The REF pokes
his head in.

GAME #13 REF

(to Zimmer)

Coach, your time-out's over.

Beat.

ZIMMER

I'm the assistant. Talk to her.

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

234 CONTINUED:

234

EDDIE
(to Sparks)
Sparks, how you feelin'?

SPARKS
I'm giving it my all, Coach.

EDDIE
I know.

Eddie and Patton lock glances. Beat. She smiles.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Stacy, get in there for Sparks!

Patton rips off his warm-ups and races onto the court to roars from the crowd as Eddie shouts:

EDDIE
(continuing)
Hey, Bailey! Dixie and Dolores
send their regards!

*
*
*
*
*
*

235 ON THE HORNETS BENCH

235

Bailey steams.

*

236 OMITTED

236

237 MONTAGE OF GAME

237

13:9 The Knicks chip away at the lead. (Let 'em
play.) Now 10. They play as one.

*
*
*
*

13:10 Halfway through the fourth quarter, they cut
it to 7.

238 SECTION #'221'

238

The 221 Crew roars with each offensive basket and
defensive stop.

239 OMITTED

239

240 ON THE COURT AND KNICKS BENCH

240

13:11 The Knicks push the ball quickly upcourt.
Passing their bench:

*

EDDIE
25 Red to Patton.

(CONTINUED)

240 CONTINUED:

240

In the Hornets' zone, the ball swings over to a wide-open Patton. He shoots... it's good!! Two minutes left, Hornets by 5. Duncan catches an ally-oop pass from Patton. Slam! Now it's a three-point game.

The Hornets manage to hold onto the lead going into the last minute of the game. The fans can barely stand it. Eighteen seconds left, Hornets by 1 with possession when Taylor strips Alonzo Mourning of the ball.

A241 INT. STANDS

A241

The place explodes.

B241 KNICKS SIDELINE

B241

Twelve seconds left. Eddie signals for her team to call time-out.

241 IN A KNICKS HUDDLE

241

EDDIE

Okay. We're gonna run the 44.
Hard-cut right. Stacy, you
should be open at the top of the
key. Take...

Patton nods, but Zimmer interrupts.

ZIMMER

Coach.

Everyone looks at him.

ZIMMER

(continuing;
diagramming on his
board)

I know Bailey. He knows Stacy's
hot. If we call the 44, he'll
double-team Stacy with the small
forward. I think you should have
Stacy kick it back over to Duncan
coming off Hastings' pick.

Long beat.

EDDIE

Let's do it.

Eddie looks over to Patton. Nothing.

The team breaks the huddle. Here we go:

242 ON THE COURT - SLOW MO

242

13:12 Taylor inbounds to Hastings, who works it over to the corner. Ten seconds to Ivan. He quickly passes out to Patton.

The Hornets swarm all over him. But Patton still goes up from the shot anyway. He's got an obstructed view of the rim. Just as the Hornets' defenders are about to close:

He dishes off to a wide-open Duncan in the paint. Duncan drives the lane for the winning basket. He goes up. A hand comes out of nowhere and hacks him on the arm. Foul! The WHISTLE blows. Four seconds remain on the clock. Knicks down by 1.

243 ON THE HORNETS BENCH

243

a smiling Bailey high-fives his assistant.

244 OMITTED

244

245 ON THE COURT AND KNICKS BENCH

245

Duncan approaches the line. He takes the ball from the Ref. Total silence. Broken by:

MALIK (O.S.)
(yelling across the
court)
Hey, Jamal!

He turns.

A246 IN THE STANDS

A246

MALIK
Bend your knees!

B246 ON JAMAL

B246

He smiles as he turns back to face the basket.

13:13 He bounces the ball, bends his knees, looks up. The shot leaves his fingertips, hits the side of the rim, rolls around twice... and falls through.

246 THE CROWD

246

roars. One down.

A247 SECTION #'221'

A247

going nuts.

247 ON THE COURT

247

13:14 On the line, Duncan readies himself for
the last shot. He takes a deep breath and
shoots... swish!

*

248 THE STADIUM

248

explodes to a deafening level. Knicks by 1.

249 OMITTED

249

250 ON THE COURT

250

Time-out, Hornets. Still four seconds left. A lifetime.

251 ON THE KNICKS BENCH

251

The cheering Knicks approach. Eddie walks over to Patton
as he comes off the court.

EDDIE

I thought you might take the
shot.

PATTON

C'mon, Coach. Ain't some pickup
game out there.

Eddie smiles as the players all huddle around her.

252 THE CROWD

252

continues to roar. And then the chant starts:

CROWD

New York Knicks! New York
Knicks!

Growing louder...

CROWD

(continuing)

New York Knicks!! New York
Knicks!!

A253 GIANT STADIUM TV

A253

Wild Bill in the owner's box is on the screen. He's
looking mighty pleased.

253 ON THE COURT AND KNICKS BENCH

253

From the huddle, Eddie looks out and sees Wild Bill on the giant TV. She looks up at the owner's box, then steps away from the huddle, walking a few feet onto the court.

She looks at the game clock. Four seconds. She seems to get an idea and begins to wave up toward Wild Bill, trying to get his attention.

254 OWNER'S BOX

254

Nader notices something on the court.

NADER

Sir...

Wild Bill looks now and sees:

255 ON THE COURT

255

Eddie waving to get his attention. She makes a "Well, how're we doing?" gesture. (We all know what that looks like, right?)

256 OWNER'S BOX

256

Wild Bill gets it and responds by giving her a big "thumbs-up" gesture.

257 ON THE COURT

257

Eddie waves him down to the court to include him in the imminent victory celebration.

258 OWNER'S BOX

258

Wild Bill seems to like that idea.

WILD BILL

(to a suspicious Nader)

I told you she'd come around.

NADER

You're not going down there, are you?

WILD BILL

Why shouldn't I? That is my team that's about to celebrate down there.

He starts to head out of the box to the stands, but turns back to the St. Louis Businessmen.

(CONTINUED)

258 CONTINUED:

258

WILD BILL
(continuing; singing)
'Meet me in St. Louis, Louie...'

The Businessmen laugh and Wild Bill laughs as he heads out into the crowd.

* 259 ON THE COURT

259

Eddie is in a huddle with the team. She looks up to see:

260 EDDIE'S POV

260

Wild Bill coming out of the owner's box.

261 ON COURT

261

She runs back to the huddle.

IN THE HUDDLE

EDDIE
(to the players and
Zimmer)
This is gonna seem really weird.
But just give me a minute, okay?

They all look confused as Eddie heads for the scorers' table.

262 ON THE COURT

262

Eddie grabs the microphone in front of the Garden Announcer and turns to the crowd.

EDDIE
Is this thing on?

The cheering crowd quiets as EDDIE'S VOICE BOOMS OVER the stadium P.A. SYSTEM.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Hi there.

Some in the crowd say "hi" back.

EDDIE
(continuing)
I just wanted to point out to all
of you the guy who's heading down
here right now. You know him.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

262 CONTINUED:

262

EDDIE (CONT'D)

He shelled out those big bucks to
buy this team just a mere few
months ago, Wild Bill Burgess.

263 IN THE STANDS - MODERATELY PRICED SEATS

263

About halfway down to the court, amid all of the fans,
Wild Bill stops hesitantly, still managing to wave to the
crowd warmly as they applaud him. Eddie waves him down
from the court.

EDDIE

Come on down, Bill.

After a reassuring beat, he continues on his path down.

264 ON THE COURT

264

EDDIE

This is a true showman, folks.
Many of you know Wild Bill as the
man who brought you the 'Fracas
in Caracas' -- where a man got
into a tank and wrestled a live
shark. He's the man who brought
you the 'Brawl in Nepal' -- where
full-contact karate experts
killed a man on pay-per-view.

*

265 IN THE STANDS - EXPENSIVE SEATS

265

Wild Bill, still on his way down, seems a little confused
by the timing of this tribute.

266 ON THE COURT

266

EDDIE

He brought you the 'Melee in
Chile', 'The Dispute in Beirut',
and the 'Feud in the Nude'. But
I think he might have outdone
himself with what he's got
planned for us tonight.

267 AT THE EDGE OF THE COURT

267

At the court now, Wild Bill stops, looking cautiously at
Eddie.

268 ON THE COURT

268

EDDIE

He may haul my ass off to jail
for telling you, but if the
Knicks win this game tonight...

269 ON WILD BILL

269

WILD BILL

(seething but fearful;
under his breath)
Don't you do it...

270 ON THE COURT

270

EDDIE

... he could sell the team and
move it... to St. Louis.

*
*

271 IN THE STANDS

271

A rumbling starts among the crowd.

272 ON THE COURT

272

The players look at each other, trying to figure it out.

EDDIE

But now I told him, I said,
'Bill, you do that, and you may
have the bloodiest battle you've
ever had -- and you're giving it
away on free TV!' But he's on
his way to center court now,
where I plan to have a word with
him. And you're all welcome to
join me.

*
*
*
*
*

She takes the microphone to center court and sits down.

*
*
*

273 FROM HORNETS BENCH

273

BAILEY

What'n the hell's going on?!

274 KNICKS BENCH

274

TAYLOR

She's gonna cost us the game.

ZIMMER

Exactly.

(CONTINUED)

274 CONTINUED:

274

He sets down his clipboard and heads out to join her. He sits down. Beat. Patton follows him out there... and sits down. The team gets it and follows.

*
*

275 IN THE STANDS - BEHIND KNICKS BENCH

275

Wild Bill grabs SECURITY GUARD #2.

*

WILD BILL
(to Security Guard)
Aren't you gonna do anything
about this?

SECURITY GUARD #2
Yes, sir.

*

The Security Guard walks to the court and sits down.

276 ON THE COURT

276

Wild Bill yells to a POLICE OFFICER.

WILD BILL
Remove these trespassers.

Beat. The Cop walks down to center court and sits down! Then, a flood of fans rushes the court, completely filling it. Wild Bill is getting some nasty and truly threatening looks from the fans now and the sweat begins to drip from below his hat.

*

277 HORNETS' BENCH

277

Bailey grins.

BAILEY
(to himself)
I knew she'd find a way to blow
it.

278 ON THE COURT

278

The Ref steps toward Wild Bill and Eddie, who are now near each other at center court.

GAME #13 REF
If this court is not cleared in
two minutes, the Knicks forfeit.

*

He sets his watch. Bailey smiles. Eddie looks at Wild Bill.

(CONTINUED)

278 CONTINUED:

278

EDDIE

It's your call, Bill. You can
forfeit... or we can go to the
play-offs.

*

Long beat as Wild Bill looks at Eddie. At the fans. This
is not good. He looks in the stands at the thousands who
are standing and staring at him.

279 OWNER'S BOX

279

Nader and the Businessmen seem helpless.

280 ON THE COURT

280

Wild Bill looks back at Eddie and sighs.

An angry NEW YORK BRUISER yells out, pointing his finger.

NEW YORK BRUISER

You move this team and I'll cut
your nuts off with a hacksaw.

*

Eddie is impressed by the vivid threat that hangs in the
silence for a beat.

EDDIE

I hadn't even thought of that
option.

*

That really was all Wild Bill needed. He takes the
microphone from Eddie and looks at the fans. There is no
choice left for him. He reaches in his jacket's breast
pocket and pulls out a contract.

WILD BILL

(unhappily)

You win, the team stays.

He hands the microphone back to Eddie and rips up the
contract. The fans quickly realize what has just
happened. A smile sneaks across Eddie's face as she looks
at Wild Bill.

EDDIE

Folks, we need to clear the
court. Your NEW YORK Knicks have
a game to win!

A roar as the fans quickly head off. Wild Bill follows
Eddie back toward the bench. Bailey storms back to his
bench. Meanwhile:

281 OWNER'S BOX

281

Alan Harris and his group get up to leave.

NADER
(desperate)
Wait. He's kidding. Really.
You guys into hockey at all?

282 ON THE COURT

282

as the last of the fans file off the court.

283 NEAR KNICKS BENCH

283

Eddie is back in the coach zone, hustling the players around her.

EDDIE
Ivan, think defense, watch the
back-door pick for Mourning, hold
your ground.

The Ref signals that it's time.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Let's do it.

The team breaks and heads onto the court. Ivan looks unclear about his instructions, though.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Ivan! Wait!

Eddie looks him right in the eye, searching her brain for the Russian words:

EDDIE
(continuing; in Russian
with SUBTITLES)
You move your feet... and... I'll
cut your nuts off with a hacksaw!

Ivan looks terrified, then confused. He nods and heads onto the court.

284 ON THE COURT

284

13:15 Charlotte ball at halfcourt. The teams
line up for the inbound. The WHISTLE SOUNDS.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

284 CONTINUED:

284 *
*
*
*
*
*
*

Muggsy Bogues fakes a pass outside, then rifles the inbound to Mourning coming off a pick at the top of the key. He catches the ball, drives the lane smack into Ivan. Ivan goes down hard. The Ref blows the whistle as the FINAL BUZZER sounds. The arena is silent awaiting the call.

GAME #13 REF
Charging, Charlotte. Knicks' ball!

Pandemonium. Bailey slams his clipboard to the ground as the horn sounds, ending the game.

ON THE COURT

IVAN
(getting up)
Ivan take charge!

A285 INT. SECTION #'221'
reacting!

A285 *
*
*
*
*
*

B285 INT. STANDS
The kids and moms reacting!

B285 *
*
*

285 ON THE COURT

285

Eddie runs out onto the court. She reaches Stacy Patton and he picks her up, twirling her in the air. Fans stream onto the court. Wild Bill fights through the crowd until he reaches Eddie, now celebrating with Zimmer. In the b.g., GARY GLITTER'S SONG starts to play as the stadium, impossibly so, gets even louder.

WILD BILL
Good job, honey. I got a great play-off promotion.

EDDIE
I'm not your honey and no more promotions. I got a few ideas.

286 INT. GARDEN - CLOSE ON AN ANNOUNCER'S MICROPHONE -
(GAME #14 - VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS)

286

TITLE CARD: Game One: The Play-offs.

A hand reaches in and presses the talk button on the microphone. The lower profile of a face leans in.

(CONTINUED)

286 CONTINUED:

286

EDDIE (O.S.)
First round of the play-offs.
The Knicks and the 76ers!

We PULL BACK TO REVEAL Eddie at the scorers' table at Madison Square Garden. Beside her sits Karl Zimmer, wearing a suit.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Coach Zimmer, any final thoughts
for those listening all across
New York?

ZIMMER
Well, we're gonna shake things up
in the League. Rock the boat a
little.

EDDIE
Good luck, Coach, thanks for
joining us before today's big
game, brought to you by Mike and
Mohammed's, the official limo
service of the New York Knicks.

Now we notice Claudine seated next to Eddie with binoculars around her neck. Malik, Jerome and Suli can be seen on the court as the Knicks' ballboys.

EDDIE
(continuing)
Joining me now is tonight's fan
commentator, Claudine James.
Claudine, what do you think of
our prospects in the play-offs?

CLAUDINE
Well, I think the player to watch
is Jamal Duncan. I got my eye on
him. And I know he's got his eye
on me.

We CONTINUE TO PULL BACK. On the court in front of them, Duncan winks at Claudine.

CLAUDINE
(continuing; to Eddie)
How 'bout you, Eddie? You got
your eye on anyone?

EDDIE
Maybe.

(CONTINUED)

286 CONTINUED: (2)

286

Eddie looks over at Nate, in a suit, sitting on the bench, his leg in a cast. He glances up and sees her looking at him... and smiles.

287 IN THE OWNER'S BOX

287

Wild Bill and Nader watch the activities below. Only now, they are joined in the box by the Section 221 gang. Big Al is trying to force Nader into trying a chili dog. Wild Bill sits in between Bag #1 and Bag #2, trying to figure them out. Helen and Fred are there, too. We're seeing Fred for the first time without a bloody tissue stuck in his nostril. (Isn't that a relief?!)

288 ON THE COURT

288

The teams are taking the court for the start of the game.

ON EDDIE

EDDIE

Well, ladies and gentlemen, we're about set for tip-off. And I can truly say... it doesn't get any better than this!

FADE OUT.

THE END