

The Smoothie King

by

Jon Galpern

jongalpern@gmail.com

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Talking Head Interviews. Intercutting between interviewees.

JRUE HOLIDAY

I honestly still can't believe we got him. He instantly makes us title contenders.

JJ REDICK

Once you get a guy like him, you can't imagine the team functioning without him.

COACH GENTRY

I've respected his talents for years, but having him on the team is a whole different ball game. He's immediately inserted himself as a locker room leader.

FAN #1

I was glued to the TV and refreshing the nba subreddit every hour. And when I saw the announcement I fell out of my chair.

FAN #2

I choked on my cereal.

FAN #3 shows off his ring.

FAN #3

I proposed to my wife.

INT. WHITE BACKGROUND PHOTOSHOOT

ZION in his Pelicans jersey strikes different poses (flexing... spinning the BALL on his finger... jumping high) while the CAMERA GUY snaps photos.

CAMERA GUY

Alright Zion, that's enough. Can you please move out of the shot?

ZION

What? It's only been five minutes.

CAMERA GUY

We got what we need. The rest of the hour is for The King.

Zion disgustedly turns his head, as the camera PANS RIGHT and dramatically reveals THE SMOOTHIE KING (black turtle neck, royal gold crown, red square-rimmed glasses) intensely blending a smoothie.

SLOW MOTION MONTAGE shots of the smoothie-making process (cutting pineapple, spinning lemons, scooping protein powder)

THE SMOOTHIE KING (V.O.)

It was a very hard decision to leave Smoothie King headquarters to work for the Pelicans full-time, but sometimes the hardest decisions in life are often the ones you need to make make.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

CAMERA INTERVIEWER

So what is Smoothieball?

THE SMOOTHIE KING

Smoothieball takes the best of Moreyball, Coach Pop ball, and Phil's zen ball and combines them all... excuse me, Bulls/Lakers Phil, not that Knicks garbage.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT

LONZO BALL drains three pointer after three pointer. He looks back at the camera.

LONZO BALL

He fixed my jumper.

THE SMOOTHIE KING (O.S.)

SMOOTHIE TIME!

The Smoothie King sprints to Lonzo and hands him a smoothie.

Lonzo sips his smoothie and looks back at the camera.

LONZO BALL

His smoothies fixed my shot.

He smiles in satisfaction.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Talking head interview.

ALVIN GENTRY
Listen. Stats don't lie. Read the reports. You are what you eat. You are what you drink. We take our player's diets very seriously.

INT. SMOOTHIE KING STAND

The Smoothie King points to the different smoothies.

THE SMOOTHIE KING
Every player has their own signature smoothie. There's Favors Flav! The Juice of Jruth. Smelly Melli.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Nicolo Melli sips the smoothie.

NICOLO MELLI
Great smoothie. Terrible name.

CUT TO:

INT. SMOOTHIE KING STAND

Zion passes by.

THE SMOOTHIE KING
Zion! Welcome to the Pels!

The Smoothie King extends for a handshake. Zion rejects it and walks away.

THE SMOOTHIE KING (CONT'D)
(taking it in stride)
Wait! I studied your medical reports and developed your own personalized smoothie. It's called Zanos' Double-Edged Smoothie! Here.

The Smoothie King extends the smoothie to Zion.

ZION
Nah.

The Smoothie King's arm remains extended.

THE SMOOTHIE KING
But it will help you, I promise!

Zion grabs it.

THE SMOOTHIE KING (CONT'D)
It's tasty and healthy! No sugar...

A STONE COLD Zion stares at him. BRIEF PAUSE. Zion SLAMS the smoothie to the ground and walks away.

THE SMOOTHIE KING (CONT'D)
(silently)
I guess you can't please everybody.

The camera SHAKES as the CAMERA INTERVIEWER runs to Zion.

CAMERA INTERVIEWER
Zion, what do you think about The King signing?

ZION
I don't believe The King's hype.

Zion COVERS the screen with his hand.

Screen turns BLACK.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Talking Head interview.

COACH GENTRY
The players have started drinking spiritual smoothies too.

CAMERA INTERVIEWER
What's a spiritual smoothie?

COACH GENTRY
They are one-on-one sessions with The King.

EXT. TENT

There's a LIST posted on the tent with a spreadsheet detailing each player, their spiritual smoothie, and the amount of spiritual smoothies they've ingested. The list shows that Zion hasn't drank a single spiritual smoothie.

INT. TENT

Jrue Holiday sits in the tent lit by wax candles, incense, and a Persian Rug with a knitted Pelican logo.

JRUE HOLIDAY (V.O.)
 In my last spiritual smoothie
 session The King only told me one
 thing.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP of The Smoothie King's mouth.

Jrue's voice comes out of The Smoothie King's mouth.

JRUE HOLIDAY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Write on your hand something that
 reminds you of your happy place.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT

Jrue drinks water with his back against the basket.

A ball HITS him in the back of the head.

JRUE HOLIDAY
 (angry)
 Who did that!?

BALL BOY
 Uhh... Sorry Jrue.

Jrue furiously picks up the ball.

JRUE HOLIDAY
 Hey, come here!

The frightened ball boy walks over.

Jrue cocks the ball back with his right hand.

THE SMOOTHIE KING (V.O.)
 Whenever you're overwhelmed with
 emotion, look down at your hand.

Jrue pauses and looks at his left hand.

Left hand written with black sharpie: "There's no place like home."

JRUE HOLIDAY

(silently)

There's no place like home. There's
no place like home. There's no
place like home.

The ball boy stands there frightened and confused. Jrue
shakes his head, smiles, and hands the ball back to him.

JRUE HOLIDAY (CONT'D)

Be careful next time bro!

Jrue gives the ball boy a big bear hug.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Talking head w/ Jrue

JRUE HOLIDAY

The hand trick worked so well, I
might just get a tattoo of it.

Zion comes and sits down in the interview room.

ZION

How long do I have to be here?

CAMERA INTERVIEWER

Zion, records show you haven't had
a single spiritual smoothie. Why?

ZION

I don't need to. I'm in tip top
spiritual shape.

Camera interviewer shows Zion the one-on-one session list.

CAMERA INTERVIEWER

In fact, your name was marked off.
Did you do that?

Zion stands up, removes the lapel mic, and THROWS it at the
interviewer.

ZION

We're done here.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT

The team huddles around the dry erase board.

COACH GENTRY
This play just isn't working...

THE SMOOTHIE KING
I have an idea. May I?

The Smoothie King enters the huddle. Coach Gentry hands him the dry erase board. The Smoothie King erases and draws up an adjustment and hands the board back.

THE SMOOTHIE KING (CONT'D)
It's a subtle change, but what if the ball went here on the second pass instead.

COACH GENTRY
That's actually... brilliant!

ZION
(under his breath)
No it's not.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

Cutting between various talking head interviews.

COACH GENTRY
The King makes a really great strategic smoothie too.

CAMERA INTERVIEWER
How's Zion been?

Coach Gentry slurps a smoothie in satisfaction.

COACH GENTRY
I mean he's good I guess. Time will tell if he was worth it.

INT. SMOOTHIE KING CENTER

Zion and King Cake Baby mascot are sitting down eating a king cake. Zion stares directly into the camera.

ZION
I kneel to a different king.

He takes a big bite of the King Cake.

END OF SKETCH.