

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON a MAN's (25) face. Left cheek smushed because its pressed against his bicep which he uses for a pillow. He seems asleep.

A drop of water lands on his forehead. Trickles down his face. Another drop of water. The third drop awakens him.

He blinks his eyes to focus. Lifts his head. Looks around his surroundings.

Tries to get up. But he can't. A RATTLING like that of metal against metal.

He realizes he can't get up because his hands are handcuffed to a metal bar.

He finds himself laying down on the concrete outside a

NEW YORK CITY APARTMENT -

In the West Village. Steps lead up to a metal gate and the sidewalk.

His muscular, naked 6'5" body lying under a pile of garbage bags. Panic rushes in as he struggles to get free.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY - 40 HOURS EARLIER

The skyscrapers glisten on a hot, June afternoon.

EXT. BASKETBALL PLAYGROUND - DAY

A young boy, DONALD, 10, dribbles a basketball. Sets up in a free-throw stance at the free throw line. Knees bent. Eyes on the rim.

Shoots. Perfect form. SWISH! Nothing but net. He leaves his hand up, relishing the moment.

DONALD

Kevin Hayes!

His younger brother, DANNY, 8, rebounds the ball.

DANNY

I'm Kevin Hayes.

DONALD

I made the shot. I'm Kevin Hayes.

DANNY

It's my turn. I'm Kevin Hayes!

DONALD

I'm Kevin Hayes!

The brothers wrestle over naming rights.

EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - DAY

Several FANS walk by the famous arena, most of them wearing New York Knick jerseys, number 5, with the name "Hayes" printed on the back.

The marquee sign flashes "Knicks vs Nuggets, June 10th, 8pm."

The fans take pictures outside the arena.

INT. PIZZERIA - DAY

Packed with the LUNCH CROWD. Slices served, pizzas topped and pulled out of the hot oven. It's a madhouse, but the PIZZA MAKER works the line like a professional.

PIZZA MAKER

(to crowd)

Limited time Kevin Hayes Specials!
Knicks win tomorrow, get a free
championship slice all week long.

Cheers erupt from the excited crowd, chanting Kevin Hayes' name.

INT. THE FALAFEL TRUCK - DAY

Two MIDDLE EASTERN MEN cook up falafels in their food truck.

They participate in an animated conversation with each other. They speak in Arabic, however the only word that can be made out it is "Kevin Hayes," which they pepper frequently throughout their conversation.

INT. ARTS & CRAFTS STORE - DAY

An old lady, MRS. VESPASIAN, waddles up to the register, wide eyed as a CLERK hands her two balls of yarn: one orange, one blue.

CLERK

Another sweater for your grandson?

MRS. VESPASIAN

My own Kevin Hayes jersey. They're
sold out everywhere.

She holds the balls in her hand, as if they were a balls of golden treasure.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Two young professionals, VIJAY and IAN, work in a conference room. On the projector screen is a powerpoint presentation under construction.

VIJAY types on the laptop. IAN plays basketball, using taped up ball of paper as the basketball. He uses Vijay's chair as a fake defender.

IAN
Hayes checks the clock. Three seconds left. Can he pull another miracle? He steps back, fakes, fadeaway three!

Ian shoots. Way off. He celebrates anyway.

IAN (CONT'D)
It's good! Knicks force game seven! Kevin Hayes with the shot of his life.

He roars in Vijay's ear. Runs in circles around the room.

VIJAY
We should really concentrate on this presentation.

IAN
I can't believe McCreery would schedule a meeting the day after game seven.

VIJAY
You want to discuss the polymer product release this time?

IAN
I ever tell you I saw Kevin Hayes play in high school?

Ian pushes Vijay out of the way and types on his laptop.

IAN (CONT'D)
My school was two free throws away from winning that game.

VIJAY
You're messing up the presentation.

IAN
He had this reverse dunk...

He pulls it up a grainy Youtube clip on the screen. Screams like a maniac at the vicious dunk.

VIJAY
Replay that.