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PARAMOUNT TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS

HERE'S BOOMER

"BOOMER AND THE BUCKETEERS"
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REV. SHOOTING SCRIPT

November 18, 1980

HERE'S BOOMER

"BOOMER AND THE BUCKETEERS"

by

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REV. SHOOTING SCRIPT

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HERE'S BOOMER

"Boomer And The Bucketees"

CAST

BOOMER BOOMER
MEADOWLARK LEMON
BUCKETEERS
GUARD #1
PALYER
ROBBIE
MRS. JOHNSON
DRIVER
BILLY
KID #2
KID #3
REFEREE
P.A. ANNOUNCER
WESTSIDE EAGLES

HERE'S BOOMER

'Boomer And The Bucketees''

SETS

EXTERIORS:

SPORTS ARENA
Front Door
Gate/Arena

DOWNTOWN AREA

BUCKETEERS' BUS

STREET

HOTEL ENTRANCE

ROBBIE'S HOUSE

YARD

PLAYGROUND/PARK

BASKETBALL COURT/PARK

INTERIORS:

STADIUM
Locker Room
Refreshment Stand
Arena Area
Arena Hallways
Courtside
Tunnel
Bleachers

ROBBIE'S ROOM

BUCKETEERS' BUS

HERE'S BOOMER

"Boomer And The Bucketees"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPORTS ARENA - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY 1

2 EXT. SPORTS ARENA - DAY 2

BOOMER is cruising through the empty parking lot of the Sports Arena --we FOLLOW Boomer past the main entrance where we read the marquee announcing the appearance of Meadowlark Lemon and the Bucketees.

2A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 2A *

Boomer's head travelling from tall player's shoes all the way up to tall player's head.

BOOMER (V.O.)

Hmm, basketball. Not a sport dogs are good at.

Boomer continues around to the back entrance where a crowd -- mostly kids -- are gathered waiting to get autographs of the Bucketees. After a beat, a bus pulls into the parking lot. A sign on the side of the bus reads, "THE BUCKETEERS." The crowd rushes to the door of the bus as the players exit in street clothes and carrying their travelling cases. Everyone's attention moves to MEADOWLARK as he exits.

3 VARIOUS SHOTS - KIDS' FACES 3

It's possible that only Santa Claus can elicit the same kind of reaction and joy from kids that Meadowlark can. He freely signs autographs and AD-LIBS with the crowd, all of whom are excited about seeing him later that afternoon.

4 BACK TO SHOT 4

Boomer is caught in the maze of feet crowded around Meadowlark. Everyone is crowded so close to Meadowlark that no one notices that Meadowlark's wallet slips out of his jacket to the ground.

4A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

4A *

BOOMER (V.O.)

Oops .

Boomer picks it up and tries to follow Meadowlark into the arena but a big old ugly GUARD closes the door behind Meadowlark and "shoo's" Boomer away. Boomer, wallet in mouth, circles the arena looking for a way to get in -- the only open door is at the front entrance, which is protected by a UNIFORMED GUARD. Boomer ponders the situation for a beat, then notices two empty soda cans standing on a nearby ledge. He drops the wallet, moves to the ledge,, knocks the bottles over -- the SOUND OF THE FALLING BOTTLES brings the Guard away from the door to investigate. Boomer hides behind a pillar and as the Guard passes him, Boomer picks up the wallet and dashes into the stadium. The Guard sees Boomer enter, blows his WHISTLE and gives chase.

*

A few guards are gathered in front of the refreshment stand having coffee as GUARD #1 runs up to them.

GUARD #1

Catch that dog!

All the guards take off into the arena area. As they leave, Boomer sticks his head out from behind the counter.

4B CLOSEUP - BOOMER

4B *

pokes head out. Looks left and right carefully then steps out.

He looks both ways and then enters the arena behind the guards. Boomer still has wallet in mouth.

*

4C CLOSEUP - BOOMER

4C *

BOOMER (V.O.)

Guard dogs are much more efficient.

5 OMITTED

5 *

6 INT. LOCKER ROOM

6

Meadowlark and the TEAM are getting dressed and putting on their uniforms.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Meadowlark's number one DRIBBLER is warming up by dribbling on the floor, walls, and even ceiling. Another PLAYER is spinning the ball on his fingertip and undressing with his other hand at the same time.

PLAYER

Hey, Meadowlark... I think you really dig those kids.

MEADOWLARK

The kids today are the general managers of tomorrow.

PLAYER

What good they gonna do you, old man... when they grow up you'll be ninety.

MEADOWLARK

With competition like you around, I'll still be playing.

Meadowlark taking off jacket feels for wallet.

MEADOWLARK

(continuing)

Hey, my wallet's missing.

PLAYER

Here, you can have mine...
(throws it to
Meadowlark)
There's nothing in it.

Team laughs, Meadowlark throws wallet back.

MEADOWLARK

I had it on the bus... wonder if a 'pickpocket' got it?

PLAYER

Most of the time the only thing they'd get out of your pocket is lint.

Team laughs delightedly. Meadowlark starts out of the locker room.

7 INT. ARENA AREA

7

The Guards are moving through the seats.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Boomer laying low, sticks his head to check out the enemy. He ducks down and moves closer to the basketball court.

7A CLOSEUP OF BOOMER

7A

*

crawling on his stomach.

A Guard spots him. Boomer still has a wallet in his mouth.

*

*

GUARD #1

There he is!

The Guards rush toward Boomer. They surround him on the court. Meadowlark enters the court area and we see his POV as the Guards slip and slide on the court giving chase to Boomer, who runs through legs, causes them to fall down and generally makes the Guards look like buffoons. Boomer spots Meadowlark and makes a last ditch run for him with the Guards chasing behind. Boomer jumps up and attracts Meadowlark's attention to the wallet in mouth.

*

MEADOWLARK

(cradling Boomer)

Nice moves! Do you slam dunk?

The Guards, huffing and puffing, come up to Meadowlark.

GUARD #1

I'm sorry about this, Mr. Lemon.

(menacingly)

We'll take care of this mutt.

Meadowlark puts wallet in coat. The Guard reaches out for Boomer, who growls at him.

7B CLOSEUP - BOOMER

7B

*

BOOMER (V.O.)

Do not touch the dog.

The Guard steps back.

MEADOWLARK

Gentlemen, this is a friend of mine...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7B CONTINUED:

7B

MEADOWLARK (CONT'D)
(checks name tag)
Boomer! He's my guest, and a
very smart and honest citizen.
(to Boomer)
As a reward, how'd you like a
little American cuisine?

7C CLOSEUP - BOOMER

7C *

BARKS happily.

CUT TO:

8 INT. REFRESHMENT STAND - HOT DOGS FOR SALE

8

Meadowlark is placing condiments on the hot dogs for
Boomer. Guard #1 watches in disbelief.

MEADOWLARK
Mustard on your dog?

8A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

8A *

BOOMER (V.O.)
(annoyed)
Not a good choice of words.

MEADOWLARK
(realizing)
Sorry. Mustard on your frankfurter?

8B CLOSEUP - BOOMER

8B *

nods. Meadowlark applies the mustard.

MEADOWLARK
Relish?

8C CLOSEUP - BOOMER

8C *

nods. Meadowlark applies the relish.

MEADOWLARK
Onions?

6.

8D CLOSEUP - BOOMER

8D *

nods "No."

MEADOWLARK

(reacts)

They don't agree with me, either.

Meadowlark places the hot dogs on a small plate on the floor -- Boomer feasts.

MEADOWLARK

(continuing)

How about something to drink?

8E CLOSEUP - BOOMER

8E *

goes to beer tap.

MEADOWLARK

(laughing)

No beer! After Boomer's through dining, escort him to the front door. And no rough stuff.

GUARD

Yes sir.

Meadowlark starts back to the locker room. Boomer BARKS after him. Meadowlark waves back. He finishes the hot dogs and BARKS at the Guard. The Guard bows, sweeps his arm in the direction of the door.

GUARD

(continuing)

After you, sir.

8F CLOSEUP - BOOMER

8F *

BOOMER (V.O.)

A much improved attitude.

The two walk toward the front door.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. STREET - MINUTES LATER

9

Boomer walking in alley... A basketball comes flying over the back fence, bounces, and comes to rest. Boomer looks. No one around.

7.

9A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 9A *

BOOMER (V.O.)
Someone's not very accurate with
their jump shot.

10 EXT. YARD - ROBBIE JOHNSON'S HOUSE 10

ROBBIE is an athletic looking sixteen-year-old boy.
But because of a recent car accident he is confined to
a wheelchair. He sees Boomer and the ball.

ROBBIE
Hey, I just threw that away...
Get it out of here.

10A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 10A *

BARKS -- Robbie wheels away. Boomer follows him, roll-
ing the ball with his nose.

ROBBIE
C'mon... beat it.

Boomer's gonna make this sour young man his friend. He
rolls it along... with his nose. *

ROBBIE
(continuing; grins)
Hey, that's some trick.

10B CLOSEUP - BOOMER 10B

rolls him the ball. Robbie rolls it back. Boomer and
he play together. When Robbie has the ball -- Boomer
runs under basket, indicating Robbie should shoot.
Looks up at hoop.

ROBBIE
Didn't I explain that? I'm
through with basketball.

Robbie wheels away again. Boomer follows.

10C CLOSEUP - BOOMER 10C

BOOMER (V.O.)
Nice guy. But not very happy.

ROBBIE
Go ahead now find someone else to
play with... I'm no fun.

8.

10D CLOSEUP - BOOMER 10D *

rolls over on back, eyes closed, and tongue hanging out.

ROBBIE
(laughing)
Alright. I'm thirsty, too.

Boomer jumps up on Robbie's lap. There's a moment of surprise on Robbie's part, but then he gives Boomer a big hug and we get the feeling that this is the first time in a long while that Robbie's laughed or had fun. He wheels them over to a hose.

10E BOOMER 10E *

turns on the tap water.

Robbie drinks from the hose, then cups his hand and pours in some water for Boomer to lap up. Robbie looks at Boomer's name tag.

ROBBIE
So you're Boomer?

10F CLOSEUP - BOOMER 10F *

BARKS "yes."

ROBBIE
My name is Robbie Johnson... shake
Boomer. Sorry I can't get up.

10G CLOSEUP - BOOMER 10G *

lifts a paw to shake. Robbie reacts joyously at his new found buddy. They shake. Robbie's mother comes out the back door and into the yard. Robbie and Boomer don't see her as she stands and watches the duo. MRS. JOHNSON is obviously deeply hurt by Robbie's situation. She looks at her wheelchair bound son for a beat. Tears well up in her eyes, but she wipes her eyes and regains composure. *

MRS. JOHNSON
Robbie, Billy is on the phone...
He wants you to... Who's this?

ROBBIE
He says his name's Boomer.

(CONTINUED)

9:

10G CONTINUED:

10G

MRS. JOHNSON
He did? Will he say it again?...
How do you do, Boomer? And what
grade are you in?

10H CLOSEUP - BOOMER

10H *

cocks head at this.

MRS. JOHNSON
Oh, isn't that silly of me. But
he looks so intelligent... or at
least brighter than Billy.

Mrs. Johnson who has made a joke to please Robbie,
reacts in sorrow as Robbie doesn't even smile.

MRS. JOHNSON
(continuing)
Oh, yes, Billy. He wants you to
meet him down at the playground.

ROBBIE
I don't feel like it... maybe
tomorrow.

MRS. JOHNSON
(frustrated)
Robbie Johnson, are you ever going
to leave this house?

ROBBIE
Sure I am, Mom. When school starts.

MRS. JOHNSON
What should I tell Billy?

ROBBIE
Tell him I went skiing.

10-I CLOSEUP - BOOMER

10-1 *

looks up at and...

CUT TO:

10J DAZZLING SHOT OF HOT SUN

10J *

10.

10K CLOSEUP - BOOMER

10K *

BOOMER (V.O.)
A less than believable excuse.

MRS. JOHNSON
Billy just might believe it.

Mrs. Johnson starts for the door, followed by Robbie -- there's a ramp instead of stairs which Robbie negotiates easily. Boomer is still on his lap.

MRS. JOHNSON
(continuing)
I'm sorry, Robbie, but you know how your father feels about pets in the house.

ROBBIE
(bitterly, to mother)
He lets me in the house.

Mother reacts by turning back and dabbing tears away.

ROBBIE
(continuing; to Boomer)
Sorry, Boomer.

Robbie helps Boomer jump off -- Mrs. Johnson and Robbie enter the house. We STAY with Boomer as he watches Robbie go inside -- he looks at the basketball lying under the rim and then back toward the door.

Boomer exits through the loose plank and runs to the side of the house. Through a window he sees Robbie enter his room and slam the door shut. The window sill is a bit too high for even Boomer to manage.

10L CLOSEUP - BOOMER

10L *

BOOMER (V.O.)
This calls for a little ingenuity.

Boomer looks around and spots a four foot ladder which he pushes over to the window, and uses to help him jump into Robbie's room. *

11 INT. ROBBIE'S ROOM

11

Boomer jumps through the open window into the room.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

Robbie is sitting at his desk leafing through the pages of a sports magazine. Boomer looks around the room, which is filled with sports memorabilia -- pictures of Robbie on various high school teams, a bookshelf filled with silver trophies Robbie received over the years. It's obvious that whatever happened to Robbie has happened fairly recently. Boomer BARKS his approval.

ROBBIE

Did you ever see so much silver,
Boomer? I almost cornered the
market.

Robbie picks a trophy off the shelf.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

I got this one for making the
All Conference team last year.

Robbie gets another silver trophy.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

And this one's for being the Most
Valuable Player at last year's
City Playoffs.

12 VARIOUS SHOTS

12

of Boomer looking on and acting extremely impressed. Robbie takes an 8x10 photo of him in a basketball uniform going up for a shot.

ROBBIE

(serious)

And this picture was taken at the
last game... I... played.

It's a painful recollection -- Robbie puts the picture back face down,

ROBBIE

(continuing; forces a
smile; to remove the
last memory)

The only picture I don't have is
the one of me in the car crash!

(CONTINUED)

12.

12 CONTINUED:

12

Sympathetic Boomer jumps on Robbie's lap and licks his face.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

And now I'll show you my number one -- absolute best -- and favorite prize!

Robbie wheels the two of them over to his bed. On the nightstand is a scroll with ribbon around it that Robbie carefully takes off. He reads the document.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

'To Robert Johnson, for excellence as an athlete and scholar at Zachary Taylor School,' -- signed by the Governor. That's his seal right there.

*

12A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

12A

*

looks at the scroll.

BOOMER (V.O.)

It is from the Governor... And I didn't vote for him. I'm against his dog catching program.

*

Robbie sadly rolls up the commendation and puts the ribbon back on it.

ROBBIE

(bemused)

Washed up at sixteen years old... and I can't even look forward to an Old Timer's Game.

Boomer picks up the scroll in his mouth.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

Hey, put that down.

Boomer jumps out the window with it.

12B ROBBIE'S POV OF BOOMER

12B

looking up at him with the scroll.

13.

12C BACK TO SHOT

12c

ROBBIE

Bring it back, Boomer.

Boomer BARKS, picks up the scroll and starts off. Robbie turns the chair around, wheels over to the door and leaves his room.

13 EXT. FRONT DOOR

13

Robbie races out of the house and down the ramp. He looks around for Boomer -- after a beat, Boomer BARKS to catch his attention, Robbie starts after Boomer.

14 VARIOUS SHOTS

14

of Boomer leading Robbie down the street, past the playground, and across the street leading to the Sport Arena. Boomer all the while carefully leading Robbie exactly to where he wants to go.

15 EXT. ARENA DOOR

15

Guard #1 spots Boomer coming toward him. The Guard looks down at Boomer who has the scroll in his teeth.

GUARD #1

(amused)

Do you work for the Lost and Found Department?... You can't go in now. The fans are starting to come in.

*

ROBBIE

Stop that dog!

Boomer gives the Guard a move to the left, then darts past him on the right.

15A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

15A *

BOOMER (V.O.)

I hate to say it, but I'm quick as a cat.

ROBBIE

He stole something from me.

GUARD

C'mon, we'll find him.

(CONTINUED)

14.

15A CONTINUED: 15A

The Guard takes hold of Robbie's chair and wheels him inside.

16 INT. ARENA HALLWAYS - VARIOUS SHOTS 16

of Boomer running in and out of people going to their seats as the Guard and Robbie are in hot pursuit.

17 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOM 17

The door opens and the Bucketeteers, dressed in uniforms, start out for the arena court. Spirits are high, basketballs are being tossed back and forth. They AD-LIB about the sellout crowd and putting on a great show. Meadowlark spots his old friend, Boomer, dashing down the hall with the Guard and Robbie close behind. As before, Boomer jumps up to Meadowlark. Meadowlark instinctively takes the scroll from Boomer. Meadowlark unrolls scroll, reads a beat.

*

MEADOWLARK

'For excellence as a scholar...?'

(laughing)

I'm sorry Boomer, but there's no way this belongs to me.

ROBBIE

That's mine.

MEADOWLARK

Is that right, Boomer?

Boomer BARKS.

MEADOWLARK

(continuing)

Well you just march over there and give it right back.

Meadowlark places the scroll back in Boomer's mouth, and Boomer actually marches over stiffly to Robbie.. .

MEADOWLARK

(continuing; laughing)

I said march, and he marched.

(to Robbie)

Is he your dog?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ROBBIE

(excited)

Meadowlark Lemon! Ahh, just a friend. He was my friend.

*

Boomer jumps into Robbie's lap and gives him a good lick.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

Okay, we're still friends... but don't ever pull that again.

BUCKETEER

C'mon Meadowlark, we're on! The place is yelling for us.

MEADOWLARK

How would you and Boomer like to sit at our bench and watch the game?

ROBBIE

You mean that?

MEADOWLARK

If I didn't mean it, I wouldn't say it.

Meadowlark takes the chair from the Guard and starts directing Robbie and Boomer into the area.

MEADOWLARK

(continuing)

... and if I didn't say it, then I wouldn't mean it... but I meant it... so let's go!

18 INT. ARENA

18

Robbie and Boomer are next to the Bucketeer bench. Robbie's bursting with excitement at being so close to the team as they slap hands, joke around and get ready to do their "Magic Star" opening routine. They take the floor to the cheers of the crowd.

19 VARIOUS SHOTS

19

of the Bucketeers doing their routine, of the joy-filled faces of the audience, old and young.

(CONTINUED)

16.

19 CONTINUED:

19

And Robbie, who watches the show with great joy. They end the routine and return to the bench to remove their warm-up uniforms.

MEADOWLARK

(to Robbie)

First bucket's for you, my man!

Meadowlark holds out his palm, Robbie gleefully slaps it.

19A BOOMER

19A *

holds up paw. Meadowlark slaps Boomer's paw..

The game begins and the first shot is one of Meadowlark's patented fifty-foot hook shots. Robbie explodes with applause.

19B CLOSEUP - BOOMER

19B *

BOOMER (V.O.)

(impressed)

Not bad.

19C BOOMER

19 C *

sitting on bench. As the team's switch ends, Meadowlark snaps his fingers and points to Robbie with a big smile -- signifying "his" basket. The game continues, Boomer and Robbie thoroughly enjoying the game. Robbie is practically coming out of his chair with the excitement. A ball is mishandled and rolls toward them. Robbie's so caught up in the action he forgets for a second.

ROBBIE

I got it!

Robbie leans over and tries to stop the ball, but it's out of reach and he leans too far -- falling out of his chair. Meadowlark and some of the player immediately rush over and help an embarrassed Robbie back into the chair. Tears are running down Robbie's face.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

I didn't need anyone's help! I gotta get home.

(CONTINUED)

17.

19C CONTINUED:

19C

Robbie turns the chair and starts out. Meadowlark starts to go after him but is stopped by one of the Bucketees.

BUCKETEER

C'mon Meadowlark -- We got a game to play.

Meadowlark stops, turns back toward the court. He looks back to see Robbie wheeling himself out of the arena, Boomer right next to him. As Meadowlark is about to take the floor again, he notices the scroll that brought Robbie into the arena in the first place. Meadowlark picks it up and puts it on one of the team bags.

20 INT. HALLWAY

20

Robbie and Boomer are the only ones there. Robbie is wheeling himself as fast as he can, notices Boomer next to him and stops.

ROBBIE

Stop following me, will ya...
Go play with a dogcatcher.

*

Robbie continues on -- we COME IN CLOSE on Boomer and his depressed reaction.

*

The SOUNDS OF THE CROWD echoing, and we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

- 21 EXT. DOWNTOWN AREA - DAY 21
- We OPEN on a CLOSEUP of Boomer and PULL BACK to reveal the busy sidewalks and crowded streets of downtown. Boomer's head is going back and forth looking for something.
- 21A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 2 LA *
- is seen next to working legs and moving shoes to emphasize his small size. *
- BOOMER (V.O.)
Gotta be around here somewhere.
- He jumps up on a cab's hood and roof for a better view. *
The Cabbie jumps out and chases Boomer away.
- 21B EXT. ANOTHER INTERSECTION - BUS PARKED 21B *
- BOOMER (V.O.)
(pleased)
All, ha.
- Boomer heads toward the bus, Bucketeer Bus. *
- 22 EXT. STREET - HOTEL 22 *
- The Bucketeeers' bus is parked in front of a hotel. *
Meadowlark exits from the hotel. BOOMER BARKS, recognizing Meadowlark, and runs to him. Meadowlark picks him up.
- MEADOWLARK
Hey, Boomer... Where you been?
I've been looking for you and
your friend.
- 22A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 22A *
- licks Meadowlark's chin and the two exit. Meadowlark takes the scroll out of his pocket and shows it to Boomer.
- MEADOWLARK
Boomer, take me to your friend,
Robbie.

22B CLOSEUP - BOOMER 22B *

BOOMER (V.O.)
My thought exactly.

Boomer takes the scroll in his mouth and starts off down the street.

MEADOWLARK
Wait a minute, Boomer, I got a better way to travel.

*

23 OMITTED 23 *

24 INT. BUCKETEERS' BUS 24

The TEAM DRIVER, a crusty old teamster, starts up the bus.

DRIVER
(cynical)
This dog's gonna give me directions.

MEADOWLARK
That's what I said. And I wouldn't say it if I didn't mean it.

25 EXT. STREET 25

Bus starts down the street.

26 INT. BUS 26

Boomer stands between the Driver and Meadowlark in the front of the bus. Boomer's paws are up and he looks out the big front windows of the Greyhound.

26A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 26A *

BARKS twice and looks to the left. He uses paw to point left.

MEADOWLARK
(matter-of-factly)
Hang a left.

The Driver shakes his head contemptuously and turns left.

20.

27 EXT. BUS 27
heading down the street.

28 INT. BUS - CLOSEUP - BOOMER 28
BARKS and looks right and paw-points right. *

MEADOWLARK
Head up that alley.

Meadowlark looks to Boomer.

28A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 28A *
BARKS three times.

MEADOWLARK
For about three blocks, and then
turn...

23B CLOSEUP - BOOMER 28B *
looks at Meadowlark and BARKS.

MEADOWLARK
Right.

DRIVER
Why are we going through alleys?

MEADOWLARK
You travel your way... he travels
his.

29 EXT. BUS 29
Bus pulls out of a field or park, or unpaved road near
Robbie' house. Drives up alley.

30 INT. BUS - CLOSEUP - BOOMER 30 *
BARKS and moves to the door.

BOOMER (V.O.)
This is our stop.

MEADOWLARK
This must be the place. *

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

DRIVER

I don't believe it. Boomer's way-
is ten minutes faster than the
freeway.

The door is opened. Meadowlark and Boomer exit.
Boomer goes through loose boards in the fence. So does
Meadowlark.

31 EXT. ROBBIE'S HOUSE - CLOSEUP - BOOMER

31

jumps up and RINGS THE BELL. After a few beats, Mrs.
Johnson comes to the door. *

MEADOWLARK

Hello, you must be Robbie's mother.

MRS. JOHNSON

Yes, I am.

MEADOWLARK

I'd like to see Robbie... I'm
Meadowlark Lemon.

MRS. JOHNSON

Meadowlark Lemon? What a pretty
name.

MEADOWLARK

My momma named me after a pie.

MRS. JOHNSON

I'll tell Robbie you're here. He's
out back.

MEADOWLARK

Mrs. Johnson, do you mind if I
just sort of surprise him?

MRS. JOHNSON

Not at all... He's right around
there. Just follow the sound of
the bouncing ball. Can I get you
anything? *

MEADOWLARK

No thank you.

31A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

31 A *

BARKS.

BOOMER (V.O.)
What about the cute furry one?

MEADOWLARK
Well, maybe a little bone.

BOOMER BARKS.

BOOMER (V.O.)
With some meat on it!

MEADOWLARK
With a little meat on it!

MRS. JOHNSON
A bone with meat on it?
(joking)
Oh, no wonder you have such
healthy looking teeth!

32 OMITTED

32 *

33 EXT. YARD

33

Robbie is shooting hoops. Meadowlark, followed by Boomer, exits through the kitchen door into the backyard. Robbie stops shooting as soon as he spots Meadowlark.

ROBBIE
What are you doing here?

MEADOWLARK
(handing over scroll)
Boomer and I wanted to return your
scroll.

Robbie takes the scroll and puts it next to him on the chair.

ROBBIE
(hard)
Thanks.

33A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

33A *

nuzzles the basketball over to Meadowlark's feet.

(CONTINUED)

33A CONTINUED:

33A

Meadowlark picks the ball up and starts a little ball handling and then flings a shot in without even looking at the basket. Robbie doesn't react.

MEADOWLARK

Boomer tells me you got a pretty good shot.

ROBBIE

What does he know, he's just a dog.

33B CLOSEUP - BOOMER

33B *

pushing ball back to Meadowlark.

BOOMER (V.O.)

Sticks and stones may break my bones,
but words will never harm me.

Meadowlark throws Robbie the ball.

MEADOWLARK

How about a little one on one?

Robbie throws the ball back at Meadowlark.

ROBBIE

You don't have a wheelchair.

MEADOWLARK

(takes out a ticket)
Look, I gotcha a ticket for
tonight's game. Will ya come?

ROBBIE

I don't want to go watch other
people play when I can't.

Robbie enters the house, followed by Meadowlark and Boomer.

33C CLOSEUP - BOOMER

33C

BOOMER (V.O.)

Hang in there, Meadowlark.

24.

34 INT. ROBBIE'S ROOM - DAY 34 *

MEADOWLARK

Look, Robbie, tonights'a real special show -- as a friend I'd like you to come and sit by the bench.

Meadowlark puts the ticket on the desk. Mrs. Johnson has entered. *

MRS. JOHNSON

Robbie, I think that's very nice of Mr. Lemon.

ROBBIE

I know... and I appreciate it. But I don't think I want to go. Thanks for returning the scroll.

CUT TO:

34A ROBBIE 34A *

turns and heads out of his room. Meadowlark, Mrs. Johnson shake heads sympathetically. Boomer shaking head exactly the same way.

MRS. JOHNSON *

(sincerely)

I really appreciate what you're trying to do.

MEADOWLARK *

I just hope I can help.

35 OMITTED 35 *

36 EXT. PLAYGROUND IN PARK 36

Robbie and Boomer are still playing with the stick.

37 EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - PARK 37

Some kids are having a basketball game and one of them spots Robbie nearby. It's BILLY. KID #2 eating banana. *

BILLY

Hey guys, there's Robbie. Hey, Robbie!

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

The KIDS stop the game and run out to Robbie and Boomer.

ROBBIE

Hi, guys.

BILLY

Hey, Robbie... we never see you anymore.

ROBBIE

Well, I've been kinda' tied up this summer, practicing my breathing.

KID #2

Hey, was Meadowlark Lemon really at your house today?

37A CLOSE ON KID #2

37A *

eating banana. Puts arm down. Boomer eats banana. *

KID #3

I saw him get out of the bus and go inside.

ROBBIE

Yeah, he found something of mine ... brought it back.

BILLY

You goin' to see him tonight? We're all going.

ROBBIE

I don't think so.

BILLY

How about shootin' a few?

KID #2

Maybe you could teach Franky something.

The others rib the obvious clown of the group, FRANK.

ROBBIE

Sure... if you put the basket right about here...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37A CONTINUED:

37A

ROBBIE (CONT'D)
 (indicates shoulder
 level)
 I'll show him how to slam dunk.

Kids react sadly. Robbie turns around and starts in the opposite direction.

BILLY
 Maybe tomorrow, huh, Robbie?

Robbie doesn't turn around, but keeps moving away with Boomer next to him.

38 INT. ROBBIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

38

Robbie's at his desk as Boomer comes up to him with the ticket for tonight's game in his mouth. He delivers it to Robbie.

ROBBIE
 Boomer. You're something else.
 Why don't you do what I did.
 Give up!

38A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

38A *

BOOMER (V.O.)
 Cats give up, birds give up... dogs
 don't give up.

38B CLOSEUP - BOOMER

38B *

stands on his hind legs and starts to push the chair toward the door with his front paws.

ROBBIE
 Boomer! Will you stop.

38C CLOSEUP - BOOMER

38C *

runs to the table by the bed and picks up the scroll again. He stands by the window.

ROBBIE
 Alright! Alright. Put it down,
 I'll go.

27.

38D CLOSEUP - BOOMER 38D *
drops the scroll and jumps into Robbie's lap. They
head out the door.

39 OMITTED 39 *

40 INT. COURTSIDE 40
The Bucketees are in the middle of the first half.
Robbie slowly makes his way to the bench. The crowd is
full of laughter and cheers as the Bucketees do their
thing. Robbie stops about ten feet from the bench and
turns around.

CUT TO:

40A ROBBIE'S POV 40A
Meadowlark.

40B CLOSEUP - REFEREE 40B
REFEREE
That's the half!
The scorer's HORN SOUNDS.

41 INT. TUNNEL LEADING FROM FLOOR 41
Robbie is halfway out as Meadowlark runs up behind him
and turns his chair in the right direction. Meadowlark
keeps talking, not giving Robbie a chance to say any-
thing as he wheels him back to courtside.

MEADOWLARK
Robbie, man am I glad you made it.
I didn't know if you could make it
-- but you did -- and I'm real
happy -- the whole team's happy.
Boomer, you're happy.

41A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 41A *
gives off three quick BARKS.

MEADOWLARK
... Yeah, Boomer's happy. This
whole place is happy.

(CONTINUED)

41A CONTINUED:

41A

Robbie's still trying to get out his first syllable.
They are at the bench.

MEADOWLARK

(continuing)

Now you stay right here. This
halftime show is gonna be terrific!
I'll be back soon.

Meadowlark heads for the dressing room.

ROBBIE

(frowning to Boomer)

Satisfied?

41B CLOSEUP - BOOMER

41B *

BOOMER (V.O.)

Very.

P.A. ANNOUNCER

Ladies, gentlemen and children...
We have a very special show lined
up tonight. The Bucketees will
be playing an exhibiton basketball
game against the Westside Eagles.
But right now here comes the
Bucketees to warm up!

From the other side of the court, the Bucketees take
the floor in wheelchairs. Just as in the pre-game
circle, they make a circle and dazzle the crowd with
fancy passing back and forth. We--

41C INTERCUT - ROBBIE AND BOOMER

41C

watching. Robbie's face shines as he watches them.
The Bucketees can manage to do just about everything
they could standing up. (NOTE: This routine has been
mentioned and excitedly received by Meadowlark. He'll
work it out.)

P.A. ANNOUNCER

And now... Here comes the
Westside Eagles!

CROWD APPLAUDS as a team of wheelchair players enter
the court on the other side. As they begin to warm up
with layups and dribbling around --

41D CLOSEUP - BOOMER 41D *
 applauding.

P.A. ANNOUNCER
 Ladies and gentlemen, the Eagles
 are made up of men from all walks
 of life who are confined to
 wheelchairs. Last year the Eagles
 placed second in the national
 tournament.

Crowd APPLAUSE. CUT TO:

41E ROBBIE 41E
 who claps the loudest.

41F CLOSEUP - BOOMER 41F *
 applauding.

BOOMER (V.O.)
 I think we're making' some
 progress.

CUT TO:

42 CENTER COURT 42
 The game between the Eagles and the Bucketees begin.

43 VARIOUS SHOTS 43
 As tremendous as the Bucketees are on their feet, the
 Eagles are just as good in the chairs. They whirl
 around on one wheel, stop and start quickly. Their
 passing is pinpoint, and their shooting is deadly.
 Whereas the Bucketees make their opposing team look
 foolish the Eagles do the same to the outmaneuvered and
 slow Bucketees. The crowd goes wild. Everyone, espe-
 cially Robbie and Boomer, appreciate the expertise of
 the Eagles.

43A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 43A *
 BOOMER (V.O.)
 Amazing. Even I'm impressed.

(CONTINUED)

50.

43A CONTINUED:

43A

The game ends with the Eagles ahead and to much applause.

CUT TO:

44 ARENA HALLWAY

44

Meadowlark, now dressed, is walking next to Robbie. Boomer on the other side.

MEADOWLARK

Now do you think you're done with basketball?

ROBBIE

I think I'm just beginning.

MEADOWLARK

That's my man.

Meadowlark holds out his palm. Robbie slaps it. Boomer BARKS.

44A CLOSEUP - BOOMER

44A *

BOOMER (V.O.)

Gimme five.

MEADOWLARK

Oh, sorry.

Meadowlark bends down and extends his palm to Boomer who lifts a paw and gives him the new high five (Paw over his head). The three of them laugh and we --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

45 EXTREME CLOSEUP - MEADOWLARK 45

Whistle in mouth -- and running up and down a court.
He blows the WHISTLE.

MEADOWLARK

Alright, fifty-one, I got you
slappin' his arm.

ROBBIE (O.S.)

I didn't, ref...

We PULL BACK to reveal Meadowlark refereeing a game
being played between two teams in wheelchairs. He's
just called the foul on Robbie who reluctantly hands
over the ball.

ROBBIE

(continuing)

It was a clean steal!

46 INT. BLEACHERS 46

Robbie's mother and his friends are watching and cheer-
ing him on. Boomer is the midst of them.

46A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 46A *

BARKS at Meadowlark.

BOOMER (V.O.)

I agree. It was a questionable
call.

47 BACK TO SHOT 47

MEADOWLARK

You give me any more noise,
Boomer, and it's a technical!

47A CLOSEUP - BOOMER 47A

A chastened Boomer sits down.

BOOMER (V.O.)

That guy's mad with power.

(CONTINUED)

47A CONTINUED:

47A

Robbie looks up at Meadowlark and gives him a wink and a smile. Meadowlark does the same to Robbie.

MEADOWLARK

(to himself)

That Boomer's worse than Al
McGuire!

(to teams)

C'mon, let's play ball.

He blows his WHISTLE. We come in CLOSE on Boomer and:

FADE OUT.

THE END



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