

DUNK KINGS
by
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INT. NATE'S LAUNDRY ROOM - DUSK

NATE'S MOM quickly pulls a basketball uniform out of the dryer and places it next to a pair of new, autographed, mint condition basketball shoes.

MOM
Nate, hurry up.

Nate, a lanky, wild eyed eighteen year old, tries to sneak behind his MOM and grab his shoes and uniform, but his mom notices.

MOM
Hey! You excited about the game tonight?

Nate shakes his head affirmatively.

MOM
You look nervous.

Nate shrugs.

MOM
I know you'll do great.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK BASKETBALL COURTS - DUSK

Nate sits on the deserted park court, staring at his uniform in disgust. He tosses the uniform aside, before chewing a few mushrooms and lying down.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK BASKETBALL COURTS - DUSK

Nate opens his eyes, stands up, and sprints furiously, jumping at the mid court line.

EXT. STRATOSPHERE - DUSK

Nate's body continues high into the air.

EXT. SPACE - DUSK

Nate enters space, grabs the moon, and tries to dunk on a giant basketball hoop in front of the sun, but a shooting star hits him in the head.

EXT. SPACE - DUSK

Nate falls back through space.

EXT. STRATOSPHERE - DUSK

Nate falls through clouds and passes an airplane.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK BASKETBALL COURTS - DUSK

Nate's body crashes back onto the basketball court. He lies there unconscious.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK BASKETBALL COURTS - DUSK

MAX, a stocky teen with well groomed brown hair, which he constantly brushes away from his eyes, stands over Nate, looking at him skeptically.

MAX
(Skeptically)
So a shooting star knocked you out?

Nate sits up, wiping spittle from the corner of his mouth.

NATE
Maybe a UFO, I didn't really get a good look.

Max looks towards the sky pensively.

MAX
Maybe you slipped in a puddle and
hit your head?

Nate looks down at his feet and notices that he is not
wearing shoes. He wiggles his toes in his dirty white socks.

NATE
Where are my shoes?

MAX
How should I know?

NATE
Dude, those were my Dunk Kings!

MAX
Wait, your Dunk...

NATE
King Sky Fortress Winged Victories!
They were a gift, man.

MAX
I know! I got them for you,
remember?

NATE
Autographed by Derrick "The Don of
Dunk" Dux!

MAX
Yes, I know!

NATE
The man is a legend. A street ball
legend!

MAX
I fucking get it!

Nate slumps back on the court and his eyes roll back in his
head. Unfazed, Max sits down next to Nate and opens Nate's
right eyelid.

MAX
(To Nate)
Who would steal your shoes, Nate?

Both of Nate's eyes shoot open and he sits up. Nate stands
up and walks past Max, staring at a squirrel who runs around
the park aimlessly.

NATE
I never woulda thought, but after
all these years you finally took
your revenge. Touché my furry
friend.

MAX
What the...?

INT. NATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

Nate's finger dips into a tray of black watercolor paint
and smears streaks across his face.

EXT. NATE'S CHILDHOOD BACKYARD - DAY

A squirrel nibbles on an acorn.

INT. NATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

Nate laces up a pair of oversized combat boots.

EXT. NATE'S CHILDHOOD BACKYARD - DAY

Two squirrels nibble on acorns.

INT. NATE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

Nate draws back the slide on his paintball gun with a loud
metallic CLICK.

EXT. NATE'S CHILDHOOD BACKYARD - DAY

A grouping of squirrels nibbles on acorns and chases each
other around the yard.

EXT. NATE'S CHILDHOOD BACKYARD - DAY

Nate sprints out his backdoor, wearing combat boots, a
bandana, war paint, and a homemade loin cloth constructed
from bed sheets and leaves. He unleashes a high pitched war
cry before FIRING indiscriminately at the squirrels.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK BASKETBALL COURTS - DUSK

Nate cries into Max's chest. Max tries to push him away.

NATE
(Sobbing)
Do you think God will ever forgive
me?

Max SLAPS Nate and Nate regains his composure.

NATE
Why am I kneeling? Were you trying

to take advantage of me?

MAX

Listen! You are severely concussed.
Who stole your Goddamn shoes?

NATE

Squirrels.

Nate puts his hand on his head and begins to sway. He lies down and closes his eyes. Max takes the bag of mushrooms from Nate's pocket.

MAX

Plan B. I gotta get on your level,
dude.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK BASKETBALL COURTS - DUSK

Max and Nate lie on the basketball court. Nate is curled up in the fetal position, but Max stares at the sky.

EXT. SKY - DUSK

Max watches the clouds turn into a trail of smoke emanating from a campfire. Another cloud floats into view and becomes an Indian dancing around the fire. These images give Max an idea, and he jumps to his feet quickly.

MAX

Come on, we gotta see Chief.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK DUMPSTERS - DUSK

A middle aged, frail, white man wearing glasses and a headress sways back and forth in front of a dumpster and a shopping cart. CHIEF sees the boys and stops swaying. He smiles and waves at Max, motioning for the boys to follow him into a dumpster.

INT. DUMPSTER - NIGHT

The Dumpster is filled with cooking utensils, posters of kittens, and cabbage, which emanates a putrid smell. Chief uses a flashlight to illuminate the dumpster.

He hands each of the boys a Daniel Boone coonskin hat. Max puts his on immediately, like he has done this before. Nate throws his at Max, proceeding to cover his nose with his hands.

CHIEF

The spirits told me of your
troubles.

Max places a coonskin hat on Nate's head. The dumpster's stench revives Nate, who gags.

NATE

Oh my God. I need to leave.

MAX

Hey, sit down! You're looking
better man.

It appears to Max that Nate's coonskin hat has become a real raccoon. The raccoon winks at Max.

MAX

Dude...I'm fucking hiiiiigh right
now.

CHIEF

What do you boys seek?

NATE

Didn't the spirits tell you? Max,
who is this guy?

MAX

Dude, It's cool, Chief is a total
visionary. He knows all about your
lost basketball shoes.

CHIEF

Yes, I saw the shoes in a vision
quest.

NATE

What? Are you serious? He just told
you what our problem was.

CHIEF

I need to ask the spirits where
your shoes have been taken.

Chief starts swaying and CHANTING. Max is more than happy to join. Max starts SCREAMING in a high pitched voice and beating on a pot.

NATE

This is completely insane!

The "raccoon" on Nate's head blinks furiously at Max.

MAX

Chill man, the raccoon on your head
is getting angry.

NATE

Dude, you're tripping out. This is
a hat.

MAX

I think it wants to eat your brain.

CHIEF
(Loud chanting)

NATE
Stop chanting!

The "raccoon's" eyes burst into flames.

MAX
I'm gonna kill the raccoon.

NATE
What'd you say?

Max takes the pot he was using as a drum and hits Nate in the side of the head. Nate falls over, dazed but still conscious. Max turns to Chief, LAUGHING hysterically.

MAX
Dude, that totally wasn't a raccoon.

Nate sits up and drools on himself.

CHIEF
The spirits have spoken. Your shoes are at a basketball game.

MAX
Oh my God, there's even a game at school tonight.

Max and Nate throw open the dumpster hatch and leave, waving to Chief as they go.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK DUMPSTERS - NIGHT

Nate stumbles into the shopping cart head first and Max starts pushing.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK - NIGHT

Max pushes Nate in the shopping cart down a big hill, his coonskin tail flaps in the wind.

EXT. OUTSIDE DELAWARE PARK - NIGHT

Max and Nate veer onto Elmwood Avenue, whipping past boutiques, packed restaurants, and street musicians.

EXT. ELMWOOD AVE. - NIGHT

At a stop light, Max and Nate see a truck decorated with Amherst Basketball memorabilia. Nate grabs the bed of the truck and the two friends tailgate the truck to their school parking lot.

INT. AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL GYM - NIGHT

An Amherst PLAYER steals the ball and starts on a fast break. Right as the Amherst player jumps to dunk the ball, Nate and Max slam into him with a shopping cart. The gym goes silent. Nate stands triumphantly in the cart.

NATE
Attention woodland creatures!
Please remove your shoes and place them in my cart.

INT. NATE'S VISION OF THE GYM - NIGHT

The Amherst captain WILL MICHAELS, a tall, built teenager with the chiseled facial structure of a Disney Prince, picks himself up off the floor.

Will and all the other players appear to Nate as GIANT SQUIRRELS. The squirrel costumes only reach the neck, leaving the human head visible.

GIANT SQUIRREL WILL
What the fuck! We're in the middle of a game!

NATE
Calm down squirrel, you can go back to chasing each others' tails in a minute.

GIANT SQUIRREL WILL
What part of kicked off the team don't you get? I only want to see you two in this gym if you're washing my jock.

Will laughs with some of his teammates.

NATE
I'll leave that to you. From what I hear you and your squirrel friends are all about each others' nuts.

Nate winks at the crowd.

GIANT SQUIRREL WILL
I'll use small words so you two retards can understand. Get the fuck out!

NATE
This little guy sounds fuuuuuuuurrrrrrrious.

GIANT SQUIRREL WILL
Alright, school's in session.

Will takes off his jersey.

GIANT SQUIRREL WILL
And I'm about to give you a lesson
in ass kickin'!

NATE
Did you say lickin'?

Will's face turns beet red and he charges toward Nate, but
Max slips in between the two of them.

MAX
Hey, hey, hey. I'm sorry Will, we
are both really high. We're gonna
leave now. Please just calm down.

GIANT SQUIRREL WILL
(pointing at Nate)
Pussy...

Max punches Will in the nose, knocking him over.

MAX
All war is based on deception, Sun
Tsu. How's that for an education?

PRINCIPAL PODGORSKY, a towering physical specimen in his
late fifties dressed as a squirrel, storms into the gym.

MAX
Principle Podgorsky!

NATE
That squirrel is fucking huge!

Principle Podgorsky rips the sleeves off his squirrel suit
and flexes both of his biceps. The boys bolt out of the gym
assaulted by a torrent of insults from the PLAYERS and
CROWD.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Nate and Max go careening down Main Street to escape their
principal, and as they flee they hit a pot hole. Nate is
thrown from the shopping cart into a bush.

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

Max tightens his grip on the cart and stares in horror as he
veers down a steep side street and hurtles toward someone's
front yard. Max swallows hard.

EXT. OLD LADIES FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

The shopping cart hits the curb and Max is vaulted into a
garden where his body crushes an arrangement of lawn gnomes.
All of the house lights turn on. Max picks himself up with
difficulty and an OLD WOMAN exits the house with a can of
cooking spray.

MAX
Don't worry, I'm okay.

OLD WOMAN
My gnomes!

MAX
Yeah, really sorry...

The old woman sprays Max in the eyes with cooking spray.

MAX
Ahhh!

Max falls to ground, rubbing his eyes.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Nate emerges from the bush disoriented. A large basketball
looms behind him.

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

The old woman is spraying Max with cooking spray as he
crawls around the yard on all fours.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

The basketball begins chasing Nate, who promptly sprints
down the street.

BASKETBALL
Come play with me!

NATE
Why drugs, why?

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

The old woman WHISTLES and a handful of her GRANDCHILDREN
come rushing out of the house in their pajamas wielding
Wiffle ball bats. They assault Max.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Nate hides behind a tree, thinking he has eluded the
basketball. Slowly, the basketball creeps over his shoulder.

He SCREAMS.

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

Max throws some of the kids out of his way and then sprints back up the street looking for Nate.

MAX
Nate! Run! We're being chased by
pygmy people!

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Nate punches the imagined basketball which shatters into a thousand basketballs. The balls fly at Nate from every direction and he runs, fighting them off with difficulty.

Nate defeats the last basketball, but in the process he stumbles into the street and gets grazed by a car. He falls over and lies still. The car slams on its brakes.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Nate opens his eyes and scans the room. He is wearing hospital robes, head bandages, has a cast on his right arm, and is plugged in to an IV. The door opens and Max walks in, dressed as a doctor.

NATE
Huh...?

MAX
Hey man, we gotta move fast.

Nate looks at his IV in confusion.

NATE
What the hell do they put in these
things?

Max starts ripping out the IV tubes. The machines next to Nate begin blinking.

NATE
What are you doing?

Max tries to pick up Nate.

NATE
Hey...Stop it!

MAX
Listen up! The hospital stole your
shoes because they want to use us
for genetic experiments. I think
coach is in on it too.

NATE
You finished that bag of shrooms,
didn't you?

Max turns his back to Nate and pours liquid from a big bottle marked "chloroform" onto a cloth.

MAX
Stealing your shoes, kicking us off
the team and blaming it on our love
for drugs...it was the perfect set
up.

NATE
Oh my God, you're still high. I'm
not going anywhere. This is nuts.

MAX
This is for your own good.

Max tries to put the chloroform cloth over Nate's face, who resists furiously.

NATE
Are you insane!

MAX
(Strained voice)
I'm trying to rescue you.

Max finally puts the cloth over Nate's face and hoists Nate's unconscious body over his shoulder.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MORNING

Max carries Nate into the elevator. The elevator doors close just before a nurse and two security guards can stop them.

EXT. DELAWARE PARK DUMPSTERS - MORNING

Chief lounges up against a dumpster with his feet up on a box. He is wearing Nate's shoes.

THE END

