“I LOVE THIS GAME”

FADE IN:

1. NIGHT\_INT\_COLISEUM

RICARDO and the basketball team are playing the championship game at the coliseum. The other team scores a double, and the score is 76 to 74. There are five seconds on the clock. The COACH of RICARDO’s team asks for a time out.

NARRATOR

It’s the final game. There’s a time out. You are tired. You can barely breathe. 5 seconds on the clock. We’re down by 2. Your team has the ball.

The COACH explains the play that the team will do. He is seen moving the hands and drawing on the court whiteboard. The NARRATOR says what the COACH’s lips are saying.

NARRATOR

RICARDO, you will do the shot.

The NARRATOR says what RICARDO is doing while he does it.

NARRATOR

The time out is over. You’re nervous and a little scared. You enter the court. It’s your time. You look at the crowd. You see your MOM there, supporting you. You look back at the court. You need to concentrate. You do the move: pass through the screens, receive the ball, do a fake jump shot, dribble the ball, step-back… Your free to shoot. You do the shot; the ball gets to the rim. The time is over. Will the ball get in? Will you score and win the tournament?

The ball is bouncing in the rim while the clock of the match ends.

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN

NARRATOR

Ironically, just a year ago, you barely knew what basketball was.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s ROOM

A clock alarm sounds, and RICARDO wakes up.

NARRATOR

You are a regular student in the Gimnasio Campestre school. You just care about your grades. You wake up at 5 o’clock in the morning.

RICARDO stretches and exits his room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s BATHROOM

RICARDO enters the bathroom, bathes and gets ready.

NARRATOR

You get ready.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/DINING ROOM

RICARDO sits in the dining table, when his MOM arrives with the freshly made breakfast. RICARDO starts eating it.

NARRATOR

You eat the breakfast cooked by MOM, calmly.

RICARDO finishes eating the breakfast and exits the room.

1. DAY (MORNING)\_EXT\_SCHOOL ENTRANCE

RICARDO gets to school and enters, going to the classrooms.

NARRATOR

You arrive to school at 7 AM, and you enter to class.

1. DAY\_INT\_CLASSROOM

RICARDO enters the classroom and sits down to study. It is a time-lapse scene in which the different classes are taught. It is possible to see some exams being delivered with good grades, people entering and exiting the room, and RICARDO and other students are writing and reading.

NARRATOR

Assignments will be finished and grades will be good. The day passes as usual.

The school day is over and RICARDO gets ready and exits the room.

1. DAY\_EXT\_SCHOOL EXIT

RICARDO is walking towards the exit of the school, when he suddenly starts to slow down and looking towards the floor with a troubled expression.

NARRATOR

You feel something, you don’t know what it is. Emptiness?

RICARDO shakes his head and looks forward, his troubled expression is gone.

NARRATOR

No time for that, you remember something, you have a doctor’s appointment, you need to leave school.

RICARDO keeps walking until he exits the school.

1. DAY\_INT\_PEDIATRICIAN’s OFFICE

RICARDO enters to the doctor’s office, with an annoyed expression.

NARRATOR

You get to the pediatrician, where your mom is waiting for you. You don’t want to go in.

The NARRATOR says what the MOM’s lips are saying to RICARDO.

NARRATOR

You have to, RICARDO.

RICARDO passes the door with an angry expression and puffing.

NARRATOR

Finally, you go inside, waiting for the doctor to tell you were overweight, you can tell that.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s ROOM

A clock alarm sounds, and RICARDO wakes up.

NARRATOR

You wake up at 5 o’clock in the morning.

RICARDO stretches and exits his room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s BATHROOM

RICARDO enters the bathroom, bathes and gets ready.

NARRATOR

You get ready.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/DINING ROOM

RICARDO sits in the dining table, when his MOM arrives with the freshly made breakfast. RICARDO starts eating it.

NARRATOR

You eat the delicious breakfast, calmly.

While RICARDO is eating, his face turns to a thoughtful expression and he stops eating.

NARRATOR

You remember yesterday’s doctor’s appointment. You have to choose a sport to lose weight. You don’t like sports. You don’t even like the gym.

RICARDO checks the time in his watch, and has a worried expression.

NARRATOR

You’re getting late to go to school, you have to think about that after.

RICARDO starts eating faster and exits the house with a little rush.

1. DAY (MORNING)\_EXT\_SCHOOL ENTRANCE

RICARDO gets to school and enters, going to the classrooms. He has an angry expression

NARRATOR

You get to school at 7:05 AM, you’re five minutes late. You’re pissed about this, but you let it go and enter to class.

1. DAY\_INT\_CLASSROOM

RICARDO enters the classroom and sits down to study. It is a time-lapse scene in which the different classes are taught. It is possible to see some exams being delivered with good grades, people entering and exiting the room, and RICARDO and other students writing and reading.

NARRATOR

Assignments will be finished and grades will be good.

The first hour is over and RICARDO and his classmates exit the classroom to go to recess.

1. DAY\_EXT\_BASKETBALL COURT

NARRATOR

You see some of your classmates playing basketball. You remember you need to exercise. You have nothing to do and the opportunity is right in front of you. Why not?

RICARDO approaches to the classmates that are playing basketball, with a rather curious expression. The actions happen as the NARRATOR speaks.

NARRATOR

You ask if you can play. They give you the ball. You feel weird holding it. You shoot as you saw them doing it before. The ball gets in the hoop and you hear the rip of the net. You found the sport.

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN

NARRATOR

Six months have passed.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s ROOM

A clock alarm sounds, and RICARDO wakes up.

NARRATOR

You wake up at 4:05 in the morning. You need to wake up at 4 o’clock, but in those five minutes you are on cloud nine.

RICARDO sees the clock with concern and exits his room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s BATHROOM

RICARDO enters the bathroom, bathes and gets ready rushing.

NARRATOR

You have to rush to get ready.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/DINING ROOM

RICARDO enters the room with a box of cereal. He pours the cereal in a plate. He eats it rapidly.

NARRATOR

You wolf down the cereal (which isn’t so good) and exit the house.

RICARDO finishes eating the breakfast and exits the room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_EXT\_SCHOOL ENTRANCE

RICARDO gets to school and enters, going to the coliseum. He is seen with a tired expression, as the NARRATOR describes.

NARRATOR

You get to the school at 5:30 AM to train. You’re sleepy, you barely can open your eyes.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_COLISEUM

RICARDO enters the coliseum, his tired face is gone, he looks excited.

NARRATOR

But it all fades away when you get to the coliseum, to train, to hoop.

1. DAY (MORNING)\_INT\_COLISEUM

RICARDO is shooting the ball in the training. The coach’s whistle is heard.

NARRATOR

It’s 7 AM, you need to go to class, the training is over. So quickly? Yes.

RICARDO exits the coliseum, smiling and sweating, going to the classrooms.

1. DAY\_INT\_CLASSROOM

RICARDO enters the classroom and sits down to study. It is a time-lapse scene in which the different classes are taught. It is possible to see some exams being delivered with bad grades, RICARDO rushing to finish most assignments, people entering and exiting the room, and RICARDO distracted.

NARRATOR

Some assignments won’t be finished, and grades aren’t so good.

The first hour is over and RICARDO and his classmates exit the classroom to go to recess.

1. DAY\_EXT\_BASKETBALL COURT

RICARDO walks toward the court with a kind of tired face, and plays basketball with his friends.

NARRATOR

The day passes as usual, you play basketball in the recess.

1. DAY\_INT\_COLISEUM

RICARDO enters the coliseum, without the tired face, along with his other friends.

NARRATOR

Classes end, and the exhaustion disappears, you have training again. You play and train with your teammates, your friends.

1. NIGHT\_INT\_APARTMENT/TV ROOM

RICARDO enters the TV room and throws his backpack in the floor. He looks really exhausted. He looks at his watch and sees the time. He throws himself to the couch and turns the TV on.

NARRATOR

You get to your house at 7 in the evening. You’re exhausted. You hardly do any homework, and you just watch NBA matches, almost until 11 PM.

1. NIGHT\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s ROOM

RICARDO enters the room and throws himself in the bed, and sleeps right away.

NARRATOR

You go to sleep.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s ROOM

A clock alarm sounds, and RICARDO wakes up.

NARRATOR

You wake up at 4:10 in the morning. You know you should wake up earlier, but every minute counts when sleeping.

RICARDO sees the clock with concern and exits his room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s BATHROOM

RICARDO enters the bathroom, bathes and gets ready rushing.

NARRATOR

You have to rush to get ready.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/KITCHEN

RICARDO enters the kitchen, and quickly takes the cereal box out and serves it in a bowl. He has eye bags and a completely tired face.

NARRATOR

You serve your breakfast; you are going to wolf it down.

He starts eating the cereal quickly as he exits the room towards the dining room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_DINING ROOM

RICARDO enters the room, and suddenly stops eating the cereal.

NARRATOR

But your mom is in the dining room. Something’s wrong.

MOM speaks to RICARDO, with the NARRATOR saying the words her lips are saying.

NARRATOR

You can’t keep training like this, you’re failing many subjects, and you are not getting enough sleep and food.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’S ROOM

There is a close-up of RICARDO’s face, which is really angry and still tired. The first phrase is being said by his lips at the same time.

NARRATOR

No, no, NO! You are desperate. You are overwhelmed. How can you not play basketball? Why would someone encourage you to do a sport and then snatch it away?

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN

NARRATOR

A week has passed.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s ROOM

A clock alarm sounds, and RICARDO wakes up, he has a saddened expression.

NARRATOR

You wake up at 5 AM.

RICARDO stretches and exits his room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s BATHROOM

RICARDO enters the bathroom, bathes and gets ready.

NARRATOR

You get ready.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/DINING ROOM

RICARDO sits in the dining table, when his MOM arrives with the freshly made breakfast. RICARDO starts eating it. Still, he has a sad face.

NARRATOR

You eat the breakfast cooked by MOM, calmly.

RICARDO finishes eating the breakfast and exits the room.

1. DAY (MORNING)\_EXT\_SCHOOL ENTRANCE

RICARDO gets to school and enters, going to the classrooms.

NARRATOR

You arrive to school at 7 AM, and you enter to class.

RICARDO stops and looks down. He looks sad.

NARRATOR

You feel a hole inside of you. You really miss basketball, and you know it.

1. DAY\_INT\_CLASSROOM BUILDING HALLWAY

RICARDO walks toward the classroom, still looking down and depressed.

NARRATOR

You go to class, but it doesn’t matter now. You don’t care. The day passes as usual.

1. DAY\_EXT\_COLISEUM HALLWAY

RICARDO walks and sees, sadly, his friends entering the coliseum with their training clothes.

NARRATOR

You leave school at 3 in the afternoon, watching your teammates, former teammates, training.

RICARDO keeps walking towards the exit, still feeling down.

1. DAY\_INT\_APARTMENT/TV ROOM

RICARDO gets to the room, stays still for a moment, with a bored face. The actions follow as the NARRATOR says.

NARRATOR

You get to your house at 4 PM. There is a lot of time to spare. You turn the TV on to watch the NBA channel. During the ads, you check your grades in Phidias on your phone. They aren’t good. You feel more down. You throw your phone away, and just stare at the TV. There is an ad of NBA cares. You see the little children, in poor neighborhoods, that can’t train. They barely have a proper education. You turn off the TV.

RICARDO stares at the black TV for a moment. He shouts and kicks a pillow.

NARRATOR

You are confused. You are angry. You are angry with yourself. How could you be that lazy and ungrateful, while millions of kids would give everything for something as you have? How could you not take advantage of the opportunities you had? You could not do that; you need to change.

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN

NARRATOR

A week has passed.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_RICARDO’s ROOM

A clock alarm sounds, and RICARDO wakes up.

NARRATOR

You wake up at 4 o’clock in the morning.

RICARDO stretches and exits his room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s BATHROOM

RICARDO enters the bathroom, bathes and gets ready.

NARRATOR

You quickly get ready.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_APARTMENT/DINING ROOM

RICARDO enters the room with a box of cereal. He pours the cereal in a plate and eats it.

NARRATOR

You eat breakfast, with some calm.

RICARDO finishes eating the breakfast and exits the room.

1. NIGHT (BEFORE DAWN)\_INT\_COLISEUM

RICARDO enters to the coliseum. He has a happy expression.

NARRATOR

You manage to get to the school at 5:25 AM, a little early for the practice. Yes, you managed to do it. But not without some effort and dedication.

RICARDO goes to train and greets his teammates.

1. DAY\_INT\_CLASSROOM

RICARDO enters the classroom and sits down to study. It is a time-lapse scene in which the different classes are taught.

NARRATOR

Even though you are tired, you make an effort to focus and work.

It is possible to see some exams being delivered with good grades, people entering and exiting the room, and RICARDO and other students writing and reading. At the end, RICARDO and his classmates exit the classroom to go to recess.

1. DAY\_INT\_LIBRARY

RICARDO enters in a private cubicle with the stuff to study.

NARRATOR

You advance on some assignments in recess to be able to train in the afternoon.

1. NIGHT\_INT\_APARTMENT/RICARDO’s ROOM

NARRATOR

You get to your home at 7 PM.

RICARDO enters his room and organizes his stuff to study.

NARRATOR

Now, you just have some homework missing, and you can go to sleep and eat on time.

After RICARDO finishes his homework, he gets ready for bed and lies down. There is a close up on his face, which is smiling.

NARRATOR

You did it. You proved you could train, be healthy, and have good grades. You proved that you love this game.

END FLASHBACK

1. NIGHT\_INT\_COLISEUM

\*THE WHOLE SEEN MUST BE A POV UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE\*

NARRATOR

The ball is already out of your hands. As you see it go to the rim, all the journey to get there passes in your head.

As the NARRATOR speaks, images are shown of what he is saying.

NARRATOR

The effort, the downs, the difficulties, your teammates.

The images end and the game is shown again. The clock ends and the ball is bouncing on the rim while the NARRATOR says.

NARRATOR

It all comes down to this. That’s why you know it will get in.

Then, it is shown how RICARDO closes his eyes and the screen goes black.

NARRATOR

You close your eyes for an instant, and you hear the rip of the net.

RICARDO opens his eyes and sees the ball falling down the rim.

NARRATOR

You scored.

The whole team and spectators go running towards RICARDO. They raise him up and celebrate with him. There is a close up of his face, very happy and smiling, looking around him. He closes his eyes again and the screen goes black.

NARRATOR

We did it. We fucking did it. We won the tournament.

FADE OUT.

THE END