

# BEAUTY AND THE BASKETBALL

Not too long ago, in a faraway court, a young NBA all-star lived in a shining minor. Although he had everything his muscles desired, the millionaire was spoiled, selfish, and unkind.

But then, one post-game talkback, a reporter came to the interview and questioned him about an endorsement for a local charity. Repulsed by their question, the player sneered at the charity and turned the reporter away. But the reporter warned him not to be deceived by compassion, for generosity is found within. And when he dismissed them again, the reporter's suit gave way to reveal Stephen A. Smith.

The player tried to apologize, but it was too late, for he had seen that there was no love in his fat-free heart. And as punishment, he transformed him into a basketball and placed a powerful spell on the minor, and all who lived there.

Ashamed of his baller form, the Basketball concealed himself inside his minor with a magic hoop as his only window to the outside world. The hoop he had been offered was truly an enchanted hoop, which would continue to lose netting until his [insert typical retirement age].

If he could learn to love another and give to charity in return by the time the last net fell, then the spell would be broken. If not, he would be doomed to remain a basketball for all time.

As the years passed, he fell into despair and lost all hoop. For who could ever learn to bounce a basketball?