

Kobe Bryant - Dear Basketball

Dear Basketball,

From the moment
I 1)..... rolling
my dad's tube socks
And shooting imaginary
Game-winning shots
In the Great Western
Forum
I 2)..... one thing
was real:

I 3)..... in love
with you.

A love so deep I
4)..... you my all
From my mind & body
To my spirit & soul.

As a six-year-old boy

Deeply in love with you
I never 5)..... the
end of the tunnel.
I only saw myself
Running out of one.

And so I 6).....
I ran up and down every
court
After every loose ball for
you.
You 7)..... for my
hustle
I gave you my heart
Because it 8).....
with so much more.

I played through the
sweat and hurt
Not because challenge
9) me
But because YOU called
me.
I did everything for YOU

Because that's what you
do
When someone makes
you feel as
Alive as you've
1) me feel.

You gave a six-year-old
boy his Laker dream
And I'll always love you
for it.
But I can't love you
obsessively for much
longer.
This season is all I have
left to give.
My heart can take the
pounding
My mind can handle the
grind
But my body knows it's
time to say goodbye.

And that's OK.

I'm ready to let you go.
I want you to know now
So we both can savor
every moment we have
left together.
The good and the bad.
We have given each
other
All that we have.

And we both know, no
matter what I do next
I'll always be that kid
With the rolled up socks
Garbage can in the
corner
:05 seconds on the clock
Ball in my hands.
5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1

Love you always,
Kobe