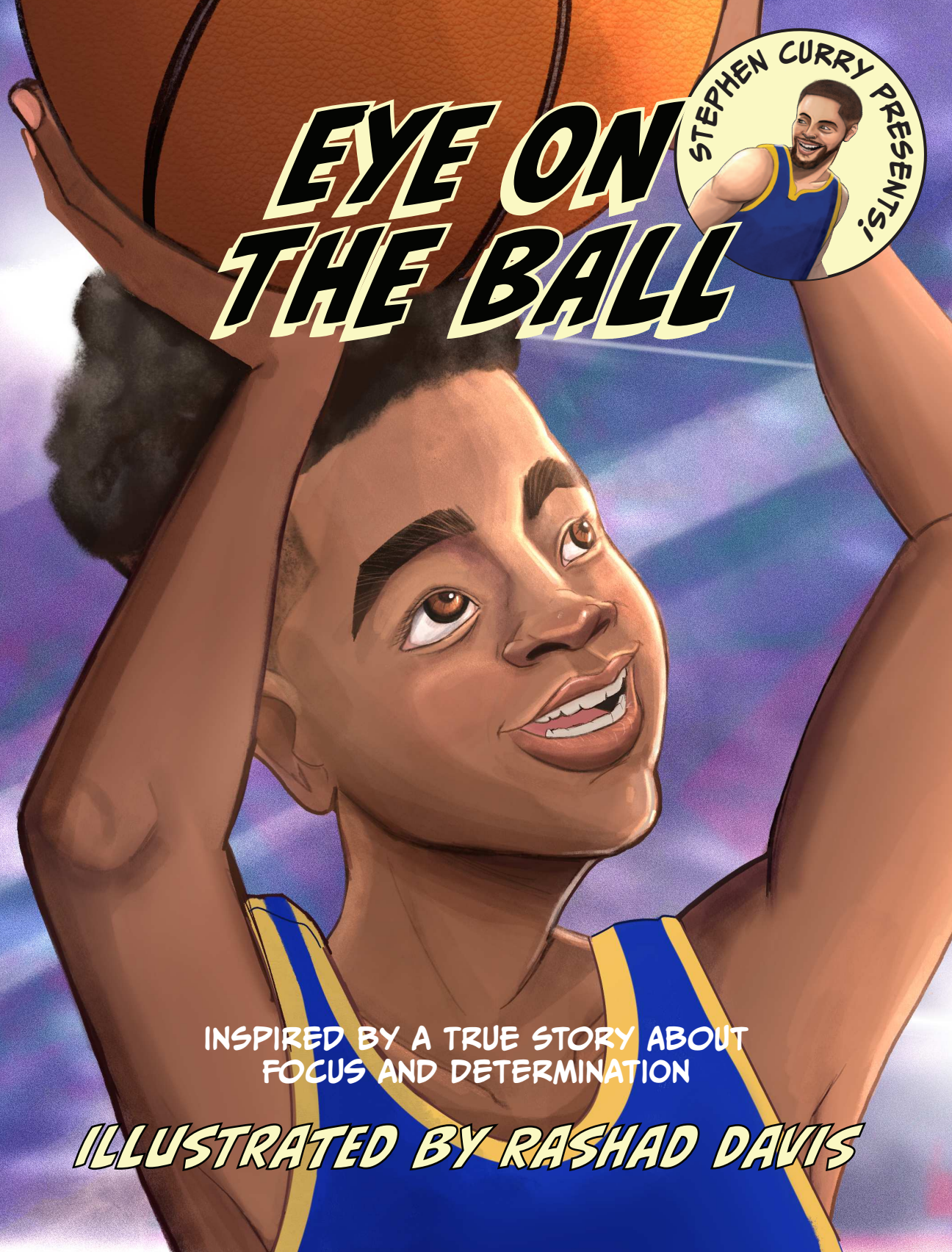




EYE ON THE BALL



INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY ABOUT
FOCUS AND DETERMINATION

ILLUSTRATED BY RASHAD DAVIS

EYE ON THE BALL

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

FOR A LONG TIME, I DIDN'T REALIZE ANYTHING WAS WRONG WITH MY EYES. I GOT SO USED TO JUST GETTING BY – SQUINTING AND BRUSHING OFF THE CONSTANT HEADACHES – THAT I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT CLEAR VISION WAS SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE. I SAW THE WORLD A CERTAIN WAY AND ASSUMED THAT WAS NORMAL.

THEN CAME THE DIAGNOSIS. I COULD BARELY EVEN PRONOUNCE KERATOCONUS (KC). IT OPENED UP A NEW WORLD OF FEAR. BUT I KNEW I COULDN'T IGNORE IT. I HAD TO ASK FOR HELP AND PUT IN THE WORK TO GET TREATED.

I DID IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT MATTERED. WHEN YOU REALIZE LIFE'S THIS BEAUTIFUL, YOU DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY TIME SEEING IT CLEARER. VISION IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PRIVILEGES WE HAVE.

IF YOU HAVE KC, I HOPE THIS STORY HELPS YOU TO FEEL SEEN AND TO KEEP GOING.

KEEP DREAMING BIG.
AND KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, located in the lower right area of the page.





MEET COREY! KING OF THE COURT.
HE KEEPS HIS EYE ON THE BALL
WITH A CLEAR VISION IN MIND...

TO BE THE SHARPEST SHOOTER
THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!





HE CAN SHOOT IN THE DARK.

HE CAN SHOOT IN HIS SLEEP. HIS MUSCLES JUST KNOW.



HE CAN SHOOT...

EVEN WHEN THE BRIGHT
LIGHTS GLEAM AND GLARE.

EVEN WHEN LINES
SQUIGGLE AND WIGGLE
AND LOOP-DE-LOOP ABOUT.

EVEN IN HIS SHADOWY,
ZIGGY-ZAGGY KIND OF WORLD.

BUT COREY HAS A SECRET. A TRUSTY TECHNIQUE.

SQUINT...



SHOOT...



SWISH!



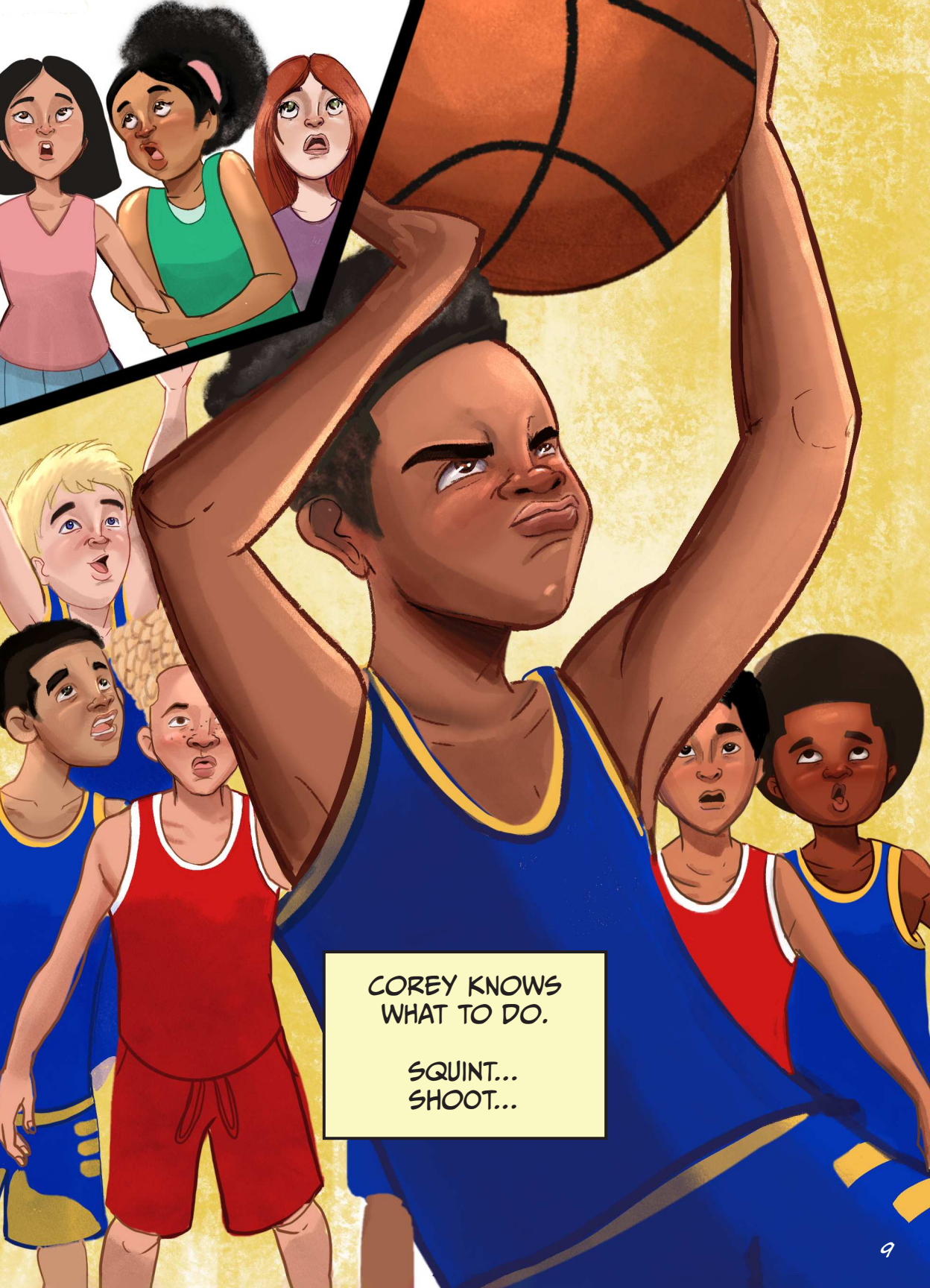
FOR A LONG TIME, HIS LUCKY
TRICK WORKED.

HE KEPT MAKING BASKETS,
SO HE IGNORED THE HAZE.
UNTIL...





DOWN BY ONE! 10 SECONDS LEFT!



COREY KNOWS
WHAT TO DO.

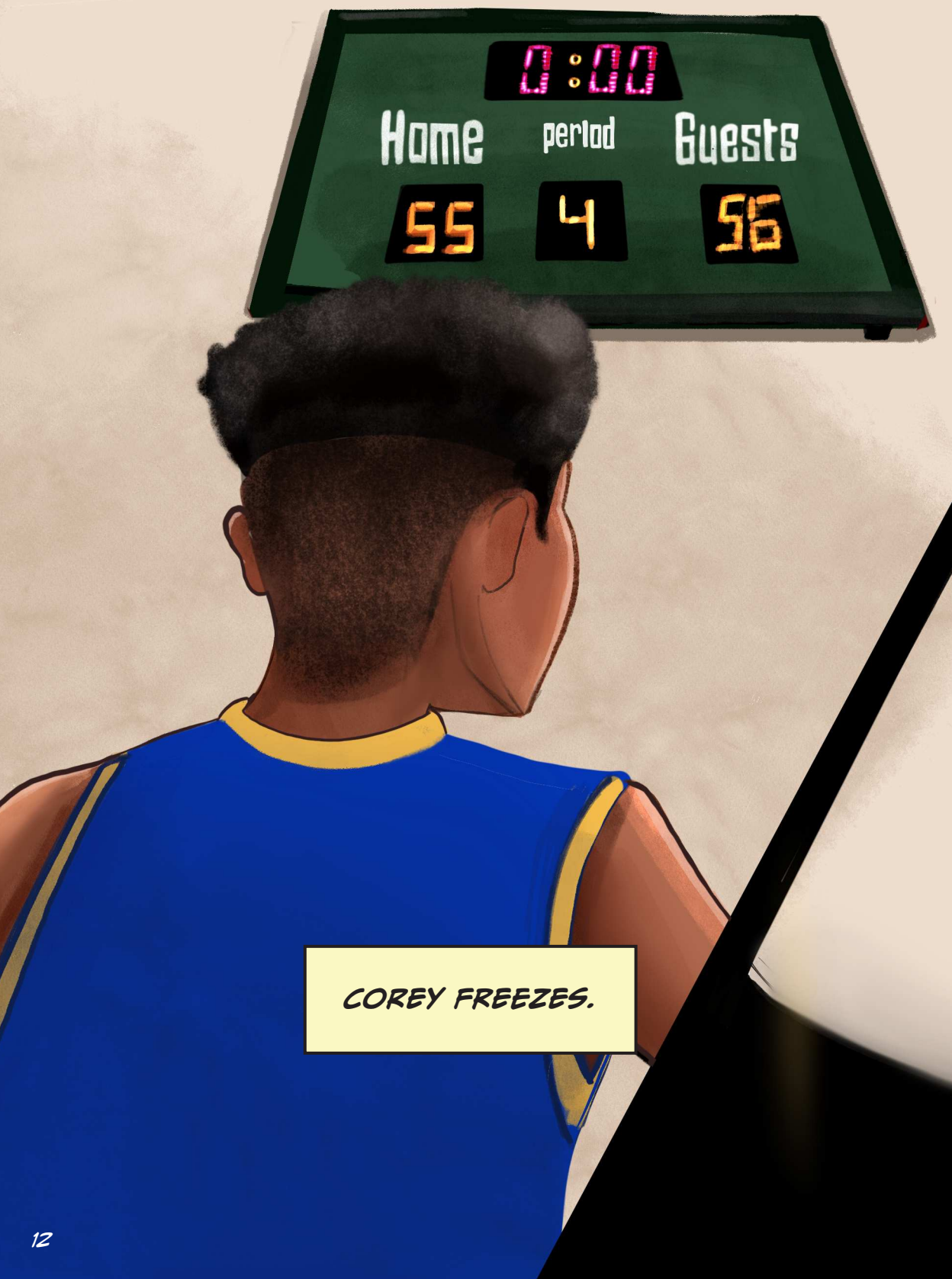
SQUINT...
SHOOT...



SMACK!

GAME OVER





0:00

Home

period

Guests

55

4

56

COREY FREEZES.

HE SQUINTS AT
THE SCOREBOARD.

DID THEY LOSE
BY 2 OR 20?
BY 5 OR 44?



"YOU KNOW, COREY, YOU'RE THE SHARPEST SHOOTER I'VE SEEN. AND I SEE YOUR LUCKY TRICK TOO: SQUINT. SHOOT. SWISH.

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR EYES CHECKED?"

COACH ASKS.

"THE GYM LIGHTS ARE ALWAYS BIG AND BLURRY,"

COREY SAYS WITH A SHRUG.



"SQUINTING IS
THE ONLY WAY
TO FOCUS. RIGHT?"

"THE SHOT IS SUPPOSED
TO BE THE HARD PART.
SEEING THE COURT
SHOULD BE EASY,"

COACH SAYS.

"IF YOU COULD SEE
THE WORLD BETTER,
WOULDN'T YOU
WANT TO KNOW?"

THE NEXT MORNING, THERE'S A DATE
COREY CANNOT SQUINT AWAY.
HIS MOM POINTS TO THE BIG,
BOLD LETTERS...



Month:

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2 Eye Doctor 8am	3 Bball Practice	4	5 Food Shopping	6
7		9	10 Bball Practice	11 School Trip	12	13 Family Trip
	15 Fix Car	16	17 Bball Practice	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bball Practice	25	26 Yoga	27
28	29	30				

COREY'S STOMACH FLIP-FLOPS.
GOING TO THE DOCTOR USUALLY MEANT BAD NEWS.
OR GETTING CONFUSED BY BIG, SCARY WORDS.
OR FEELING LIKE NOBODY WAS LISTENING.

WHAT IF THEY
TELL ME I CAN
NEVER PLAY AGAIN?

WHAT IF MY
SCORING DAYS
ARE DONE?

WHAT
IF MY EYES
ARE BUST?

WHAT IF, WHAT IF, WHAT IF...

COREY'S MOM GIVES HIS HAND A SQUEEZE.



"WE DON'T HIDE
FROM SCARY THINGS.
WE FIGURE IT OUT.
AS A TEAM."



WHEN THE EYE DOCTOR COMES IN,
SHE GREETES THEM WITH A SMILE.

SHE CHECKS COREY'S EYES
WITH A BRIGHT, BRIGHT LIGHT
AND SAYS A BIG, NEW WORD.
A CLUNKY, CHUNKY, DINOSAUR
KIND OF WORD:



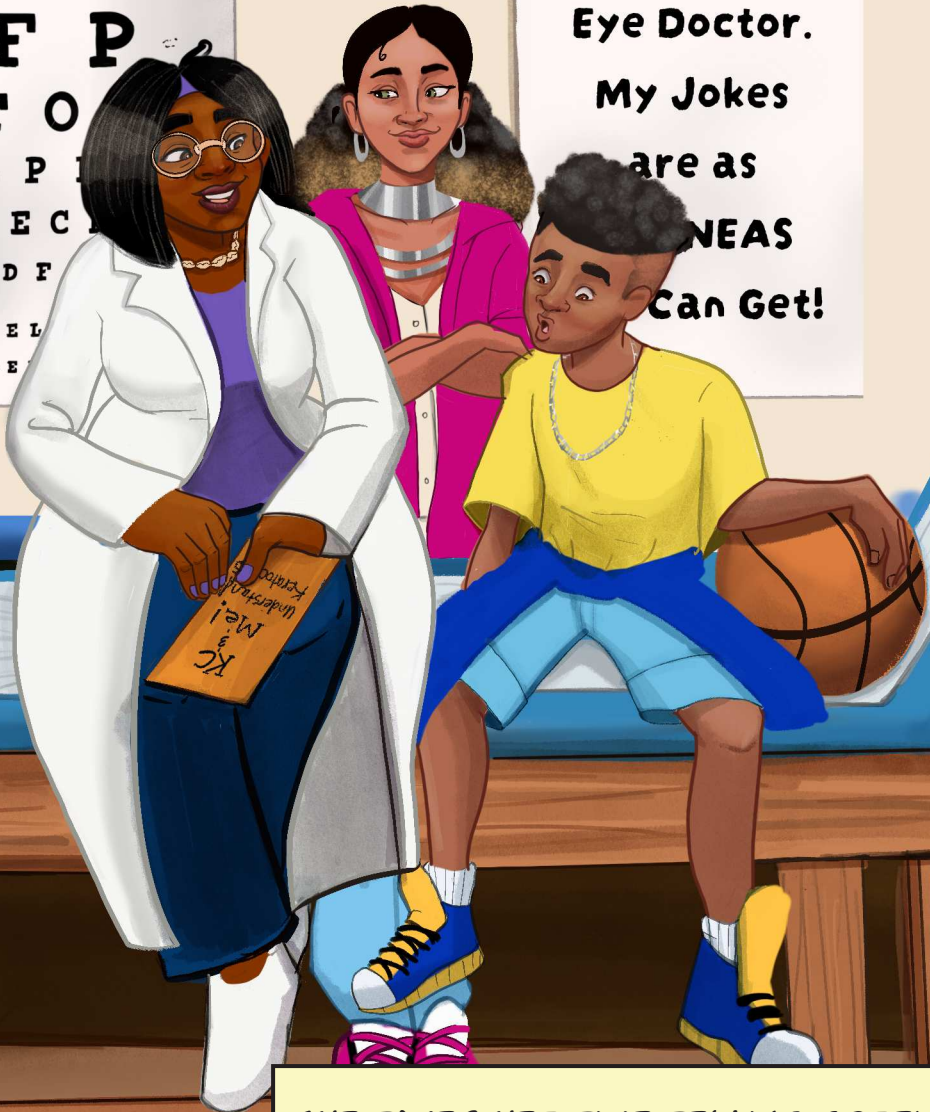
KERATOCONUS

(KARE-UH-TOE-CONE-US)

BUT THE BIG WORD DOESN'T FEEL
QUITE SO SCARY AS THE
DOCTOR EXPLAINS.



I'm An
Eye Doctor.
My Jokes
are as
NEAS
Can Get!



SHE TAKES HER TIME TELLING COREY
WHAT IT IS AND WHAT HE CAN DO.

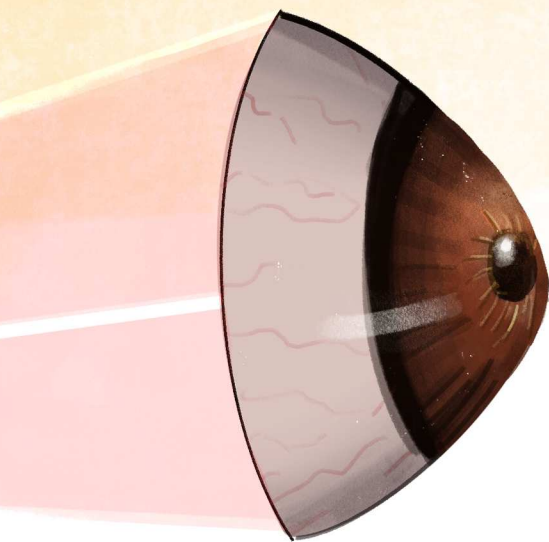


*"THE FRONT OF YOUR EYE, THE CORNEA,
IS LIKE A BASKETBALL," THE DOCTOR SAYS.*

*"USUALLY, THEY'RE PERFECTLY ROUND.
BUT YOURS IS STARTING TO BULGE OUT
LIKE A TRAFFIC CONE.
THOSE GLARING LIGHTS?
BLURRY, SQUIGGLY VISION?"*

EYE WITH KC

EYE WITHOUT KC



=



=



***IT'S BECAUSE OF KERATOCONUS.
OR SOMETIMES WE JUST CALL IT KC."***



HIS MOM NODS, TAKING NOTES.
"DOES IT RUN IN THE FAMILY?"
SHE ASKS.
"IT CAN," THE DOCTOR SAYS.
"FAMILY HISTORY CAN
BE A BIG CLUE."

HIS MOM WINKS.

"THEN PUT ME IN THE
CHAIR NEXT. WE'LL SEE
THIS THROUGH
TOGETHER."

"WE HAVE A LOT
TO LEARN,"

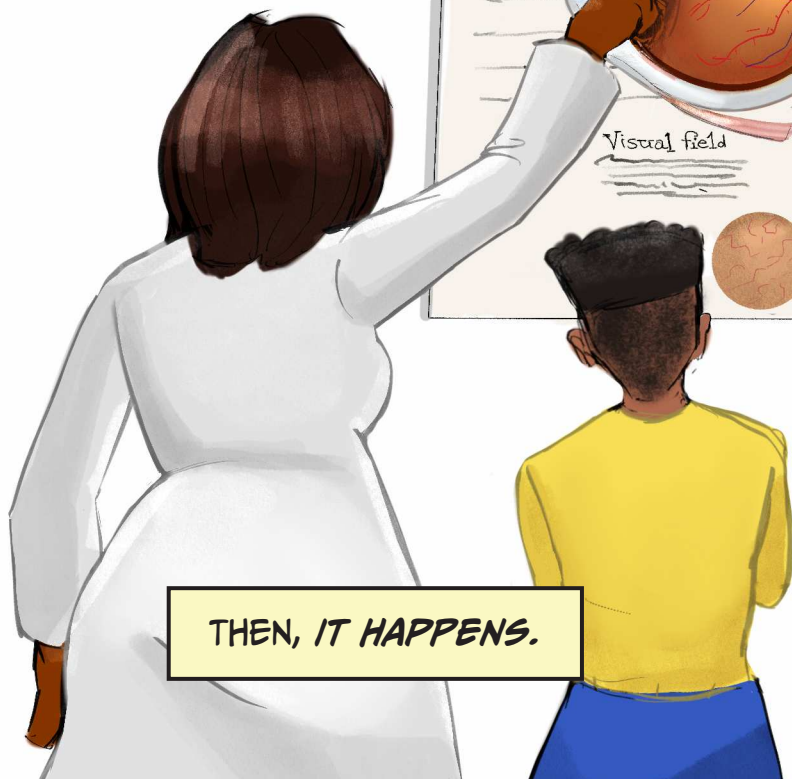
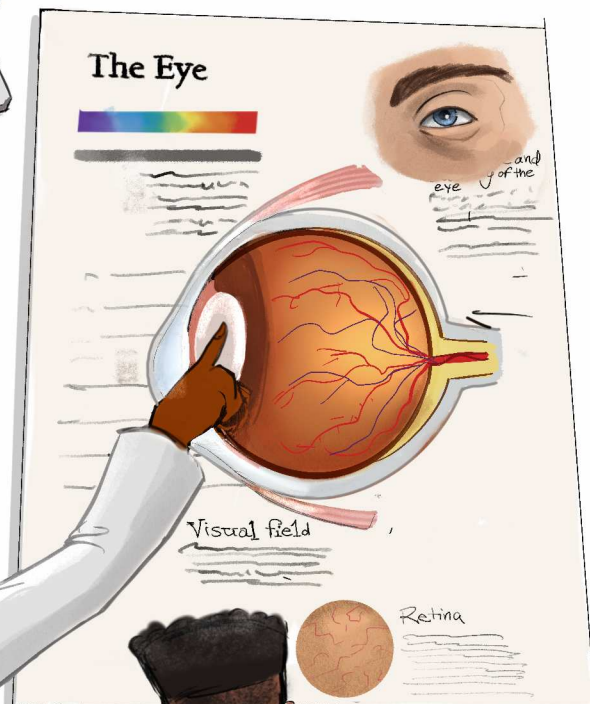
SAYS COREY.



TOGETHER, COREY, HIS MOM, AND HIS EYE DOCTOR COME UP WITH A PLAN.



TO HELP HIM SEE BETTER, THEY GET HIS KC TREATED.



THEN, IT HAPPENS.

COREY BLINKS.
ONCE.
TWICE.









COREY LOOKS UP.



COREY LOOKS DOWN.



HE LOOKS ALL AROUND.



HE SEES THE THINGS IN
LIFE THAT MATTER MOST.

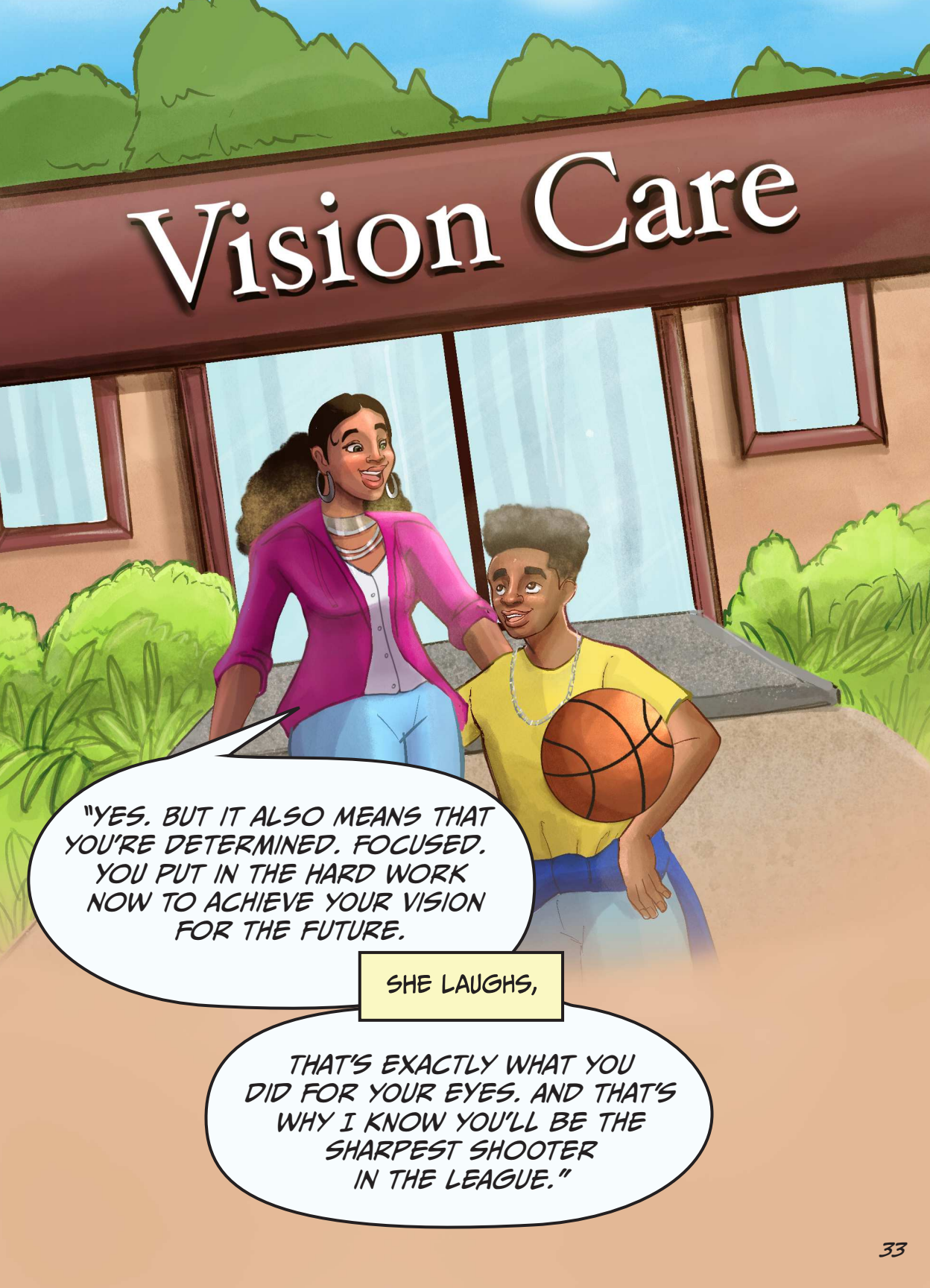
A close-up illustration of a hand holding an orange basketball. The hand is positioned in the center, with fingers spread across the ball. The basketball has a textured surface with many small bumps and is divided into panels by black lines. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

COREY LOOKS AT HIS BASKETBALL.
NOW SEEING EVERY BUMP, EVERY
GROOVE, EVERY PEBBLED DOT.

"YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO
HAVE YOUR 'EYE ON THE BALL'?"
HIS MOM SMILES AND ASKS.

"THIS! NOW, I CAN REALLY
SEE THE BALL!"

Vision Care

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a bright pink blazer over a white top and light blue pants, stands with her hand on the shoulder of a young man. The young man has short dark hair, wears a yellow t-shirt and blue pants, and is holding an orange basketball. They are standing on a sidewalk in front of a building with large glass windows. Green bushes are visible on either side of the path.

"YES. BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT YOU'RE DETERMINED. FOCUSED. YOU PUT IN THE HARD WORK NOW TO ACHIEVE YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE."

SHE LAUGHS,

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID FOR YOUR EYES. AND THAT'S WHY I KNOW YOU'LL BE THE SHARPEST SHOOTER IN THE LEAGUE."

BACK ON THE COURT,
COREY HAS A NEW ENERGY.



A BUZZING,
BRILLIANT CONFIDENCE.
HE ZOOMS WITH NEW ZIP.
HE DIVES WITH NEW DASH.





HE ISN'T JUST SHOOTING.
HE'S SEEING IT ALL.

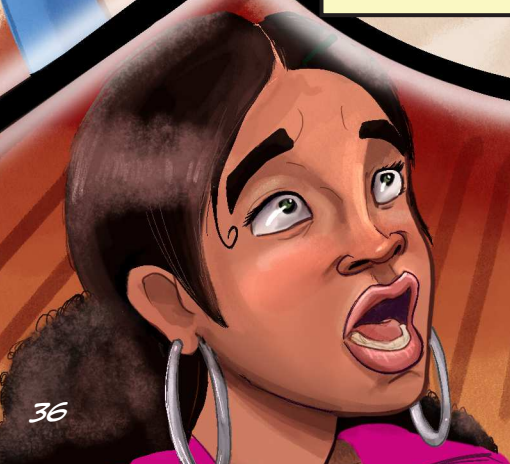


EVERY PASS, EVERY PLAY,
EVERY PICTURE-PERFECT MOMENT
OF THE WHOLE BEAUTIFUL GAME.

THE CLOCK'S TICKING DOWN.
HE STEPS BACK FOR THE FINAL SHOT.



THE CROWD HOLDS ITS BREATH.





COREY KNOWS WHAT TO DO.
HE'S READY TO SQUINT FOR
HIS LUCKY TRICK.

BUT HE DOESN'T NEED LUCK,
AND HE DOESN'T NEED TO HIDE.
INSTEAD, HE RELAXES AND
OPENS HIS EYES.

HE LOOKS AT THE RIM.



SHOOT.

SWISH!





COREY HAS A VISION: TO BE THE SHARPEST SHOOTER IN THE LEAGUE. BUT HE SOON FINDS OUT HE HAS AN EYE CONDITION: KERATOCONUS. TO SAVE HIS GAME, HE LEARNS TO ASK FOR HELP WHEN IT COMES TO KC AND REDISCOVERS JUST HOW BEAUTIFUL THE WORLD LOOKS WHEN IT'S FINALLY IN FOCUS.

FOCUS ON TAKING CARE OF YOUR EYE HEALTH LIKE COREY AND LEARN MORE AT *COULDITBEKC.COM*

