

VOLLEY!!

Written by

Robert and Trevor Benoit

Based on manga Haikyu!! by Haruichi Furudate

194 Central Street
(978)407-6130

FADE IN:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - FLASHBACK

A gym floor comes into view. The white lines on the floor reflect brightly as we hear the voice of an enthusiastic high school student by the name of SEAN HINDLEY.

SEAN (V.O.)

An enormous mountain lingers before me.

A PAIR OF SNEAKERS COME INTO VIEW AND STOP BEFORE THE LINE.

SEAN (V.O.)

I wonder what the view is like over and beyond that mountain.

Two hands arise behind the net as a volleyball is deflected off of them. It slams down onto the gymnasium floor and bounces out of view.

SEAN (V.O.)

What could I possibly see beyond it?

Sean's face comes into view. Drenched in sweat and looking blankly in shock.

THE SCORE READS: 22-7

SEAN (V.O.)

I will never see past the top on my own.

TOBIAS KIRKMAN, a young man with short, dark hair stares angrily at SEAN. Then he turns to walk away with his head held high as SEAN walks toward the camera in defeat.

SEAN (V.O.)

But maybe, if I wasn't alone.

We move from the floor and up over the net to see an empty gymnasium as it cross fades into a view from the top of a mountain.

SEAN (V.O.)

I might be able to see it.

CUT TO BLACK:

OPENING TITLE: VOLLEY

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDNER HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

A bike wheel spins quickly on the gravel.

The high school stands tall as students enter and mingle out front.

SEAN (V.O.)

Today is my first day at Gardner High.

SEAN rolls into view before braking to gaze upon the school.

SEAN (V.O.)

And the first day of the rest of my life.

INT. GARDNER HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

SEAN runs quickly through the hall. He flies past many other students.

He passes by three male students in black jumpsuits and a girl they talk to. Their faces are above the frame out of view. The girl hands a couple pieces of paper to them.

DAVID

These are all the applicants? We used to have so many more.

KIARA

We lucked out landing the King of the Court in our club.

DAVID

We'll see.

STEVE

What about this kid, Sean?

DAVID

Who?

RANDY

You look lovely today Kiara.

KIARA turns around, ignoring the compliment as she walks away.

RANDY acts beyond nervously enthused as he replies to himself.

RANDY (CONT'D)
It turns me on when she ignores me.

CUT TO:

INT. GARDNER HIGH HALLWAY #2 - MORNING

SEAN runs around a corner and down the hall. His face is illuminated with excitement.

SEAN (V.O.)
I can finally be on a real team.

INT. GARDNER HIGH GYMNASIUM - MORNING

A volleyball hits the floor and bounces out of view.

INT. GARDNER HIGH HALLWAY #2 - MORNING

SEAN'S feet run along the floor.

SEAN (V.O.)
I can train and practice.

INT. GARDNER HIGH GYMNASIUM - MORNING

A ball spins in a player's hands.

SEAN (V.O.)
To get my revenge on him.

INT. GARDNER HIGH HALLWAY #2 - MORNING

FROM A FIRST PERSON VIEW WE MOVE QUICKLY TO THE ENTRANCE AND INTO THE GYMNASIUM BEFORE STOPPING AS IT ALL COMES INTO VIEW.

INT. GARDNER HIGH GYMNASIUM - MORNING

A pair of feet hit the floor.

SEAN looks onwards in shock.

The person in the gym turns to look at SEAN. Their king-like cape drifts as they spin.

They are revealed to be TOBIAS, who looks as equally shocked.

From afar they both stare at each other in silence.

Suddenly SEAN points his finger at TOBIAS and shouts:

SEAN

Why are you here?!!

TOBIAS stares blankly at SEAN before a ball falls back down and bounces off HIS head.

As TOBIAS prepares to respond, we clearly see the Gardner High School logo on his shirt.

TOBIAS

I met you last year. But I don't remember your name.

SEAN

My name is Sean Hindley. It was that match where you defeated my team and...

TOBIAS

(interrupting)

Oh, now I remember you. I recall you wasting your talents. Not that I really care.

SEAN

Don't make fun of me! Yeah, maybe I lost to you before. But I promised myself that I would beat you next time!

TOBIAS

How do you plan on doing that?
We're on the same team now.

SEAN

Shouldn't you be at the high-ranking schools with all the other strong players?!

TOBIAS

I applied to the best schools in the division... (BEAT) They all rejected me.

SEAN

Why? You're the King of the Court.

TOBIAS grunts with frustration.

TOBIAS
DON'T (BEAT)...

Then we see his face, close up with anger.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
CALL ME THAT!

CUT TO:

INT. JUST OUTSIDE THE GYMNASIUM - MORNING

We see three students standing outside of the gym listening to TOBIAS and SEAN. Their faces are still not visible.

MOVE BACK TO:

INT. GARDNER HIGH GYMNASIUM - MORNING

SEAN
I don't care what you like being called. I'm going to be Gardner High's ace!

TOBIAS
Well, I hope you've improved. Otherwise you'll waste another four years.

SEAN
Don't act like you know me or tell me that what I did before this was a waste! I'll challenge you right here.

TOBIAS
It would take a miracle for you to beat me.

SEAN
Serve at me. I'll receive them all. Not with my face this time... (BEAT) I'm not the same person I was last year!

TOBIAS picks up a ball and raises it toward SEAN.

TOBIAS
 (confidently)
 I'm not the same person I was
 either.

CUT TO:

SEAN stands at one end of the court, ready for a serve.

TOBIAS holds the ball, ready to serve. He then begins to run into a jump serve.

SEAN's face turns to shock.

SEAN (V.O.)
 He couldn't do jump serves last
 year...

TOBIAS serves the ball and it flies across the court right at SEAN. SEAN barely dodges the ball. TOBIAS looks at SEAN condescendingly.

The three people from outside the hall walk into the gymnasium: DAVID SAMPSON, RANDY TALLEN and STEVE COLLINS. They stop as they arrive at the sidelines. Their faces remain obscured.

DAVID
 (authoritatively)
 Stop right now.

SEAN stands at the ready.

SEAN
 One more, I'll get it this time!

TOBIAS begins his jump into the serve.

DAVID
 I'm your captain. Stop this right
 now!

TOBIAS serves the ball away from SEAN. SEAN moves so fast it shocks TOBIAS as he receives it, but off the rebound it flies towards the three people. The ball hits DAVID square in the head.

SEAN and TOBIAS look in shock.

DAVID recovers from the hit and looks at the two of them with frustration.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Come here now.

SEAN and TOBIAS walk over to them. We plainly see DAVID, RANDY and STEVE'S faces now. All appear intimidating.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I don't know what your motivations were for coming here. Maybe it was to win. But as you know we are ninth in division 2. We are neither weak, nor strong. Some schools even call us "Wildcats Without Claws" now. I plan on going to states before I graduate. However, we need a united team.

CUT TO:

INT. GARDNER HIGH HALLWAY #2 - MORNING

SEAN and TOBIAS stand in the hall just outside the gym door. DAVID looks at them, RANDY standing behind him.

DAVID

You both might have been rivals before, but you're not anymore. Until you both get that through your heads. You're not allowed to be on the team.

He closes the door in their faces. Leaving them in silence.

SEAN looks at TOBIAS.

SEAN

What does he mean work on the same team?

TOBIAS

I don't know.

SEAN

I'll get along with Tobias! Just let me back in!

A girl is seen out of focus approaching them from down the hall.

SEAN and TOBIAS turn to see KIARA SWEENEY, a beautiful student with shimmering red hair, walking up to them. She has a bag of playing gear over her shoulder.

KIARA

(to them)

Excuse me, I need to get by.

They both move out of the way as she walks up to the gymnasium door and opens it.

The players inside notice and all come up to her.

RANDY
Can I take your bag for you?

KIARA
I can handle it.

KIARA walks through them and into the gym.

RANDY
I love how much she ignores me.

DAVID looks at SEAN and TOBIAS.

DAVID
What are you guys still doing here?

SEAN
We can play together, just let us
back in.

DAVID looks over at Tobias.

DAVID
Do you believe that? Be honest.

TOBIAS appears to be struggling to respond before he blurts out:

TOBIAS
Just leave him off the team and let
me come practice.

DAVID looks at SEAN and laughs.

DAVID
You weren't supposed to actually be
honest.

DAVID'S face moves out of view and RANDY smiles as he closes the door.

INT. GARDNER HIGH GYMNASIUM - MORNING

KIARA stands looking at the senior players.

KIARA

(To David)

Don't you think you're being a bit harsh? Teams do come together gradually after all.

DAVID

That might be true, but let's see how they handle this situation.

STEVE

What if we're taking this too far? We want to gain new players, not have them quit altogether. I mean, haven't you seen how the applicant list gets shorter every year?

DAVID

There's no way these two will quit. Volleyball is everything to them.

RANDY

Look at you, being all serious. It's hilarious!

DAVID

The reason I'm doing this is because apart, they won't be much good. But if the two of them can work together, they can bring this school leaps and bounds from where it is.

INT. GARDNER HIGH HALLWAY #2 - MORNING

TOBIAS stands with his hand on his chin in thought.

TOBIAS

(to himself)

I can challenge them to a two on two match. If I win, then they'll have no choice but to let me play on the team.

SEAN

Why do you keep saying I?

TOBIAS looks at SEAN.

TOBIAS

No matter how we feel about each other, if we work together and appear friendly, then we can play with the team.

SEAN

What if we lose?

TOBIAS

We won't lose. You have me on your team. Just don't get in my way.

CUT TO:

TOBIAS knocks on the door. After a few moments, DAVID opens the door.

TOBIAS & SEAN

(In Unison))

Let us challenge you to a match!

RANDY grabs his stomach and laughs.

DAVID

Two versus two, huh? We do have two other freshmen joining the team. We're going to make it a three-on-three. You both and Randy against myself and the two newbies.

RANDY

Why me?

DAVID

You seem to like them.

RANDY

I suppose I could help them out!

DAVID

However, if you both lose, as long as I am a senior here. Tobias will never play setter... (BEAT) ever.

TOBIAS

You can't! I'm a setter! Only a setter!

DAVID

Then win.

SEAN
What about me?

DAVID
The game is tomorrow after school.

SEAN
Aren't you going to punish me too?

DAVID
Be here then and be ready.
Understood?

SEAN
I'm here too!

DAVID turns around and walks away. RANDY pats SEAN on the back and heads back into the gym.

KIARA
Sorry about David. He usually isn't like this.

STEVE
It'll get better. Just be ready okay?

KIARA and STEVE then head after DAVID and RANDY.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDNER HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

SEAN and TOBIAS walk outside the front of the school. TOBIAS stops.

TOBIAS
Dammit.

SEAN
What's wrong? Are you mad you're getting the blunt of the punishment? What's wrong with being another player? Spikers are awesome!

TOBIAS turns around and grabs SEAN by the shirt.

TOBIAS
You don't understand! The setter is the foundation! A spiker can't be a spiker without a setter!

TOBIAS lets go of SEAN'S shirt.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
Sure, spikers are cool. But the setter has the most contact with the ball. They build the piton that the spiker uses to climb that mountain.

SEAN
(pause)
I can see why you want to play setter now.

TOBIAS
Be ready for tomorrow because we can't lose.

TOBIAS turns around and walks away leaving SEAN standing alone.

CUT TO:

INT. GARDNER HIGH GYMNASIUM - AFTERNOON

THE NEXT AFTERNOON

SEAN walks into the gymnasium. He sees TOBIAS who is already stretching. TOBIAS looks up at SEAN.

SEAN
We're going to win today.

TOBIAS stands up and looks at SEAN.

TOBIAS
Let's warm up.

Suddenly a VOICE is heard.

KEGAN (O.S.)
Good morning King.

TOBIAS and SEAN turn to look at two freshmen players: KEGAN SAMUEL and TEDDY (THOMAS) YATES. KEGAN, an exceptionally tall and arrogant blonde teenager with glasses. He holds a volleyball under his arm as he walks. TEDDY is nervous and shy in appearance with medium-short brown hair.

TOBIAS glares at KEGAN and TEDDY, who both stop in front of him and SEAN.

KEGAN (CONT'D)
What's an elite player like you
doing at GHS?

TOBIAS
It was my choice. What's it to you?

KEGAN drops the ball into his hand and starts tossing it up
and down.

KEGAN
We'll just see how elite you really
are.

SEAN
(interrupts)
WE're not going to lose to you!

KEGAN looks confidently unbothered as he replies.

KEGAN
This may be an important game for
you guys, but it means nothing to
us. We could care less about
winning or losing.

Suddenly KEGAN smiles.

KEGAN (CONT'D)
Would you like us to throw the
game?

TOBIAS
(irritated)
It doesn't matter. Throw the game
or give it all you've got. I'm
still going to win.

SEAN
(To Tobias)

Stop saying I!

KEGAN
(TO Sean)
You don't realize how in over your
head you are. The King is going to
use you and then toss you away like
garbage.

TOBIAS grinds his teeth before grabbing KEGAN by his jacket. He then looks at KEGAN with anger, who simply smiles back. They stare each other before TOBIAS looks down and lets go.

He walks away from them both.

KEGAN (CONT'D)
Guess the King really isn't that special.

AS he says this, KEGAN tosses the ball in the air again. SEAN leaps up high and grabs the ball out from the air, shocking KEGAN. SEAN turns around.

SEAN
Stop going on about some King. I'm here too.

SEAN and KEGAN make eye contact.

SEAN (V.O.)
I'll climb any mountain. You'll see.

Without warning, the door to the gymnasium flies open. Here we see, ITTETSU TAKEDA, a early thirties man with an innocently nervous appearance thanks to his glasses. His attire is a dress shirt and tie, along with basic khakis and brown boat shoes. He looks at everyone as he adjusts his glasses.

TAKEDA
We got a gig!

TAKEDA walks into the gymnasium, the door closing behind him.

TAKEDA (CONT'D)
It's a practice game! Our opponents are the third highest ranked in the league. Quabbin.

DAVID
The Panthers?

SEAN'S eyes light up at the news.

TAKEDA looks over at SEAN and TOBIAS, who stand next to each other.

TAKEDA
So you two must be the troublesome newbies I've heard so much about.

SEAN leans over toward TOBIAS, place his hand over his mouth as to hide it.

SEAN
(SOFTly)
Who is he?

TOBIAS does the same thing as SEAN before replying.

TOBIAS
(softly)
I have no idea.

TAKEDA
Sorry, I haven't even introduced myself. I'm Ittetsu Takeda. But you can just call me Takeda. I'm the assistant coach for the volleyball team. I don't have any experience playing volleyball though. So I won't be much help when it comes to the technical stuff. Once we get a new coach things'll be a bit less hectic.

STEVE COLLINS approaches TAKEDA, along with DAVID and RANDY.

STEVE
How'd you manage to get them to agree to a scrimmage?

TAKEDA
Surprisingly, I didn't have to beg this time. They agreed without hesitation. (BEAT) But on one condition.

DAVID
Condition?

TAKEDA scratches the back of his head nervously, with one eye winced as he replies.

TAKEDA
They want Kirkman to play as the full-time setter for the whole match.

TOBIAS looks in shock as everyone turns to him.

RANDY laughs.

RANDY
Is this a joke? Are they messing
with us or something?

TAKEDA looks over at STEVE, who looks sad at the news.

STEVE looks up to see everyone now looking at him.

STEVE
It's okay. We don't get a chance
like this often with the school's
reputation.

RANDY
(Shouts)
Are you sure?! This is your last
year and you're our official
setter!

STEVE
(Whips back)
Yeah of course it sucks. (BEAT) But
I want to see how Sean and Tobias
play together. Especially against
Quabbin.

TAKEDA looks stunned by STEVE'S response.

DAVID then interjects:

DAVID
So when is the match?

TAKEDA
Next Tuesday. Which doesn't give us
much time to prepare.

DAVID
Then it just means we'll have to
practice twice as hard to be ready.

TAKEDA
You better believe it.

Then RANDY quips at DAVID:

RANDY
If Tobias is going to play next
Tuesday, then doesn't that make the
match today pointless?

DAVID

No. Because if Tobias and Sean lose, Tobias isn't going to start against Quabbin.

STEVE

But they might cancel on us if we do that.

DAVID

That's a chance I'm willing to take.

SEAN and TOBIAS look at DAVID with seriousness.

TAKEDA

Wait... What?

CUT TO:

DAVID standing on the sideline.

DAVID

Alright, let's get started. I'm going to be playing with Kegan and Teddy. Randy might be a better power player than me, but that doesn't mean I'm going to go easy on you guys.

CUT TO:

We see a view of a ceiling as a whistle blows. RANDY leaps and spikes a ball onto the opposite court.

A score is shown of TOBIAS 2 - DAVID 1.

DAVID looks at KEGAN.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Maybe you shouldn't have antagonized them.

CUT TO:

TOBIAS tosses a ball as SEAN runs toward the ball.

SEAN (V.O.)

Here it goes, my first spike in high school.

SEAN leaps up and prepares to spike.

SEAN (V.O.)
I'll score.

SEAN spikes the ball, only to be blocked by KEGAN. The ball slams back down onto their court.

SEAN lands back down on the ground in shock.

KEGAN looks at him.

KEGAN
You sure can jump for being a shortie. If only you were taller, you wouldn't suck.

SEAN
(to Tobias)
One more! I'll score!

SEAN leaps and spikes again, only to be blocked.

TOBIAS looks at KEGAN across the net.

TOBIAS (V.O.)
He's better than I thought.

KEGAN looks back at TOBIAS.

KEGAN
(to TOBIAS)
You should do the King's toss.
Decimate us and your teammates.

TOBIAS stands, ready to serve. He spins the ball in his hands.

TOBIAS (V.O.)
Time to rack up the points myself.

TOBIAS serves the ball. DAVID receives it and KEGAN sets the ball for TEDDY who spikes it onto the floor.

TOBIAS
Dammit.

KEGAN
Why don't you take your kingly role?

SEAN looks at KEGAN.

SEAN
Why do you keep calling him KING?

KEGAN

You really don't know?

SEAN

It's because he's so good that he intimidates other schools, right?

KEGAN

I heard his old teammates gave him that name. He's so egocentric that he drove his teammates to abandon him in the middle of a season ending match. Talk about a dictatorship.

TOBIAS looks down in anger.

FLASHBACK TO TOBIAS' LAST MATCH

TOBIAS looks up. He sets a ball backwards, only to have nobody standing there. It bounces on the floor to nobody. His team is in a group near the sidelines, refusing to play with him. He looks in terror. Before TOBIAS, is a broken space between him and his teammates on the court floor.

TOBIAS' COACH looks at him.

COACH

Tobias, you're benched.

CUT BACK TO:

SEAN stares at KEGAN.

SEAN

Who cares about back then? I don't care. I'll take any toss as long as I can spike it. The only thing I care about is knocking you down.

TOBIAS looks up at SEAN. He walks over and pulls SEAN away from KEGAN. TOBIAS looks seriously at SEAN.

TOBIAS

Sean, I'm going to throw quick tosses to you. You have to give it your all, but I'm going to use your full potential and we're going to get by them.

SEAN smiles.

SEAN

Just give me a toss and I'll be there.

CUT TO:

KEGAN serves at them. RANDY receives the ball and it flies up into the air.

TOBIAS tries to assess the situation. He hears RANDY and SEAN shout for the ball.

SEAN flies into the air on the right.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I'm here!

TOBIAS notices and sends the ball quickly. SEAN makes swift contact with the ball and spikes it. DAVID leaps to try to save the ball, but he is too late.

TOBIAS looks at SEAN. SEAN looks back with a smile.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Keep tossing my way.

CUT TO:

KIARA, STEVE and ITTETSU look on from the sidelines.

KIARA (V.O.)

Tobias was going to send the ball to Randy. Yet he heard Sean's voice and instantly reacted. Even more incredible, he was able to send an accurate toss with little room to react. (BEAT) He really is amazing.

STEVE turns to ITTETSU.

STEVE

This is going to be an interesting season.

ITTETSU

I have a feeling it's going to be one that changes GHS volleyball forever. Now if only we could get Kenneth to take over from his father as the couch. Then I wouldn't feel like such a failure.

STEVE

You're not a failure. He'll come around.

ITETTSU

For our sakes, I hope so. If we go into the season without a coach it isn't going to be good.

STEVE

(LAUGHS)

Worst case scenario, you become the coach.

ITETTSU

(NERVOUSLY)

Yeah. Worst case.

BACK TO:

TOBIAS responds to SEAN.

TOBIAS

Move fast and jump as high as you can. I will get the ball to you.
(BEAT) Just make sure you don't get blocked.

SEAN

You think we can do it?

TOBIAS

Spike it with all your might. All you need to do is connect with the ball.

SEAN

Got it!

RANDY prepares for his serve. He looks at TOBIAS who is staring at the other team's positioning.

RANDY (V.O.)

That's some incredible concentration.

RANDY looks up and serves the ball. It flies over the net. Teddy moves to the ball.

TEDDY

Mine!

TEDDY receives the ball and it flies up into the air.

DAVID
Chance ball!

DAVID moves to set the ball up and KEGAN leaps up for the spike. TOBIAS jumps up and the ball clips his hand and it soars into the air.

RANDY looks up.

RANDY
Chance ball!

RANDY moves and receives the ball as it goes back up in the air. As the ball moves toward TOBIAS, he begins to assess everything.

TOBIAS (V.O.)
Look. Watch. (BEAT) Where are the
spikers? Where are the blockers?
Where will they jump?

SEAN runs at his maximum speed to the left of court. As he jumps, TOBIAS sets the ball.

The ball flies fast through the air toward SEAN. SEAN opens his eyes in the air.

SEAN (V.O.)
An enormous mountain lingers before
me.

A view shows the heightened view above the net.

SEAN (V.O.)
I never thought I'd be able to see
this view.

TOBIAS looks with intensity.

SEAN (V.O.)
But I'm not alone anymore.

RANDY looks on with confidence.

SEAN (V.O.)
I have a team.

KEEGAN leaps with his arm outstretched.

KEEGAN shouts.

SEAN spikes the ball so fast that the other team cannot even react. DAVID, KEGAN, STEVE, TEDDY and TAKEDA stare with shock.

SEAN lands on the floor, panting heavily.

SEAN (V.O.)
I can see everything now.

The score shows SET 1: TOBIAS 22 - DAVID 19.

CUT TO:

The new score reads SET 1: TOBIAS 0 - DAVID 0

KIARA, with amazement on her face, flips the SET 1 sign over to SET 2.

FADE OUT.

POST CREDITS SCENE:

FADE IN:

STEVE walks away from the school. TOBIAS runs out of the school and toward STEVE.

TOBIAS
Steve! Wait up!

STEVE stops in his tracks and turns to TOBIAS, who halts in front of him.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
I know that I'm being automatically placed in the starting lineup for Tuesday's match, but after that I'm going to earn my spot on this team.

STEVE smiles and nervously starches his head.

STEVE
For a minute there, I wasn't sure if you cared what I thought.

TOBIAS looks on in confusion.

TOBIAS
Why's that?

STEVE
You have more raw ability than me by a long shot.

TOBIAS

Maybe that's true, but you can't
compensate something like that with
experience. You have a lot more
than me. Plus (BEAT) they all trust
you.

The rest of the TEAM pours out from the doors.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

That's why I won't lose.

STEVE smirks.

STEVE

Neither will I.

FADE OUT.