

I Am

by Michael Manton

I am a basketball player
I want to be the very best
The fame, the lights
The respect, the applause

Slow, scared, and out of shape
My first time playing was a nightmare
Zero points
Zero rebounds
Zero assists
Parents trying to smile

Practice, practice, practice
Running suicide drills, gasping for air, struggling for every last breath
The others are all faster
I want this
TRY

Three years later
15 points
7 rebound
7 assists
Parents are smiling for real

The victories of this world are much harder to achieve than what I was led to believe
I am not the greatest at everything like my mom always said
Have to work, maybe even harder than others
Do I have talent?
Talent doesn't matter to me
Skill matters to me