

[April 29, 2016]

April 13, 2016. A date which will live in infamy.

Kobe Bryant capped his tortuous farewell tour by scoring 60 points to help the Los Angeles Lakers win the 17th game of its equally-tortuous season to the rapturous delight of the celebrities at Staples Center, every one of whom acted like retarded fools over the self-monikered "Black Mamba": Mr. Kim Kardashian (Kanye West), Mr. Beyoncé (Jay-Z), Mr. Pothead (Snoop Dogg), Mr. Fat Bastard, (Jack Nicholson), Mr. Spice Girl (David Beckham), Mr. Proactiv (Adam Levine), and Mrs. Magic Johnson Wannabe (Arsenio Hall). The lone sour note was in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter when Utah Jazz center Jeff Withey blocked Black Mamba from scoring a layup. Withey disappeared for the rest of the game.

In a speech after the game, Black Mamba thanked his trophy wife, whom he began dating when she was just 17, for keeping their family together as he spent countless hours training (or whoring, take your pick). That had me laughing. According to *Forbes*, Black Mamba has earned a paltry \$680 million in salary and endorsements during his career. He uses a helicopter to get around. In May, he sold his 8,471 sq-ft hut in the run-down section of Newport Coast to move his brood to a 14,500 sq-ft shack in the run-down section of Newport Beach. Yep, Mrs. Black Mamba has had to really struggle to keep the family together while the Mr. spent countless hours training (or whoring, take your pick)! After ending the speech by proclaiming "Mamba out!", he refused to sign teammate Nick Young's Adidas sneakers because Nike Nympho Black Mamba don't do Adidas.

Nearly 3 years to the day before his last game, Bryant ruptured his Achilles tendon. Be it the thought of schlepping his daughters to soccer practice made him ill or the moolah the dim bulb spawn of Jerry Buss was dangling before him, he signed a 2-year, \$48.5 million extension, which had the extra-added "bonus" of torpedoing the team's future. Granted, it's not Bryant's fault that Buss's brats are idiots. But it is his fault that he is the biggest douche to dribble a basketball since Michael Jordan. While I'm sure I'm not the first to compare Black Mamba to His Airness, the similarities are too-much to resist. So, here goes:

\* Both did shit in the NBA until Phil Jackson (who's been banging Buss's dim bulb brat Jeanie since 1999!) rolled into town and declared himself sheriff. Under the "Zen Master", Jordan went 6-0 the in NBA Finals; Bryant went 5-1.

\* Both have dabbled in showbiz. Jordan lent his name and image to the worst cartoon show in human history ("*ProStars*"), then did the worst movie featuring a pro athlete in human history ("*Space Jam*") for shits and giggles. While Bryant has somehow managed to avoid doing shitty movies or shitty cartoon shows, he did do Jordan one-"better" by cutting an album for Sony which was so shitty, it never saw the light of day.

\* Both are players off the court -- proving NO ONE in the sports world has learned jack from the Misadventures of Magic Johnson's Johnson! Jordan ponied up \$168 million to his ex-wife, whom he married in Las Vegas 18 months after their son was born, and after she threatened to slap him with a paternity suit. Kobe ponied up \$4 million for an 8-carat purple diamond ring for Trophy Wife after he was busted in 2003 for assaulting a female employee at the Colorado resort he was staying at for an operation. Despite the ma\$\$ive apology (after a teary-eyed Black Mamba begged a stone-faced Trophy Wife for forgiveness in the most-bizarre press conference ever), his roving eye kept roving, and she filed for divorce in 2011. He made sure they patched things up; as there is no pre-nup, Kobe has million\$ of rea\$on\$ to make sure that she remains Mrs. Black Mamba.

\* Both put the "I" in "team". Jordan called his teammates "my supporting cast"; punched "cast" members Steve Kerr, Jud Buechler, and Will Perdue during practices; and ordered his "supporting cast" not to pass to Bill Cartwright in the final minutes of games. Bryant was a notorious ball hog who sucker-punched Samaki Walker over a \$100 gambling debt; ran Shaquille O'Neal out of town; and yelled at GM Mitch Kupchak during a practice regarding his 2014 "supporting cast": "These motherfuckers ain't doing shit for me!"

\* Both are world-class pricks. Jordan invited his high school coach Clifton Herring to Chicago for his 1994 retirement ceremony, introducing him as the man who "cut" him (in fact, he assigned Jordan to JV so he wouldn't ride the bench on varsity). After the crowd booed, Jordan told them how Herring helped His Airness work on his game, quipping: "He knew he made a mistake". But Bryant, once again, did Jordan one-"better" by having his peeps leak the name of the girl who accused him of assault and making her life hell.

\* Neither has ever been accused of "giving back". After O'Neal signed with the Lakers, he went to South Central dressed up as Santa and passed out toys to needy kids. Black Mamba wouldn't be caught dead doing such a thing; double-ditto, His Airness!

Jackson noted in his book "11 Rings": "Kobe was hell-bent on surpassing Jordan as the greatest player in the game". He introduced Bryant to Jordan before their first game against each other: "After they shook hands, the first words out of Kobe's mouth were, 'You know I can kick your ass one-on-one.'" Mamba Out!

UPDATE: Bryant, his daughter, and 7 others were killed in a helicopter crash outside of Calabasas, California [January 26, 2020]