

High Ball

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Logline

An eager climber adventures in to the woods to climb a seemingly massive boulder, however, this rock is more of a challenge than he thought.

Characters

Ethan- A young-gun climber who is ready to up his bouldering skills. He is eagerly determined, but not as skilled as he thinks he is. However, he is open to growth and progression. He also grunts a lot when he tries hard, a signature trait.

Concept

Climbers tend to underestimate or overestimate their abilities. Through challenging climbs, or "projects," they are able to test their limits. This film comedically challenges the pressure climbers put on themselves to perform in these intense environments.

Synopsis

In Crested Butte, a climber, Ethan, is a local young gun stoked about all things rock climbing. On a whim, he decides he is ready to climb a high ball, which is a very tall bouldering route that you do not use protective gear to ascend.

Ethan arrives at the trailhead and preps for his day. He looks at his phone to see what he is looking for, and unpacks his crash pad and other climbing gear from his car. He begins his hike to the climb.

Ethan approaches the climb and nervously lays out his pad and puts on his climbing shoes. He chalks up, shakes out his arms, and begins to climb. The viewer watches him struggle up the route as he grunts and pulls hard on the holds. After an intense few minutes, he tops out on the boulder only to find that it was two feet off the ground. He sighs and shrugs before casually stepping off the rock and walking away.

Genre

Comedy, Adventure

Themes

Determination, Overestimation, Courage

Shot List

Shot 1

The frame fades in from black to show a car pulling up to a trailhead. The camera cuts to the car parking, and the door opening up. We cut to ETHAN, emerging from his vehicle. He pulls out his phone, and the camera pans to it. He is on the climbing app, Mountain Project, and is looking at a high ball climb. He glances at it and puts the phone in his pocket before opening his trunk.

Shot 2

The camera is looking out from the trunk. We see Ethan pull out a crash pad and shoes from his trunk. He closes the trunk and the shot cuts.

Shot 3

Various B-roll of Ethan walking up the trail. We see him walking from above and then cut to his shoes crunching leaves as he goes up. Finally, we see him emerge into the bouldering area from the trees.

Shot 4

The camera pans low to Ethan laying out his pads and putting on his climbing shoes. The camera has various moments that cut close to his eyes, nervously looking up at the boulder. The camera zooms out and he stands up to climb. The viewer still has not seen the climb in full and the camera cuts close to Ethans shoes walking towards the rock.

Shot 5

The next shots are highly zoomed in moments of Ethan climbing. The viewer sees intimate moments of his fingers gripping the rock fiercely, his shoes pressing hard on the small footholds, and his face making intense expressions. These shots are cut short and fast paced as they transition from one another.

Shot 6

The camera pans to Ethan finally topping out on the climb. The camera cuts to the boulder center. However, it is only a foot or two tall. Ethan is standing on top of it center. The shot is stagnant, and Ethan sighs before stepping off the boulder. The shot cuts to black before showing the title "High Ball" in all caps type face and playing intense rap/rock music.