

Happy Father's Day

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. GARAGE DRIVEWAY - DAY

An old, urban looking neighborhood, we see a basketball rolling down the streets. BIANCA (17), stops the ball with her foot.

Down the street we see several houses that all look identical, broken windows, graffiti everywhere, dry lawns. Four KIDS (8-10), are playing on the street with a beaten up basketball. They're shooting the ball into a plastic basket that has been attached to a pole with a cardboard plate.

Bianca smiles as she watches the kids. She turns around and shoots a three pointer into her basketball hoop. She throws ball after ball, each one going through the hoop perfectly.

Bianca takes a few steps back and stops right where the driveway begins. Standing still in an athletic position, knees bent 90 degrees, she eyes the basket for a few seconds. The wind breezes through her hair. At this moment, it's only her and the basketball hoop.

The basketball is just about to leave her hands. Suddenly, her phone rings, breaking her trance. She shrugs, and takes out her phone.

INTERCUT - FACE TIME CONVERSATION

Bianca answers with a silly face.

NINA (17) responds with a different silly face. The two girls break into laughter.

Nina sighs at Bianca.

NINA

Wow, you still out there? We just got out of practice.

BIANCA

I just wanna be on my top game on Sunday.

Nina is walking around her room and throws herself in her bed.

NINA

Yeah but you always are.

Bianca looks up at the basket for a beat.

BIANCA

It's different this time though. It's our last game.

Nina does a fake sad face.

NINA

I know. So sad.

Bianca smirks at Nina.

BIANCA

Hey, by the way, you wanna go to waffle house after the game?

Nina sits up in her bed, and looks around awkwardly.

NINA

Shit, I can't. Sunday's Father Day and me and my dad have this tradition where we go out to eat somewhere.

BIANCA

Oh. Yeah. Sure.

NINA

It's stupid really. We can go Saturday if you want.

BIANCA

Don't worry about it. I have to go though, I'll talk to you later!

Bianca hangs up and stares at the black screen on her phone.

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE - DAY

Bianca walks into the kitchen with the basketball in her hand.

MISTY (37) a beautiful woman, looking much younger than she actually is. She's humming a song as she's cooking with her back turned towards Bianca.

The chair squeaks as Bianca sits down by the kitchen table. Misty jumps, and turns around. Misty rolls her eyes.

MISTY

Do you really need to bring that ball

inside?

Bianca doesn't answer. With the ball in her lap, she starts tapping on the table with her fingers. Making a patterned beat.

Misty gazes at her daughter.

MISTY

What's wrong?

Bianca still tapping away on the table.

MISTY

You nervous about Friday? Listen, you're gonna do great. Coach Terry told me there's gonna be at least 5 scouters and you already--

BIANCA

--You know Sunday is Father's Day?

Misty tilts her head in surprise, uncomfortable with the question.

MISTY

No. No I didn't. We better get Grandpa something.

Misty goes back to her cooking.

Bianca's mouth opens as if to say something, but stops herself. She starts tapping the table again, lightly this time.

BIANCA

When was the last time you talked to Dad?

Misty freezes. She still has her back towards Bianca.

MISTY

Why you asking?

BIANCA

Because I am ok. When?

Misty's turns around and leans against the counter.

MISTY

I don't know. 2 years, maybe.

Bianca doesn't answer to this, instead she just looks down at the basketball in her lap.

MISTY

Did he call you?

BIANCA

No.

Misty crosses her arms, her eyes scanning Bianca.

MISTY

Get that basketball out of my kitchen please.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bianca is sitting at her desk, in front of her is an open textbook, but her eyes are fixated on a picture on the wall in front of her.

INSERT - PICTURE

YOUNG BIANCA is wrapped in a MAN's arms. To the side of the wall, is another picture with MISTY, with the same MAN and young Bianca.

BACK TO SCENE

Bianca takes down the picture of her and the man, and half smiles.

She opens up her laptop.

INSERT - LAPTOP SCREEN

Bianca opens a video file.

MONTAGE

The man and young Bianca is playing basketball at the same garage front we saw Bianca play at earlier.

Bianca dribbles with the ball as the man comes from behind and lifts her up towards the basketball hoop, Bianca throws the ball in.

MAN

There you go B!

BACK TO SCENE

Bianca's face is lit up by the blue light coming from the laptop screen. She's watching the video in awe.

Bianca reaches into the draw and pulls out a plastic zip bag full of cards. She takes them out of the bag and starts going through them one by one. As she lays down the cards on her desk we see that it is a series of birthday cards. She opens one of them.

INSERT - BIRTHDAY CARD

15 YEARS OLD

Happy Birthday

To my beautiful girl

Love,

Dad

BACK TO SCENE

Bianca starts tapping with her fingers, her eyes staring deep into the computer screen. The tapping comes to a stop and her mouth slowly curves into smile.

LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Misty is laying on the couch watching tv.

INSERT - TV SCREEN

Keeping Up with the Kardashians episode playing.

BIANCA (O.S.)

Mom?

Misty looks up to find her daughter standing behind the couch.

MISTY

Oh hey, look I made us popcorn.

Misty reaches out the bowl of popcorn towards Bianca.

Without hesitation, Bianca bursts out.

BIANCA  
I want to invite Dad to the game on  
Friday.

Misty sits up straight, and frowns, clearly irritated.

MISTY  
(sharp tone)  
Bianca.

BIANCA  
What? Why can't I invite him?

MISTY  
I don't understand, why is this so  
important to you all of a sudden?

BIANCA  
Because.

MISTY  
Because?

BIANCA  
Because... I feel like I've been  
missing out.

This gets Misty's attention. She tilts her head, and looks at  
at Bianca questionably.

BIANCA (CONT.)  
I just think things would be  
different. If I knew him.

Misty shakes her head and starts laughing lightly.

MISTY  
And what exactly do you think would be  
different?

Bianca walks over and sits on the sofa across from her mom.  
She puts her head in her hands.

Misty gives her a puzzled look.

BIANCA  
Look, you don't get it. You have  
Grandpa and Grandma and they've always  
been there.

Misty and Bianca lock eyes for a beat.

BIANCA

I just know I would be happier. If I had two parents.

Misty eyes drop. This hurts.

BIANCA

(under her breath)

I probably would be a better baller too.

MISTY

Honey. You're already a good--

BIANCA

--Not good enough though.

Misty and Bianca sit silently in the living room, the only sound is the voice of Kim Kardashian in the background.

INT. HALLMARK STORE - DAY

Nina is looking through the stand of "Happy Father's Day" cards. Bianca looks impatiently at Nina as she picks up card after card, only to put it back on the stand.

NINA

So you think he'll show up? Your dad.

BIANCA

I don't know.

Bianca's phone beeps. A text message from her mom.

INSERT - PHONE

"Your dad said he'll try to come. Don't get your hopes up."

BACK TO SCENE

Bianca's entire face lights up.

Nina takes out a card from the stand.

NINA

This one's cute.

Instead of looking at Nina's card, Bianca turns her gaze towards the stand of cards.



EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Misty is sitting in the car tapping her fingers on the steering wheel. She looks at her arm watch and her head drops.

The front door swings open and Bianca runs out the house. She drops an envelope on the ground, and picks it up quickly, putting it in her gym bag.

INT. - CRENSHAW HIGH STADIUM - DAY

Bianca and her basketball team is warming up with layup drills. They're all wearing BLACK Jerseys' that read "CRENSHAW HIGH".

On the opposite side is the other team, lined up in a similar way. They're wearing YELLOW jerseys that read "SUNLAKE HIGH".

The Crenshaw team breaks up around their basketball hoop. On the left side is Bianca, and on the right side is Nina. COACH TERRY, passes the ball to Nina, and she starts dribbling towards the basket. Bianca jogs from the other side, and Nina passes the ball to Bianca. Bianca makes the lay up perfectly.

From the bleachers we hear Misty cheering. Misty is wearing a black "Crenshaw High" t-shirt.

Bianca looks up at her mother and laughs. Nina comes up from behind and wraps her arm around Bianca.

The BUZZER sound echoes through the basketball court. The game is about to start.

INSERT - SCOREBOARD

The scoreboard reads:

HOME 0 GUEST 0

A 2 minute timer starts.

The Crenshaw team is huddled around Coach Terry, who's laying out the game.

Bianca looks up at her mom, and notices Misty glaring and rolling her eyes as a MAN and a YOUNG LADY, sits down a few rows down in front of her. We recognize the man from the video with young Bianca.

Bianca beams up and nods her head towards the bleachers to

Nina. Nina sees the man and gasps in excitement.

On the scoreboard, we see that CRENSHAW HIGH is leading with 62 points, SUNLAKE is behind 15 points.

Bianca dribbles past the Sunlake players and runs towards the basket with no one at her tail. She scores with a perfect layup. The crowd stands up and cheers.

Bianca lifts her arms up, embracing the crowd. She notices her dad standing up with the crowd, whistling and applauding.

Misty pouts and glares at the MAN, unimpressed by his enthusiasm.

Coach Terry waves Bianca in, and sends in another player.

Bianca sits down on the bench, and studies her her dad on the bleachers. He waves at her. She smiles and waves back.

Her dad looks away frantically, and takes out his phone from his pocket.

Bianca's expression turns blank as she notices her dad standing up with the phone in one ear, and his hand covering the other. Him and the young girl push their way through the people, and walk out the stadium.

Misty shuts her eyes and shakes her head in dismay.

INSERT - SCOREBOARD

Home 109

Guest 62

Period 4

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Misty and Bianca sit in the car silently. Bianca is staring out the car window, only her own reflection visible.

Outside, we see Nina and the other GIRLS from the basketball team cheering, as they're leaving the stadium.

MISTY

I'm so sorry baby.

Bianca puts her headphones on, and sinks deep into the car seat.

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BEDROOM

Bianca slams the door after her and throws her gym bag on the floor. She rips down the photo of her and her dad on the wall and throws it in her drawer. She stares in anger at the plastic bag of birthday cards and thrusts the bag in the trash bin.

LIVING ROOM

The room is dark, only a small light coming from the kitchen.

Misty sits on the couch with her face buried in her hands.

She walks into the kitchen and takes out two prepared meals from the freezer.

BEDROOM

INSERT - DIGITAL WATCH

12:00AM

Bianca is laying in her bed, eyes wide open, staring up at the ceiling. She moves around in the bed, trying to find a sweet spot, but ends up back facing the ceiling.

We see Bianca scrolling through her instagram feed. Passing through numerous "Happy Father's Day" posts.

INSERT - PHONE

A post from Nina:

A picture of her and her dad with a caption that reads "I don't know where I would be without you."

BACK TO SCENE

Bianca looks at the picture in agony.

Bianca ignores the post and keeps scrolling. Suddenly she stops at a post from Misty.

INSERT - PHONE

A picture of her and Bianca from the game earlier. The caption reads: "So thankful that I get to call you my daughter."

Bianca smiles and puts her phone to her heart.

INT. BIANCA'S HOUSE - DAY

BEDROOM

Bianca is getting dressed in front of her desk. She looks at the picture of her and her mom on the wall and smiles pleasingly.

Bianca rambles through her gym bag and notices the envelope. She pulls it out slowly.

We can hear Misty humming in the kitchen.

KITCHEN

Misty is standing by the stove cooking bacon and eggs.

Bianca sneaks in, observing her mother in disguise. The chair squeaks as she sits down. Misty jumps.

MISTY

Jesus. You scared me.

Misty tilts her head and looks at her daughter pityingly.

MISTY (CONT.)

I'm sorry about yesterday.

BIANCA

It's okay. I'm fine.

Misty looks at Bianca intently, as if she's searching for something in her eyes.

BIANCA (CONT.)

I have something for you.

Bianca is holding the envelope in her hand.

MISTY

Oh. Okay...

BIANCA

Actually. I should have given it to you yesterday. I just... Well it doesn't matter anymore.

Bianca hands Misty the envelope.

Misty wipes her hands on a table cloth and sits down by the kitchen table across from Bianca.

She opens the envelope and pulls out a card. We see that the front says "Happy Father's Day".

Misty opens the card.

INSERT - CARD

Handwritten are the words:

Happy Fathers Day, Mom.

BACK TO SCENE

Misty looks at her daughter in awe and hugs her tightly.

Bianca's squeezes her eyes shut as she's in her mothers arms. Her mouth curves into a sly smile.

FADE OUT.

