

1 INT. HOME ENTRY WAY - DAY 1

We open to an empty and silent entry way facing the front door. Outside you hear a truck and footstep heading towards the door. A mail slit is in the door.

Mail falls through the mail slit. Father's hand bends down to pick up the mail.

2 INT. JOURNEY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 2

Journey sleep in his bed in a dark room with some morning light shining through. The door creaks open. FATHER (50s, Filipino) throws the opened mail on Journey's face.

Journey flinches and rolls over, half awake.

FATHER

How have you still not picked a school!? Deadline is tomorrow! You're not staying in community college for another five years. It's either Navy or nursing! Flip a coin if decision is so tough.

Father storms out of the room. Journey groans as he rolls in his bed.

3 INT. KITCHEN - LATER 3

FATHER

You procrastinate everything, even your own future!

MOTHER

Hoy, It's an important decision. It takes time.

FATHER

We didn't immigrate here to give them time! We came to give you a future and this is what you do with this gift!

JOURNEY

Well, I was putting it off because I need to meet my adviser.

FATHER

About what? Your sister didn't have to--

(CONTINUED)

JOURNEY

I need to ask about becoming a nurse...for the Navy!

Father and mother gasp. Mother runs up to Journey and hugs him. His spoon falls into the bowl.

FATHER

Well!

Father nods at Journey with approval.

MOTHER

Remember your sister is coming today and you have to pick her up.

JOURNEY

I'll pick her up after class.

Journey looks up from his bowl of cereal and smiles to his parents.

4

EXT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LATER

4

CRACK! Wisdom fails performing a kick flip on his skate board.

JOURNEY

Shit, Wis! You can't do it!

WISDOM

Nah! I did it yesterday! Just no one was around.

Both chuckle. Journey goes back to writing in his journal while Wisdom rides around.

WISDOM

Journey, you writing a new rhyme that no one is going to see or hear?

Journey glances at Wisdom and goes back to writing in his journal.

WISDOM

I got a sick piece I'm reading tonight at the spoken word. I know you coming.

JOURNEY

If I can ditch my sister.

(CONTINUED)

WISDOM

Bring her! She loves me!

JOURNEY

She probably likes you more than me. (mockingly) "You have to be more driven." "You can't be in community college forever."

WISDOM

Well you can't.

JOURNEY

My mom wants me to be a nurse and my dad wants me to join the Navy. I hate blood and I get sea sick.

WISDOM

Your parents are rough, bro. Just come to State and chill with me! My Lit major is...lit.

Wisdom goes back to trying to do tricks on his skateboard.

5

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

5

Journey sits at a desk in a classroom. Only four other STUDENTS (18-20s, male and female) sit in other desk spread around the classroom. TEACHER (30s) dressed in business casual leans on her desk in front of the class.

TEACHER

Class dismissed. Turning in your new writings in the drop box and I have your graded pieces.

The students all get up and in single file drop off their papers and get handed their old papers from the Teacher who is shuffling through them.

Journey gets his paper and in red pen the teacher's comments read:

Great work! A+

Loved your use of metaphors here

Watch the comma usage

Great comparison!

END.

Journey chucks the paper in his backpack. RING! He check his phone and exits the classroom.

6 INT. CAR - LATER

6

Journey pulls his car up to the airport curb. His SISTER, Ashley, (20s) waits at the curb with a single small bag. He parks the car and gets out to hug her on the curb. He grabs her bag and throws it into his back seat. Both get into the car.

JOURNEY

You hungry?

Journey stares at her.

7 EXT.

7

Journey and his sister eat lunch together.

JOURNEY

I could be a doctor. We don't have a doctor in the family.

ASH

We will, cousin Paul got into medical school this semester.

JOURNEY

Well then the Navy it is! The Village People made it look like fun.

Both laugh.

ASH

Then we can be stationed together when I enlist in a couple more years.

Journey looks down at his food and just keeps eating. RING! RING! RING! Journeys phone starts getting a bunch of text at once.

ASH

Damn, who's blowing up your phone?

Journey checks his phone to read the messages.

JOURNEY

It's just Wisdom, he wants me to go to his spoken word thing.

(CONTINUED)

ASH

Let's go! I love Wis!

Journey scoffs as he finishes eating his food.

8

INT. CAFE - LATER

8

Journey and Ash sit at a table in the crowded cafe. Wisdom is on stage.

WISDOM

(Ending of his Spoken Word Poetry)

The crowd snaps. Wisdom rushes off stage and sits with Journey and Ash.

ASH

That was brilliant!

Wisdom shucks off the compliment. A PRESENTER walks onto the stage.

PRESENTER

Alright we're going to have a two minute break and then next we will have Journey Pagsanjan.

Presenter walks off.

JOURNEY

What are they talking about, Wis?

WISDOM

You have a book full of poems and they are way better than me. Read your damn stuff, man!

JOURNEY

I'm not doing it!

WISDOM

Fine then I'll do it!

Wisdom snatches Journey's backpack and grabs his journal. Journey tries to snatch it back. Wisdom rushes on stage but Journey doesn't follow.

WISDOM

I'm going to be reading for Journey. [Spoken word happens]

Journey slumps further in his chair. Ash jumps up on stage and takes the book from Wisdom. Journey perks up.

(CONTINUED)

ASH  
[spoken word happens more]

Journey shrinks further into his seat.

ASH  
[more spoken word but stumbles on a word] This is what you think? [more spoken word]

JOURNEY (O.S)  
[starts reciting the spoken word with Ash]

Journey stands up from his chair. Ash and Wisdom stop.

JOURNEY  
[continues the spoken word]

The crowd snaps and applauds him.

9

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

9

Journey and his sister walk through the front door. Mother is putting dinner on the table and Father is sitting at the head of the table.

FATHER  
Just in time! Come, come!

Father gestures them over. Sister goes over first and hugs Mother and Father before taking a seat. Journey strolls over to the table.

MOTHER  
What did the adviser say, Jordan?

JOURNEY  
About that...

ASH  
He couldn't go. We only have so much sibling bonding time.

Ash wraps her arm around Journey.

FATHER  
But the deadline is tomorrow!  
Bastos mo Jordan! You don't think!

MOTHER  
Can you message them to give you more time?

(CONTINUED)

JOURNEY

I don't need more time. I'm going to State.

FATHER

Following your sister?

ASH

I think what Journey--

JOURNEY

No.

FATHER

No? What no?

JOURNEY

I'm not following Ash. I'm going to State to study Literature. I'm doing poetry.

MOTHER

Poetry? What can you do with poetry? Only 1% of poets make money.

FATHER

No. You join the Navy or nursing school. We aren't paying for poetry.

JOURNEY

Be that way, I'm still going for poetry.

ASH

He's really good, mom and dad!

MOTHER

Anak, you can't make money from this. Do you want to rely on us your whole life?

FATHER

Your twenty-five, you do nothing but hang out with your junkie friend, you have no relationship, no job, and no future. Your the oldest and you've wasted it.

Journey storms into his room.

10 INT. JOURNEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 10  
 Journey packs his things into a bag. He glances at his computer that is turned on.

11 INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 11  
 Journey storms out of the house with a bag. He ignores his family.

12 INT. COMPUTER - JOURNEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 12  
 Journey's computer screen is open to the State school acceptance page. The page reads:  
 Congratulations! We welcome to you the Class of 2018.

13 INT. JOURNEY'S BEDROOM - DAY 13  
 BEGIN MONTAGE:  
 1. Day 1: Mother walks into Journey's room with folded clothes in a laundry basket.  
 2. Day 2: offscreen you can hear a television playing loudly while Journey's room is still empty.  
 3. Day 3: Mother makes Journey's bed.  
 END MONTAGE.

14 INT. JOURNEY'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON 14  
 Journey rushes into his room and dumps his dirty clothes on the floor. He shoves new clothes in his backpack. His Mother strolls into his room.

MOTHER  
 Where have you been? You had me worried!

JOURNEY  
 At Wisdom's house.

MOTHER  
 When are you coming home, anak?

JOURNEY  
 Don't think I am. I'm just staying with Wisdom until State starts.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER

I read one of your poems.

JOURNEY

You went through my stuff!?

MOTHER

No, Ashley showed me one. Don't raise your voice at me, anak. I'm trying to be nice.

JOURNEY

I'm upset. I'm not raising my voice.

MOTHER

I thought it was good but I don't see how you can make money and have a future with this.

JOURNEY

This makes me happy though!

MOTHER

But money gives you stability.

JOURNEY

I can do a lot with a Literature major. I can do journalism, teach, write books! I talked to one of my professors and they can get me an internship at a publishing company. I can do this...with or without you.

MOTHER

I don't understand Literature but I love you.

Journey and Mother embrace.

Journey leaves the room and Mother sits on his bed. She looks around the room and she see's a flyer for Spoken Word Poetry for the following day.

15

INT. CAFE - NIGHT

15

Journey is walking onto the stage and before he starts speaking he notices Ash and his parents entering the cafe. He makes contact with them as they take a seat.

Journey coughs out of nervousness. He takes a sip of his water and looks at his parents one last time.

(CONTINUED)

JOURNEY  
[spoken words happen]

He stumbles as he delivers his first line. He takes one final cough and he continues.

As Journey is speaking he looks towards his family. He notice his mom and Ash listening intensely. His mother grabs a tissue to wipe up her tears. However, when Journey looks at his father and he has his arms crossed together against his chest and a disappointed look on his face.

Journey looks away and focuses back to the crowd. Journey then turns back to his dad who now has his head down and rubbing his forehead. His dad gets up looks at Journey and heads out the door. Journey starts to cry as he watches his dad exist out the cafe.

16

EXT. CAFE - NIGHT

16

Journey, Ash, and their mother walk out of the cafe with Journey in the middle with both arms around his mom and sister.

When they get to the car they see their dad standing at the end of their car. He stands by a license plate that says "STATE COLLEGE FATHER" and we see that he is holding a composition notebook.

Journey walks ahead of his mother and Ash towards his father. His father looks at him with the composition notebook and he tosses it towards Journey.

Journeys father grins at him and they continue to stare at each other awkwardly.

End.