

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

DADDY, mid-20s, tousled hair, bearded, comfortable clothes walks into living room. Opens mouth wide and yawns.

LITTLE GIRL, 3, cute kid clothes, alternates attention between toys and animated puppies on TV.

DADDY

Good morning, cutie. I love you.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Aww, I love you too.

Daddy laughs.

DADDY

Well, I love you, too, but I was talking to her.

MAMA

Oh sure...I see how it is.

LITTLE GIRL

Mama has to go to work.

Little Girl runs towards bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

MAMA, mid-20s, professional clothes, stands in front of bathroom mirror. Applies makeup.

MAMA

Yes, I have to go to work today,
but when I get home we'll play some
more.

Little Girl pushes herself against Mama's leg. Mama uses one hand to hug her.

LITTLE GIRL

I wanna be pretty like you.

MAMA

You don't need makeup to be pretty,
sweetie.

LITTLE GIRL

I just wanna be pretty like you.

Mama sprinkles some foundation into the lid, grabs a brush and hands it to Little Girl. Little Girl takes her makeup to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Daddy's phone vibrates on the table.

DADDY

Damn it! Who's calling me?

LITTLE GIRL

Damn it.

DADDY

Honey, don't say that. It's a bad word and Daddy shouldn't have said it.

Little Girl tries to put makeup on Daddy. Daddy looks at the phone.

DADDY (CONT'D)

Oh, it's my mom. Give me just a minute. I have to talk to Nana, honey.

Daddy answers phone, activates speaker phone for Mama.

NANA (V.O.)

Sorry for calling, but I'm old and some things need to be told over the phone and not through text.

Daddy rolls his eyes and chuckles. Mama plays with Little Girl and waits for phone call to end.

DADDY

It's okay, Mom. What's up?

NANA (V.O.)

The doctor said the anesthesia has made your grandpa's Alzheimer's worse. He attacked a nurse and has fallen a lot.

DADDY

Ok. What else?

Nana cries over the phone.

NANA (V.O.)

He has to spend a couple weeks in rehab. The doctor said he might qualify for hospice. We'll tell you more when we know more.

DADDY

Ok. Thanks for keeping us updated.

Daddy hangs up.

MAMA

Are you ok?

DADDY

I'm fine.

MAMA

Are you sure? I have to go to work soon, but if you need to talk--

DADDY

I said I'm fine.

MAMA

Ok. I'm gonna leave then. Don't worry about dishes today. Just have fun and we'll have pizza for dinner.

DADDY

Ok. Have a good day at work. We love you.

Mama and Daddy exchange a kiss.

MAMA

Are you sure you're okay?

DADDY

As good as I can be. It's just tough...after losing my grandma at the beginning of this year.

MAMA

I know. I'm sorry it's all happening so fast.

LITTLE GIRL

Mama, I want another hug and I want to watch you leave.

MAMA

Ok, baby, come here.

Mama hugs Little Girl. Little Girl climbs on couch with Daddy. Daddy opens window for Little Girl to watch Mama leave.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Daddy sits in the bathroom with the door shut, places head in hands, sobs.

DADDY
I've got to be strong for my
family.

Little Girl throws door open, hops in with toys in hand.

LITTLE GIRL
Daddy, what's wrong? Why are you
crying?

Daddy wipes his eyes.

DADDY
Nothing, honey.

LITTLE GIRL
Are you sad?

DADDY
I'm ok, sweetie. Let's go play.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Daddy plays video game. Little Girl watches toddler videos on Daddy's phone.

DADDY
Ugh, bullshit!

Daddy slams his palm against his forehead and rubs it. Little Girl puts her palm against her forehead.

LITTLE GIRL
Was the game mean to you?

DADDY
Yeah, honey. It was.

Daddy inhales and exhales.

LITTLE GIRL
Just be happy.

DADDY
You make me happy.

He turns his attention back to the game.

DADDY (CONT'D)
Let's try this again.

Daddy picks up the controller and plays again. Little Girl plays with colorful molding dough. Daddy smiles at Little Girl in between games.

DADDY (CONT'D)
Ahhhhhhhhh!!!

Daddy combines a sigh with a growl and closes the game.

LITTLE GIRL
Ahhhhhhhhh!!!

DADDY
Daddy shouldn't act like that. Do you wanna play?

Daddy sits on the floor with a pile of toys.

LITTLE GIRL
And we don't act like that. Naughty Daddy!

Little Girl giggles, runs, and sits across from Daddy. Daddy chuckles. They play with toys together.

INT. OFFICE NOOK - DAY

Daddy sits at his desk, stares at laptop.

DADDY
I have, literally, zero motivation to finish this homework.

Daddy closes laptop. Little Girl looks over at Daddy and smiles. Daddy smiles back, looks at laptop and frowns. He opens his laptop and types and types. He proofreads his script about his family.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN

SUPER: "Watching You by J. Michael Miller"

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mama arrives home, slips shoes off, squats down and hugs Little Girl. Daddy smiles at Little Girl and Mama.

MAMA

How was your day?

DADDY

She copies everything I do. I almost gave up on my homework, but then I saw who was watching.

MAMA

She's always watching you.

Mama and Daddy look at Little Girl and smile.