

The Pain of the Game

by

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Revisions by

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EXT. PARK - BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT

SPIRIT, 17, practices her three-pointers. LYDIA, 18, catches Spirit's rebounds and passes the ball back to her.

LYDIA

You've been practicing forever.

SPIRIT

The big game is in two days. I gotta be ready.

LYDIA

You just made fifteen shots back-to-back. How much more ready do you need to be?

SPIRIT

Why don't you come over here and guard me? Five more shots, and I'll call it a night.

LYDIA

Fine.

Lydia guards Spirit.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Whether you make these or not, I'm heading home. You already know I have to be up early.

Spirit goes in for a layup, trips over Lydia's foot, hits her shoulder on the ground, and screams.

Lydia hurries to Spirit.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Sis, are you good?

Lydia helps her up.

SPIRIT

(groans)

Yeah, I'm fine. Just gotta ice it when I get home.

LYDIA

Come on. Let's get out of here.

Lydia picks up the basketball. They exit.

INT. GYMNASIUM - MORNING

Lydia runs down the floorboard, flips, and lands it just right. PENNY, 40, Lydia, and Spirit's Mom watches from the sidelines.

The owner of the gym, MISS TRULY, 30, stands next to Penny.

MISS TRULY

Way to land it, Lydia.

PENNY

Thanks for letting Lydia come in so early. (To Lydia) Alright. Let's go. You got schoolwork to get to. You can come back later.

Lydia picks up her gym bag and walks over to Miss Truly and Penny.

LYDIA

Thanks again, Miss Truly.

MISS TRULY

You're welcome, baby.

INT. GYMNASIUM - FRONT DESK AREA - MORNING

Miss Truly leads Penny and Lydia to the door of the front desk area and waves as they exit.

INT. SCHOOL - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Spirit rubs ointment on her bruised shoulder. IZZY, 18, enters and sees Spirit's shoulder.

IZZY

Bro! What happened? You look like you got hit by a truck!

SPIRIT

It's nothing; calm down.

IZZY

Yo! How are you goanna play tomorrow?

SPIRIT

Bro, relax! You're goanna make me have an anxiety attack.

IZZY

Sorry, sorry, sorry. You know what
would be the perfect pick-me-up?
If you came to my film club
meeting tonight, I've seen you
looking at the flyers lately.

Spirit smirks and rolls her eyes.

SPIRIT

I mean, I guess I could swing by.

Izzy jumps around.

IZZY

Yes! Girl, this goanna be the best thing
ever.

INT. SPIRIT AND LYDIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Lydia types on a laptop, turns the laptop off, puts it in
a backpack, and zips it up.

Penny enters.

PENNY

Finish all your work?

LYDIA

Yep. Probably goanna head back to the gym
and get some more practice in.

Lydia walks to the entrance of the kitchen.

PENNY

You find a trainer yet?

Lydia turns around and sighs.

LYDIA

No. I don't get it. I searched online all
day yesterday.

PENNY

You ever think about asking Miss Truly if
she knows anyone?

LYDIA

Oh my gosh, duh. How did I not think of
that?

Lydia embraces Penny.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Thanks, Mom.

Lydia exits.

PENNY

See you later, Honey.

INT. GYMNASIUM - LATE AFTERNOON

Lydia practices her balance beam skills. She lands a few tricks. She flips, slips, and falls off the beam.

Miss Truly enters. Lydia sits, slams her fists on the ground, and grunts. Miss Truly runs over to Lydia.

MISS TRULY

Oh my God. Are you okay?

LYDIA

Yeah, I'm fine. I don't know why I missed that last flip. Guess I need to work on my technique.

MISS TRULY

What? Girl, give yourself a break. Must I remind you of the number of times I've seen you miss a flip? Twice. One last week and just now. You've gotta learn to take it easy on yourself sometimes.

Lydia smirks.

LYDIA

Yeah, I guess you're right.

MISS TRULY

I know I'm right.

LYDIA

Thanks, Miss T.

They hug.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Can I ask? Know anyone that trains for the Olympics.

MISS TRULY

Hmm. I just might. Swing by tomorrow morning and we'll talk.

They hug and Lydia exits.

INT. SCHOOL - FILM ROOM - NIGHT

Spirit, Izzy, and STUDENTS sit in chairs arranged in a circle. The Students chat.

Spirit and Izzy go over to MR. MACK, 40s, the film teacher.

IZZY

Hey, Mr. Mack, this is Spirit.

MR. MACK

Nice to meet you, Spirit. How'd you like the film?

SPIRIT

Oh my gosh, that was the best movie I've ever seen.

MR. MACK

That's great. Glad to hear you liked it. You have any experience with film?

SPIRIT

Actually, I've been helping write the scripts for a couple of plays at my church. I know that's not the same thing but --

MR. MACK

-- No, no, no, that's good. Have you enjoyed that so far?

SPIRIT

Honestly, I've been enjoying it way more than I'd like to admit.

MR. MACK

I see. Think you might be interested in joining the film club? You'd learn a lot about scriptwriting. Actually, you'd learn a lot about the film world as a whole.

SPIRIT

I would, but you see with basketball and everything --

IZZY

-- She would love to.

Spirit scrunches her face at Izzy and smiles at Mr. Mack.

SPIRIT

I'd love to.

MR. MACK

Great. Welcome to film club.

Spirit and Mr. Mack shake hands.

SPIRIT

Thank you.

Spirit checks the time on her phone, panics, and runs out.

INT. SPIRIT AND LYDIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Penny sits on the couch and twists Lydia's hair. Spirit enters and closes the door.

PENNY

(to Lydia)

Honey, why don't you go to your room.

Lydia exits. Penny looks at Spirit.

SPIRIT

I can explain.

PENNY

I don't wanna hear it.

SPIRIT

Izzy invited me to this film club meeting and things lasted longer than expected.

PENNY

Why did you even go in the first place? You're gonna have college scouts at the game tomorrow. You need to be worried about your future.

SPIRIT

But, Mom I have straight A's and I've been practicing like crazy. Everything's under control. I promise. Plus, maybe scriptwriting could be another career choice.

PENNY

You can pursue that later down the road if you want to, but right now, you need to be focusing on getting your basketball scholarship before you graduate.

Spirit groans and storms off.

INT. GYMNASIUM - ATRIUM - DAWN

Lydia sits on the ground by the door, tapping her foot. She looks at the time on her phone, then looks around. She waits a moment longer, then runs to the exit.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Spirit and her TEAMMATES shoot free-throws. COACH DREW, 35, observes from the sidelines.

COACH DREW

Okay, two teams of five. Layups!

A defender guards Spirit, she goes in for a layup, leaps off the ground, and shoots the ball.

She yells, grabs her shoulder, and lands on the floor.

Coach Drew rushes over to her.

COACH DREW (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

SPIRIT

No.

COACH DREW

Let's get you to the nurse.

He escorts her off the court.

INT. SCHOOL - NURSES OFFICE - DAY

Spirit holds an ice pack on her shoulder. Coach Drew and NURSE MIA, 35, sit across from her.

COACH DREW

What do you think happened?

NURSE MIA

It looks like a torn muscle. It's gonna be best that she not play for a while.

Spirit hangs her head.

END SHOW