

The Game Continues

by

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

PENNY storms in and SPIRIT enters in behind her.

SPIRIT

I know how this looks, but everything is gonna be okay.

PENNY

You just missed out on the biggest game of the year. Those scouts were your ticket to get into your dream school.

Penny paces back and forth.

SPIRIT

I know you're worried about me not getting a scholarship, but there will be another game. I can still get those scouts to see me play, and once they do, they'll be begging me to join the team next year.

PENNY

When? You think your shoulder is just gonna heal overnight? Do you remember when Lydia tore the muscle in her shoulder? She had to get surgery, and it took six months for it to fully heal.

SPIRIT

Mom, I know this is a lot but --

PENNY

-- You're right. This is a lot.

Penny sighs.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Just go to your room. We'll talk later.

Spirit exits.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAWN

LYDIA swings on the bar, does a few flips, then flips off the bar, and lands just right.

MISS TRULY enters and watches from the sidelines.

Lydia looks at Miss Truly with a blank face, grabs her gym bag, and heads toward the exit. Miss Truly stops her.

MISS TRULY

Let me explain. I'm sorry, okay? I tried everything I could to get my uncle to come up here and meet with you, but he just wasn't having it.

Lydia sighs, looks away, and looks back at Miss Truly.

LYDIA

Fine. I forgive you.

Miss Truly hugs Lydia and pulls away.

MISS TRULY

Alright. Now I need you to hear me out. I have a plan.

LYDIA

A plan?

MISS TRULY

You thought I was just goanna give up? I was thinking, and I feel like my uncle might agree to train you if we both talk to him. I was thinking lunch at my place, and I could even make him his favorite meal. Think you'd be able to do that?

LYDIA

Honestly, I needed a trainer like yesterday. Count me in.

MISS TRULY

Great. Come over around two. I hope you like tacos.

LYDIA

Sounds like a plan. Thanks, Miss T.

They hug.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

I think I'm goanna hang back for a bit and get a little more practice in.

MISS TRULY

Alright, baby.

Lydia heads over to the equipment.

EXT. SCHOOL - FILM ROOM ENTRANCE - MORNING

IZZY faces Spirit.

IZZY

Wow. Your mom sounds really stressed out.  
Did you ever tell her about film club?

SPIRIT

I told her the other night, and she  
freaked out. The only things she wants me  
focused on are school and basketball.

IZZY

Basketball? You can barely shoot a ball.

SPIRIT

Look, I know my shoulder is jacked up,  
and I probably won't be able to dribble a  
ball till the middle of the year, but the  
last thing I need is my mom finding out  
I'm still involved with film club.

IZZY

So, you're just goanna keep this a  
secret?

SPIRIT

That's the plan.

IZZY

Honestly, I'd love to say I believe in  
you, but this is the worst plan I've ever  
heard. Good luck though.

Spirit glares at Izzy.

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

Lydia types on her computer at the table. Spirit sits  
across from her, filling out a homework packet.

LYDIA

How you feeling about the whole shoulder  
situation? Must suck not being able to  
play basketball.

SPIRIT

You can definitely say that. Plus, I hate  
how it's got Mom all stressed out.

Spirit pours herself a glass of water.

LYDIA

Yeah. Haven't seen her like this since I  
tore that muscle in my shoulder.

Lydia looks at her phone.

LYDIA (CONT'D)  
Hey, can I borrow your charger?

SPIRIT  
Yeah, it's in my backpack.

Lydia grabs the charger out of Spirit's backpack, and sees a folder: "Film Club."

LYDIA  
Film club?

Spirit turns away from her and scrunches up her face. Spirit turns back and faces Lydia.

SPIRIT  
I can explain.

A DOOR SHUTS. FOOT STEPS get closer and closer to them.

PENNY (O.S.)  
Spirit? Lydia?

Spirit snatches the folder from Lydia, stuffs it in her backpack, and zips it up. She sits at the table.

Penny enters.

LYDIA  
Hey, Mom.

Lydia and Penny hug.

PENNY  
Hey, Baby.

Spirit hugs Penny.

SPIRIT  
Hey, Mom.

Lydia puts her computer in her backpack.

LYDIA  
(to Penny)  
Is it okay if I go to Miss T's for lunch? She invited me over to speak to her uncle who used to train athletes for the Olympics.

PENNY  
Of course. Sounds like you might finally be getting a trainer.

LYDIA

Hopefully.

Lydia exits.

PENNY

Well, I'm just stopping by to grab my lunch. Got a lot of clients scheduled at the salon, so I'll be getting home late.

Penny grabs a container of food out of the fridge.

SPIRIT

Alright, well, the basketball team has practice later tonight, and I was thinking about sitting in to support.

PENNY

That's a great idea.

Penny gives Spirit a hug.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Have fun, okay. Love you. See you later.

SPIRIT

Love you.

Penny exits.

Spirit sighs and rests her head on the table.

INT. MISS TRULY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

NATE, 50, Lydia, and Miss Truly sit at a table. They each have a plate of tacos and take bite.

NATE

Listen, that's enough about me. What about you?

LYDIA

Well, I fell in love with gymnastics when I was four years old. On my seventh birthday my mom got me this real big ice cream cake, and when it was time for me to blow the candles, I wished to one day make it to the Olympics. I'd seen Gabby Douglas kill it at the Olympics that year, and thought if she could do it, so could I.

Miss Truly's eyes fill with tears.

LYDIA (CONT'D)

Once I turned fourteen my mom and I knew I was going to need a trainer, so I started homeschooling online, and got a part-time job bagging groceries to save up. My mom and I have finally saved up enough money to pay for a trainer and --

NATE

Let me guess. You want me to train you.

Lydia is at the edge of her seat.

NATE (CONT'D)

Well, I don't know if it's the tacos or that tear jerker of a story you just threw at me, but I'm feeling oddly generous.

LYDIA

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

NATE

Hold your horses. Qualifying for the Olympics is extremely challenging. You sure you're ready?

LYDIA

I don't wanna do anything else.

NATE

Alright, then. Let's go.

LYDIA

Right now?

NATE

Yeah. I gotta see what I'm working with.

MISS TRULY

You wanted this. Now you gotta work for it.

Lydia jumps up and does a little happy dance.

NATE

Come on now. I'm sure we got a lot of work to do.

They head out.

INT. SCHOOL - FILM CLUB - NIGHT

Spirit, Izzy, and the STUDENTS put away their chairs.

IZZY

How'd you pull off swinging by this time?

SPIRIT

My mom thinks I'm sitting in on the basketball team's practice. I told her I wanted to support them.

IZZY

I'm impressed. Wow. Never thought I would say that.

They grab their things and head toward the exit.

SPIRIT

You know, I really love how supportive you are of me.

They laugh and exit.

EXT. SCHOOL - FILM ROOM ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Penny enters and runs into Spirit and Izzy.

SPIRIT

Mom! What are doing here?

PENNY

A client canceled, so I thought I'd swing by to support you and the team. A better question is, why aren't you at the gym?

SPIRIT

They ended up wrapping things early, so I decided to meet up with Izzy.

PENNY

Izzy. Is this true?

IZZY

Yeah. Totally. But, I actually need to head home, so I'll see you guys tomorrow.

Izzy exits in a hurry.

MR. MACK opens the film room door.

MR. MACK

Hey, Spirit.

Spirit whips her body around.