

A GOOD DAY

INT. DINING ROOM -DAY

We see a large table with a lace table cloth over it. There are several items on the table that indicate a quaint set of refreshments for two..tea and cookies...tea cups, plates, cloth napkins, silver spoons. A vase of flowers sits in water as sunlight filters through the lace curtains. It is homey.

An unseen hand pours tea into a tea cup and beyond the rim of it we see a brown skinned man, SONNY. Young, handsome...distracted.

An older AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENTLEMAN crosses by the edge of the table. In his large weathered hands is a large old photo-album. It has a leather cover that reads "Treasured Memories" and is tied up with black strings.

He sits and gives a wry little smile, unties the laces and begins to slowly turn the pages.

That smile adds a warm crease to his lined face and a small chuckle of delight escapes to hang in the air.

PAPPY

C'mon Sonny. Drink up. Yes,
sir...That was a good day.

Over his shoulder we see baby pictures of a cute AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOY. It's Sonny.

PAPPY (CONT'D)

The day you were born...A
blessing. That's what you are. So
cute.

Sonny gives a polite smile to Pappy.

The pages keep turning slowly.

PAPPY (CONT'D)

Here's one. I remember that day.
There was singing and clapping.
Just like a little man, you were.

INT. CHURCH -DAY

A LITTLE BOY, Sonny, is slowly walking down the aisle of a church. The people beside him are clapping and singing. We don't really hear them.

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He gets to the front of the church and kneels with his hands folded. A large hand comes and gently lands on his head.

After a moment, the boy looks up and smiles at the pastor. Sonny then turns and catches his MOM's eye. She is smiling with tears in her eyes. Although we see mom say the words, we hear Pappy's voice...

PAPPY (V.O.)

I'm so proud of you.

MOM

(silently)

I'm so proud of you!

INT. DINING ROOM -DAY

Another page is flipped. We see Sonny in junior high school now. He is flexing his muscles, smiling in a picture.

INT. JR. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -DAY

We see Sonny a young teen boy, not quite a man. He is walking down the hall with a few books in his hands. He is talking to a friend when he is pushed from behind and falls.

A tall gangly kid steps forward.

CHAZ

Hey, sorry bout that!

A smirk crosses his mug.

SONNY

That's okay...

Chaz extends his hand to help him up and starts to pull him forward but he lets go. Sonny loses his balance and falls on his butt.

CHAZ

Oops...What's the matter?

He continues to laugh. Sonny slowly rises and faces the Bully face to face.

Chaz squares off like a fight is about to happen when Sonny speaks.

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SONNY

Must be hard being you, Chaz.

The little crowd that gathered for the altercation now turns on Chaz.

Sonny shakes it off and walks away. The seriousness of his tone makes Chaz the Bully back off as well.

INT. DINING ROOM -DAY

PAPPY

Unique kid. Definitely one of a kind. It goes so quickly, don't it?

Another page and we see a boy at College Graduation. The smiles in the cap and gown are real and genuine.

PAPPY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Ah...Now THAT was a good day...Exercising your mind. Majored in Theater.

INT. DINING ROOM -DAY/PHOTO ALBUM PAGES

We see the pages of the photo album flip slowly by. Pictures of Sonny's life with smiling faces and moments with friends and family...weddings, camp...life.

PAPPY

It's all about the blessings, huh, Sonny?

SONNY

If you say so.

INT. DINING ROOM -DAY

Sonny is sitting at his end of table silently staring at the place in front of him.

Pappy has his eyes on the pages. A slight smile is on his face as he turns the pages and points to various pictures.

PAPPY

Hahaaa, boy! Makes me laugh everytime that one...Yes, sir!

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SONNY
(under his breath)
This is a waste of time.

PAPPY
It's never a waste of time.

Pappy looks up from his album and across the table at Sonny.

Pappy folds his hands across his stomach and leans back in the chair.

PAPPY (CONT'D)
It's just good to see you. I miss you when you don't drop in.

SONNY
I've been busy...Lot goin on.

Silence fills the air as they stare at each other for a moment. Pappy smiles.

PAPPY
C'mon...Pull your chair closer, over here by me and we can...

SONNY
I can't do this.

Sonny gets up and crosses the room into the living room. Pappy gets up to follow.

PAPPY
You in a hurry? Got somewhere to be?

Sonny plops down onto the couch in a heap.

Pappy looks at Sonny and gets up. He takes the Album and places it on the table near the end where Sonny is sitting. Pappy pulls the side chair over toward the end of the table. He moves the album closer to Sonny, re-opens it and begins to slowly turn the pages again.

INT. DINING ROOM -DAY

Pappy's eyes are alive and sparkling. He obviously cares a great deal for Sonny as he opens the album again.

PAPPY
You know, Sonny, I can't help you if you don't tell me what's wrong.

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Just then something catches his eyes.

PAPPY (CONT'D)

Look at this boy! HA-ha! That was a great day. Yes it was. Fulfillin your dreams. Goin to California. Great Day, yes it was!

The picture is of Sonny and a packed car with LA or Bust written on the back window in shoe polish.

EXT. DRIVE WAY -DAY

His trunk is nearly closed and Sonny hops on it for that last effort to lock it in place.

Just then a snap is heard when lid clicks shut.

MOM

What was that?

SONNY

I don't know. I guess I'll find out when I get to California.

MOM

Now, you better be stopping at your uncle's in Texas. And you better call me before you move on okay? I just want to make sure that you're all right.

SONNY

Oh, mom...You know I will.

MOM

And follow your dreams and don't let anything or anybody tell you different, okay?

SONNY

I won't...

MOM

And watch out for those women out there in Los Angeles.

SONNY

I will. I love you mom.

MOM

I love you too...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOM (CONT'D)

I'm so proud of you!

CROSS DISSOLVE

PAPPY

I'm so proud of you!

INT. LIVING ROOM -DAY

Pappy is still smiling on that one. Sonny is sullen.

SONNY

She was always so sweet and caring.

PAPPY

She taught you well Sonny.

INT. OFFICE -DAY

The photo comes to life again this time it is not a picture of childhood fun or happiness. There is stress and pain on the faces in the photo. A plaque on the corner says M. Blankenship and hard boiled agent is seated behind a desk.

MR. B.

Listen, Sonny. I don't know if I can keep you on. Your head's not in the game.

SONNY

Mr. B, I booked that guest spot on that show with...

MR. B.

Last season. You can't turn down roles at this stage in your career. Murderers, rapist, pimps, look everybody does 'em.

SONNY

(under his breath)

I don't...

MR. B.

What was that? You can pick up your headshots on the way out.

The phone rings and the agent answers...

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MR. B. (CONT'D)

B here. Yes, I got the contracts
yesterday...We're golden.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY -DAY

PAPPY (V.O.)

That was a good day.

SONNY (V.O.)

All I needed was a break.

PAPPY (V.O.)

You got it, boy.

Sonny passes a trash can in the hallway and we see a huge
stack of headshots hit the door of it.

Suddenly, Sonny returns to retrieve them.

EXT. SIDEWALK -DAY

Sonny walks through the door of the office building butt
first. It swings hard and when he turns he is off balance
and literally falls into a beautiful young lady, RUTH.

The contents in his hands go flying, Sonny tries to grab
onto the only thing that seems stable, Ruth's arm. She
loses her balance and falls nearly on top of him.

She tries to get up but slips on a mound of headshots and
falls into him again. It is all too funny. She laughs.
Then he laughs.

She picks up a photo and looks at it.

RUTH

Let me guess...Actor, right?

SONNY

You?

RUTH

No...Executive Assistant to Mr.
Hamilton...You know, Hamilton
Casting.

SONNY

(with Ruth)
...milton Casting.

She pauses and looks at the photo and then at Sonny. She
smiles. He smiles.

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INT. LIVING ROOM -DAY

The next picture is obviously a wedding and then honeymoon.

PAPPY

Now that was a blessed day! Two lives comin together.

SONNY

No one is as beautiful as Ruth.

Pappy steps back in with the tea tray and sets it on the coffee table.

He sits in his favorite chair with the steaming teacup in his hand.

PAPPY

Things moved very fast then, didn't they? What happened Sonny?

The Pictures start to flash behind him as a surreal background. One is Sonny in front of a Studio with his face on a huge poster announcing his TV show.

Another is a picture of Sonny holding his child. Contrasted with a picture of his hugging another woman.

SONNY

I was distracted. Things just out of control.

PAPPY

Lost your focus?

The pictures keep flashing. Sonny in a really expensive car in front of a huge house.

A tabloid headline "Sonny Caught in the Act!" His face nearly hidden by his hand with a woman not his wife next to him.

A filing for divorce moves past.

Another is, "Sonny Not So Funny, His Show Cancelled."

SONNY

It was like dominos. One down...then another and another.

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PAPPY

You could have asked for help
anytime. You know that..

The Album is laying open to a sympathy card. "On the loss
of your Mother..." Sonny looks down and begins to touch
it.

PAPPY (CONT'D)

Why didn't you call her back?

INT. BEDROOM ROOM -DAY

Sonny is sitting beside his mother's bed with his head
down on the edge. Suddenly he feels his mother's hand
caress his hair as she whispers...

MOM

I'm so proud of you.

He snaps up and looks at his mother's face, relaxed and
beautiful and feels the weight of her loss.

INT. LIVING ROOM -DAY

Pappy begins to smile broadly and rhythmically nods his
head as he speaks with a weighted joy

PAPPY

Now THAT was the most glorious
day!

Sonny is clinched in his seat.

SONNY

Glorious day? What is so glorious
on that day? Huh? Answer me!

Pappy looks a little stunned but emotional as he recalls
that day.

PAPPY

My daughter came home!

Sonny bolts up off the couch.

SONNY

In one month, I lost my career, my
wife and child and then the one
person that was always there for
me! Glorious?

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SONNY (CONT'D)

I won't do this any more.

Sonny gets to the door and touches the handle.

PAPPY

You don't lose those things that truly matter.

This stops Sonny from leaving.

PAPPY (CONT'D)

Sit down son. You don't want to go before the best part.

Sonny slowly turns toward Pappy.

The Album is still open but now the pictures of changed to white blank photo sized cards.

Sonny glances over at them.

SONNY

They're empty.

Pappy runs his hands over the top of them and faintly you see pictures rise and fall under his touch.

PAPPY

No, they're simply not filled.
This book is yours, son. Make me proud.

Pappy places the book on Sonny's lap, then rises and goes toward the door.

PAPPY (CONT'D)

Now today was a good day! Yes, sir. Almost glorious if you ask me.

Pappy picks up the tea tray and moves toward the kitchen and leaves Sonny sitting there with the album on his lap.

He turns to a blank page and looks at the white picture. A tear falls on the surface and color begins to appear.

It slowly develops to a picture of Sonny and his family together again. There is a small cross hanging around his neck.

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Matthew 6:20-21 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.