

TEAR DROP (MUSICAL)

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EXT. BUCKHEAD NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

MUSIC CUE: "BABY BASH - SUGA SUGA"

A LEXUS drives through one of the wealthiest suburb in Atlanta with numerous MANSION on both sides of the street. An old woman walks her GREYHOUND DOG on the sidewalk and a CADILLAC ESCALADE backs out one of the driveways but stops at the roadway edge. A YOUNG COUPLE jogs close by the curve. The Lexus drives pass the SMITH RESIDENT where a ROLLS ROYCE & CORVETTE sits in the driveway of the resident. The MOVERS get the truck situated and close the back door.

INT. THE SMITH RESIDENTS - DAY

RAYMOND stands in front of the bathroom sink brushing his teeth in the MIRROR. DONALD turns off the TV and walks to the bottom of the stairs. He looks at his ROLEX before calling Raymond. He shakes his head.

DONALD

Hey son! Are you ready yet?

INTERCUT:

Raymond spits in sink and yells.

RAYMOND

Just a minute dad! I'll be out in a sec.

DONALD

Come on son, the movers are waiting.

Raymond washes out his mouth out. He walks out the bathroom and grabs his backpack out his room. He reaches for his hairbrush and walks downstairs brushing the waves in his HAIR.

RAYMOND

I'm coming, I'm coming.

DONALD

You still haven't told me why you haven't picked Harvard?

Raymond gets to the bottom of the stairs. They both walk into the kitchen. Donald sips on his coffee while Raymond says his line.

RAYMOND

Dad, relax! Your money is the reasons why you have connections up there.

DONALD

How about Winston Salem? Not too far from home and it's an institution I favor.

RAYMOND

I want to try something different. Clark is where I want to go. That's right up my alley.

DONALD

Up your alley?

RAYMOND

I want to be normal for once dad. See! If you weren't so busy with work, you'd know these things.

DONALD

I made sacrifices to make sure this family didn't struggle. You wouldn't have half this if you grew up the way I did.

RAYMOND

Dad, to be honest. I could care less about this. I stop hanging out with my family because of you. Do you know how that makes me feel when they call me the spoil rich kid?

DONALD

I just don't want you influenced by the wrong crowd. That's all.

RAYMOND

They're family dad!

DONALD

So what are you trying to say?

RAYMOND

We should stick together no matter what our circumstances are. Money shouldn't separate us.

DONALD

Sit down son.

They sit down.

RAYMOND

Here comes the lecture me.

DONALD

I know the separation between your mother and I was tough on you. But I still have love for that woman.

RAYMOND

But you stay distance from me.

DONALD

I've done everything in my power to make you happy son.

RAYMOND

It's not the fancy things I want, I want that family bond my cousin has!

DONALD

Being a lawyer for the biggest airline in Atlanta is demanding. On top of all my other wealthy clients.

RAYMOND

You don't have to protect me anymore dad. I'm old enough to do bad all by myself.

DONALD

I wish I could spend more time with you. But I'm always one phone call away.

RAYMOND

Are we done here?

DONALD

I'm done if you're done.

RAYMOND

Thanks for the pep talk.

Raymond stands up and grabs his bag off the floor before walking to the door. Donald grabs his suit jacket off the back of the empty chair next to him and walks towards the front door. Raymond puts his bag in the passenger seat. Donald locks the door behind him before walking to his Rolls Royce. Raymond gets in his Corvette and winds down the window.

DONALD

And Raymond, no house parties when  
I'm gone. Please!

RAYMOND

Yes dad. Now move that tank so I be  
on time for school.

Donald gets in his Rolls Royce and pulls out the driveway.  
The movers follow Raymond in his Corvette as they drive down  
the street.

INT. DOOLITTLE'S RESIDENCE - DAY

MICHAEL and DANNY sit in the living room relaxing after  
breakfast. His little brother LYRIC sit next to him playing  
his Nintendo Switch. Danny sit there reading the newspaper  
while Michael flips through the channel.

DANNY:

You still taking that test today?

MICHAEL

Oh yeah! Almost forgot.

Michael turns off the TV and puts down the remote. He stands  
up and grabs his backpack off the floor. He finish the last  
piece of toast on his plate.

LYRIC

I don't know how you forget when  
you've been so called studying.

MICHAEL

Shut up Lyric!

LYRIC

I'm just saying stop spending time  
with your car and focus on school.

DANNY:

Now boys! No need to go at each others' throat.

LYRIC (CONT'D)

I'm gonna help mom.

Lyric gets up and walks to the kitchen.

MICHAEL  
Yeah! You do that.

DANNY:

You know how little brothers are.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
I don't understand why he has to be  
nosy and arrogant.

DANNY:

It's a normal thing son. Growing up. Your uncle was the same way.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Like a plague.

DANNY:

A test after break, that's doesn't make any sense to me.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
It's continuation class.  
(Pats pockets)

DANNY:

You got everything?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
I believe so.

DANNY:

Son. We're proud of you. Just keep it up. You'll make it to the finish line

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Thanks pop!

Michael throws it over his back and grabs his car keys off the table. GRACIE wipes down the stove and Lyric helps with the last few dishes in the sink. Michael reaches for his plate as Danny grabs his morning coffee off the table.

DANNY:

Don't worry about the plate son, just get going.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
Okay Mom. Thanks for the breakfast.

GRACIE  
I know you're not leaving without a  
proper good bye.

MICHAEL  
No ma'am.

LYRIC  
Told you momma!

MICHAEL  
What he say now?

GRACIE  
(Hugs Michael)  
Nothing important. Go clean your  
room Lyric.

LYRIC  
It's clean though.

GRACIE  
Boy! You better take those dirty  
clothes from underneath your bed  
before you lose that game.

LYRIC  
Yes mom.

Lyric walks out the kitchen to his room.

GRACIE  
Don't let the break up set you  
back.

MICHAEL  
Don't worry about me, I can handle  
it

GRACIE  
Call me later if you need anything.

MICHAEL  
Will do.

GRACIE  
Better get going.

INT. ATLANTA'S GAS & GO [GAS STATION] - DAY

Michael's 1970 CHEVELLE pulls up to one of the gas station  
pumps outside the store. Sean's pick up truck sits outside in  
the employee spot.

SEAN stands behind the counter reading the "The Atlanta Journal" as Michael walks into the front door. Sean puts down the paper as he approaches the counter.

MICHAEL  
What's up Sean?

SEAN  
What can I do for you Mike?

MICHAEL  
Gas on pump 3.

Michael grabs GUM, CANDY, & a bag of PEANUTS by the register. He puts the items on the counter and reaches for his wallet.

SEAN  
Can you read my friend?

MICHAEL  
What are you talking about?

SEAN  
The little sign right over there?

Michael looks at the SIGN in the front WINDOW.

MICHAEL  
No gas.

SEAN  
Fuel truck is running a little late.

MICHAEL  
Well that's a bust.

SEAN  
Comes with the job.

MICHAEL  
I can't believe you dropped out of college man. You should go back.

SEAN  
Mom needed help with the bills. You know how that goes.

MICHAEL  
Gotta take care of the family. I respect that.

SEAN  
I heard about you and Alicia.



MICHAEL  
It's a long story. Just don't  
believe the rumors.

SEAN  
Do you still like her?

MICHAEL  
Of course but things are  
complicated right now.

SEAN  
So you're in love with a girl that  
you broke up with.

MICHAEL  
No, she broke up with me.

SEAN  
You shouldn't have gone to that  
party.

MICHAEL  
I know! Something told me not to.  
But hey, we're here now so what can  
we do about spilled milk?

SEAN  
So have you talked to her since?

MICHAEL  
I've been avoiding her.

SEAN  
Why? You scared of her or  
something.

MICHAEL  
I'm not scared. I'm just tryna  
avoid that awkward moment.

SEAN  
Damn, that would be kind of weird.

MICHAEL  
I gotta get one more thing.

SEAN  
I'll be here all day.

Michael walks away from the counter and goes to the COOLER in  
the back. He taps his FOOT while he decides what he wants to  
drink.

MICHAEL  
Okay, this is all I want.

Sean punches in the items into the register and get the total.

SEAN  
Sounds like you want more than  
what's on the counter. And your  
total is \$14.29.

MICHAEL  
(Gives \$20)  
Thanks, I'm already late for class.

SEAN  
See you around man.

MICHAEL  
Deuces!

Michael walks out the door with his gas station bag and gets in his MUSCLE CAR. He cranks it up and smoke comes out his TAIL PIPE before pulling off.

INT. WESTMAR STUDENT LOFTS: ALICIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

ALICIA exits her apartment and locks the door behind herself. She gets in her HONDA. She reaches over for the gear shifter and sees a PICTURE of Michael in the ash tray. She grabs it and crumbles up the picture before throwing it to the floor board. She backs out her parking space and pulls out.

EXT. CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY: STUDENT PARKING LOT - DAY

MONICA pulls into the student parking lot in her clean GMC YUKON. She drives down the rows of cars and finally finds an open spot. She pulls in and puts the car in park. She pulls down her SUN VISOR to puts on some lip balm and rubs her LIPS together. She steps out her SUV and gets her bag from the back seat. She closes the door and walks towards campus. ALLEN happens to be walking towards her.

ALLEN  
How you doing today beautiful?

MONICA  
I'm doing fine Allen. And you?

ALLEN  
Blessed and highly favored.

MONICA

Amen!

Monica smiles and continue walk.

INT. CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY: MICHAEL'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Michael sits at his desk with other students in his classroom while his TEACHER hands out the TEST. Michael reads the first question and looks up but sees ALICIA in the teacher's seat. He shakes his head and sees his TEACHER back at the desk in the seat. He looks back down and circles the first answers.

INT. DONALD'S OFFICE - DAY

The 201 OFFICE BUILDING on 17th Street houses Donald's glass office as his employees walk by. He has AWARDS, DIPLOMAS, and other ACHIEVEMENTS in glass cases and hung up around his office space. Donald's LAPTOP sits on his desk next to his giant dual MONITORS as he finish writing up some paperwork. He picks up his WORK PHONE to calls his secretary RACHEL in the front room.

DONALD

Good morning Rachel, can you call my 2 o clock appointment and reschedule for tomorrow at lunch time.

RACHEL

Yes Mr. Smith.

DONALD

Thank you. And can you get my coffee?

RACHEL

Yes! Is there anything else I can do for you Mr. Smith?

DONALD

No, that will be all. Thank you.