ENDGAME

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Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

1 EXT. COURT - MORNING 1

The morning sun leaves a strip of light on the pavement of an empty outdoor court. Empty until

SOPHIA(16) sprints into and past frame.

This is her 8th suicide sprint this morning. Her arms rest on top of her head to gain a breath. A volleyball net hangs from two posts at mid-court as she sprints again, edge-to-edge.

She arrives at the baseline to rest. Her phone dings. She pulls it out and sees a text from DAD. It reads “Sorry I couldn’t be there to practice with you but I’ll be there to see you win tonight! Love Dad.”

Sophia is a little disappointed, but she pushes past. She gets ready to continue her sprints, when a TEACHER walking from the parking lot towards school sees her.

TEACHER
Hey Sophia! What’s your time today?

SOPHIA
(out of breathe)
Shaved two seconds off, Mr. Berger.

TEACHER
Is your Dad gonna be able to make the game tonight?

SOPHIA
Yep. He promised he’d make it!

TEACHER
Great! Keep at it.

Sophia looks at the court. Her eyes pierced with determination. She takes a deep inhale and sprints forward-

SMASH CUT TO

2 INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY 2

Sophia’s team is stretching on the court.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to today’s volleyball city championship! Fremont High facing off against San Fernando High.

She’s tapped out of her daydream by a teammate.

CHARLIE
Hey. The little Burrito is acting up again.

CHARLIE points to BENNY, Sophia's younger brother, who is causing a bit of a ruckus in the stands, fumbling with his tablet.

SOPHIA
Don't call him that.

Sophia stands, walking toward Benny.

BENNY
This is lame. There's no wifi or anything.

SOPHIA
Benny, calmate.

A WOMAN leans towards Sophia and Benny in the stands.

WOMAN
Honey, do you need a hand?

BENNY
Can I use your phone?

SOPHIA
Benny! No, we're fine. Thanks.

WOMAN
You just seemed so overwhelmed. I wanted to help if I could.

SOPHIA
No, really it's fine. Benny's going to sit here and behave, right Benny?

WOMAN
I can only imagine it must be hard to be a single mom like this.

Sophia can't keep a straight face.

SOPHIA
What? No, he's my brother. How old do you think I am?

The woman seems insulted by the question and backs off.

HUSBAND
You tried.

WOMAN
I felt bad for her.

The woman's last remark is loud enough for Sophia to hear.

Sophia looks to see if Benny heard the comment, but thankfully he's oblivious. Rather than make a scene, she hands him her phone.

BENNY
Is dad still coming?

Sophia runs her fingers through Benny's hair, nodding as to say "*YES*", before joining her team on the court.

3 EXT. WAREHOUSE 3

The lot behind the warehouse is mostly empty. From out of the warehouse comes Sophia's father ALBERTO(40). He checks his phone and breathes a sigh of relief, he's going to make it, until...

STEVE, Alberto's manager, follows him out into the lot.

STEVE
Alberto! Where you think you're off to?

ALBERTO
Eh, Steve, what's up?

STEVE
I see you heading out the door, when there's still five-hundred pounds of cement that need to be loaded.

ALBERTO
I was on the midnight, my kid's got a huge game this morning.

STEVE
So? You know how easy it would be to replace you? I can just drive a van up to home depot.

ALBERTO
Come on man, I need the hours, i'll make it up with a double shift.

Steve thinks about it.

STEVE
Okay, but I'm still docking you for the hassle.

Alberto nods, not because he agrees, but because the nod means he'll see his daughter play.

STEVE (CONT'D)
You're welcome.

4 INT. GYMNASIUM 4

Sophia's match is about to begin. She keeps looking towards the stands for her father.

The game's first play is a serve up top where Sophia is supposed to block but instead, we learn the opponent is fierce and spikes it right over her. She's in for a long game if she doesn't get her head in it.

5 EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT 5

Alberto hustles through his car trunk looking for a change of clothes. He removes work shirt, revealing A-shirt. He tosses the work shirt in the truck and a "Fremont volleyball" t-shirt over his shoulder.

Alberto closes trunk and exits frame revealing a GUARD watching him intently.

6 EXT. SCHOOL BREEZEWAY 6

Alberto crosses the breezeway and into the school. We see the guard gaining on him.

GUARD
Hold it.

7 INT. GYMNASIUM 7

Sophia continues to struggle. Her eyes dart to the stands, where Alberto is still nowhere to be found. Another ball whizzes past her.

She notices the women from before, a content smile from being exactly right about Sophia blankets their face. Crowd noises seem to be growing on an unfocused Sophia.

8 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 8

GUARD
What are you doing on school property?

ALBERTO
I'm here for my kids-

GUARD
What's all this?

The Guard gestures to Alberto's tattoos with the walkie antenna. His other hand rests firmly on a baton. The guard pokes a tattoo of a woman's face with R.I.P beside it.

ALBERTO
Es mi amor.

The guard gets close to Alberto, poking him again, his intent is clearly to provoke Alberto.

GUARD
You people man... you think I don't know gang stuff when I see it? Now get out of here, or you'll be explaining it to immigration.

Alberto looks around to see if there is anyone who has his back. The hallway is empty.

ALBERTO
Man, I'm just here to see my daughter play. Let me show you---

Alberto reaches for his phone. The guard tenses up.

GUARD
Stop moving.

The guard steps back and pulls at his baton. Alberto freezes.

ALBERTO
Whoa, whoa.

Alberto raises his hands defensively, as the guard tenses.

TEACHER (O.S.)
Yo! What's going on here?

The guard freezes the TEACHER from earlier enters the hallway, noticing the harassment.

GUARD
This guy is trying to barge in-

TEACHER
This “guy” is my students Dad.

GUARD
He wasn’t listening to-

TEACHER
No you weren’t listening to him. Let’s try that. Alberto, what’s going on?

Alberto starts to put the team shirt on.

ALBERTO
I’ve missed every game this season for work and I’m trying to get there in time for the championship, for my daughter.

He holds out his phone with a picture of his daughter.

TEACHER
Well that sounds good to me. Let’s get in there. Are we good?

GUARD
Yeah, we’re good.

The Teacher and Alberto walk towards the gym. The guard is left alone and embarrassed.

9 INT. GYMNASIUM 9

The deficit is getting worse for Sophia’s team. They’re a few points from losing the championship. Charlie is in Sophia’s face now.

CHARLIE
Sophia, C’mon! Where is your head at?

Sophia is distraught. Then, the crowd noises begin to drown out and time stands still for a second as she hears a familiar whistle. She snaps a look to the stands, seeing Alberto standing with Benny. A large smile on his face.

She finally gets her head in the game as it’s time for her to serve. She does that along with a series of spikes.

It’s now the final point for the match. The ball bounces back and forth a few times until finally a lob is set up for Sophia to spike. In slow-mo we see her go up and...

10 EXT. HALLWAY - SHORTLY 10

Sophia exits the gym, trophy in hand. Alberto and Benny rush towards her. Alberto gives her a big hug.

ALBERTO
My little champion!

Alberto pulls out his phone.

ALBERTO (CONT’D)
Un foto pa elfeis?

Sophia feigns a moment of embarrassment then strikes a pose.

SOPHIA
I was worried.

She looks towards the husband and wife walking away with their kids.

ALBERTO
You worked so hard. Nothing could have stopped me.

Alberto looks at the security guard watching him and his family. On the guard’s face is a look of acknowledgement. Alberto puts his arm around his kids as they walk away.

Close up on Sophia, smiling.