

GROWING UP

Written by

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INT. NURSERY, HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A NEW BORN BABY opens its eyes.

Blurry, bright lights.

It closes its eyes. We hear CRYING from the other new born babies in the nursery.

It opens its eyes again and sees two figures, blurry. They slowly become clearer...a man and a woman - the parents - CYNTHIA and FRED JONES (30's).

Cynthia looks over at Fred and smiles.

Fred smiles in return, reaches his arm out and rests his hand lightly on Cynthia's.

She starts to CRY and leans in toward Fred. He slowly pulls her in from the waist and their foreheads lightly touch. Their first child. A moment that no one forgets.

INT. HOME, BEDROOM DOOR/HALLWAY - DAY

Fred straightens up a sign that hangs on the outside of a bedroom door. It reads "Michael" in big blue letters.

Fred takes a step back to see if it's straight.

He walks up to it and tilts it a bit more to the right.

He steps back again.

Cynthia walks up and stands next to him. They both look at the sign then at each other. They smile and nod. Its perfect.

INT. HOME, LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Cynthia is feeding Michael with a bottle. She has a big smile on her face as she stares down at her son.

She finishes up and BURPS him.

She sets him down in a basinet.

She sets a timer for three hours and puts it down.
TICK...TICK.

INT. HOME, LAUNDRY - SAME

Cynthia is putting clothes into the washing machine when...BUZZZ. The timer goes off.

INT. HOME, LOUNGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cynthia picks up Michael and starts feeding him again. She's still smiling in wonder at her son.

Burps him.

Sets him down.

Sets the timer again for three hours.

INT. HOME, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Fred and Cynthia sit down to eat a lovely dinner when...BUZZZ.

CRYING.

Cynthia, this time a little more annoyed stands up.

INT. HOME, MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cynthia feeds him.

Burps him.

Sets him down and...

Sets the timer for three hours.

INT. HOME, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Fred and Cynthia in bed with sleep masks on.

CRYING from Michael's room.

The BUZZER goes off.

INT. HOME, MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cynthia stumbles in, tired, like a zombie.

She picks Michael up and feeds him.

Silence as Michael goes to town on the bottle and Cynthia stares into the abyss wondering what she's gotten her self into.

INT. HOME, LOUNGE ROOM - 2 YEARS LATER

Michael, now 2 years old is sitting on his bottom looking up at his parents.

Fred and Cynthia look back at Michael with big smiles on their faces nodding.

Michael slowly gets to his feet and tries to stand. He wobbles for a moment before regaining his balance. He takes one step and...PLOP, falls flat on his bum.

Fred and Cynthia are still nodding and smiling.

Michael stands again. One step, two step...very slowly three steps.

Cynthia and Fred look at each other in joy and hug.

Michael walks around the lounge while his parents watch on.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Michael walking, about to trip over a cord. Cynthia grabs him.

Michael standing at the pantry and opening the door. Fred grabs him.

Michael reaching, stretching for a bowl on the counter. He reaches it. It tips over and flour FALLS on his head. Cynthia grabs him.

Michael grabbing and pulling a chair. It starts to tip over when...Fred grabs him.

EXT. HOME, DRIVEWAY - 5 YEARS LATER

Michael, 7, sits on a bike.

Fred straps a helmet on really tight.

Fred straps knee pads on really tight then...

Checks the helmet again and makes it tighter.

Fred straps elbow pads on tight.

Michael looks up at the sky in frustration and SIGHS.

Fred gets a screwdriver and tightens the training wheels.

After what seems like an eternity Fred gives the thumbs up to Michael.

Michael stares back blankly...annoyed.

INT. HOME, KITCHEN - 5 YEARS LATER

Cereal in a bowl on the table.

Cynthia finishes making Michael's lunch.

Michael, now 12, rushes in and kisses mum on the cheek.

Michael GOBBLES down the cereal, grabs his lunch and heads toward the door where Fred waits for him.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Michael, 13, rushes in to the kitchen, kisses mum, eats breakfast, grabs lunch and heads off.

Michael 14, rushes in to the kitchen, kisses mum, eats breakfast, grabs lunch and heads off.

Michael 15, walks in, ignores mum, eats breakfast, grabs lunch and heads off.

Michael 16, slowly walks into the kitchen, ignores mum, picks at his breakfast, grabs his lunch and heads off.

Michael 17, walks past the kitchen angrily and BANG! Out the front door.

Cynthia alone in the kitchen, starts to CRY. We hold for a moment.

EXT. UCLA, ENTRANCE - DAY

Michael, 18, looks up with a big smile at the UCLA sign.

INT. UCLA, LECTURE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Michael is seated in a class full of students. He looks over to his right and sees a BEAUTIFUL BLONDE.

He TEARS out a piece of paper from his book and writes:

"You're cute, my name is Michael".

The note gets passed down the aisle until it reaches the blonde. She opens it and giggles. She writes on the note.

Note being passed back down the aisle.

Michael opens it. It now reads:

"You're cute too. My name's Jenna. Coffee?"

Michael and Jenna look at each other and smile.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Michael and Jenna having coffee laughing.

Michael and Jenna watching a scary movie at the theatre.

Michael and Jenna making out in a car.

Michael and Jenna at graduation day throwing their hats in the air.

Michael and Jenna standing at the chapel getting married.

Michael and Jenna posing for a picture in front of their new home. A sold by sign sticks out of the ground. All is well.

INT. MICHAEL AND JENNA'S HOME, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Michael, now 22, reads the jobs section of the newspaper - nothing.

He turns to the front page of the newspaper.

HEADLINE: "Economic crisis forces population into survival mode - Jobs scarce"

Michael puts his hand on his forehead.

Jenna sits next to him, holds him and comforts him.

The phone RINGS...Michael answers it. A moment of silence. Michael hangs up.

He sits back down next to Jenna and starts to SOB in her arms.

INT. HOSPITAL, WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Michael, Jenna and Fred are seated holding hands in the waiting room.

A doctor enters the room.

They all stand quickly, anxious and nervous.

The doctor has a sombre look on his face. He puts a hand onto Michael's shoulder, shakes his head - no - then leaves the room.

Michael BURSTS into tears.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Michael, holding flowers, kneels in front of a tombstone that reads:

"Here lies Cynthia Jones, daughter, wife, mother. May she rest in peace".

He SOBS lightly then places the flowers next to the grave.

His father, Fred walks up behind him and rests his hand on Michael's shoulder.

Michael stands and they hug.

INT. MICHAEL & JENNA'S HOME, LOUNGE ROOM - ONE WEEK LATER

Michael lies on the couch, in a singlet. He now has a beard. His hair is not combed.

Jenna walks in, nervous, hiding something behind her back. She looks at Michael for a bit.

He looks back, defeated, over life.

She walks up to him. Pulls out an A5 sized envelope and hands it to Michael.

He sits up. Opens the envelope and pulls out a scan.

He looks at it...it's an ultrasound.

He looks closer to notice a tiny black dot in the middle.

He looks up half smiling at Jenna.

She nods, smiles back and starts to tear up. They embrace.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING, WAITING ROOM - DAY

Michael, dressed in a suit, shaven, hair combed, sits waiting patiently along with several other MEN and WOMEN also dressed in suits.

A sign on the door reads:

"Quiet. Interviews in process"

A lady, dressed nicely, opens the door and gestures toward Michael.

He stands and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.