

1. INT / EXT. CAMPUS. AFTERNOON / DUSK

SLOW-MOTION MONTAGE – warm, golden, and dreamlike.
FLASHBACK – FIVE YEARS EARLIER.

Along busy campus hallways, Mira, Nico, Angel, and Andrei walk side by side, laughing as they pass around snacks. When Andrei takes Nico's other snack, Angel shouts to him.

ANGEL

Hoy, patay gutom, akin na `yan.

ANDREI

Too late.

They all laugh. Mira accidentally bumps and stumbles to Nico that makes them laugh more with a little bit of flirtiness.

CUT TO:

In a study room at night, the group sits around a table surrounded with open laptops, notebooks, papers, and coffee cups. Their laughter fills the room. Tired eyes and necks.

ANDREI

(dead tired)

`Pag bumagsak pa ako dito, mag si-shift na talaga ako

ANGEL

Ah talaga ba Mister?

NICO

(heads down on the table)

Pwede `bang matulog na lang

Mira

Okay, quiz time na guys

Angel, Andrei, and Nico

Ano!!

All three of them scream at the same time, and laugh afterwards.

CUT TO:

A quick flash shows them reviewing notes in classrooms for recitations and some of them rushing across before class starts.

The classroom filled with pages flipping, pens tapping, whispered answers.

ANGEL
(whispering)
Mira, ano number 5 mo?

MIRA gestures subtly.

Inside the campus, outside their classroom, Nico and Andrei run across the hallways to get on time in their class. Bags bouncing. Pushing each other. Making shortcut routes.

ANDREI
Ang bagal mo talaga kahit kailangan pre

NICO
Ang bagal mo din kumilos, late na tayo dahil sayo

Shouting to each other while they chase the time before class starts.

CUT TO:

Graduation day, caps fly into the air, full of applause and celebration. The four friends start to hug each other.

Over these memories, a voice-over of Mira and Nico's narration reflects to create a nostalgic tone.

Mira
Ako si Mira

Nico
Ako si Nico

Mira and Nico
(same time)
At ito ako, 5 years ago

FADES OUT - RETURN TO THE BEGINNING OF THEIR FOURTH ACADEMIC YEAR.

CUT TO:

2. INT./ EXT. MIRA'S BEDROOM / STREET - EARLY MORNING

Soft sunlight rays enter through the window.

Mira carefully places her neatly ironed uniform on the bed. Everything in the room is organized. Even her bed is tidy.

She sits at her desk beside the window and opens a clean and organized planner filled with class schedules, reminders, and personal goals for the whole academic year. She reviews each page with focus.

She exhales, determined.

Mira
I'm ready

In the dining area, Mira eats breakfast with her parents. The atmosphere is calm but serious.

MOTHER
Mira, anak, maintain your grades. You need to be in Latin honors.

FATHER
(nods what's his wife said)
Fourth year is important. Don't lose focus.

MIRA
Yes po, Mom, Dad.

She nods politely and continues eating.

Outside their house, along the neighborhood street, Mira walks toward the bus stop, adjusting the strap of her school bag. Her pace is steady and composed. She wears a big smile on her face, while waiting for the bus.

CUT TO:

INT./ EXT. NICO'S BEDROOM / STREET - EARLY MORNING

Nico wakes up late, as usual.

He sits up quickly, hair's messy. He brushes it with his fingers while looking and grabbing on his cluttered desk full of papers, notebooks, and random belongings are scattered everywhere.

In front of the mirror, Nico tries fixing his hair but ends up still looking messy.

He gives up.

Inside a small, dim, quiet kitchen, Nico opens the fridge and grabs leftover food. He eats it cold while scrolling through messages on his phone.

A message notification pops up. He smirks.

Nico exits the house and runs toward a jeepney stop. While greeting the neighbors.

NICO
Magandang umaga po!

Neighbors wave and smile at him. Full of charismatic energy. He skips along the street. Bag bouncing on his back.

3. INT. UNIVERSITY HALLWAY / CLASSROOM - DAY

Students fill the hallway chatting to other students.

Mira walks toward her classroom door, holding her notebooks and extra books close to her chest. She looks prepared and composed.

She saw her friend Angel.

MIRA
Hi!

ANGEL
So early ha? As always naman

They smile at the same time.

Nico sees Mira and teases her while leaning casually against the doorway.

NICO
Wow. First week pa lang, may library ka nang dala?

Angel chuckles while defending her best friend, Mira.

ANGEL

Hoy, 'wag nga ang Mira ko. Alis dito.

Angel rolls her eyes to Nico and both of them step inside.

Inside the classroom, Mira takes a seat in the front row. She carefully arranges her books, aligning them neatly on the desk.

Outside the same hallway, Nico walks in with his friend Andrei, joking around and making a mess.

ANDREI

One day, wala ka na dito agad.

NICO

(points at Andrei)

Kasama ka na doon.

Andrei laughs while Nico bursts a loud laugh as they reach the doorway. The sound fills the classroom.

Nico casually drops his backpack onto a chair in the back row and sits beside Andrei, leaning comfortably.

Angel sees them. She leans toward Mira and whispers.

ANGEL

Sobrang ingay at kulit nya, hinding hindi ako magkakagusto sa isang katulad niya.

MIRA

(smiles)

Me too.

Moments later, the professor enters. The room settles.

PROFESSOR

Good morning, everyone. For this academic year, you will complete a major thesis project... in pairs.

Students begin whispering. Some immediately turn to their friends.

PROFESSOR

And to make things fair for everyone. I'll be assigning your partners randomly.

The students reacts, surprised murmurs.

The professor starts reading names.

Mira listens attentively. Nico slouches in his chair.

PROFESSOR
Mira and Nico.

Both of them freeze.

Mira slowly turns toward the back. Nico straightens slightly from his seat and looks forward.

Their eyes meet across the room, both confused and surprised. Angel looks between them, shocked with her open mouth. Andrei grins and teases Nico.

The bell rings. Students begin packing their things.

Mira stands and starts to walk toward the back of the room. Nico is about to leave when she approaches.

MIRA
Hi, since we're partners... Do you want to meet in the library? We'll talk about the thesis.

Nico looks at her, amused but curious.

NICO
Agad?

MIRA
Did you know it's a year-long project?

NICO
(salutes at Mira)
Okay boss!

Nico exits first, followed by Andrei. Leaving Mira and Angel alone in the room.

4. INT. LIBRARY. SAME DAY - AFTERNOON

The library is quiet.

Mira sits at a corner table. Several stacks of books and papers are neatly arranged in front of her. She opens her to-do list while waiting for Nico.

She checks the time.

Nico arrives and drops his bag onto the table.

Mira flinches, surprised from Nico's reckless actions.

NICO

Sorry, napasalarap kain ko. Tyaka... tinamad din ako.

He pulls the chair and sits across from her.

MIRA

You're late, Nico. I prepared a timeline for our thesis.

She turns her notebook toward him and points at the list.

MIRA

These are the deadlines. Kailangan natin ma-finalize and topic natin this week, we gather sources next week, then divide the chapters and parts to do.

Nico spins a pen between his fingers, half-listening.

NICO

Grabe... parang akong nasa trabaho.

MIRA

We need to stay organized. Mag seryoso ka nga.

NICO

Relax lang boss. Highblood kana agad.

He smirks at her.

NICO

Studyante ka pa ba o thesis adviser na?

Mira sighs, trying to stay patient. Nico saw Mira's disappointment face that triggers his trauma from his family.

SHORT FLASHBACK IN NICO'S MIND - ENTER

FATHER OF NICO

(sighs)

Ano Nico?! Hindi mo ba kayang ayusin sarili mo?

His siblings laugh at him, while their father hits him with a belt and punishes him. Nico can't defend himself.

SHORT FLASHBACK IN NICO'S MIND - EXIT

Nico's zoning out looking at Mira. He suddenly laughs louder than expected.

Nearby students glance at them. Mira's brows furrow.

MIRA

(whispers)

Ano ba Nico, this is a library.

She exhales. Nico stops and leans forward slightly, now more engaged with their project.

NICO

What if... imbes na pure research lang, lagyan natin ng actual case study? Mas interesting yun. Tapos may interviews para mas exciting.

Mira pauses. That wasn't what she expected on Nico's.

MIRA

A case study?

NICO

Oo. Para hindi lang puro theory. Mas practical, mas relatable, diba?

Mira slowly writes it down.

MIRA

That... actually makes sense.

NICO

(points at himself)

Syempre, ako pa ba?

He leans back again, in a relaxed position.

NICO

Hindi porket magulo ako, wala na akong ambag.

Mira glances at him, seeing him differently now. Two completely different working styles and personalities.

MIRA

We can combine both of our ideas.

NICO
Ayun naman pala.

Mira nods slightly, still unsure, but beginning to see him in a different light.

5. INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LUNCHTIME

Weeks later.

Mira and Nico sit across from each other, reviewing their printed thesis papers spread across the table while eating their lunch.

Mira highlights lines carefully. Nico flips pages while chewing.

Angel and Andrei suddenly appear with their meal and sit beside them.

ANDREI
Grabe laging magkasama ah? Thesis lang ba talaga 'yan?

Mira reacts slightly annoyed.

MIRA
We have deadlines, not like you.

Nico smirks.

NICO
Selos ka lang, pre.

ANDREI
Uy, iba na 'yan.

Angel laughs while Mira shakes her head, embarrassed.

Later, the four of them walk around campus, laughing and sharing snacks.

Angel offers chips. Andrei steals one. Nico complains dramatically. Mira laughs.

Their dynamic feels comfortable now.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY ROOM - EVENING

Mira and Nico sit side by side in front of a laptop editing their thesis document.

Mira types while Nico randomly tells a story about him.

NICO

No'ng bata ako, alam mo ba, lagi kaming gumagawa ng kung anu-ano sa kalye... parang may sariling mundo lang.

Mira listens quietly, still typing.

NICO

Wala kaming camera noon... kaya nung nagka-polaroid 'yung tropa ko, halos araw-araw kami nagpipicture.

He pulls out a small polaroid and folded notes from his bag.

NICO

Puro kalokohan, pero namimiss ko na sila

Mira glances at the photo and folded notes, secretly. She returns to typing.

Nico fidgets with the edge of the polaroid, occasionally glancing at her.

She stays focused on the screen, pretending not to notice.

The quiet between them feels different.

CUT TO:

INT. MIRA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dim lighting.

Mira sits at her desk. A blank sheet of paper in front of her.

She begins writing slowly. She pauses, then continues writing. Her words remain unseen, private, and unspoken.

She folds the letter carefully and keeps it inside her notebook. Mira sits still for a moment, holding onto feelings she cannot express openly.

FADE OUT.

6. INT. CLASSROOM - MIDTERMS WEEK - DAY

The atmosphere is quieter than usual.

Mira sits in the front row, reviewing the professor's written comments on their thesis draft. Notes and corrections are marked across the pages.

Beside her, Nico sits improperly, half-turned in his chair, talking to classmates behind him.

NICO

Mamaya na 'yang notes... midterms week pa lang, pagod na naman.

Their classmates chuckle.

Mira secretly glances at him, then looks back at her papers.

The next professor enters the room. The class settles.

PROFESSOR

For your physics midterm, you will be presenting in front of the class. This presentation will take a large portion of your grade. Tandaan nyo yan.

Mira stiffens.

She grips her notebook tightly.

Her family's expectations echo silently in her thoughts.

The bell rings.

Students pack their things.

Mira quickly gathers her things and exits the classroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Nico follows behind her. Cold emotions from Mira.

NICO

Uy, parang lalaban ka sa championship ah.

Mira keeps walking.

MIRA
Importante midterms natin. It's a big part of our grade
Nico.

NICO
Eh di galingan lang natin.

MIRA
It's not that simple.

Mira continues to walk towards the staircase followed by
Nico who still tries to lighten her mood with his jokes.

MIRA
My parents expect me to do well... especially this year. I
can't afford to mess this up.

Nico watches her, his expression changes.

She keeps talking, clearly worried.

MIRA
If I don't do well, everything will end for me.

They reach the corridor near the stairs.

NICO
Kaya mo 'yan. Ikaw pa. Bossing kita.

Mira exhales. Nico looks at her, realizing how much
pressure she carries compared to him.

He glances and forces a small smile to Mira.

They continue walking down the hallway together.

7. INT. CLASSROOM - MIDTERM PRESENTATION DAY - AFTERNOON

Students prepare their materials. A projector reflects at
the front.

Mira sits stiffly in her seat, flipping through her cue
cards. Her leg shakes slightly. She exhales, trying to calm
herself.

Beside her, Angel leans closer.

ANGEL

Uy, kaya mo 'yan. Na practice mo na 'to diba?

Nico sits on the other side of their table, watching Mira carefully.

NICO

Relax ka lang. Hindi naman 'to firing squad.

She looks up. Nico is still staring at her. Their eyes meet for a long time.

She quickly looks away, uneasy.

The professor calls the next presenter.

PROFESSOR

Next presenter please, Mira.

Mira stands.

She walks to the front, beside the projector screen.

Her slide appears.

MIRA

Good afternoon. Today, I will be presenting our physics midterm regarding—

Her voice is steady. She gestures toward the slides confidently. Students sit quietly. The professor watches attentively.

Nico listens from his seat, eyes fixed on her.

MIRA

Based on my computations, the relationship between—

Suddenly, Nico stands.

Chairs scrape.

Students turn.

Mira pauses and confused.

NICO

Sandali lang.

The room is filled with murmurs.

Mira's structured plan breaks.

NICO
Ba't parang scripted lahat?

Whispers spread across the classroom.

MIRA
(with her lower voice)
Nico, sit down, please.

NICO
Hindi mo kailangan maging perfect lagi.

The professor watches, concerned.

Students exchange looks.

NICO
Masyado mong kinukulong sarili mo sa expectations.

Mira's face is full of embarrassment. The structured presentation of her begins to fall apart.

MIRA
Stop it... please.

NICO
Okay lang magkamali.

Silence.

Mira looks around, everyone's watching. Keeping herself not to cry.

She quickly runs outside the room

The classroom remains quiet.

Nico stands still, realizing what just happened.

8. EXT. CLASSROOM HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Mira walks quickly down the hallway. Her eyes are watery, but she keeps moving.

Behind her is Nico following and trying to catch up.

NICO
Mira, sandali lang—

She doesn't stop. She doesn't talk.

NICO
Let me explain.

Mira keeps walking faster and enters the women's bathroom.
The door closes behind her.

Nico stops outside, helpless.

He exhales and unsure what he's going to do next.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURT FIELD - LATER - AFTERNOON

Mira sits alone on a bench, wiping her tears.

Angel approaches and notices her.

ANGEL
Uy, okay ka lang?

Angel sits beside her.

Mira tries to hold it in but later then breaks.

MIRA
I can't rely on him, Angel. He doesn't take anything seriously.

She wipes her tears.

MIRA
This affects my grade... my future. Sinira nya lahat.

Her voice cracks.

MIRA
Since the beginning, I've been carrying everything. The schedules... the deadlines... everything. Nico breaks it.

She cries harder.

MIRA

For some reason, maybe I could trust him for a bit.

Angel gently rubs her back.

ANGEL

Mira, kailangan mo ring magsabi sa kanya.

Mira shakes her head.

ANGEL

Hindi niya maiintindihan kung hindi mo ipapakita.

MIRA

I tried... but he keeps joking about everything.

ANGEL

Then sabihin mo nang diretso. Hindi pwedeng ikaw lang lagi ang nag-aadjust.

Mira stays quiet, still emotional.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATHWAY CORNER - CONTINUOUS

Around the corner, unseen, Nico stands near a wall.

He overhears everything.

His expression slowly changes, his guilt settling in.

He looks down, processing her words.

A moment later, Andrei walks toward him.

ANDREI

Narinig mo?

Nico doesn't respond.

ANDREI

Minsan kasi... sumosobra ka na.

Nico leans against the wall, quiet.

ANDREI

Hindi lahat kaya sabayan 'yung pagiging carefree mo. Lalo

na kung may pinagdadaan din sila... tulad mo. Sa bahay nyo,
sa tatay mo.

Nico glances at him.

ANDREI

Hindi mo kailangan gawing biro lahat. Tinatawa mo lagi,
pero deep inside ikaw ang pinagtatawanan. Ikaw ang talo.
Kaya simula ngayon, fix yourself, not only for your family
but also for Mira.

Nico nods slightly, realizing the weight of what he's done.

FADES OUT

9. INT. LIBRARY - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY

Mira sits alone in one table. A few seats away, Nico sits
alone also, surrounded by organized documents and papers.
He writes and highlights carefully.

Angel and Andrei watch him from a distance. Whispering to
each other.

ANGEL

Si Nico pa ba yan?

ANDREI

Hindi ko alam, parang ibang tao.

Nico flips through printed thesis pages.

ANGEL

Mukhang seryoso na talaga.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A typical lecture.

The professor asks a question.

PROFESSOR

Can anyone explain the concept?

Nico raises his hand.

The class looks surprised.

He explains confidently.

The professor nods.

PROFESSOR
Correct.

Across the room, Mira watches quietly, surprised.

Nico returns to his seat, more composed than usual.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - AFTER CLASS - DAY

Students begin packing.

Nico approaches Mira calmly.

NICO
Hey, Mira, pwede ba tayong mag-usap?

She looks at him, hesitant but continues to listen.

NICO (CONT'D)
Sorry... sa ginawa ko last week. Hindi ko naisip na
mapapahiya ka. Akala ko matutulungan kita, pero lalo lang
pala kitang nasaktan.

Mira feels the sincerity of Nico's emotions.

NICO
Sinusubukan kong ayusin... 'yung part ko sa thesis.

Mira nods slightly.

MIRA
I noticed.

FADES OUT

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - SAME DAY - EVENING

Nico sits with Andrei, reviewing notes on their thesis.

Angel writes on the blackboard.

Students chatters and mind their own.

Mira enters.

Three of them notice her.

She walks toward Nico.

MIRA

Nico, do you want... to continue working together?

The room goes quiet.

Nico blinks, surprised.

ANDREI

Ay... ayos.

Angel turns around and smiles slightly.

Nico slowly stands.

NICO

Sure ka?

Mira nods.

He suddenly pulls her into a tight hug.

NICO

Ayos! Partner talaga kita!

Mira surprises Nico's actions but she doesn't pull away.

Angel and Andrei laugh.

ANDREI

Comeback is real! Bilis naman.

Nico lets go and looks at everyone proudly.

NICO

Hoy, kayong lahat, kita nyo 'to? Bati na kami!

ANGEL

Huwag na ulit gumawa ng kalokohan ah.

Everyone laugh lightly.

FADES OUT

10. EXT. THESIS DEFENSE HALL - AFTERNOON

Students in their formal attire walk back and forth, reviewing notes, whispering, and trying to calm their nerves.

Mira and Nico stand near the entrance, both dressed formally. Mira grips her folder tightly. Her breathing is shallow.

Nico notices. He gently grabs her hands.

NICO
Uy... kalma lang.

Their eyes meet.

Mira builds her nervousness and looks away.

Nico carefully holds her face, making her look at him.

NICO
Hindi kailangang maging perfect. Gawin lang natin kung ano
'yung kaya. Hindi mo kailangang abutin lahat ng
expectations, sayo o sa family mo, okay?

Mira softens.

They both smile slightly.

They release a long exhale together.

CUT TO:

INT. THESIS DEFENSE HALL - AFTERNOON

Mira and Nico enter.

Angel and Andrei, along with their partners, exit the room smiling.

ANGEL
Good luck!

ANDREI
Kaya niyo 'yan.

Mira and Nico nod. They step forward.

At the front, Mira begins the presentation.

MIRA

Good morning. Today, we will be presenting our thesis
titled—

She speaks confidently. The panels nod while listening.

Slides change smoothly. Midway through the presentation,
Mira's hands begin to shake.

Nico notices. Without interrupting, he gently grabs her
hand.

He steps forward.

NICO

For the next part, I'll be discussing our methodology.

He continues confidently.

Nico explains clearly, detailed, composed, and
knowledgeable.

Mira glances down.

Their hands are still holding each other.

She breathes more steadily.

Mira watches him, realizing something deeper.

The presentation continues smoothly.

NICO

And based on our findings..

The three panels exchange approving looks.

He finished the defense.

Silence. Then applause.

PANELIST 1

(claps hands)

Well presented. Congratulations.

They both bow slightly.

CUT TO:

EXT. THESIS DEFENSE HALL - LATER

Mira and Nico step outside.

The tension releases instantly. They looked at each other. They move closer and share a tight yet emotional hug.

They stay like that for a moment.

Mira whispers unexpected words she didn't plan unlike her academic works.

MIRA

I love you.

Nico freezes slightly, keeping their hug, in the middle of the hallway. Full of last and next presenters.

Nico smiles and puts and rubs his hand on Mira's head.

NICO

Mahal din kita.

They hug tighter, more than friends.

11. INT. UNIVERSITY EVENT HALL - DAY - THREE MONTHS LATER

Rows of graduating students fill the hall, all wearing caps and gowns.

Mira and Nico stand side by side, holding each other's hand before stepping on the stage.

On stage, the university president calls students one by one to receive their diplomas.

Applause echoes throughout the hall.

Angel and Andrei sit together, looking at the line of graduates.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Nico Reyes, Bachelor of Science Major in Business
Administration, Cum Laude.

Nico bows and raises his fist. He walks down the platform.

On stage, they heard Mira's name. They cheer her on.

Mira walks forward, composed but emotional.

She receives her diploma.

The dean hands her another recognition.

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Mira Xiu, Bachelor of Science Major in Business
Administration, Summa Cum Laude.

The crowd applauds louder.

Angel and Andrei stand, cheering proudly.

ANGEL

Bestfriend ko 'yan!

Mira bows slightly. She steps down the stairs.

Near the side of the stage, Nico waits patiently among the graduates.

Mira spots him.

She runs toward him.

Nico catches and spins her around in a tight hug.

NICO

Summa Cum Laude. Kakaiba ka.

Nico smiles and Mira laughs.

MIRA

We made it, Nico.

They hold each other for a moment.

Around them, applause continues. Graduates celebrate.
Cameras flash.

Angel and Andrei approach them.

NICO, MIRA, ANDREI, AND ANGEL

Graduate na tayo!

CUT TO:

INT. UNIVERSITY EVENT HALL - CONTINUOUS

SLOW MOTION MONTAGE ENTERS

The four stand together, smiling.

These moments mirror the laughter and warmth from years ago.

But now, their smiles carry something deeper, growth, change, and understanding.

The four friends stand side by side, no longer just students, but people shaped by everything they went through.

They smile and laugh holding onto the memories that brought them here.

MUSIC STARTS

FADE OUT.