

## Curse Broken

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"Today's the day, baby girl! Rise and shine," Momma said from my bedroom door. There was no need to wake me; I barely got any sleep last night, waiting for the sun to rise! I jumped outta bed, and went straight to the bathroom, where my newly purchased navy-blue dress was neatly hanging, waiting for this day as well. I smiled at myself in the mirror and sighed, "Ahhh, graduation day at last!"

After getting dressed, I joined my two siblings, who were already at the breakfast table, mouths stuffed with Momma's famous fluffy biscuits. "Momma, I'm so excited, I don't think I can eat anything," I joke while giving her a hug from behind. She turned around to embrace me back, giving me a kiss on my forehead, and said, "Well, we better get going. I want to get there early for the good seats!"

Upon arrival, my siblings and I rushed to the front to reserve the good seats and waved at Momma, motioning for her to hurry up. My oldest brother, smiling from ear to ear, said, "I sure wish that Dad had lived long enough to see this! He would have been so proud!" My younger brother solemnly nodded in agreement.

We didn't have to wait long for the program to begin. Pomp and Circumstance began to play, and in marched the proud graduates! Some short, some tall, some nervously smiling and waving, some walking with their heads down so as not to be seen, most young, and then...my momma! My 65-year-old momma, earning her bachelor's degree in business administration!

Now that all her kids are grown, now that she is retired, and now that she has all her bills caught up, my momma, Mrs. Diahann Ruth Turner, is fulfilling her dream of getting a college degree! She has gone from years of taking one class a semester at the community college to walking the stage today. When my two nieces and one nephew saw her entering, they all jumped up, waving and shouting, "That's my GiGi!! That's my GiGi!!"

"Lawd!" I exclaimed! "Y'all gonna get us put out!!" But, deep inside, I was shouting just as loud! It seemed to take forever for the announcer to get to the 'T's' but finally the moment had arrived! I stood up, camera ready, and there it was - her name was called! As only my momma could and would do, she took her time walking across, waving to the entire audience, who waved back and cheered. She received her diploma, paused for the photo, and walked off completely glowing!

When I made my way back to my seat, my oldest niece hugged me and said, "I want for you to take my photo at MY graduation too, Auntie!" And just like that, a new expectation was established in our family. My momma did it! Now, so can those after her.