

INT. HOME - DAY

Izumi returns a missed FaceTime call from her daughter, Mizuki. They have not spoken or seen each other in nearly three years.

IZUMI  
Mizuki...? Mizuki? Is that you?

Mizuki swallows, chokes on air. Clears her throat.

MIZUKI  
How... ah... Um. Um. Um. Yes.  
It's... me. It's me.

IZUMI  
Thank god. I... It's been so long,  
I... How, how are you doing, are  
you okay?

Mizuki stutters, struggling.

MIZUKI  
Y-yeah. Yeah. Yes. I'm okay. Good.  
Working. Healthy. Yeah.

She breathes deep, trying to calm down.

MIZUKI (CONT'D)  
How... how are you?

IZUMI  
Good, we're good. I... It's good to  
see you, Mizuki.

Quiet.

MIZUKI  
Oh! Oh. Good. That's... good. Um.  
Yes. Good to see you too.

Quiet.

MIZUKI (CONT'D)  
Um. How're Asahi and Himiko? Uncle?

Izumi takes a big breath.

IZUMI  
Fine. Himiko's been accepted to  
Columbia. She starts online in a  
few months. Your uncle is fine.  
Bumming around, per usual.  
(MORE)

IZUMI (CONT'D)

Asahi says he wants to be a painter when he grows up. He's made a mural on your bedroom wall.

MIZUKI

Oh?

IZUMI

He says it's called 'Poop on a Stick'.

MIZUKI

Oh.

She almost laughs.

MIZUKI (CONT'D)

Is work okay?

IZUMI

I can't complain. They let me work from home. Lots of students that still need teaching.

MIZUKI

Mmm. I'm glad.

It's quiet again.

IZUMI

Mizuki. Why are you calling? Now? Why haven't you reached out sooner?