

# Daddy's Little Girl

By Kara Gresham

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Second Period

Daddy always said  
practice, practice, practice  
even when I didn't want to  
he said little girl get back up

The long nights and days  
I would spend in the driveway  
the hours and time  
it would soon pass by  
I told him I couldn't go on  
and that would be a lie  
he said little girl get back up

The hot and cold  
everything I was being told  
my frustration flooded out  
I went to bed with my doubts  
he said little girl get back up

More to come  
more to go  
back to the driveway  
I went out  
he taught me lessons  
to not chase clout  
he said little girl get back up

Dribble, dribble, dribble  
pass, pass, pass  
writing down my goals  
hoping they will last  
hoping they will hold  
he said little girl get back up

Daddy never knew  
I just wanna make him proud  
to hear him in the stands  
shout so loud  
to fit the queen with the crown  
he sacrifices everything  
don't wanna let him down  
the last thing we need  
his face to be a frown  
he said little girl get back up

We could hate and love  
Kara Gresham (2<sup>nd</sup> period, first place)

send prayers for above  
a call for help  
momma never felt  
told her to be on my side  
my ride or die  
daddy was left with no tie  
he said little girl get back up

I said life isn't fair  
no one even cared  
I was taught to be strong  
to know right from wrong  
to be smart and brave  
to not misbehave  
to have memories to save  
so I never tried to cry  
or show I was sad  
tucked my feelings away  
and said I was okay  
just calling it a day  
I didn't know another way  
wanted to change  
needed to fix it  
those times on the couch  
they told me to have grit  
he said little girl get back up

The yelling and screaming  
the claims and rebuttals  
wished I was daydreaming  
nothing left unsettled  
came into my room  
both had something to prove  
he said little girl get back up

Counting my mistakes  
like candles on a cake  
mind full of questions  
take it day by day  
in little sections  
he said little girl get back up

I would fall and get hurt  
my body terribly aching  
lying in deep thoughts  
the decisions I was making  
he said don't give in  
I felt like it was a sin  
he said little girl get back up

Something inside me  
someone to please  
watched and watched

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staring at the screen he  
said observe  
try to see  
finding a reason  
to still believe  
he said little girl get back up

His memories swayed me differently  
the reminiscing of his childhood  
where he had nothing  
I was starting to realize  
he made me wanna be something  
he said little girl get back up

Don't compare yourself  
to anyone or anything  
those were daddy's words  
I always said yes sir  
you grow up wanting to achieve first  
there is no option  
never come in third  
he said little girl get back up

Visualizing the court  
knowing I'm different  
I'm not like the rest  
daddy said it best It's  
ok to fail  
but to never let up  
your expectations  
should never be enough  
he said little girl get back up

I'm not very vocal  
a little anti-social  
hard for me to communicate  
I think it holds my fate  
I never run away  
don't care what people say  
embrace all failures  
and never say I can't  
this is my story  
this is my chance  
he said little girl get back up

The image of him  
just like his clone  
daughter like father  
It's all I've ever known  
does everything with power  
far from a coward  
always had respect  
all the promises he's kept minus the shoes  
Kara Gresham (2<sup>nd</sup> period, first place)

he really hates to lose  
oh the battles I've won  
he's been my only day one  
he said little girl get back up

Where do we go  
to feel most at home  
where to we find the might  
to continue to fight  
the strength to go  
the extra length  
finding the one file  
In a bunch of piles  
a needle in a haystack  
the breeze  
to feel relieved  
the horrid sights we often see  
and to be able to not flee  
Injustice we can face  
nobody else can form a case  
where do we anchor down  
when no one is around  
there is always a home

It can be a person or place  
so where do we run  
to see light like the sun  
forget about the bad  
and just have fun  
ask yourself this  
who are you with  
through the trials and troubles  
I always came back  
not only the driveway  
that's a given fact  
but to a person called Dad  
he always said  
I am who I am  
he created a piece of me  
the person I'm meant to be  
he said little girl get back up