

Only Man For Me

EXT. SACRAMENTO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT CENTER - MORNING -
PRESENT DAY

Lush gardens in the back of the treatment center.

Adults of all ages are sitting on pathway benches as the occasional orderly walks by and says, "hello," to patients.

"Relax" music is playing on the garden speaker system.

We focus on two older women, one white named Barbara and one Chinese American named Pingli Zhang.

PINGLI
(To Barbara)
The music makes me nervous.

Barbara, sedated, blinks her eyes and turns to Pingli as if confused.

BARBARA
It's supposed to make you relax,
Pingli.

PINGLI
Yeah, only if you're crazy, and I'm
not.

Pingli pauses.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
(Shaking her head)
I don't belong here.

BARBARA
I'm not sure if I belong on the
planet much less here.

PINGLI
What would the planet do without
us?

They both contemplate for a few seconds, face each other and start laughing.

INT. INSIDE TANJIN ZHANG'S HIGH END VOLVO SUV

Tanjin Zhang (45), slim and greying, is on his way to pick up his mother, Pingli, and take her home.

His wife, Lan Lan, is in the passenger's seat and is obviously concerned about something.

Tanjin, a bit exasperated, looks over to her.

TANJIN
You worry about every little thing.

LAN LAN
She's my mother-in-law.

TANJIN
But I understand her complexities.

LAN LAN
You sound like she's a science project.

TANJIN
That's because she is.

Lan Lan rolls her eyes.

LAN LAN
Christ, how did I get myself in this mess.

TANJIN
The operative word is "myself." You did it yourself when you didn't have to. Let me worry about her. She's harmless.

LAN LAN
And fucking expensive.

TANJIN
It's her money, not ours, and she has plenty of it. She and dad invested well. You know that.

A big sigh from Lan Lan.

LAN LAN
Paying rent on your dad's office is insane. You know that! It's been eight years with absolutely no return on that investment.

A bit angry.

TANJIN
For you there's no return. To mom, there is!

LAN LAN
It's sick, and you know it.

TANJIN

Who's to say what's "sick?" Let's see, I think active shooters are sick. I think racists are sick. Mom's not sick. She just can't let him go. Who's to say that's wrong and what's right? She pays for it. It's her money. Not yours!

LAN LAN

We have three children, one at Stanford, seventy thousand a year, and one at USC, roughly the same price.

TANJIN

And that makes me proud. Anyway, Billy will be much cheaper since he's going to UC Berkeley.

LAN LAN

Thank God for in-state tuition, but, Christ, you're a doctor and you're broke.

TANJIN

You know that's temporary. After they graduate, we'll start saving, again. Meantime, you could help. I mean, I don't see you quitting your government law job and joining a private firm at three times the salary?

LAN LAN

Oh, well, it's complex.

TANJIN

Yeah, complex.

LAN LAN

Ass hole!

EXT. SACRAMENTO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Pingli is still sitting with Barbara.

PINGLI

My boy is gonna be here soon. I think Lan Lan's with him.

BARBARA

I'll miss you, Pingli.

PINGLI
Same here, Barbara.

Pingli pauses and gazes into the trees.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
They have a perfect marriage just like I had with my man. I worked as his receptionist and dental tech for thirty five years, and we hardly ever fought.

Barbara looks at Pingli with a suspicious eye.

BARBARA
Maybe you were too darn busy to fight.

Barbara laughs, but Pingli cringes a bit.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE TREATMENT CENTER

Tanjin's Volvo pulls up to the front door.

EXT. IN THE TREATMENT CENTER GARDENS

Tanjin walks up to his mother.

He stops and stands in front of his mother and Barbara.

TANJIN
Hey, Mom. How are you, Barbara?

BARBARA
Residing on the planet earth. Ha Ha.

TANJIN
(To Barbara)
Assuming that's what all this is.

PINGLI
(To Tanjin)
I have no idea what you mean. Why did you say that to her?

Tanjin recoils.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
I'm just kidding, my boy. Is Lan Lan with you?

TANJIN
Is that okay?

Pingli looks at Barbara a bit worried.

PINGLI
(Chuckling)
Why wouldn't it be?

Barbara and Tanjin look at each other as if they have a mutual secret.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
My bags are in the lobby. Want to head out, young man?

Pingli stands up with confidence.

INT. INSIDE THE VOLVO

Pingli has taken the front seat, and Lan Lan is sitting in the back and appears pissed off.

They're still in the Care Center parking lot.

TANJIN
Back to the condo, mom?

PINGLI
No.

Both Tanjin and Lan Lan roll their eyes.

Pingli picks up on their displeasure.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
Mind readers now, huh?

Lan Lan looks out the window.

TANJIN
Look, mom, we haven't been to dad's dental office since you went back to the care center.

PINGLI
And you'd rather not go?

Lan Lan is becoming quietly angry.

TANJIN
(Intimidated)
I didn't say that.

PINGLI
Well, then?

Lan Lan cringes and jerks around in the back seat.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
And you'd better get this girl a
leash.

Tanjin cowers.

TANJIN
(Loudly)
What's the problem, Lan Lan?

LAN LAN
(Trying to speak calmly)
I didn't say anything.

They all look away from each other for a bit.

TANJIN
We're worried about you, mom. Dad's
been gone for eight years now, and
you still go there.

PINGLI
I've been thinking seriously about
paying half of the kids' college
education. Maybe more.

There's a silence in the car. Tanjin eyes Lan Lan through the
rearview mirror.

Lan Lan shrugs her shoulders.

TANJIN
Thanks for the thought, mom, but I
don't . . .

Lan Lan clenches her fist and punches the back of Tanjin's
seat.

Tanjin is jolted.

TANJIN (CONT'D)
Seriously, mom?

PINGLI
I always mean what I say.

LAN LAN
That's very thoughtful of you, mom.

PINGLI

Since you're not taking the offer
at the private law firm at four
times your government salary . . .

LAN LAN

. . . more like three times . . .

PINGLI

. . . Well, whatever, I suppose I
don't have a choice. I told you not
to buy a house in the Fabulous
40's, but you just had to have it.
5500 square feet, and two of the
kids aren't even there anymore.
What are your financial obligations
on that monster of a house,
mortgage, insurance, utilities,
property taxes? Fourteen thousand
dollars a month? Since you can't
downsize like sane professionals, I
guess I have no choice but to bail
you out, right?

Lan Lan is gnashing her teeth in back and has her fists
clinched.

TANJIN

You'll be happy to know that we've
been talking about downsizing.

PINGLI

Right, to the 1.5 million plus
condo downtown? Only 2800 sq. ft.--
yeeessss, that's my
conservationist. You're supposed to
be a democrat!

TANYIN

We haven't purchased that property,
yet.

PINGLI

Good. Hold off. Please. Let's talk
about it later.

TANJIN

We'll be at dad's office soon, Mom.

PINGLI

It was MY office, too. How often do
I have to remind you?

(MORE)

PINGLI (CONT'D)
I was receptionist and tech for
thirty five years, damnit.

TANJIN
Sorry, Mom. It just comes out that
way because he was the dentist.

PINGLI
An excellent dentist at that.

Tanjin shuts his eyes very tightly for a few seconds.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
My boy, I do wish you could've
picked a more lucrative specialty--
like the Ming kids. They're all
surgeons making nearly seven
figures each.

LAN LAN
You're right, mom. I think their
oldest makes 1.6 Million in San
Francisco. You know, pretty famous
brain surgeon.

Pingli smiles suspiciously.

TANJIN
I'll say it, again, mom: people
don't die as often in pediatrics.

PINGLI
God, I wish you could've inherited
my spine instead of your father's.

LAN LAN
I told him that, too, mom.

Pingli cranes her head and looks back at Lan Lan, sternly.

Lan Lan gazes out the window, again.

EXT. A 1970'S MODERN CONTEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

The Volvo pulls into the half empty parking lot.

The Volvo comes to a stop in front of an office, whose door
plaque says, "Dr. Bai Zhang, General Dentistry."

INT. INSIDE THE VOLVO

The three of them are getting ready to step out.

PINGLI
 (Looking sternly at
 Tanjin)
 You didn't change anything?

TANJIN
 No way, mom. No way.

PINGLI
 Is all the digital stuff working
 properly?

TANJIN
 It's all in working order, had my
 boy check it all out. I mean, I'd
 rather he wasn't exposed to this,
 but . . .

PINGLI
 A twenty-two-year-old can handle
 this.

TANJIN
 Well, he internalizes this, mom.
 It's not possible to say how he
 feels about it. He just laughs when
 I bring it up. But he shouldn't be
 laughing.

They all step out of the Volvo.

Pingli takes a look around at the well kempt professional
 building, which houses six other, medically-related
 professional offices.

PINGLI
 Keeping it clean, I see?

Tanjin nods.

TANJIN
 Same janitorial service we've had
 from the beginning.

PINGLI
 Ah, yes, the Dings are good people.

She hesitates.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
 But, as per usual, they're not
 allowed inside our office, right?

LAN LAN
 I've been keeping the inside clean.
 Is Woo still cleaning up after one
 of your . . . ?

Pingli interrupts, intentionally.

PINGLI
 . . . Woo is so much more than a
 housekeeper.

LAN LAN
 Anyway, apart from Woo's duties,
 there's not a lot of work to do
 especially since there hasn't been
 a patient in the office for eight .
 . .

Pingli interrupts, again, and holds up her hand in the "shut
 up" position.

PINGLI
 . . . Woo's more than happy to help
 out with special sessions. Okay,
 you two wait out here. I'm going in
 alone.

TANJIN
 Take as long as you need, Mom.

PINGLI
 I won't be too long this time.
 Tomorrow, I'll Uber over with Woo
 and take my time.

LAN LAN
 Oh, boy.

PINGLI
 Mind yourself, young lady.

LAN LAN
 Sure thing, Mom.

Tanjin and Lan Lan look at each other in the rearview mirror
 with worry.

INT. DENTAL OFFICE WAITING ROOM

The front door opens, and Pingli steps inside.

She quickly shuts the door behind her, stands for a moment
 and looks around.

She's not showing any emotion.

She runs an index finger over the top of a picture frame contain a painting of a sailboat, looks at her finger, then runs the same finger over a side table next to a chair.

Then she steps over to the receptionist's window.

We see the shoulder of a woman sitting just behind the counter.

The scene cuts away.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE DENTAL OFFICE

Tanjin and Lan Lan stand in front waiting.

Another Asian American, Dr. Stan Lee, walks up to them.

DR. LEE

Long time no see, guys!

They shake hands.

LAN LAN

Stan, how are Martha and the kids?

DR. LEE

About the same as last time I ran into you. When was that? A few months ago?

LAN LAN

Month and a half. I was here cleaning.

DR. LEE

By the way, I feel a little awkward mentioning this, but did you know your mother recently raised the rent on us. It's a lot, too.

TANJIN

What? How could she do that? Frank Fats owns this building.

Dr. Lee is taken aback.

DR. LEE

Oh, wow, you guys didn't know? Pingli bought this property six months ago.

TANJIN

Really? Damn. Well, I'm surprised she didn't tell me about such a huge purchase.

DR. LEE

She can afford it.

TANJIN

Still, she usually talks with me about this kind of thing.

DR. LEE

You know, on another matter. If your mother would open your dad's office to a new dentist, this building wouldn't seem like a partial graveyard. A lot of my patients are morbidly curious about it, you know. And I think we've lost a few patients because of it. It's just weird; the most visible office has been unused for eight years! Gossip and unfounded speculations come from this kind of thing, you know? And I don't think we can absorb it for much longer.

TANJIN

Stan, really, we'll talk with her.

DR. LEE

Please, Tanjin? You know, before Pingli bought the place, those of us leasing here were preparing to go legal, have her evicted. That's when we found out she was paying 30% more rent to Frank Fats than the rest of us just to keep the dental office. Yeah, that's why Fats didn't evict her. Anyway, then she bought it, and now we're screwed. We were thinking of relocating, but that can be suicide for a medical practice.

TANJIN

Sorry, Stan, we'll definitely talk to her.

INT. INSIDE THE DENTAL OFFICE

Pingli is looking at the receptionist, which, it turns out, is a wax figure resembling a younger Pingli.

There is a digital button pad (similar in appearance to an Ipad) on the counter, and Pingli picks it up.

PINGLI

(To the wax figure)

Hello, Mrs. Zhang, I'm here for my new crown.

Pingli presses on of the buttons, and then we hear a recording of Pingli's own voice coming from the wax figure (the figure's lips don't move).

PINGLI WAX FIGURE

How are you feeling today? We have your crown and are here for you.

PINGLI

Can Dr. Zhang see me now?

Pingli presses another button (and will press a button from now on to get a response).

PINGLI WAX FIGURE

Not right now. Please wait a few moments.

Pingli sits down in a chair near the receptionist's window and takes a magazine.

PINGLI

Oh, it's Vogue. How wonderful. Dr. Zhang's office always has the best magazines!

PINGLI WAX FIGURE

We are always careful to serve our financially comfortable, well educated, classy patients with high class reading material. I'm happy that Dr. Zhang took my suggestion to include classy magazines.

PINGLI

Thank you very much. You're so thoughtful. Oh, and you're such a classy medical family.

PINGLI WAX FIGURE

How are your two wonderful grand children doing at those great universities, Stanford and USC?

PINGLI

Pre-med, of course, and both are on the Dean's List.

PINGLI WAX FIGURE

Of course, they are. They come from good ancestry.

PINGLI

Oh, now, you're far too nice.

PINGLI WAX FIGURE

No, no, no. Now, we have to call it like it is. Some people are just superior.

PINGLI

Well, if you say so.

PINGLI WAX FIGURE

Oh, I do. I do.

INT. DENTAL EXAMINATION ROOM

We see Pingli entering her husband's examination room with her digital pad.

She steps in, closes the door, quickly, and looks toward the examination chair.

There is a wax figure of Dr. Zhang (appearing around 50 years old) standing next to the chair.

He has a pleasant expression on his face and is holding a dental drill in one hand and goggles in the other.

PINGLI

Hello, Dr. Zhang.

She pushes a button on the pad.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

Hello, my devoted receptionist, tech, and faithful wife. I cherish you because you are my devoted wife, mother of successful children and grandmother to successful grandchildren.

(MORE)

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE (CONT'D)
 You have superior blood, even
 though my blood is a bit diluted.

PINGLI
 Thank you for your kind words, Dr.
 Zhang.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE
 May I see the next patient?

Pingli pulls a smartphone from her pocket, dials and speaks
 into the phone.

PINGLI
 Dr. Zhang will see you now.

There's obviously a hesitation on the other end.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
 I said, "now!"

Pingli puts the phone back into her pocket.

Tanjin steps into the room and rolls his eyes.

Pingli glares at him, severely, after which Tanjin quickly
 smiles.

TANJIN
 Hello, Dr. Zhang. I'm here for my
 crown.

Pingli continues to push response buttons on her pad.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE
 We have superior crowns here.

TANJIN
 That's why I've come to you.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE
 Please, have a seat, superior young
 man.

Tanjin sits in the dental chair, and Dr. Zhang starts telling
 him what he's going to do.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE (CONT'D)
 First, I'll grind and bad tooth
 down and create a superior post for
 the first class crown . . .

Pingli steps over to the other side of the chair and grabs a
 rinse hose.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE (CONT'D)
 Thank you, my excellent technician
 and wife of superior blood.

There's a pause.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE (CONT'D)
 (A bit severely to Tanjin)
 Son, say, "thank you," to your
 superior technician, please.

TANJIN
 (Looking at Pingli)
 Thank you, superior technician.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE
 Then, I'll make a mold for the
 permanent crown, after which I'll
 make a first class temporary crown,
 which you'll have until the
 permanent crown arrives in ten
 days.

Tanjin doesn't respond.

Pingli gives Tanjin the evil eye.

TANJIN
 Thank you, Dr. Zhang.

Pingli presses a button that activates the sound effects of a
 dentist and tech working on a patient: drilling, spray-
 rinsing, grinding, etc.

Pingli gets closer to Tanjin and pretends to spray and even
 wipe Tanjin's mouth.

PINGLI
 Yes, Dr. Zhang.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
 Dr. Zhang, don't you think Tanjin
 is a fine patient?

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE
 Yes, he is exemplary, but he should
 have picked a more lucrative
 specialty, like heart surgery, so
 he could afford that ridiculous
 house on 42nd Street. Also, Lan Lan
 should take a job with a private
 legal firm so she can make four
 times the salary. Government is
 corrupt, anyway.

Tanjin cringes with anger, shuts his eyes tight.

PINGLI

Thank you for your superior wisdom,
Dr. Zhang.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

Thank you, my excellent wife. I
wish I could listen to myself more
often.

Pingli presses another button.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE (CONT'D)

We'll be finished before you know
it.

INT. PINGLI'S CONDO IN DOWNTOWN SACRAMENTO

Pingli's condo reeks of affluence, although it is modest and elegant with only a few Asian decorations; it's mostly modern contemporary.

Pingli, Lan Lan and Tanjin are sitting around a large kitchen island counter drinking ice tea.

An older Asian house keeper, named Woo, walks around them with a pitcher of iced tea.

WOO

More iced tea, anyone?

They all wave her off.

PINGLI

Woo?

WOO

Yes, ma'am.

PINGLI

I'll need an Uber tomorrow morning
at 9:00 AM sharp, to the dental
clinic.

WOO

Will do. Same supplies?

PINGLI

Yes.

Lan Lan and Tanjin look sadly at each other.

TANJIN

Should I meet you there, mom?

PINGLI

No, dear. Tomorrow's not a "you" day. Thanks, anyway. This appointment is only for me.

Lan Lan has a look of concern.

Then she looks around the condo with admiration.

LAN LAN

Mom, Dr. Zhang really set you up. You're so fortunate.

PINGLI

(A bit angered)

I had a lot to do with what I have. I tell you what, maybe you two, after you sell that ridiculous waste of a house, could move in here. It's only 1/4 the size, but it's huge by normal human standards.

Lan Lan looks even more concerned.

PINGLI (CONT'D)

It's not what you think. I want a smaller place, half this size. It feels wasteful to me. Plus, I can't handle all the homeless people outside. I leave the lobby, and I'm just inundated with the hungry and desperate. Young people can deal with that better. In other words, I do not want to live with you.

LAN LAN

I see.

She gives Tanjin an "is she serious" look.

LAN LAN (CONT'D)

What's your asking price?

PINGLI

Oh, free. You're gonna get it, anyway, after I'm gone. No, sell that neon "I'm so rich" house and just take this. It's nice, but it probably won't get your kids kidnapped for ransom.

Tanjin looks pensive and a bit concerned.

TANJIN
Thank you, mom.

Pingli lets out a big smile.

TANJIN (CONT'D)
But that won't erase your issues.
It seems the last few months have
made no difference whatsoever. I'm
your son. I love you, no matter how
troubled you become. I love you.

PINGLI
I don't have to change just because
I don't fit into your definition of
what your mommy should be?

TANJIN
Ultimately, mom, it's very
destructive.

PINGLI
Five stays at the treatment center,
and you still don't get it. Some
things just don't change.

TANJIN
But . . .

PINGLI
They don't change, damnit. Now,
love me the way I am and leave me
the hell alone.

EXT. THE FRONT OF DR. ZHANG'S DENTAL CLINIC

An Uber pulls into the parking lot and parks in front of Dr.
Zhang's door.

Then we see Woo step out of the taxi and walk around to the
trunk, pulls a dolly out and places three 8-by-12 inch boxes
on it.

Pingli steps out of the Uber.

INT. INSIDE THE DENTAL CLINIC WAITING AREA

The Pingli figure is behind the receptionist's counter.

Woo unpacks six large cans of catchup onto the counter and starts to open them with a manual can opener.

INT. INSIDE DR. ZHANG'S EXAMINATION ROOM

The Dr. Zhang figure is standing where it was before.

Pingli opens a closet and pulls out another wax figure of a woman in her mid thirties.

Pingli sets her up next to the dental chair opposite Dr. Zhang.

On her white smock is a big badge the says "Dental Hygienist."

Woo walks in with a tray of dental surgical tools, gaugers, knives, mallets, etc.

Pingli pulls from a drawer the digital button pad and places it on a stand also next to the dental chair.

PINGLI
First can, please?

Woo brings in one large can of catchup, opened.

Pingli takes the open can and steps up to Dr. Zhang and pours some of the catchup over his head; it drips down over his face and onto his white smock.

Then she empties the whole can onto him.

PINGLI (CONT'D)
Second can, Woo.

WOO
Yes, ma'am.

Woo brings in the second can, which Pingli pours over the dental hygienist.

Then Pingli stands at the base of the dental chair and addresses Dr. Zhang and the hygienist.

INT. DR. ZHANG'S OFFICE - TEN YEARS EARLIER

There are no patients waiting, obviously after closing.

A younger Pingli is at the receptionist counter inputting data into a computer when she hears some commotion coming from Dr. Zhang's examination room.

Then Dr. Zhang's room door swings open and the hygienist limps out wearing only her shirt. She's breathing hard, and her hair is a mess.

HYGIENIST

Oh, fuck me. I thought you'd left,
Pingli.

DR. ZHANG (O.C.)

Oh, God, don't tell me!

Pingli says nothing. Instead, she quickly gathers her things and leaves the office.

INT. DR. ZHANG'S EXAMINATION ROOM - PRESENT - CONTINUOUS

Pingli is holding up the digital pad and presses a button.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

Oh, God, don't tell me!

Pingli presses another button.

HYGIENIST WAX FIGURE

Oh, fuck me. I thought you'd left,
Pingli.

Woo brings another can of catchup, and she, herself, pours it over the dental chair.

Then Woo picks up the Hygienist figure and puts her in the chair.

Pingli hands the digital pad over to Woo.

Then Pingli moves to the side of the chair and powers up the dental drill.

Pingli looks into the Hygienist's eyes.

PINGLI

Oh, it looks like you have a cavity
in your eyeball.

Woo presses a button.

HYGIENIST WAX FIGURE

I thought you'd gone home!

PINGLI

No, I'm still here, and I'm about to drill the cavity in your eyeball.

Woo presses, again.

HYGIENIST WAX FIGURE

Oh, no, Pingli. Please, no, no, no!

Pingli starts to drill the wax figure's eyeball.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

I didn't mean to have intercourse with her and for so many years. Please, please, let her go. She doesn't mean anything to me even though she worked here for two decades and I began having intercourse with her almost from the day she arrived. Please, please, let her go!

Pingli keeps drilling.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE (CONT'D)

Or, it could be she needs a good drilling.

The hygienist wax figure starts to moan.

HYGIENIST WAX FIGURE

AAAAA. AAWAAA. AAAA. AAWAAA.

Pingli sits up and nods.

Woo takes the mallet and knocks the hygienist on the forehead fairly hard.

Then Woo steps up to the Dr. Zhang wax figure and knocks him on the top of his head.

Pingli gives Woo a thumbs up.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

Oh, my God, you're going to kill us aren't you?

PINGLI

(Resolutely)

Yes, yes, yes.

Pingli stands and waves off Woo, and Woo stands to the side of the room and awaits Pingli's orders.

PINGLI (CONT'D)

After so many years of hard work, and even struggle, you took up with this hygienist. After you and I achieved financial success, mainly because of my investment knowhow, you had to have intercourse constantly with this woman who had nothing to with what we built together.

Woo takes the digital pad and presses a button.

HYGIENIST WAX FIGURE

I am a slut.

PINGLI

You fell for a slut, a good hygienist, yes, but a total slut.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

I didn't mean to have intercourse with her hundreds of times.

HYGIENIST WAX FIGURE

And I didn't mean to bend over hundreds of times.

PINGLI

Even with a wonderful boy and girl and great grand children, you didn't see enough value in that fact to keep your pants up.

Pingli hesitates. She looks at Woo and the digital pad.

PINGLI (CONT'D)

Pants up!

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

I am a bastard and sexual deviant.

PINGLI

What we had was much better than your sexual glory. Not only that, she was cheating on her own husband and two children. Who knows, she's probably still cheating somewhere in this dangerous world.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

I am a dangerous dentist. I have failed nice people for my own sexual glory. It was not worth it.

PINGLI

I hope you thought of that when you started fibrillating and then started stroking out.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

Yes, I did think of you and the kids and how much I love all of you. Right before I died, I saw a very clear image of you and the kids. And you all were so beautiful, perfect in my eyes. I thank you Pingli for all the great business decisions you made to make our family successful, and I know how hard you worked here at the clinic. You were the glue that held this practice together.

Pingli starts to cry and so does Woo.

PINGLI

Do you regret what you've done to me and the children?

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE

I will regret it forever and ever. I will always hold you and the children in my heart. I love you forever.

Pingli and Woo are still crying.

Woo comes over and hugs Pingli.

DR. ZHANG WAX FIGURE (CONT'D)

I know you can't say the words, yet, but I will wait forever for you to tell me you forgive me.

Pingli is lost in her grief, and Woo walks her outside to the front of the clinic.

WOO

I'll clean everything up. You try to settle down, Pingli. Your Uber will be here in a few minutes.

END

