

4

By

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Original Story

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ACT 1

FADE FROM BLACK:

CHINA-1999

EXT. RECEPTION ROOM - DAY

A group of Chinese people stand in a circle. They twist small long red and gold paper popper tubes. Paper string and confetti pop out into the air and fall onto the bride and groom. The Chinese bride, LIN-LIN BAOJIA; early twenties, petite, stands in a white wedding dress. Lin-Lin stands next to the groom, XING FÉNG, Chinese early thirties, fit, and not smiling.

The Lin-Lin and Xing stand in the middle of the circle. The people congratulate the wedding couple. A female voice speaks.

FOUR V.O.

You see how beautiful my mother was on her wedding day. It was supposed to be the happiest day of her life but all of that changed.

The Lin-Lin and Xing walk around greeting people and shaking hands. Guests .

FOUR V.O.

I was born the fourth child. Now for those who are Chinese traditionalists, you would know what four means. For those who don't the number four has two significant meanings... bad luck...

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT

The moonlight beams onto two figures in the dark. A female figure stands over a male figure with his arms behind him and kneeling on the floor. A close shot of a dagger. The blade shows the reflection of eyes of a Chinese woman.

FOUR V.O.

... And death.

FOUR, Chinese female in her early twenties, wearing black silk clothes, swipes the blade away from her. Xing (older)

gasps and falls down to the floor. Xing lays on the floor wearing boxer shorts and his wrists and legs are bound with duct tape. Blood seeps out from the wound from his neck.

Four squats down next to Xing's body. Xing's body shows multiple knife wounds with blood slowly bleeding out from his body. She wipes the knife, stained with blood, on his boxers shorts. She looks at his body with a serious facial expression.

Four walks to the front door with the hooks mounted on the wall next to the doorway. She puts her hand inside the left pocket of a black hooded jacket and pulls out an ivory dagger sheath. Four connects the dagger and sheath together. She takes the hoodie off from the coat hooks. Four turns her head back looking at Xing's body briefly. Four turns the door knob and opens the door. She wipes the door knob with her sleeve and walks out. Four pulls the knob and the door closes violently.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - SAME NIGHT

Four opens the driver's door and gets in the driver's seat. Four puts her hand into her jacket and pulls out a set of keys linked to a keychain. She put one key on the ignition and starts the car. Four looks at all of her car mirrors with caution. Four changes gear from "park" to "drive" and puts her foot on the accelerator. The car rolls forward slowly onto the road and drives off.

FADE TO BLACK:

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT

BATHROOM

The light turns on. Four turns on the sink faucet and washes her hands and face. She looks in the mirror and sees her reflect. Her face is expressionless.

FOUR V.O.

You want to know my story? You want to know who I am? I guess that's fair for you to know how I got here and what I am going to do next.

Four turns off the faucet and grabs a towel from the vanity.

She wipes her hands and face.

FOUR V.O.

Like any story, it starts with the
parents and mine are a sad story.

FLASHBACK:

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT -1999

Xing and Lin-Lin's family sit at a big round table. Lin-Lin sits with Xing. Servers walk through the aisles with big dishes of meats and vegetables on their hands. They set the dishes on a turning table in the middle. Everyone reaches the food and pick the meats and vegetables with chopsticks.

FOUR V.O.

(dark tone)

My mother got married in China to Dr. Xing Féng, an asshole. He studied aboard in medicine in America and given a work visa for a hospital in Central New York. And he fell in love, just not with my mother.

CUT TO:

CENTRAL NEW YORK-1999

INT. XING'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lin-Lin walks over to the table with bowls of Chinese noodles and vegetables. Lin-Lin eats with three Chinese children AN, seven years old boy with short hair, JU, five years old girl with pinks tails, and MAO, three years old boy with buzzed haircut.

FOUR V.O.

Xing was married to a woman before, but she died unexpectedly, my mother didn't say from what. Anyway to sum it up Xing's parents wanted their grandchildren to have a mother. They were good friends with my grandparents and practically sold my mother. That was an exaggeration, but that was it, my mother was a spare or replacement for someone else. Xing never showed any warmth or affection towards her. He was cold to her.

Lin-Lin stands up from the table and walks to the kitchen doorway to look towards the front hall. She looks at the front doorway and sees car lights through the door window. She looks at the clock on the wall. The clock shows 8 o'clock.

FOUR V.O.

He would come home late or work long night hours at the hospital.

Lin-Lin sees Xing opening the front door. She walks out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT HALL

Xing walks up the stairs. Lin-Lin approaches the stairs and talks to Xing in a light tone

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

Xing where are you going, I have dinner ready for you. Come and eat please.

Xing turns and looks at her with an exhausting facial expression. He exhaustingly walks down to meet her and walk passes her. She follows him to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. XING'S KITCHEN

Xing greets and kisses his children on the head happily. Lin-Lin prepares a bowl of noodles and walks with it to Xing. Xing takes to bowl of noodles and grabs a pair of unused chopsticks on the table. He walks out of the kitchen. Lin-Lin walks out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT HALL

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

Xing where are you going, why are you going upstairs?

He answers her in a stern voice.

XING

(Mandarin)

Because I am exhausted and want to sleep. I don't want to talk with you tonight.

Xing continues to walk up the stairs. She sighs and shows a grieving expression on her face.

FOUR V.O.

He would avoid her intentionally as much as he can, the asshole. She puts so much effort but just gets rejected by him. And everyday she puts on a face of a happy wife.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

WAITING ROOM

The sun shines through the windows brightening up the room. Men, women, and children sit in metal barred framed chairs with blue cushioned seats and back frames. Nurses and doctors walk through double doors calling out people's names.

Lin-Lin walks through automatic glass doors into the room. She walks pass the rows of chairs with the people sitting in them. Lin-Lin approaches the registry desk with a smile on her face. She speaks to the female front desk REGISTRAR.

LIN-LIN

(soft Chinese accent and semi-broken English)

Hello... I am Lin-Lin... Doctor Xing Feng's wife. I am here take him to lunch.

The registrar looks at Lin-Lin with a smile and replies politely.

REGISTRAR

Alright Mrs. Feng, let me call his office, if can give me a sec.

The registrar picks up the office phone receiver and presses the buttons. She pauses for a moment. She presses the hang up button with her finger and dials a different number. She starts speaking.

REGISTRAR

Hey Doctor Harris this is the front desk is Doctor Feng with you?(pause) I see... alright thank you for that.

The registrar puts the receiver on the hook and looks at Lin-Lin. She speaks in a polite tone.

REGISTRAR

I am sorry but it seems Doctor Feng is out right now. I can try paging him if you like?

Lin-Lin struggles to smile and polite answers to the registrar.

LIN-LIN

No thank, you I will try to call him. Thank you.

Lin-Lin walks to the automatic doors. The doors open and she exits the room.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Lin-Lin walks to the parking lot. She opens her purse and pulls out a NOKIA cell phone. She dials a phone number. She looks around and sees Xing with three male colleagues and one female colleague.

Xing looks very friendly to the female colleague. Xing pulls out his phone from his blazer pocket. He presses a button on the phone and puts the phone back in the pocket. He gets into an SUV. The dial tone from Lin-Lin's phone ended.

Lin-Lin puts the phone back into her purse with a grievance expression on her face. She walks to a row of cars on her right side. She approaches a Nissan Maxima. Lin-Lin leans on the car and gasps a few times. A male voice is heard.

BIAO

Excuse me, are you alright?

Lin-Lin turns around and she sees a well dressed man standing in front of her. CHÉN BIAO, Chinese mid-thirties, handsome, looks at her and smirks.

BIAO

Mrs. Feng... I am Chen Biao. I work with Xing at the hospital and I was at your wedding in China.

Lin-Lin straighten her clothes and wipes her face with her fingers. She smiles and replies to Chen.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
Yes, I remember you, it has been
awhile. How are you?

Biao sees the distress and replies in a friendly tone.

BIAO
(Mandarin)
I am fine but you look like you are
not alright. Are you looking for Xing,
I think he might be around in the
hospital.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
No, I saw him with some people getting
into a car. I wanted to have lunch
with him but I was wrong.

Lin-Lin looks down with disappointment on her face. Lin-Lin opens her purse and pulls out her keys. She turns to the drivers door. Biao gives her an offer.

BIAO
How about I take you to lunch. We have
many places not too far from here and
it would a waste for you to go home
after just arriving. It will be my
treat, please.

She turns to him and gives him a small smile.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT-SAME DAY

PATIO

Lin-Lin and Biao sit at a table with the umbrella over their heads, blocking the sun. People sit, talk, and eat around them. Biao looks at the menu closely. He lowers it and see Lin-Lin eyes looking down at the table with a blank stare. Biao takes a sip of his glass of water and starts to speak in

soft tone.

BIAO
What's on your mind, anything you need
to talk about.

Lin-Lin looks at him embarrassed and doesn't answer his question. She shakes her head.

BIAO
(Mandarin)
Pardon if I sound forward but
something is bothering you and I think
I can guess who that something is.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
It has been getting difficult being
with Xing since I moved here. My
family gave me great hope with him and
he was charming to me in front of
everyone. But I think now it was not
sincere. His children like me but when
I try to be a good wife to him, but he
doesn't show it back to me.

She starts shedding a tear from her eye. She picks up a napkin from the table and wipes her eye and cheek. She continues speaks in a soft sorrow tone.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
I don't know what I am doing wrong or
why he treats me like this. I don't
know why he married me if he knew he
didn't like me when we met.

Biao puts his hand over her hand on the table. He replies in a compassionate tone.

BIAO
I think he believes you can't simply
replace his wife, however I am only
guessing this reason from what you
told me. It is very possible I am
wrong about him, but being a lawyer I
can be right or wrong about anything.

Biao softly chuckles and sees Lin-Lin showing a small smile on her face.

BIAO
I finally put a smile on your face.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
You are the first person who has made me really smile since I came here.

Biao chuckles and gives a witty reply.

BIAO
I feel very honored for that. Maybe I can be the first to introduce you to a lot of things since Xing isn't around to do so.

Lin-Lin nods and smiles at Biao. Biao smiles back at her.

BIAO
Let's get back to lunch.

CUT TO BACK:

FADE FROM BLACK:

INT. APARTMENT - PRESENT - NIGHT

The room is dark. Four turns on a desk light and sets a plastic sealed container of a mixed salad on the top surface. A plastic fork and a cellphone is set on top of the container. Four puts the fork and cellphone on side of the container. A laptop is set in front of the salad. Her voice speaks in a solemn tone.

FOUR V.O.
That's how it started. My mother traded for one asshole for another, but not to her fault. She followed her parents wishes and being young she thought she was getting comfort and security, and above all else... love. Biao gave her all of that and his words kept her coming back.

Four sits in an wheeled office armed chair. She opens the container and mixes the salad ingredients with the fork. She takes a bite of the salad. Four opens a laptop with an earphone connected on the side.

The screen turns on and a video with the image of Lin-Lin with a sad face shown. She puts the earphones over her ears.

Four drags the mouse through the screen click the play button.

Four minimizes the video screen and maximizes a internet window with Biao's business photo and bio of the hospital legal department.

FOUR V.O.

My father... so many accomplishments in his career. I can see how my mother was so taken by him. He is handsome now as he probably was when my mother met him. I could see how she felt for him.

Four minimizes the internet window and maximizes a photo gallery window. She clicks on a photo to enlarge on the computer screen. Four click on the side screen arrows to scroll through the candid pictures of Biao.

Her face shows anger while scrolling through the pictures.

FOUR V.O.

The only mistake he made in his career was that he made me.

FLASHBACK TO:

TWENTY YEARS AGO

INT. BATHROOM

Lin-Lin sits on the toilet and looks at her watch. She takes a pregnancy stick from the sink and looks at it. She gasps and gives a surprising look on her face.

FOUR V.O.

Their affair lead to my mother becoming pregnant with me...her first child.

She throws the stick in the trash can and leaves the room through the bathroom door.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIAO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lin-Lin approaches a black wooden door with a half circle window on the top. Lin-Lin extends her arm and presses the doorbell. She hears the chimes inside the the house. The door

opens and Biao stands in front of her in the doorway.

He looks at her with a straight face and speaks in a quiet stern tone.

BIAO

Lin...what are you doing here at my house?

Her face shows distress. She starts to talk to Biao.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

Biao I need to talk with you. Can I come in please?

BIAO

No you cannot come in.

Lin-Lin looks at him in confusion and pleads to him.

LIN-LIN

Please I have to talk to you. I can't tell you out here, please let me in.

Footsteps are heard from the inside. Biao turns and Biao's wife HUALING, Chinese female late twenties, approaches the doorway. She stands by Biao and sees Lin-Lin outside.

HUALING

Biao what's going on, who is this woman?

BIAO

This is Xing's wife Lin-Lin, the wedding from China remember?

Hualing's shows a facial expression that she remembers Lin-Lin. Biao looks at Lin-Lin and makes the introduction to her and his wife.

BIAO

Lin this is my wife Hualing.

Lin-Lin shows a small smile to Hualing. Biao continues to talk cautiously.

BIAO

Lin stopped by because she needs to talk about Xing. They might be going away together and wants to talk about

plans of having their kids here while they are gone.

Hualing looks at Lin-Lin suspiciously and Lin-Lin nods her head at her with a smile. Hualing speaks in a welcoming tone.

HUALING

I can make some suggestions, the northeastern coast has great getaways and...

Biao interrupts her.

BIAO

Honey go back to the kids I want to finish talking with Lin.

Hualing looks at him and then looks at Lin-Lin with a skeptic look. She rubs her hand on Biao's shoulder and walks away. Lin-Lin talks to Biao in a distressing tone.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

You never told me you were married and had a family. I didn't even see her with you at the wedding. How could you have kept this from me? You liar!

Biao steps out of to Lin-Lin and gives her a serious look.

BIAO

Shhhh! (He looks at the front windows and looks back at Lin) First of all you never asked me and second, that is the reason why we were always together at your house. You never saw her at the wedding because most of the time she was a talking to friends away from me. So I never lied I just never told you.

Biao looks through the open crack of the door for a moment and looks back at Lin-Lin.

BIAO

So tell me why are you here at my house.

Lin-Lin's eyes starts to water up. She starts to talk with difficulty.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

I am pregnant. I am pregnant with your child.

He looks at her solemnly and talks in a low tone.

BIAO

Are you sure its mine and not Xing's?

She raises her voice.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

Xing? You are the only man that I have slept with!

Biao wraps his arm around her and puts his hand over her mouth. He speaks to her in a strict tone.

BIAO

Will you quiet down, my family is in the house.

He looks back at the door and back to her. He slowly lowers his hand and uncovers Lin-Lin's mouth.

BIAO

You are going to get rid of it. I can look up some doctors and clinics to help you and we can be done with it.

Lin-Lin looks at him in surprise and answer him and distress.

LIN-LIN

Get rid of it? I would never get rid of my child. How can you think of that, it is your child too.

BIAO

Again I already have a family of my own. A wife and three kids, adding a fourth child is bad luck and would ruin my life that I have now. So get rid of it.

Lin-Lin answers him directly in a confound tone.

LIN-LIN

You used me! You seduced me! And now with my first child you want to get

rid of me! When I was coming here I thought I can talk with you and maybe leave Xing, but now I don't know what to think. No, I will not get rid of it.

Lin-Lin pushes herself away from Biao.

BIAO

Fine have it your way.

Biao opens the door and walks into the house. He turns to her and speaks to her in a charming tone.

BIAO

You are lovely Lin and I gave you something exciting. We just made one little mistake, but if you bring it to light I will do everything to ruin your life. Call me later to tell me when you want to go see those clinics. Or you can go yourself and deal with it. I am sure you will make the right choice.

Biao smirks at her and closes the door. Lin-Lin staggers as she walks away from the door. She cries and gasp for air.

CUT TO:

EXT. XING'S HOUSE- SAME NIGHT

The Nissan pulls up to the driveway. The lights are turned off and the engine stops. Lin-Lin opens the drivers door and steps out. She stands up and shuts the door. She wipes her eyes and sniffs. She walks to the front door. She stops and her face gives a blank stare.

She sees a small set of suitcases standing and laying in the front of the door. Lin-Lin has a concern look and approaches the door and opens it. She walks into the house.

INT. FRONT HALL

Lin puts down her keys on a side table by the door. She looks straight and sees Xing sitting on the stairs facing at her direction. Xing looks at her with a straight face. She looks back at him with a straight face. His hands are fisted together. Lin-Lin speaks softly.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
What?

He unfolds his hands and holds up the pregnancy stick. Lin-Lin takes a deep breath.

XING
(Mandarin)
You are leaving now. I don't care who you had been sleeping with, you and I are over. I already packed your luggage and I gave you money that was given to us from our wedding.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
Xing can we talk about this?

XING
No, nothing you can say will change my mind.

Lin-Lin raises her voice aggressively.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
It was all because of you!! I tried being a good to you but all you gave me was neglect and cold emotions. I know I was not your first wife but I did my best to make us work. I was strayed from you and I am having a baby but you drove me to this. Tell me how this situation we are part of is not your fault?

Xing stomps down the stairs and raises his voice.

XING
You are right, you are not my wife at least the one I fell in love with. You were a replacement and the only reason why I married you is because my parents. Since they were friends with your parents they got the idea in their heads we could be a good match. I bit my lip and went along because I was thinking of my kids. Now that you went to someone else I can finally get rid of you and whatever you made in

there.

Xing points at her stomach. He continues his rant.

XING

You are not bringing a bastard into my house, especially one that can bring ruin in my house. You are out!!

Xing reaches the bowl of keys and takes the house key from her keychain. Lin-Lin screams at him and pulls his arm. Xing takes her keychain and opens the front door. He throws her keys out and they hit the luggage.

He grabs her arms and drags her out the door. Lin-Lin struggles with Xing. Xing pushes her out and she falls on the front patio. She lands on her knees and weeps. He give her a warning.

XING

If you come back here I will call the police and worse. Now get out of here.

Xing goes back into the house and slams the door tight. He locks the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. XING'S HOUSE

Lin-Lin weeps and tears stream down her cheeks.

FOUR V.O.

Rejected by a husband and a lover,
that night, my mother was all alone
for the first time.

FADE TO BLACK:

ACT 2

CUT FROM BLACK:

INT. APARTMENT - PRESENT

The lights are on brightening up the room. Four stands be her desk. She puts a laptop, a taser, and a jacket in a duffle bag on her desk. Four gathers paper, photos, and printouts of Biao and Xing in a folder. Four puts protein bars and a dagger shape wrapped cloth in the bag.

She zips the bag closed and walks with it to the front door. Four looks around the room slowly. She turns the door knob and opens the door. She pushes the light switch next to the door down. The lights shut off and she walks out. The door closes afterwards.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Four walks to her car and approaches the driver side door. Four opens the door, tosses the duffle bag onto the passenger seat and gets in the car. She sits on the driver's seat and car starts up. The car drives off on the main road.

INT. CAR

Four drives the car through the streets.

FOUR V.O.

I never knew that I would have brought misery to this world. But at the time my mother never thought of me as anything but her child. She started a new life and when she had me, she made it a happy one(pause)... or at least tried too.

FLASHBACK:

INT. HOTEL - LAUNDRY ROOM

Lin-Lin opens the window door of the dryer machines, pulls out bed sheets, and places them in big plastic baskets. Other maids pull out sheets from other dryers standing align against a wall.

Lin-Lin puts the sheets on a flat table. Lin-Lin and another maid starts folding the sheets together. Four continues to narrate.

FOUR V.O.

My mother had many jobs from Chinese restaurants to cleaning service. After I was born she was able to work at a hotel. She was an amazing woman I admired while growing up. She worked hard to keep a roof over us. Our home was small, the price was cheap to live.

Lin-Lin puts the sheets to the side of the table and walks off to a locker. She opens the door and takes off her apron. She turns to the exit door. She opens the door and walks through it.

INT. LIN-LIN APARTMENT - EVENING

She walks to the living room and Four, eight years old and wearing Disney pajamas, runs up to her with excitement. Lin-Lin bends over and wraps her arms around Four. Four hugs her mother and Lin-Lin picks up Four from the ground.

Lin-Lin kisses Four on the cheek and puts her down on the floor. Four runs to a small hallway and into an open door room. Lin-Lin lifts a basket of folded laundry from a corner and carries it towards the room Four ran into.

FOUR V.O.

I was able to go to school and we went on trips. But my mother was being too much of a mother. Everyday was the same, she worked, I go to school, we come home, and all I did was study while my mother took care of everything.

INT. FOUR'S BEDROOM

Lin-Lin puts the basket on the bed and Four, fourteen and petite, lays on the bed writing in a notebook. Lin-Lin looks over Four's shoulder and see the school books opened. She watches Four write in her notebook.

FOUR V.O.

I wasn't allowed to do afterschool activities and if I were to hang out with friends, she always made sure no boys were around. That always puzzled me.

Lin-Lin walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Lin-Lin walks up to the stove. She takes a wooden spoon and stirs vegetables, spices, and meat together in a wok filled with oil. Lin-Lin turns off the burner and grabs a porcelain plate from the counter.

She puts the food on the plate and yells out loud.

LIN-LIN
(Mandarin)
Dinner!

Four, eighteen years old with long ebony hair, comes in and walks to a small table with two chairs opposite of each other. Four pulls out a chair and sits at the table. Lin-Lin brings over the plate of food and sets it on the middle of the table.

Lin-Lin walks back to the counter and opens up an electric rice cooker. Two rice bowls and a small plastic rice spatula are set in front of the rice cooker. Lin-Lin takes small rice spatula and scoops the rice from the cooker into the bowls.

LIN-LIN
Are you close to completing your report?

FOUR
It is almost complete. I am drawing the models first and then will set up the molecular structures later on. I am still writing the reports on different DNA structures in different areas around the world. Hopefully that will give me extra credit.

Lin-Lin walks with the two rice bowls filled with rice to the table. Lin-Lin replies in a supportive tone

LIN-LIN
I am proud of you. I don't know why you chose this subject for a project but didn't know I would have a scientist for a daughter.

She sets one bowl of rice in front of Four. Lin-Lin sits down across from Four with a smile on her face. They take chopsticks laying on the table and start eating.

Four eats slowly and looks at Lin-Lin with a reluctant facial expression. She speaks softly to Lin-Lin.

FOUR
Mom, I didn't just choose this as a subject. I did this for me.

LIN-LIN

You?

FOUR

I want to know who I am.

Lin-Lin looks at Four confused.

LIN-LIN

What do you mean who are you? You are you, you are my daughter. I told you...

Four interrupts her and starts talking in a light tone.

FOUR

Yes, yes, I know you told me about my grandparents, your family, where you are from but that is just half. I know it has been awhile since we've had this talk but I do want to know more about...

Lin-Lin stands up abruptly from her chair and interrupts Four with a sharp frustrated tone.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

I am not going to talk about it!

Lin-Lin breathes slowly and leans on the table. Four talks softly to Lin-Lin.

FOUR

Mom please, all you do is evade, hide, or change every time I ask about him. I am almost an adult, I should know who my dad is.

Lin-Lin sheds a tear that streams down her cheek. She replies to Four in a soft sorrow tone.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

No you should not.

Four's cell phone starts ringing. Four pulls out the cell phone from her back pocket. She answers it and walks away from the table to the door way. Lin-Lin looks at her with concern. Four talks on the phone with a smile. Four shuts off her phone and turns back to her mother.

Lin-Lin looks at her solemnly and asks Four a a question.

LIN-LIN

Who was that on the phone with you?

Four slowly walks towards the table and replies cautiously.

FOUR

A friend from school.

LIN-LIN

Is it a friend I know?

FOUR

No, it is not someone you know.(sighs)
His name is Robert, he's one of my
classmates and we have been talking to
each other.

Lin-Lin walks to the counter and hunches over. Four continues to explain herself.

FOUR

I have been seeing him on days you
work late.

Lin-Lin turns back to Four in shock and anger.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

You have been seeing him without
telling me? (English)"Behind my back"?
I thought I taught you better...to
tell me everything!

Four replies in a defensive tone.

FOUR

That is the problem mom, you have to
know everything. You have to know my
grades, my friends, my hangouts,
everything in my life. And this thing
you have with me being in a
relationship with a boy, why is that a
problem? You were probably just like
me.

Lin-Lin gives her a solemn look and replies in the same tone.

LIN-LIN

I was naïve as you are now. Boys or

men they are scum. They use you like a tool and just throw you away.

Lin-Lin starts to cry and Four walks to her and gives her a hugs. Lin-Lin embraces her daughter

FOUR

Is that why you won't talk about my dad?

Lin-Lin looks at Four with her eyes watery and red. She nods to Four.

LIN-LIN

For my sake, please stop seeing that boy. He is not good for you.

Four's eyebrows crinkle together and speaks defensive tone.

FOUR

You don't know him. How can you say that if you haven't met him.

LIN-LIN

I am trying to protect you.

FOUR

You are trying to control me! Everyday it is the same for me, go to school, come home, do my homework, eat, finish my homework and go to bed. I don't have a life. I really like Robert maybe enough to love him. He gives me life.

LIN-LIN

(Mandarin)

He won't love you, he will hurt you. I didn't expect you to be such a stupid girl!

Four slaps Lin-Lin across the face. Lin-Lin leans to her side and her hand covers her face. Lin-Lin turns her head and looks at Four with a shocking look on her face. Four has a worried look on her face.

Lin-Lin raises her other hand and swings at Four. Lin-Lin's slaps Four across her cheek. Four puts her hand on her cheek and looks at her mother with a surprised look. She starts to cry and shouts at Lin-Lin.

FOUR

You are a sad lonely mom and when I am gone from this place, I hope you die alone!

Four walks out through the doorway. Lin-Lin hears the front door slam loudly. Lin-Lin drops to the floor crying.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - SAME EVENING

The sun descends slowly, barely shedding light on the glass windows of the many skyscrapers aligned with each other. Four walks through the crowd of people on a side walk. She stares at the ground with a depressing look on her face.

She looks around and sees street food vendor carts selling food products to customers. Four looks at a couple buying a pretzel from a vendor. She smiles and turns left. She walks down into a small street.

Four approaches Chinese novelty store. The window display shows built LEGO buildings, Chinese Lanterns with long red tassels hanging on the top rail, and torso mannequins wearing Chinese qipao (male and female). She opens the door and walks in the store.

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE NOVELTY STORE

The door closes in back of Four. Four sees kites and puppets hanging from the wall. She approaches a long glass case. Four sees jewelry, small metal charms, and small statues (made of jade, red wood, and ceramic) displayed on a long silk cloth.

Four walks towards the back of the shop. She sees a case of assembled weapons. Knives(daggers), nunchucks, steel edged kamas, and Japanese throwing daggers.

The shopkeeper UNCLE TSONG, Chinese male late sixties with salt and pepper colored hair and wearing a purple cardigan, approaches the glass case. He stands across Four and shows a smile on his face. He greets her in a happy tone.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Ah, my little sunshine has returned to my shop.

Four looks up at him and cracks a small smile at the corner of her lips. She replies to him softly.

FOUR
(Mandarin)

Hello Uncle, I am glad to see you again. I see the store is busy.

Four and Uncle Tsong looks around the store full of merchandise and without people around. Uncle Tsong chuckles and Four looks down at the glass case. She stares at the daggers assembled in the casing. He looks at her with concern and speaks in an soft tone.

UNCLE TSONG
Is something catching your eye?

Four points to the the white ivory handled dagger and sheath laying on red silk cloth. He looks at the dagger and answers her.

UNCLE TSONG
It is hand crafted, I have a friend back home who...

Four interrupts him and talks in an admiration tone.

FOUR
...makes special carvings.

Four looks at Uncle with confidence.

FOUR
I know all about it, Aunty told me one time when I saw it for the first time. The flowers bloom on the side of the handle and sheath twisted with a snake's body with the head at the end of the handle.(Beat) Can I take a closer look at it?

Uncle Tsong looks at Four with a curious facial expression.

UNCLE TSONG
Why do you want something like this?

FOUR
I just think it looks beautiful and I just think it calls to me every time I see when I am in here.

Uncle is speaks out his hesitation.

UNCLE TSONG

I don't think I should, letting a young child like you trying to handle knife like this.

Four looks at Uncle slightly offened and speaks with a modest voice.

FOUR

I am eighteen Uncle, I am responsible, and you know me. What I am going to do with it? I don't have anything to use it for, I am not going to steal it. I just want hold it for a bit.

Uncle Tsong sighs and puts his hand in his pocket. He pulls out a small ring of keys and examines each one. Uncle Tsong puts a key into the lock of the glass casing and twists the key clockwise. The case door opens and he takes out the dagger and sheath.

UNCLE TSONG

I'll let you look at it, but be careful and don't tell your mother.

FOur doesn't react. Uncle Tsong gives it to her and Four examines it with admiration. Four caresses the texture of the sheath. She stares at the snake head.

FOUR

Aunty told me about the white snake tale. A demon falls in love with a mortal, they get married, and have a family together. Than she gets trapped by an abbot who hates demons and sacrifices her freedom to keep her family safe. I think that is why I am so drawn to this... the design gives me a sense of romance.

Uncle Tsong interjections.

UNCLE TSONG

She wasn't trapped forever.

Four looks at Uncle Tsong with attention

UNCLE TSONG

With the strength of her family, she

wasn't alone and she escaped from her prison and lived happily ever after, (Mandarin) just like a Disney princess.

Four laughs along with Uncle Tsong. A vibration is heard and Four reaches in her pants pocket. She pulls out a cellphone and looks at the screen. The screen shows "MOM" and puts it down on the top of the glass casing. Uncle Tsong speaks with a precautious tone.

UNCLE TSONG
(Mandarin)
Are you alright little sunshine?

The cellphone stops vibrating. Four looks at him with discomfort.

UNCLE TSONG
(Mandarin)
What is wrong, did something happened between you and your mother?

FOUR
How could you tell?

UNCLE TSONG
(Mandarin)
I've known you since you were a baby little sunshine and I have had children of my own to know something is wrong. You are like a grandchild to me. Please, tell me what happened.

FOUR
(Mandarin)
My mom and I had a fight and I had to get out of the apartment. I didn't intend to come here but I always found this place to be safe. Talking to you gives me comfort. Your are like a father to me.

Uncle Tsong asks her with concern.

UNCLE TSONG
Is that what the fight was about, you not having a father?

Four sighs and continues talking.

FOUR

No it wasn't just that. I told her I like a guy from school who says he likes me. maybe even love him. But my mom doesn't like him, she never even met him. During our fight she told me that all guys want to have one thing from girls.

Uncle Tsong takes a deep breath and continues the conversation.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Your mom it not wrong. There are boys out there that treat women not as they should. But if he respects you as he is supposed too, then you have nothing to worry about. Do you like him enough to be in love with him?

Four nods and replies with an agitated tone

FOUR

She is a tiger mom and that always makes me crazy sometime like a living hell. All I did for the past eighteen years was everything she wanted me to do and when I want something to do for myself like hang out with friends that includes boys, she acts like I committed murder. And when I suggested she should go in dates, she turns into a ghost. I don't know why she hates men except it has to do something with my father and even trying to talk about him makes her agitated and shuts her down. And if my father made a mistake why does she have to punish the world because of him, including Rob.

Uncle Tsong looks at her with interest.

UNCLE TSONG

Rob, is that his name?

Four nods and she continues speaking in a depressing tone.

FOUR

She called me a stupid girl and hit

me. And without thinking about it, I hit her on her face and said "I wish you were dead". And now I am here moping.

Uncle Tsong covers Four's hands with his.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Let me give you something that might help you understand. Your mother needed help before you were born. When Auntie first noticed her alone on the streets, we took her in with pity, and when she had you she made a promise to you to protect you. Mothers tend to be the most overprotective people in the world. It is in nature that a mother wants a child to live a longer prosper life than herself. That comes with guidance and knowledge from her life and would be passed on to you. You are exploring new things that she will not agree with but you will have to be strong about them. There will be fights but that is human nature. So don't believe it is the end of the world, but an evolution of your life and the need to adapt.

Uncle Tsong retracts his hands and stands up straight. He continues to speak in a lighter tone.

UNCLE TSONG

She will come around eventually. I know Lin, she is not wrong feeling the way she feels about you. She has her reasons.

Four nods and then asks Uncle Tsong.

FOUR

I know Auntie answered this for me but has my mother told you who my father is?

Uncle Tsong sighs and shakes his head disapointingly. The bell of the front door rings. Uncle Tsong sees a Chinese family walk in through the opened door. He takes the knife and sheath and places them back in the glass casing. He walks over and greets the customers.

Four turns her head and sees Chinese parents and a young daughter walking around the store. Four looks at the child with a dreamly stare and shows a soft smile on her face.

Uncle Tsong approaches her.

UNCLE TSONG

Little sunshine, you should be getting back home.

Four snaps out of her stare and looks at Uncle Tsong. She replies to him in a meek tone.

FOUR

Can I stay here a little longer?

Uncle Tsong smiles and replies to her.

UNCLE TSONG

Stay as long as you need to but don't keep your mother worried. I will go and count some inventory.

He walks away and Four raises her voice.

FOUR

Tell Auntie I said "Hi"

Uncle Tsong waves his hand and disappears. Four walks along side the case and looks at the assortment of daggers. Four's phone vibrates on the glass casing. Four looks at it and the screen shows "MOM" on it. Four ignores the phone and looks at the family walking out of the shop. The phone stops vibrating and Four turns her head left to right, browsing the Chinese merchandise from her position.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - LATER

Four walks out of the shop. She looks up in the sky. The clouds are light gray and lightning flashes and thunder rumbles in the sky. It starts to rain and the vendors start packing up their stations.

Four runs to an empty bus stop and sits on the bench. She looks through the glass and sees the rain splatter on the glass surface. Four sees ROBERT, white male in his late teens wearing a hoodie jacket, coming out of a restaurant and opens up in umbrella.

Four smiles for a moment and sees NATALIE, tanned female in tight jeans and a green windbreaker, come out of the restaurant and joins him under the umbrella. Natalie and Robert stand face to face and smile to each other. He wraps his arm around her lower back and she wraps her arms around his neck. They lean their heads closer to each other and kiss each other intimately.

Four gets upset and runs across the street. She approaches Natalie and Robert pushes Robert ferociously. Four starts yelling at him.

FOUR

What the hell is this Robert? Why are you with her?

Natalie replies with the same attitude at Four.

NATALIE

What are you doing here bitch?

Natalie and Four get close to each others faces. Four replies with a angry tone.

FOUR

I saw you kissing my boyfriend.

Natalie mocks Four.

NATALIE

Oh hell no, Rob is with me bitch. I don't know what you thought but he has been dating me. Rob tell her.

Robert gets in between them and gives Natalie an order.

ROBERT

Alright stop! Natalie go over by the sign there. I'll take care of this alright?

NATALIE

Tell her what she is thinking is not true. She is not with you.

ROBERT

I will, GO!

Natalie takes the umbrella walks a few feet away. Robert looks at Four. Four asks him questions in a distress tone.

FOUR

What's going on Rob, why are you kissing her? I thought you and I were dating. Tell me!

Four pushes on Robert's chest. Robert answers her in a unregrettable low tone.

ROBERT

Natalie and I are back to dating while you and I were dating. I wanted to see if it will work again and having two girls I thought it was exciting. I didn't expect you to find out.

FOUR

Not find out? I don't understand I thought you liked me. You said it after school and your texts.

She pulls out her phone and shows Robert the text messages between them.

FOUR

What is all of this? Were you just lying to me?

ROBERT

What do you want me to say?

FOUR

Anything, I want an answer from you.

He sighs and talks in a straight tone.

ROBERT

You were easy I guess. Knowing from friends that you were this isolated girl I thought maybe I can have something as back up if Natalie and I didn't work out. Those texts I sent I said the same thing to Natalie. But she has been sticking with me and I was going to call it off with you anyway. I didn't know when to tell you. I guess now.

Four replies in an upsetting tone.

FOUR

So was I just someone on the side. I

am a rebound to you. My mom was right.

ROBERT

Your mom!?! (chuckles) Whatever, go back to mommy little girl. You can die and rot with her while tonight I am going to have fun with Natalie. And you can delete my texts too.

Robert walks away and meets up with Natalie under the umbrella. He wraps his arms around her lower back and walk away from Four. Four sheds tears from her eyes as she stands in the rain.

FOUR V.O.

My mother was right.

FADE TO:

INT. APARTMENT-NIGHT

The door opens and Four walks in with tears running down her cheeks. She reaches for the light switch on the wall and turns on the lights. Water drips on the floor from her wet hair and clothes.

FOUR V.O.

I know now how she tried to protect me. And I only hope she can forgive me.

Four takes off her wet shoes and looks around the living room. She calls out.

FOUR

Mama? Hello?

Four walks through the apartment and then sees a cracked opened door from Lin-Lin's bedroom. Light shines from the room and Four approaches the door.

INT. LIN-LIN'S BEDROOM

Four opens the door and walks in. She see Lin-Lin's body lying motionless in the middle of the bed. Lin-Lin's body lays straight on top of the bed covers with her hands folded on her waist. Lin-Lin's cell phone is in between her hands.

Four cries and panics. Four sees different pill bottles (over the counter and one prescription) on the bedside table.

FOUR V.O.

I found my mother dead, her body was motionless and her eyes were closed. but it looked like her soul was gone forever.

Four hugs her mother's dead body and lays her head on her chest. She doesn't hear a heart beat. Four's breathing quickens as she continues to cry.

Four sees Lin-Lin's phone in her hands. She takes it and opens up the screen. Four sees a frozen video and presses the play button on the screen.

FOUR V.O.

I played it and I saw my mother crying on the screen. I've never seen her like this before. She explained how she was married to a man who never loved her, had an affair with another man who used her, and both men turned her away when she was pregnant with me. It left her depressed and full of anxiety. She has been seeing a therapist without me knowing it.

Four gets upset and her tears continue to run down her cheek.

FOUR V.O.

I couldn't move. I couldn't feel anything, even the tears running from my eyes.

Her vision blurs.

FADE TO BLACK:

BLACK AREA

Lin-Lin fades from the darkness, her body illuminates like a ghost. She opens her eyes and stares at Four(camera). Lin-Lin's face shows sorrow and speaks to Four.

LIN-LIN

I'm sorry for this... I'm sorry for everything.

FOUR

No, I should be sorry, I didn't mean to say you should die. I didn't know everything you were put through.

LIN-LIN

How could you? I have been trying to forget the abandonment I had. When I had you, I held on to you so tight I didn't want you to abandon me either.

Lin-Lin breathes heavily and struggles explaining to Four.

LIN-LIN

When you kept secrets from me, hit me, even walking out, I felt abandoned again. It broke me and I didn't want to be alone. So I ended it.

Lin-Lin sobs in front of Four.

FOUR

Was it my fault?

Lin-Lin stops crying and opens her eyes wide. She holds Four in her arms and softly replies to Four in a comfort tone.

LIN-LIN

No... no it wasn't.

FOUR

You were right about Robert, he treated me like nothing. I should have listened to you.

Lin-Lin leans back and puts her hands on Four's shoulders and looks at her in the eye.

LIN-LIN

No, I should have given you the chance to experience love and hurt. I should have let you experience life. I put my life before yours, I was so selfish to do that to you. I feel so terrible.

Four looks at Lin-Lin with a realization expression.

FOUR

I don't know what I feel mama. I feel numb and dark. Without you I feel, alone.

LIN-LIN

No, you are not alone. My soul is part of you and I will never abandon you again. When you see yourself in the

mirror your eyes will see me. Remember me and you will keep me alive.

FOUR

So what do I do? What can I do without you?

LIN-LIN

You choose now, it is time to start your life. I love you very much.

Lin-Lin leans towards Four's forehead and kisses it. Lin-Lin's body fades away.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. LIN-LIN'S BEDROOM

Four's body lies next to Lin-Lin's on the bed. She opens her eyes and sees Lin-Lin's dead eyes open. She shows a sad and kisses Lin-Lin on the forehead. Four sits up on the side of the bed and stands up. Her hand reaches towards her back pocket.

Four pulls out her cellphone from her back pocket and unlocks the screen. She dials "9-1-1". The phone rings twice and Four starts talking in sadden tone.

FOUR

Yes I need help please...

Four exits the room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Four sits on a couch looking at two policemen standing in front of her. They ask Four questions and write in their notepads. Four talks to the officers. Four sees paramedics rolling a stretcher with a body bag laying on it, out of Lin-Lin's bedroom. She stares at the body bag with a solemn look.

The officer's voice breaks Four's concentration and she looks at him with attention. He speaks to a soft tone.

OFFICER

Miss do you have somewhere to go? Some relative's house we can take you to?

Four nods lightly and replies to him.

FOUR

My aunt and uncle, they are not far from here.

OFFICER

We can take you there.

FOUR

No thank you officer, I can go by myself.

OFFICER

Are you sure miss? We can take you to your aunt and uncle, it won't be any trouble.

Four pleads with the officer in a controlled manner.

FOUR

Please officer, I really don't want anyone with me now. I just want to be alone when I go to my uncle's store. I will write to address down and contact information.

Four raises her hands with her palms facing up towards the officer. The officer gives her his pen and notepad. She writes down the information and gives both of them back to the officer. The officer nods and speaks again in a compassionate tone.

OFFICER

Miss do you want to pack up something for your uncle's place?

FOUR

I do that officer when everyone leaves.

Four stands up and looks directly at the officer with a determined look.

FOUR

Please if there is nothing else, I want to have everyone leave as soon as possible so i can leave as soon as possible.

The officer nods.

OFFICER

Okay, if there is anything else, call me, I can recommend you some groups that help individuals that have gone through loss like this.

He writes on a notepad and gives the note to her. She accepts it without looking at him. The officers and the medical crew exit the apartment. Four stands alone for a moment.

She slowly walks to the door and sees the emergency vehicles flashing their lights. The neighbors are outside observing the apartment and the first responders. Four closes the door.

Four walks to the couch and sits down with a blank stare (looking at the camera).

FOUR V.O.

I had to wait, locking myself in my home that feels like a prison. All those eyes staring, those voices whispering, everyone judging me. I don't recall how much time passed but I couldn't stay in a place that I feel suffocated in. I had to go and breathe.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - SAME EVENING

The sky is black and the gray clouds cover various spots. The rain down pours hard onto the streets and buildings. People walk in the sidewalks with jackets and umbrellas covering their bodies. Four walks in the street while with her hair, jacket and clothes getting drenched from the rain. She stares straight ahead seeing people pass by her.

FOUR V.O.

I walked a familiar path over and over, I couldn't tell for how long. My mind was blank and I just stared at people coming at me. I have been thinking to myself the same question over in my head, "What do I do now".

Four steps on the street and stops in the middle of the street.

FOUR V.O.

It seemed that the world was not real

anymore. My body was a hallow shell
slowly withering in a storm.

Four turns her and looks up. She sees the sign for Uncle Tsong's shop and looks through the glass of Chinese merchandise. Four sees Uncle Tsong turing off the window display lights. Four approaches the front door, her hand reaches the front door knob and twists it.

INT. CHINESE NOVELTY STORE

Four enters the shop and looks around. Uncle Tsong walks in her sight heading to the back to the shop. He calls out.

UNCLE TSONG

I am sorry but we are closed now.

She walks towards the back of the shop. Four calls out in desperate tone.

FOUR

Uncle.

Uncle Tsong stops in front of the back door and turns. He sees Four's hair and clothes dripping with water and disheveled. Her face displays suffering and sadness. Four's breathes in small outbursts as she attempts to hold in her crying.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Little Sunshine... you are wet!

Uncle Tsong crouches down from the back of the glass casing displaying bead and stone jewelry and stands up quickly. He gives Four a few pieces of paper towel. Four rubs the paper towels on her hair.

UNCLE TSONG

Is everything alright with you and
your mother?

Four looks at Uncle Tsong and cries in front of him.

FOUR

(Mandarin)

She's dead Uncle. My mom killed
herself and it was all my fault.

Uncle embraces her and rocks her side to side. He comforts her in a soft tone.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

No, no, it's alright...shhh. Whatever happened is was not your fault. Please come with me and have a seat.

He brings Four to a stool in the back of the glasse case and she sits down. Both on them look at each other: Uncle sees Four's eyes showing a light red hue as she continues crying.

UNCLE TSONG

Now, tell me everything that happened tonight.

Four takes a few deep breathes and starts moving her mouth.

FOUR V.O.

And I did.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE FROM BLACK:

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

The bedroom is dark with light from the other buildings beaming through the window. The walls are bare and the color is plain earth color. A three long drawer dresser stands against the wall next to the bedroom wooden door.

Four sits up on a bed with her knees pressed up against her body and her arms wrapped around her legs. She is wearing a dry black female long sleeve shirts and silk pants. Four watches the rain light up through the window. Four doesn't move and listens to the rain drops tap against the window.

A knocking sound is heard from the door and slowly opens. Uncle Tsong comes in with a bamboo wooden tray with handles on the sides. On the tray sits a porcelain bowl and a pair of chopsticks laying across the rim. Uncle Tsong appraoches the bed and lays the tray down in front of Four.

Four looks down at the bowl and sees boiled wontons in soup and green onion pieces floating in the bowl. Uncle Tsong sits on the edged of the bed side. He speaks in a calm soft tone.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Little Sunshine, you must eat something.

Four shakes her head lightly refusing Uncle Tsong's offer. He replies in the same manner.

UNCLE TSONG
(Mandarin)

Please eat Little Sunshine. Aunty made this for you. We know you love her wontons and she needs you to feel better. Otherwise she will know I have eaten them and I will get yelled at. You don't want to hurt Aunty for not eating do you?

Four looks at Uncle and gives a relief sigh. She shakes her head lightly. Four lays her legs down on the bed mattress and crosses them in a pretzel shape. She grabs the tray by the handles, lifts the tray up and sets it on her legs. She takes hold of the chopsticks and grabs a wonton in between the ends of the chopsticks.

She brings the wonton to her lips and blows on the steam coming off from the skin. She opens her mouth and puts the whole wonton in her mouth. She chews for a moment and then swallows. Four shows a small smile to Uncle Tsong.

FOUR
(Mandarin)

Thank you Uncle, tell Aunty her wontons have made me feel better.

Uncle Tsong nods and smiles back at her.

UNCLE TSONG
I will be going to bed. I am glad my daughter's clothes fit you. If we had all boys you would be wearing parachutes, not clothes.

Four chuckles covering her mouth with her hand holding the chopsticks. He smiles and stands up from the bed.

UNCLE TSONG
You can put the bowl in the kitchen and we'll wash it in the morning.

He walks to the door and opens it. Uncle Tsong looks at her with a caring expression and exits the bedroom. The door shuts behind him.

Four continues to eat the wontons and sips the soups from the bowl. A ding is heard and Four looks down on the bed mattress.

She sees her phone next to her hip and lighting up with a notification sign. She sets the bowl back in the tray and pushes it against the wall.

Four unlocks her phone and sees the notification from the 2-gether social media app. She opens up the app and sees Rob uploaded new photos to his social page. Four hesitates for five seconds that then presses the link to his page.

Four sees different photos of Rob at a house party with teenagers surrounding him and Natalie leaning on him and kissing him. Four gets furious and slams her phone on the bed mattress several times. She turns and grabs a pillow and drops back on the bed. She covers the pillow over her face and screams through it.

Four's spasms violently and then she breathes quickly and heavily through the pillow. Her breathing slows down and she removes the pillow from her face. She throws the pillow on the floor and she stare at the ceiling. Her face changes from upset to anger and from anger to a subtle dark look.

FOUR V.O.

Something had me, a force taking hold
of my mind and body. I allowed it to
take over me for I had nothing else
inside of me.

Four sits up and shuffles to the side of the bed. She puts her feet in a pair of slippers and stands up from the bed. She grabs her phone and Four walks to the door, opens it and walks out of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - UNCLE TSONG APARTMENT

The hallway is dark and quiet. Four opens her phone and turns on her flashlight. The floor is polished hard wood and the wall paint color is earthy color. Picture frames of Uncle Tsong' family hang at different areas on the walls. Four looks at each picture while walking slowly across the hall.

She sees happy faces in each picture. She reaches the end of the hallway with a door in front of her. Four sees her keys hanging on a key rack from the wall. She sees Uncle Tsong's keys hanging next to her keys. She takes both sets off the rack. Four unlocks the door, opens it and walks through the doorway. The door gently shuts closed.

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE NOVELTY STORE

All of the lights are off. The store is dark with the outside lights from other stores gleaming through the front windows. The back door opens slowly and Four enters with caution. She pulls one of Uncle Tsong's key from the door and holds on to it in her hand.

She walks through the store to the glass casing of the knives. She approaches the back side of the casing and holds out Uncle Tsong's keys. She examines them and picks one. Four puts the key in the key hole and turns it. The lock unlocks and she opens door. Four takes hold of the ivory dagger and sheath the snake head handle.

Four caresses is and split the dagger from the sheath. Four pulls out the dagger further and reveals the blade. She looks at the clear reflection of her eyes (close up of her face) from the polished blade. A flash of Lin-Lin face appears and replaces Four's reflect.

Four face shows surprise and panic. She drops the knife and the sheath on the top of the glass casing. The knife and the sheath make a bang and clang sound echoing in the shop. Four doesn't move and the store is quiet. Four doesn't hear any noises.

Four takes hold of the snake handle of the knife and lifts it up to eye level. She looks at her reflection of the blade. Lin-Lin eyes appear in the blade. Four looks closely at the blade and then Lin-Lin's reflection disappears. Four sees her reflection.

Four speaks in a dark confident tone.

FOUR V.O.

I saw her through me, the misery, the sorrow, the abandonment. I saw it all. It was my rebirth, dark and painful. At that moment I made a vow to go after those whole brought shame and darkness to my life. To take the power back from my mother through me. No more secrets, no more lies. I knew what to do and I knew where to start.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE FROM BLACK:

EXT. ROBERT'S HOUSE

The rain stops and the sky is clear. Four walks on the sidewalk wearing a dark blue hoodie and dark jeans. She stops in front of a tall tan stone siding ranch house. Four looks around and sees other houses with porch and lawn lights lit up.

She sees Roberts house unlit and walks gently on the cobblestone driveway towards the house.

FOUR V.O.

When I made it to Roberts house, I knew no one will be home. He told me his parents are away for the weekend. (snarky tone) Convenient right?

Four approaches the front door with a silver leverset knob and number lock. She looks around and she sees nobody.

FOUR V.O.

A guy will let you in on everything when he wants to get into your panties.

Four presses the a sequence of numbers and the door makes a clicking sound.

FOUR V.O.

How to get into the house.

Four turns the knob, opens the door, and walks inside the house. The door closes behind her.

INT. FRONT HALL

The house is dark with the lights from the outside shining through the windows. Four sees the security panel on the wall. It is lit up and makes a light beeping noise. Four approaches the security control panel, opens the cover, and reveals the number pad.

FOUR V.O.

How to turnoff the security alarm.

Four press a sequence of numbers and the green screen reveals an "SECURITY OFF" message. Four shows a wicked smirk on her face. Four looks around in the dark.

FOUR V.O.

Going through the house and memorizing

every room.

Four walks to the living room next to the front door.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Four sits on a wooden cushioned seat chair next to the front window with sheer linen drapes hanging. She pushes the drapes to the side and looks out to the driveway.

Four retracts her hand and the drapes return covering the window. Four takes her phone out from her pants pocket and presses the side button. The phone's screen shows 10:53 pm. Four puts the phone back in the pocket.

She unzips her jacket and reaches inside. She pulls out the dagger and sheath. She separates the dagger and the sheath from each other. She stares into the blade and sees the reflection of her eyes.

Four starts breathing heavily and her face gets angrier. She leans her head onto the blade and closes her eyes. Car lights flash through the drapes and the sound of a car engine is heard. Four turns her head and looks out through the drapes.

She quickly stands up and runs to the security panel.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT HALL

Four presses the security code and activates the alarm. The shows a 45 second countdown and starts beeping. Four runs up the stairs case.

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

Four runs to the top of the stair case and looks back and fourth. She sees an open door bedroom on her right side and runs in. The closes with the door cracked opened.

The beeping of the alarm is sounded. A few seconds later the beeping of the code to the front door is heard and the door opens. The sound of Robert and Natalie laughing and groaning with arousal is heard.

The house alarm beeps and the security code is heard. The sound of kissing echoes in the house and the sound of footstep are heard from the staircase. Robert and Natalie

stumble into the hallway as Robert gropes her body.

Natalie giggles playful and Robert leads her to the opposite end of the hallway. The lights turn on and the door closes. Four opens the bedroom door and walks out slowly. She gently walks towards Robert's bedroom door.

Music is heard and Four stops in the middle of the hallway in front of the bathroom. She sees an opened door closet and runs into the closet. She slightly closes the door. Robert's bedroom door opens and Natalie walks out wearing a bra and panties.

Natalie walks down the hallway while carrying small make-up bag. She turns left walking into the bathroom, turns on the light, and closes the door. Four opens the closet door and approaches Robert's bedroom door.

Four stops in front of the door with her hand gripping the handle of the dagger. She reaches to the doorknob and turns it. Four opens the door and sees Robert bending over at his desk by the window without wearing a shirt.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM

Ceiling lights are dimmed lit, the walls are covered with musician posters and alcohol brands, and the music plays loudly. Robert opens up his laptop computer and the desktop opens. He drags his finger on the mouse pad and turns on the computer camera.

Robert sees himself and Four stands close behind him. He quickly stands up and turns facing Four with a surprise look on his face.

ROBERT

What the hell are you doing here?

Four raises her arm and stabs Robert in his collar bone with great force. Robert falls down on one knee showing a painful look on his face. Four stabs him repeatedly at different areas on his upper body.

Blood splatters everywhere in the room. Roberts body lays motionless and Four stands up with her clothes and the dagger are stained with blood. Four's breathing slows down and looks around.

She panics and quickly goes towards a walk in closet. Four's

foot kicks over a purse on the floor. A hairbrush, a cellphone, a small tin of mints, a small perfume bottle, and a wallet spread out on the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. WALK IN CLOSET

Four goes into the unlit closet and hides behind the door. Four stands in the closet without moving. She hears the bedroom door opens and Four hears Natalie scream in fear. Four hears rumbling noise and the door shuts violently. Four walks out of the closet.

CUT TO:

INT. ROBERT'S BEDROOM

Four looks down at the floor and sees the purse, the cellphone, and some clothes missing. She looks at Robert's dead body and walks to the door. She opens it and walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM

Four reaches the light switch on the wall and turns on the lights. She walks in with the dagger in her hand. Four puts the dagger in the white porcelain sink surround by the granite countertop.

Four looks at her reflection in the mirror without showing emotion. She turns on the faucet and the water runs in the sink. Four bends down closer to the sink and rinses her hands, face, and feet.

Four grabs the hand towel on the counter and wipes her head and hands. She takes the dagger from the sink and wipes it clean with the towel. Four puts the dagger in her jacket and wipes the sink and countertop with the towel. Four turns off the lights and walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

Four runs Robert's bedroom door and closes it. She wipes the handle. Four runs to the staircase.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT HALL

Four runs down the stairs and approaches the security panel. She wipes the numbers and screen with the towel. She runs to the front door and opens it. She wipes both door handles with the towel. Four holds the outdoor handle with the towel covering her hand and exits the house.

CUT TO BLACK:

BLACK AREA

Four speaks softly and with confidence.

FOUR V.O.

That was the first time I killed someone. I never thought I could but I did... and it felt good.(pause) This is the path I have taken for us.

ACT 3

FADE FROM BLACK:

INT. CHINESE NOVELTY STORE- NEXT MORNING

The sun shines through the window brightening up the store. The back door opens and Uncle Tsong enters. He walks towards the front door and pulls out his set of keys. Uncle Tsong stops at the door and inserts a key in the keyhole. He turns it and a click is heard.

Uncle Tsong grabs a plastic folded sign, saying "OPEN", leaning on the side wall of the door. He opens the door with one hand and holds the sign with his other hand. Uncle Tsong holds the door with his foot and leans out towards the sidewalk. He unfolds the sign and sets a few inches from the entrance on the sidewalk.

He leans back inside and closes the door. He walks to the back door. He approaches door and reaches to the light switch in the right side of the door. The lights turn on and he looks around the store. He smiles.

The back door opens and Four enters holding a note book and a pen. She is wearing his daughter's black clothes from the night before. She gives Uncle Tsong a small smile and speaks in a soft innocent tone.

FOUR

Good morning Uncle.

He returns the same facial expression and tone.

UNCLE TSONG

Good morning little sunshine. How are you feeling?

FOUR

I am doing alright. I was so tired from everything I passed out in the room after you left. When I got up Aunty made a huge breakfast in the kitchen.

UNCLE TSONG

She wanted to take care of you. She always thought food can take care of everything for people's troubles.

FOUR

It has, I am so full I was afraid of rolling down the stairs.

Four and Uncle Tsong chuckles together. Four walks to the glass casing with the knives. She sees the dagger and sheath laying in the casing, untouched. She shows a confident look and then turns her head towards Uncle Tsong and speaks in a light meek tone.

FOUR

Uncle I want to be here today. I don't think I want to go back home yet. Can I help you with the shop. Acutally I want to help you. I can do anything, dust, hang up clothes, work the register, anything at all. I don't want to sit around upstairs and feel helpless.

Uncle Tsong walks over to her and leans on the glass. He covers her hand with his hand and sighs.

UNCLE TSONG

You can stay little sunshine, I will find something for you. You can work the register and if I need anything I will let you know.

Four smiles and Uncle Tsong nods. He straightens up his body.

UNCLE TSONG

I will set register up. You go over

there and wait for me.

Uncle Tsong nods to the register close to the front of the store. Four walks to the register sitting on top of a wooden casing with a red silk table cloth oin between. She sits on the stool and she leans on the casing. She sets the notebook and pen in the casing.

Four reaches in her pants and pulls out her phone. She opens it and connects to the browser app.

FOUR V.O.

After Robert, decided to hunt down those two bastards from my mother's life. I knew it will take me a long time, but time I had.

Four types in the search bar "Dr. Xing Feng" and presses the search button. The results appear on the screen. Four presses the link to a hospital's staff website. The page shows a picture of Xing wearing a white lab coat and shirt and tie underneath.

Four opens up a note book and starts writing notes down on a blank page.

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE NOVELTY STORE-DAY

Four stands by the cash register and a cusotmer approaches Four's station. The customer sets down a variety of shirts and a short Chinese dress. punches a few buttons on the register and the cash drawer opens. A female customer gives her fourty dollars and Four puts the money in the drawer. She takes out smaller bills and coins from the drawer. Four gives the change to the customer.

Four folds the clothes and puts them in a big plastic bag. Four gives the bag to the customer and smile. The customer smiles back and walks away from Four.

Another group of customers approach her station and she shows a smile on her face

FOUR V.O.

I decided to move in with Uncle and Aunty with a promise that I will work in the shop part-time some days after school and on the weekend.(Beat) They were the only family I had then and I

wouldn't let them go for anything. I always thought I could just stay here where I am happy. But it couldn't.

CUT TO:

INT. CHINESE NOVELTY STORE-DAY - FOUR YEARS LATER

Four, early twenties with short pixie hair style, leans on top of the glass casing reading a book. She turn her head looking at the front windows. The outside shows dark clouds and people walking by the shop. Four turns her head and reads her book.

FOUR V.O.

As time moves on so do the people,(beat) and my life was changing again.

Uncle Tsong approaches her and she looks you to him with a smile. She speaks in a light tone.

FOUR

Hey Uncle.

He looks at her with concern. He speaks in a depressing tone.

UNCLE TSONG

Hey little sunshine, you and me need to talk.

Four looks at Uncle Tsong with caution and concern. She closes the book and stands up straight. She shows attention towards Uncle Tsong. Uncle Tsong breathes in and sighs.

UNCLE TSONG

I have news for you. It is not easy news.

Four looks at him with suspicion.

UNCLE TSONG

Aunty and I are going to be retiring soon.

Four looks at him with relief.

FOUR

Oh Uncle, was that what you were nervous to tell me? I thought is was something worse. I thought you were going to say something that happened

to Aunty.

Four smiles and walks around the casing and approaches Uncle Tsong. She wraps her arms around Uncle Tsong's waist and hugs him. Uncle Tsong wraps his arms around her shoulders and hugs Four. They both lower their arms and Four sets away.

She looks at him and speaks in a delightful tone.

FOUR

So what are you going to do, have you told Yifei or Xuai? Are they coming here or are you going to live with them.

Uncle Tsong sighs and replies in a direct tone.

UNCLE TSONG

No, Aunty and I are not living with them, but we are going to visit them before we go back to China.

FOUR

China?

Uncle Tsong nods and replies to Four.

UNCLE TSONG

Yes, we are going to stay with some family in Sichuan. It will feel good to go back and see my brother and cousins again. We also been planning to do a lot of traveling like old people should.

FOUR

What about Yifei and Xuai?

UNCLE TSONG

They will come and visit. They can't keep our grandchildren away from us that easily.

FOUR

I mean what are they going to with the store here.

Four points to the merchandise in the store with her finger and rotates her arm in a clockwise motion.

FOUR

Are they going to own it? Maybe I can run the store, I know how to manage the books, I can handle the customers, I can do everything you and Aunty did. I would be more than happy to take over. Yifei and Xuai don't need to be here, they can just own it by name. And I can still live upstairs.

Uncle Tsong interrupts Four in a serious tone.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Little sunshine please let me talk.

Four stops talking and faces Uncle Tsong with an expressless face.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

This is not easy to say and it is taking me a lot thought on how to say it. (Beat) I am selling the building.

Four looks at Uncle Tsong with a mild distraught.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Aunty and I have been planning on selling this place for a long time. I have been talking to some people for the last few months and found someone who would turn this into a restaurant.

Four speed in her speech quickens and emotional.

FOUR

(Mandarin)

Uncle why sell this place? It is like a second home to me. I have fond memories here and this was the only place I felt safe after my mom died. I thought I can stay in this business as if I as part of the family. You should have talked to me on how I feel about this. I should have had a say in this decision you have made.

Uncle Tsong replies in a concern and sympathetic tone.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Little sunshine, you are part of our family. Aunty and I enjoy having you here and helping us with the store. But we don't want you to live the rest of your life counting inventory on trinkets or greeting customers coming through the door. This place was to put food on the table, a roof over our heads, and to our children a better chance in life. That is every parents' goal. Yifei and Xuai have better lives with family of there own that we enjoy visiting with. And Aunty and I are doing the same for you.

He puts wraps one arm behind her shoulder and hugs her. Four leans her head in his chest.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

It is time for you to go out into the world and be who you want to be in life. We do not want you to hide in this shop and wait for life to move on when you are ready. You are young, you are strong, you can handle the challenges that will come at you. You are more mature for a young lady than you realize.

Uncle Tsong nods towards the back door.

UNCLE TSONG

I have to make some arrangements through the day but Aunty wants to talk with you later tonight when we close the store.

He leans his face towards the top of her head. He gives FOur a light kiss on the top of her head and hugs her tightly. Four wraps her arms around Uncle Tsong tightly. Uncle Tsong leans towards her ear and whispers to it.

Four releases him and he walks to the back door. Uncle Tsong extends his other arm out to the door. His hand pushes the door open and walks through the doorway.

Four walks to the casing of the knives and daggers. She leans over the top and looks down at the ivory carves dagger. A

tear drops from her eye to the top of the casing.

FADE TO:

INT. SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT - SAME DAY

The room is dark with thick curtains covering the windows. The door opens and Four enters the room. Four closes the door and she walks quickly to the bed. She drops on the bed horizontally and puts her face in the pillow.

FOUR V.O.

My world has crumbled again. I am now losing the last piece of family I knew that ever loved me. I want to say life is not fair but what is the point coming from a person like me.

Four lifts her head off from the pillow and then lifts her upper body. She pushes the pillow up from the head of the bed and reveals a laptop. Four sits up on the bed leaning on the wall.

FOUR V.O.

Now knowing the unpredictable future I have in my life, I have to speed up my plans for my mother and myself.

Four grabs the laptop and sets it on her lap. She opens it and press the power button on the side. The laptop brightens up the screen and opens to a desktop.

FOUR V.O.

I've stayed up late at nights after work and eating learning more and more info about the men of my mother's past. Every dirt I can find on Xing and my father.

Four types in the search bar, "Chen Biao", and clicks on the search button. The search site shows results. She clicks on a job connection website and sees a picture of Biao. Biao's picture shows him smiling at her in a three piece suit.

FOUR V.O.

Biao.

Four looks at the picture with disgust.

FOUR V.O.

For the time I have I will make each

second count and then I will be ready.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - AFTERNOON - FOUR MONTHS LATER

The sun shines brightly high in a clear skies. Few people walk by on the streets. Four stands in front of the store with a expressionless face. She wears a backpack and two medium size luggage stands each side of her.

Mover men walk in empty hand and walk out of the shop carrying out boxes of various sizes. They walk into the back of hauler trucks with the boxes and walk out empty handed. Four inhales a deep breath and sighs heavily. Uncle Tsong approaches her carrying a velvet bag covering a rectangle shape.

He stands by her side facing the same direction. He puts her hand on the far shoulder and side hugs her. She leans her head on his chest and wraps both of her arms around his abdomen.

Uncle Tsong talks to her in a soft tone.

UNCLE TSONG

Are you alright.

Four replies in the same tone.

FOUR

It's hard to watch part of your life going away. We were preparing for this day for months, and now it is here. It feels like getting gutted out and taken away. I really don't want this to be real.

She turns her head and looks at Uncle Tsong with her eyes starting to become glossy and teary.

FOUR

I don't want to be alone again.

Uncle Tsong replies to her in a comforting tone.

UNCLE TSONG

You are never alone little sunshine. You will always have Aunty, Yifei, Xuai, and me. I told you, you are part of the family.

He puts his hand into his front pants pocket and pulls out a cellphone. Uncle Tsong holds it in front of her.

UNCLE TSONG

This will always be your connection to us and you will never feel alone.

A tear streams down her cheek. She leans towards Uncle Tsong's face and kiss him gently on the his cheek. They both hug each other strongly. Four loosens her arms around Uncle Tsong and separates herself from him. She puts her hand in the back pocket of her jeans. She pulls out a folded piece of paper and gives it to him.

FOUR

Can you do me a favor and take this?

Uncle Tsong looks at her curiously.

FOUR

It has my mother's family information. Her province, the name of her parents... my grandparents.

Uncle Tsong takes the paper from her hand and questions her.

UNCLE TSONG

Why give this to me, don't you want to find them yourself?

FOUR

I can't Uncle, my mom never got back in touch with them or tried to get back home. I don't know why she never did. And I don't know if they know I exist with want to see me. But when you go back to China, you are in the same providence, and I hope you will find out who they are and if they would want me.

Uncle Tsong shows a small smile on his face. He nods his head and puts the piece of paper in his pants pocket. He holds up the velvet bag with the rectangle shape in front of her.

FOUR

What's this.

UNCLE TSONG

Aunty and I wanted to give you something to remember us and this

place. Something of sentimental value.
Aunty thought this is the perfect gift
for you and I think she is right.

He gives it to her the bag. She starts to open it. Uncle interjects and puts his hand over her hands.

UNCLE TSONG

Not here little sunshine, it is best
to open it later. I need to get back
and help Aunty.

Four nods to him.

UNCLE TSONG

You remember the directions I gave you
to my friends place? And the keys
Aunty's car?

Four nods to him. Uncle Tsong speaks in a fatherly tone.

UNCLE TSONG

(Mandarin)

Be safe and be strong.

He releases his hands from hers and walks into the towards the front doorway. He enters the store.

Four puts the bag under her armpit and grabs the hands of the wheeled suitcases by her sides. She walks passed the moving trucks while the suitcases roll along with her.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

The back door of the car opens, Four puts a suitcase on it's side on the back seat of the driver's side. She slides it across to the passenger side. Four puts the second suitcase in the back seat of the drivers side and closes the door.

The driver's door opens and Four tosses the backpack to the front passenger seat. The backpack lies on it's side. Four puts one foot on the car floor and sits on the driver's seat. She closes the door.

Four reaches for the backpack and unzips the big section. She reaches in with her hand and pulls out a set of key's on a keychain. Four selects one and inserts it in the ignition. The car starts up. Four thinks deeply and stares out through the windshield.

FOUR V.O.

Be strong, that is what he said. A new
life for me, that is what he wanted.
Those were words a father would give
to his child. But he wasn't my father
and I wasn't his child.

Four reaches into the backpack and pulls out a mildly thick black folder. She leans it on the car wheel and opens it. In the front of the left pocket she stares at an enlarge photograph of Xing. She bends it forward and looks through an assortment of photographs of Xing (at his hospital, at his house, and various locations).

FOUR V.O.

My new life I need to take, it starts
tonight.

Four closes the folder and puts it back in the backpack. She reaches her seatbelt behind her and pulls it across the front of her body. The latch plate clicks into the buckle. Four shifts the gear stick from "park" to "drive". She drives the car away.

EXT. XING'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The neighborhood is quiet. Many houses are lit up inside different rooms. The street lights beam brightly down on the streets and sidewalks. Crickets chirp in the dark.

Four walks through along the side walk wearing all black pants, shoes, and hoodie. She sees Xing's house and approaches the side of the garage. She leans on the siding with her shoulder and slides down into a crouching position. Four turns her head slowly looking around the neighborhood, she breathes calmly.

The garage door opens with the garage light illuminate the contents inside. Xing, in his fifties wearing a T-shirt and silk sports pants, walks out of the garage pulling a garbage and recycling bin on back wheels. Four stays into the crouching position and quickly goes around the corner and into the garage.

INT. XING'S GARAGE

Four sees a black Escalade in front of her and quickly crawls to the front corner of the driver's side. The garage light hangs in the middle of the ceiling barley touching the top of the garage door laying next to it. It shines brightly in the garage. Four crouches down looking out of the garage from the

bottom of the car.

Four sees Xing walking up to the garage from the end of the driveway. He looks down on the ground as he progresses to the garage. Xing walks along side the Escalade without noticing Four. He approaches the interior white painted door leading into the house. Xing reaches a grey rectangle button in the middle of the control panel hanging next to the doorway. he twist the doorknob, opens the door, presses the rectangle button, walks through the doorway.

The interior door closes and the garage door slowly descends down along the rails. The garage door fully closes and Four stands up from her position. She looks around the garage. The left side of the garage she sees plastic bins stacked against the wall with labels of different holiday taped on the side of each bin. Four turns her head looking towards the far back. Four sees bicycles, a golf bag full of clubs, and a portable basketball hoop standing on the floor. Tennis rackets, a huge sports bag, and an assortment of balls lay on wooden shelves mounted on different levels on the wall.

She walks to the door and stops abruptly. Four sees a large metal tool chest on wheels standing in the corner. She sees a roll of duct tape laying in it's side on top of the tool chest. Four approaches the tool chest, extends her arm out towards the duct tape. She grabs it and carries it with her towards the interior door. Four slowly puts her free hand on the door knob and takes a deep breath.

The garage light shuts off, the garage goes pitch black.

FADE TO:

INT. XING'S KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

The room is dark with small white nightlights plugged in different outlets giving soft lighting. The cabinets are closed, the drawers are shut, the chairs are tucked in under the table. The interior door from the garage opens slowly. Four leans in through the doorway into the kitchen. She looks around seeing the kitchen undisturbed.

Four enters the kitchen and slowly closes the door behind her. She walks softly towards the doorway leading out to the living room. A creek is heard and she stops for a moment. The continues to walk with precaution. She hears Xing's voice faintly and hears footstep from the ceiling. Walks out of the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The room is dimly lit with one table lamp with a beige shade standing on a medium height dark wooden side table. It is erected on against the wall alongside the staircase leading to the upper floor. A twin lamp stands on top of a wider side table standing next to the front door.

Four enters the living room and sees a leather sectional couch assembled just off centered from her right. A flat screen TV is mounted on the wall facing the couch. Four turns her head and sees two large wooden cabinets standing against the wall in front of the house. Four shelves are mounted inside the cabinet with wooden doors and glass panels.

Four approaches one of the cabinets and sees contains different awards and trophies (sports, medical, academic) spread out and erected on each shelf. She goes to the second cabinet and quickly searches the shelves with her eyes. Four sees pictures of Xing this his children from young ages to adulthood. She sees another photo of a young Xing with a Chinese woman close to his age smiling with along with his children. Four stares at it closely for a moment. Four looks for pictures of her mother.

Four looks around the room, she doesn't see any photo's of Lin-Lin. Four sees the stairs and quietly walks towards them. She holds the barrister with her hand and slowly walks up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

The walls are painted tan color with frameless paintings of misty valleys and mountain ranges hanging on the walls. The doorway leading to the hall is open and shows the hallway main lights on the ceiling are off. A flat screen TV is mounted on the wall opposite side of the foot of the bed. Twin black steel table lamps stand in the middle of the night tables standing each side of the head of the king size bed. Xing sits on the left side edge of the bed wearing boxers and a T-shirt. He holds his cellphone in his hand and looks at an article on the screen.

Xing presses the side and drops the phone next to him close to the pillows at the head of the bed. He houches over arching his back like a hunchback. He places his hands on his thighs and looks at a small picture frame (4x6) standing on top of a end table. Looks at it with displeasure and gives a soft huff. He drops his head looking at the floor for a

moment.

Xing pushes himself up from the bed and stands up straight. He walks to the dresser standing under the flatscreen. A crystal award (with golden engravings) with a thick base and a narrow top with a sharp tip, stands at the back right corner of the top of the drawer. He opens the right top drawer and pulls out a pair of boxer shorts. He walks towards a doorway leading to the master bathroom. Xing walks into the dark bathroom and then a bright light turns on. The door closes shut. The noises of a shower is heard through the door. Four creeps into the bedroom from the darkness of the hallway.

Four walks slowly across the room to the closed door. She leans her upper body towards the door, turns her head, and her ear faces the door. Four turns her body around and sees the picture frame next to the bed. She bends over and takes hold of the frame. She turns it and sees the picture inside the frame. The picture shows Xing in a black suit smiling with a different Asian woman in a white summer dress. Four's hand shakes while holding the picture frame. She her face shows a furious expression. Four throws the picture from at the wall with the flat screen. The glass shatters and the shards lay on the top of the dresser and the floor.

Four turns her head towards the bathroom door with caution. The sound of the water is still loud and undisturbed. She turns her head looking at the broken glass. Four walks to the damaged picture frame laying face down on the floor. She squats down and turns the frame facing up. Four stares at it emotionlessly. Her eyes move up to the crystal award. The engraving shows "Honorable Award of Medical Leadership. Doctor Xing Feng". She stands up and extends her arm out to it. Four's hand wraps around the base of the award and picks it up from the dresser. Her other hand holds the top of it. She grips her hands tighter around the award.

The sound of the water from the bathroom stops. Four turns her head and looks at the door with awareness. She crawls on the floor to the bed with the award in her hand. Four lays on the front side on the floor and slides her body under the bed. She lays still. The bathroom door opens, Xing comes out wearing boxer underwear and shaking a towel over his head. He pulls the towel off his head and tosses it on the covers of the bed. Xing looks at the side table and pauses. He looks around the room and sees the damaged frame by the dresser. He walks over to the dresser and squats down.

Xing examines the shattered glass and picks up the frame. Four breathes slowly as she watches Xing examine the dresser.

Xing stands up straight. Four watches Xing feet walk around the room with caution. Xing walks towards the door to the hallway. Four slowly slides out from under the bed away from Xing. She crouches behind the side of the bed and raises her head above the mattress. Four sees Xing leaning out towards the hallway. She reaches the under the bed and pulls out the award from under the bed.

Xing walks out of the room. Four stands up and lightly walks towards the door. Xing approaches the doorway and sees Four with a surprised expression. Four shouts a fierce scream, raises the award at eye level, and swings the base at Xing's head.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE FROM BLACK:

INT. CAR-PRESENT-DUSK

Four speaks in a determined tone.

FOUR V.O.

As I said, I was born as the fourth child.

Four sits in the drivers seat erected and look straight out through the windshield. She sees a family walk by the car on the side walk.

FOUR V.O.

I was my mother's first but since I was seen as an old superstition I adopted it as part of who I am. I have become death in many ways.

Four picks up a little thick folder and opens it. She flips through the pages of surveillance photos of Xing. She sets them on the dashboard. She looks through surveillance photos of Biao.

FOUR V.O.

I already took care Xing, now, Biao is next... my own father. It is amazing how men claim they have the biggest balls in life. But when they are facing death they are the biggest pussies than a woman is.(Pause)

Four closes the folder and sets it on the passenger seat. She grabs the duffle bag by the handles and lifts it. Four opens

the driver side car door and gets out. The door closes shut and the car beeps once.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIAO'S HOUSE

Four arrives at the front door and stops. She looks back at the driveway and the street in front of the house. Four takes a deep breath and presses the doorbell. She crosses her arms in the back of her.

Four waits for a moment and hears the door unlock. The door opens and Biao, twenty years older with salt and pepper hair, stands in the doorway. He looks at Four with curiosity and speaks first.

BIAO
Yes, can I help you?

Four replies in a soft cautious tone.

FOUR
Are you Chen Biao?

Biao nods.

BIAO
Do I know you?

FOUR
Do you not recognize me?

BIAO
No, should I?

Four brings her arm around from her back and Biao sees her hand holding a taser gun. Four points the taser gun at Biao's chest and pulls the trigger. Two electric probes connected to wires shoot out and hit his chest. Biao drops to the floor shaking unsteadily.

Four walks in and disconnects the taser wire. She places the taser on Biao's neck and stuns him. Biao passes out.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE FROM BLACK:

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

The lights are dim and the furniture are placed against the wall. Biao slowly wakes up and moans softly. He looks around and sees himself tied to a chair with duct tape and is only wearing his boxer shorts. Biao turns his head and sees Four kneeling at the fireplace.

Biao speaks in a groggy tone.

BIAO

Hey... hey you... where are my clothes? Why am I tied up?

Four crouches over a iron bowl with a small fire burning inside. Four puts fake paper money into the fire. A picture frame stands behind the bowl. A picture of Lin-Lin is inside the frame. Biao complains at Four.

BIAO

Hey what are you doing over there. That bowl their, that is a family heirloom. You are ruining my family bowl.

Four stands up and walks to him. Biao shouts to Four with irritation.

BIAO

Put out that fire and get me out of this chair!

Four stares at Biao emotionlessly with hands in her back pants pockets. Biao yells at her.

BIAO

Who are you? Are you here to rob me? Say something!

Four answers Biao in a calm tone.

FOUR

You still don't recognize me? Do you not see yourself or my mother on me?

Biao makes a sarcastic response to Four.

BIAO

I don't and your mother was probably a whore like the rest of them.

Biao chuckles and Four stares at him with a solemn look. Biao stops and stares at Four. She speaks in a calm voice.

FOUR

My mother wasn't a whore, she was just naïve that you took advantage of. She gave birth to your fourth child...me.

Biao shows a confused look. Four walks to the fireplace and picks up the picture frame. She returns and stands in front of Biao. He sees Lin-Lin's picture and shows a stunned expression.

FOUR

Over twenty years ago she was pregnant with a baby, she told you, and you want her to get rid of it. ME, YOUR OWN CHILD!

BIAO

Where's the photo of my family?

FOUR

Ashes by now, they are no longer your family, I know you have been divorced for a long time. Knowing that, it will give my mother comfort and give us a chance to be a family for now.

Four puts the frame on a chair in back of her. Biao looks at the picture of Lin-Lin with anxiety and struggles in the chair. Four walks to the fireplace, opens the duffle bag, and pulls out the ivory dagger in the sheath.

Four returns to stand in front of Biao. She turns to the picture of Lin-Lin and looks back at Biao.

FOUR

She had a hard life after you turned her away. She took it as a punishment and raising me by herself was her atonement. I am going to use an old custom of punishment and I will only stop if I see enough atonement from you.

Four pulls the dagger out from the sheath and puts the sheath in the back pocket of her pants. She approaches in front of Biao and swipes the blade of the dagger against the upper part of his leg. Biao shouts in pain.

FOUR

Feng Xing made that same sound before
I was done with him.

Biao looks at her with a surprised facial expression.

BIAO

What, Xing?

Four answers Biao in a casual tone.

FOUR

Yes, my mother's ex-husband and the
guy who gave you the opportunity to
prey on her.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. XING'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Xing rolls down the flight of stairs grunting. He lands on the floor in front of the front door. His head bleeds streams of bloods in different areas. Slowly Xing gets on his hands on knees and starts crawling. Four walks down the stairs at medium pace holding the blood stained award in her hand. She watches Xing's body shaking as he crawls towards the kitchen doorway.

Four pulls her arm back with the award and throws it at Xing. The award hits Xing in the back of his neck and lower part of the head. Xing falls over on his side with his hands covering the back of his head. He yells and grunts in a paniful tone. Four walks at the bottom of the stairs. She sees the spatters and streaks of blood on the floor. She walks on the floor avoiding stepping on the blood stains.

She puts her hand in her front hoodie pocket and pulls out the roll of duct tape. Four bends her knee onto the floor, sets the tape beside her, and grabs Xing's ankles. She puts his ankles together but Xing starts flicking his feet at her. Four quickly stands up and walks in front of Xing. She stomps her feet at on his face and head. She screams angrily and then in a dark commanding tone.

FOUR

Dead meat should stop moving.

Xing curls his body up in the fetal position and whimpers. She stops attacking him and walks back to his feet. Four walks to his feet and picks up the duct tape. She pulls a long strip and it with her fingers. Four holds Xing's feet

together and wraps the tape around his ankles.

Four turns and lean towards his wrist. Xing turns his body and pushes her away. He yells out loud defending himself against her. Four pulls out her dagger and she thrusts the sharp tip against his side. She motions her hand downwards and the sharp tip slashes open a small wound on his lower back.

Xing yells in agony. Four quickly grabs the roll of duct tape and starts wrapping a ripped strap around his wrists behind his back. Xing looks at her, gasps for air and starts speaking in a soft tone.

XING

Wh...what do you want?

Four looks at him with a straight face. She stands up and walks towards the coat hooks. She pulls off her hoodie and hangs the it on the hook. Xing watches her and speaks in a desperate tone.

XING

Please tell me what you want! Is it money, valuables, are you here for drugs?

Four turns towards Xing's direction, she stares at him with angry eyes. Four walks towards him in a steady pace. She speaks in a calm dark tone.

FOUR

I don't want anything in this house, nothing in here is worthing anything to me. You think I am a lost kid breaking into a house trying to steal things to get drugs or money.

Four stands next to Xing and Xing looks up at her with his eyes staring at her face. She continues speaking to him.

FOUR

I am not here for things... well actually I lied, I did want something. I wanted to see the family I could of had.

Four points to the cabinets with the family pictures and awards.

FOUR

So many smiling faces of kids with a father and a mother...a mother.

Four's voices trembles for a second and pauses. She continues speaking him her dark tone.

FOUR

And then I realized I didn't want that. Why would I want things that I could never have. You ruined that for me.

Four kicks him across the face, Xing's body rolls over on his stomach. Xing's face lays on the floor, blood staining his teeth, and groans. Four bends down and rolls Xing's body on his back. She looks at him unimpressed.

FOUR

Nothing to say Xing? You had plenty to say to my mother when you told her to piss off from you and your kids.

XING

I don't understand you, you can't be my child and if you say we are your family, you made a mistake. I don't know you or your mother, I was always loyal to my wife. I never had an affair with anyone.

Four lashes out at him.

FOUR

LOYALTY?!

Four fast walks to the hanged hoodie and puts her hand in the front pocket. She pulls out the dagger and sheath from the pocket. Four separates the handle and the sheath apart. She puts the sheath in the pocket and walks back to Xing at the normal pace. Four asks Xing in a dark suspicious tone.

FOUR

Who was the woman in the picture in your bedroom?

XING

Why?

Four stands next to his legs and kicks him at one of his shins. She raise her voices at him.

FOUR
Who is she?

Xing replies in a painful tone.

XING
She's my wife!

FOUR
What number is she, second or third?

Xing looks at her with a confused and suspicious facial expression.

XING
She is my second wife, I only was married twice.

FOUR
(Mandarin)
LIAR!

Four holds the handle of the dagger with the blade pointing down towards Xing's lower body. She drops to her knees stabs Xing twice in the hip.

FOUR
(Mandarin)
Were you loyal to my mother when she had nobody?! Were you loyal when she saw you with another woman in a parking lot?!

Xing screams painfully and Four climbs on him, staddling on his chest. She punches Xing across the face with the hand holding the dagger.

FOUR
(Mandarin)
You were never loyal! You pushed her away after you swore to be her husband. You were suppose to love her and protect her. She cooked for you and took care of your family, she was the one who was loyal and you gave her nothing for that.

Four screams in pain and rolls off of Xing. Four lays a few inches away next to Xing with her free hand holding her hand with the dagger (both stained with blood) against her chest.

Xing breathes heavily and his face shows a concentration expression with his eyes moving side to side. Then his face shows a revelation expression. Xing whispers.

XING

Lin?

Xing turns his head and looks at Four. He speaks with his voiced raised.

XING

Your mother is Lin?

Four looks at him without answering his question.

XING

You're Lin's kid. I cannot believe it, you look just like her.

Four raises her upper body from the floor sitting up next to Xing. Xing looks at her face and shows a recognition facial expression. He speaks in an undstanding tone

XING

Is she still in the country after all these years? Is that why you're here beating me, does she still hold a grudge against me after that night? I would have thought she would have moved on. I am surprised.

Four looks at Xing's suspiciously.

FOUR

What do you mean "in this country"?

Xing looks at her apprehensively and doesn't answer her. Four leans over, grabs Xing's should, presses the sharp tip of the dagger on the middle of Xing's chest, and drags the tip of the dagger across his chest towards her. Xing screams in pain and blood seeps out across his pectoral.

FOUR

What do you mean?!

XING

I never sent in the paperwork to have her live here permanently even as a married couple. I thought if I can creat a flaw she will go back to her family and I can have someone else I

truly love like I did with my first wife. That is were I met my third "wife"... or at least for now. She was from work and we were seeing each other even when I was with Lin. I wanted to marry her instead of Lin but our parents trapped me in something I didn't want. I thought distancing myself would help your mother to leave me but she stayed. Until she met Biao, I should have been angry but that was my way out of the marriage. After confronting Lin for that and getting her out of my life, I got what I wanted.

Xing sighs with disappointment.

XING

But then my new wife did the same thing. She started become distant like I was with Lin a few years ago. I was taking on more work at the time and She started to have an affair with someone who was higher up at the hospital. A year ago, when he when he announced he was transferring to another facility, she told me everything without any regret and leaves me.

Four leans towards lean down and grabs the award from the floor. She stands up from the floor and walks towards the cabinets. Xing rolls onto his stomach and leans on his head against the floor. He lifts his body up and kneels on the floor.

XING

I came to realize over the recent months, letting Lin go was my biggest regret. I can understand your anger, and I am willing to give Lin another chance. We can try to talk together and if she wants to get back together we can find a way.

Four approaches the cabinet with the family photos erected on the shelves. She raises the award with her hand at the level of her eyes. Four throws it at the glass and the glass shatters to the floor. The shelves collapses and the picture frames fall onto different areas from the cabinet and the

floor. She replies to Xing with a tone that doesn't make her believe in Xing's words.

FOUR

You're not sorry...

Four turns her upper body looking at Xing and continues calling his bluff.

FOUR

...because if you were you wouldn't have done what the both of you did to her in the first place and she would she have been alive today.

Xing looks at her with surprise and desperate. Four walks to Xing slowly and with confidence.

FOUR

Tell me something, what happened right after you turned my mother away like a *chāngfù*?

FLASH TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT

Four stands in front of the table with the photo of Lin facing her. Four turns facing Biao tied to the chair. His body shows many cuts at random spots with blood slowly seeps down his skin. He breathes heavily and his hangs forward as her stares at her. She walks towards him and continues to talk.

FOUR

After I asked him, he told me he lied to his family that my mom left him for another man. His parents told her parents and they never tried to get in contact with her or try to find her. She was all alone and you two lied to save your own asses. Making him suffer was so satisfying before I cut his throat.

Biao responds to her in a dark soft aggressive tone.

BIAO

I can't believe you killed him over her death. From what you told me, you were the problem that we were trying to avoid and we were right all along.

The day Lin had you was a mistake. You were the cause that lead her to suicide and taking your blame out on me.

Four swiftly smacks across his face with her the back of her hand. She raise her voice at Biao with anger.

FOUR

She killed herself because of you and left me all alone in this world! She left me without a family to go to or knowing that I even exist. (Tone lowers to a sorrow tone) In my heart I will never know what it life would have been with a normal family living happily. There were times I look in the mirror and see her like you see me with a man hoping to be my father. Now I look in the mirror thinking she was still alive.

Four pauses for a moment and continues in a revelation type tone.

FOUR

I then realized she is still alive... through me.

Four walks behind Biao and leans over Biao's shoulder. She raises the blade to his eye level, Four looks into the reflection as Biao looks down. She grabs his hair at the middle of his head and pulls his head back. Both of there faces are seen on the reflection from the blade. Four asks Biao a question in a dark tone.

FOUR

Do you see her?

BIAO

What?

FOUR

Do you see her in me?

Biao's body shakes and he starts moping.

FOUR

Of course you don't, she was nothing but a fling...a thrill. I'm doing what she wanted to do a long time ago.

Four continues slashing different areas of Biao's body. Four raises her voice over Biao's screaming. She counts out loud the slices on his body.

FOUR

She would have been fifty one this year if she was still alive. You only have fifty so far. Where should the last one be?

Biao gives exhausting moans as Four puts the blade of the dagger against his throat. Biao starts begging.

BIAO

Please listen, you're my child I'll make it up to you. Please, please don't this, I am sorry.

Four replies with an irritated tone.

FOUR

You want to take advantage on me like you did with my mother?! After twenty years of anguish you put upon my mother, now you ask for forgiveness from death?

Four grabs Biao's hair and pulls his head back. Four replies in a dark trembling tone.

FOUR

No.

She puts the blade on his throat and cuts deep into his throat from left to right. Blood seeps out of Biao's neck, his body spasms, and Biao's head hangs down. Four puts the dagger back in the sheath and walks over to the duffle bag. Four puts the sheath in the duffle bag and walks to the table across from Biao's motionless body. She grabs the picture frame and walks to the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR-NIGHT

Four quickly opens the driver's side car door. She tosses the duffle bag on the passenger seat and seats in the driver's seat. Four slams the door shut violently. She closes her eyes, pants, and tears stream down her cheek. Her face shows a hatred expression.

CUT TO BLACK:

FOUR V.O.

Now I am alone.

The sound of the car engine starts and slowly hearing it fade away.