

The Sky Below

1 INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

It's dark and hazy. Hard to make out what we are looking at, but we hear faint whizzing sound.

Slowly, a strange shape begins forming. JET ENGINE sound gets increasingly louder.

It is clear now - it's an EYE.

As the eye slowly forms, we realise it is an eye twinged with fear as it stares directly at us.

Then, a calm VOICE that belies mortal fear.

AIR STEWARDESS (O.S)
If you have a baby, please keep your heads on the seat and hold your babies firmly. Check your seat belts. Check if your tables are retracted. We might land without notice, so please be prepared... just in case...

Buzzing RADIO SOUND, followed by two crackling, unemotional voices that seem to come out of some kind of headsets.

We are still looking straight at the eye, trembling and frightened.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Raise nose. Mountain, mountain.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Yes, sir.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Control to right. Raise nose. We might hit the mountain.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Yes, sir.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Max power, max power. Go, go, go.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Max power.

Suddenly, WARNING SOUNDS.

The eye blinks and shakes a little.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Left turn now.

Warning sounds continue followed by more chaotic noises.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Not working.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Increase power.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
It's at maximum.

We slowly see both eyes and a NOSE, part of a FACE that is in sheer terror. A TEAR forms at the corner of the eye.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Speed 220 knots. Don't lower nose. It's going down.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Yes, sir.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Raise the nose! Raise the nose!

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Unable, sir.

We see the full face now.

This is MIN, 28 years old, female, staring straight at us, frozen in fear. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Can I extend the flap?

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Not possible.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Extend the alternate, I mean.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Yes.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Flap extended with alternate.

Warning sounds. This sounds really serious now.

WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP!

Panic ensues.

The sound of WIND hitting against the plane is deafening now. The walls begin shaking uncontrollably.

WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP!

The top part of Min's air-stewardess uniform comes into sight. It's gorgeous, and drenched with tears.

Her jaws are shaking. She opens her eyes, bites her lips and closes her eyes again, as if deep in prayer.

BOOM!

The plane drops abruptly, and she's thrown in the air, restrained by the seat belt. Her face turns pale.

She breathes hard, composing herself.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Raise the nose.

WHOO WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP! Helplessness fills the air.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Yes, it's raised.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Stop flap.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Yes, sir.

She closes her eyes. It's unbearable.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Retract the flap.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
I'm retracting it.

Then the haunting, robotic sound of the Ground Proximity Warning System (GPWS) kicks in.

She winces her face as she endures the sound of the GPWS. She mumble 'Oh My God' and shakes her head, almost in disbelief this could be happening.

GPWS (O.S)
Pull up! Pull up!

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Raise the nose.

By now the Captain and First Officer are screaming. She covers her ears to block the tormenting sound of the GPWS.

GPWS (O.S)
Pull up! Pull up!

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Power! Power!

GPWS (O.S)
Pull up! Pull up!

Utter chaos. GPWS continues blaring.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Power!

After what seems an eternity, the GPWS stops.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Lower the nose.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Full control.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Lower nose.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Good.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Here we go.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
OK.

Min opens her eyes and blinks.

There is no more life in there. Her face is white. She's completely drained.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Full control now.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Lower the nose.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Yes, sir.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Lower.

BOOM!

The plane drops abruptly again. She hits her head against the headrest. It's excruciating.

The GPWS kicks in again. That haunting GPWS again.

Stalling sound of the plane is heard. It's like the plane stopped flying.

GPWS (O.S)
Terrain ahead! Terrain ahead!
Pull up! Pull up!

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Power!

Min's faces freezes.

Yelling. Screams from the PASSENGERS. The plane is in free fall now.

GPWS (O.S)
Terrain ahead! Terrain ahead!
Pull up! Pull up! Pull up!

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Increase power!

GPWS (O.S)
Pull up! Pull up! Pull up!

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
It's hopeless. Come on, come on.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Increase power!

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
I know, I know.

GPWS (O.S)
Pull up! Pull up! Pull up!

This is it.

CAPTAIN (O.S)
Everyone brace position. Brace!
Brace! Brace! Brace! Brace!

Min squeezes her face in agony, shaking her head in disbelief.

Cacophony of the screaming pilots, the haunting voice of the GPWS and the deafening sound of a stalling airplane all come together and reach a single point of sheer mental anguish.

FIRST OFFICER (O.S)
Oh my God.

GPWS (O.S)
Pull up! Pull up! Pull up! Pull
up! Pull up! Pull up!

She writhes helplessly.

Sound of impact. BOM!

Silence and dark.

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

INSERT: **The day before.**

A middle class home. Not a bungalow, but more than decent. The place is sparse, but homely.

On the wall are pictures of a very happy family.

One photo shows a man and Min during their wedding.

Another shows a baby boy.

Another shows Min in a plane - her first day at work, smiling, full of youth.

Another shows a man standing in front of a restaurant, proud and confident.

Another shows the entire family on a vacation, smiling and happy.

Sound of KEYS.

The door opens.

Min walks in, luggage in tow, dressed in flight attendant uniform. She is gorgeous, elegant and possesses no air.

MIN

Robin! Ma's home!

ROBIN, 5 years old, jumps out. He's active and curious - the kind who can't sit still for a minute - and he is playing with a toy plane.

ROBIN

Ma!

MIN

Have you been a good boy?

Robin gives her a hug like he has not seen her for days.

ROBIN

Ma, this is your plane.

Robin moves the plane in the air, somersaults and all.

MIN

Oh! No wonder. When Ma was in the plane, I felt the whole plane shaking. So it was you!

Min tickles Robin. He doesn't get it, but he laughs.

ROBIN

When can I fly too? I want to
touch the clouds like you.

At the table top, LIM, 35 year old male, is deep in thought, poring over some papers and frantically clicking his calculator. Plain guy, mild, timid. Very unlike the man in the picture, full of pride and confidence. He is surrounded by boxes of chrysanthemum tea.

A cursory nod to Min. No eye contact.

She begins settling down and clearing the table. The whole place is a mess. She opens the fridge and stares at something. Not too pleased.

She takes out a FROZEN CHICKEN and goes towards Lim.

MIN

Busy?

LIM

Uh-uh.

MIN

So busy huh?

LIM

I might be getting a big order.
Thirty kilograms. There's this
big wedding. Rich kid.

Lim looks up and sees the frozen chicken.

LIM

Ah!

Min does not reply. It's not the first time.

LIM

Sorry, baby. I was... calculating
the sales figures. I, I, I
haven't hit my target.

She's not angry. In fact, she sort of expected it.

LIM

Can we just oven it?

Robin, while busy playing with his toy plane, hears this and interrupts.

ROBIN

Pa, the oven is spoilt.

MIN

Robin. Can you tell your Pa to
fix the oven?

ROBIN

Pa, remember to fix the oven.

MIN

And?

She points at the door with her eyebrows.

The wind blows and the door swings.

ROBIN

And the door. Pa, remember to fix
the door.

Lim nods his head ever so slightly.

She starts to whip up something simple, since the frozen
chicken is of no use.

Awkward energy in the house.

Then, Lim stops his work and stares at the door.

The door continues swinging gently to and fro.

Lim looks at Robin. There's a naughty twinkle in his eye.
He begins to gently 'push' the door every time it swings
open.

At first, it is inconspicuous.

Slowly, Robin begins to notice his dad playing games, much
to his amusement.

LIM

Look, Robin. Magic.

Robin abandons his toy plane and tries the same thing. He
pushes the door.

But it does not work.

LIM

Pray. Ti-Gong.

Robin closes his eyes, clasps his hands and prays to
Ti-Gong (God of Heaven).

LIM

Pray harder.

Robin pushes the door again. This time, it works!

LIM

Told you!

Min, who has been noticing this, plays along. She pushes the door too.

Then altogether, all three of them push the door together.

It swings open!

Uncontrollable laughter. It's all good now. Lim gives Min a kiss.

LIM

Sorry.

MIN

Know what, Robin? Ma's superpower is stronger than Pa's superpower.

ROBIN

How?

MIN

Ma can fly. Can Pa fly?

ROBIN

No. But Ma can fly.

MIN

So who's stronger?

Robin points to Min.

MIN

Exactly!

ROBIN

I want to fly too. I want to touch the clouds like you, Ma. When are we going to N...

He doesn't know how to pronounce it.

MIN

N...

ROBIN

N...

MIN

E...

ROBIN

E...

MIN

P...

ROBIN

PAL.

MIN

And how to do you pronounce that?

ROBIN

N-e-p-a-l. When are we going to
Nepal?

MIN

Ask your Pa. In fact, ask him to
circle the date.

LIM

(realising)

Nepal.

Lim looks worried and stares at his pile of papers.

LIM

How many days again?

MIN

Depends how fast we walk.

Robin takes a RED MARKER PEN and passed it to Lim,
pointing excitedly at the calendar.

ROBIN

Pa, listen. Circle the date.

LIM

Five days? Seven days? Ten days?

He glances at his chrysanthemum boxes. No reply from Min.
They've discussed this before.

LIM

I have to be around. If I'm not
around, then the order be passed
to my colleague. And he will get
the commission. This is a big
order, Min.

MIN

There's always a next big order,
baby.

LIM

It's one month's rent.

MIN

But Nepal - we must go by May.

Min waits for an answer. But no firm answer comes.

LIM

It's been five years already?

MIN

Yes, I promised I'll go back to that temple after five years.

ROBIN

I'm four years old.

MIN

Yes, we know. We're going to Nepal because you're going to be five years old soon!

ROBIN

Is it for my birthday?

Min looks at Lim. Lim contemplates deeply. Robin doesn't know what's going on and rolls the marker pen to Lim.

ROBIN

Pa, listen. Circle the date.

Lim rolls the pen back to Robin.

LIM

Min, let's discuss this again, OK? This big order. I can't borrow money again--

Robin rolls the pen back to Lim. Every thing is a game for this boy.

MIN

Don't stress yourself. You know I have free tickets. Airline benefits.

LIM

We can't go back to debt. We got to make sure we never--

Lim rolls the pen back to Robin.

ROBIN

Pa, listen. Take the pen. Circle the date.

She gently takes the red marker and puts it away.

MIN

Robin, go into Ma's room. There's something I want to show you. Wait for me there ok?

ROBIN

What's that?

MIN

My superhero costume!

ROBIN

You have a superhero costume too?

MIN

What? You think you're the only superhero here? I gave birth to you, so I'm the mummy superhero. Go in! Ma will come in a minute.

Robin runs in.

MIN

It's April already. We have to reach by the twentieth of May. (Exactly)--

LIM

Exactly five years. Yes.

MIN

That's (the promise) --

LIM

The promise you made if you get pregnant. Yes, yes.

MIN

We must give thanks at the temple. Three of us. All three of us. Me, you, Robin.

Min goes into the room, but not before turning around.

MIN

Plus, since we now know that there is a god that lives on a mountain in Nepal, who answers our prayers when women cannot get pregnant, and that god gave us Robin... maybe we can try for Robin number two?

She flashes a sexy smile and lifts her slit, but he's unperturbed and continues staring at his work.

LIM
I heard there's very little
oxygen there.

Disappointed, she goes into the room.

3 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Min opens her cupboard and takes out a gorgeous black dress and drapes it on her front.

MIN
Robin, look. It's Ma's superhero uniform.

ROBIN
Ma looks so pretty. Pa, come and see.

No reply.

ROBIN
Ma, listen. You must wear this every day.

MIN
Well, I got to wear other clothes too.

ROBIN
Ma, listen. I have an idea. From today onwards, this is your favourite dress. OK?

MIN
OK, this is my favourite dress. And I'll hang it right here, ok? My favourite dress.

Robin wants to hang it for her. He takes the black dress and jumps.

Jump.

Jump.

Jump.

He's too short. Min takes it from him and hangs it behind the door.

DING DONG! The door bell rings.

Min goes out.

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She opens the door.

It's ROBERT, 60 years old, pot-bellied and with a serious ex-military face that remains the same in every situation. A man who scares everyone with his domineering facade.

He's holding HONG HONG, 8 years old, well-groomed, side parting, a bit of a smarty pants, the type who is not easily impressed.

MIN

Dad, so early?

ROBERT

Fishing trip. Got to go earlier.

(to HONG HONG)

I'll pick you up by ten tonight
ok?

Hong Hong goes over to the toy area, like he owns it. He knows his way around here.

Robert spots the frozen chicken.

ROBERT

Lunch?

MIN

Yes, a simple meal. But no
chicken.

5 INT. TOY AREA - CONTINUOUS

Hong Hong sees Robin playing with his toy plane and runs towards him, eager not to miss out on any fun.

ROBIN

I tell you a secret. But you
cannot tell anyone.

HONG HONG

What?

ROBIN

I have superpowers.

HONG HONG

That's what you said the last
time too.

ROBIN

I can push the door from here. I
can push the door from here with
my hands.

HONG HONG
What do you mean?

ROBIN
I push like this. And the door
will open.

He demonstrates the push.

HONG HONG
Without touching the door?

ROBIN
Yes.

HONG HONG
I don't believe you.

ROBIN
It's true. I have superpowers.
Ask my Pa.

HONG HONG
There is no such thing.

How dare he. Robin's annoyed.

ROBIN
It's true.

HONG HONG
Liar, liar.

ROBIN
I did it before.

HONG HONG
Show me.

He doesn't care to impress Hong Hong but he will do it,
just to prove him wrong.

He 'pushes' the door from a distance.

Nothing happens.

He tries again.

Nothing happens.

Hong Hong looks at him skeptically and gives the
I-told-you-so look.

Robin is confused, and wonders what's wrong. He tries
again.

Nothing happens.

HONG HONG

Just give up.

Desperate to prove that he has superpowers, he gets more and more worked up. Figuring that sitting down won't do the trick, he stands up.

With full seriousness, he 'pushes' the door with all his might. Nothing happens.

HONG HONG

I told you, you can't do it.

ROBIN

I did it before.

HONG HONG

When?

ROBIN

Just now. I really did it.

HONG HONG

Then why can't you do it again?

Robin claps his palms together and prays to Ti-Gong (God of Heaven).

ROBIN

Ti-Gong, please.

He tries again. With all his might.

But nothing happens. For a split second, he is unsure what to do. Embarrassed and confused, he lowers his head.

HONG HONG

Liar, liar.

Sulking, Robin goes off to a corner.

He takes out his drawing kit and continues on a drawing he started earlier. It is a picture of a house, with a beautiful garden, and a plane flying above.

Not wanting to let Robin get away so easily, Hong Hong follows him annoyingly, and sits next to him. He looks hard at Robin's drawing and sneers condescendingly.

HONG HONG

We don't have chimneys in
Malaysia.

He takes Robin's drawing and erases the chimney.

The chimney slowly disappears.

Robin, still deflated, stares at his drawing, unwilling to protest.

6 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Over at the dinner table. Robert sits directly opposite Lim, facing him but never looking at him.

ROBERT
So, this month's rent...

Lim stares at Min, confused.

MIN
Dad, I'm supposed to pay you. I was flying.

Min grabs her wallet, takes some cash out and begins counting.

ROBERT
Why are you paying?

LIM
(helplessly)
We--

MIN
My money. His money. Same thing.

Lim is embarrassed and tries to man up.

LIM
I'm the one who pays every time. Only for this month--

ROBERT
And last month--

MIN
OK, here, here. Eat before it's cold, Dad.

Min passes the money to Robert.

Silence, but for a second, before Robert opens his mouth again.

ROBERT
So you married this guy, and you've to pay his rent too?

Lim's face is red with embarrassment. Min tries to stop this right now.

MIN

Dad!

Lim tries to take charge. He's not going to hide behind his wife, but Robert is really scary.

LIM

No, I pay every month. Only this month--

ROBERT

And the last--

LIM

And, the last... Min said she'll handle it...

MIN

And it's settled. Dad, end of story.

She scoops more food into Robert's plate.

Silence. But for a second.

ROBERT

Told you to marry the other one.

MIN

Dad!

ROBERT

What?

Robert pushes the money back to Min.

ROBERT

No, I'm not taking money from my own daughter. One time, OK. Two times, OK. Three times? Too much.

She is frustrated. This is blown out of proportion. Min pushes the money back to Robert.

MIN

Dad, don't create trouble.

ROBERT

I'm not creating trouble. Lim will pay me when he has money.

Robert pushes the money back to Min. Min knows there is no point arguing with her military father.

LIM

Sure. Of course. For sure.

Lim looks like he is about to crawl under the table.
Robert stares the chrysanthemum flower tea boxes.

ROBERT
You're still doing that Chinese
tea sales thing?

LIM
Chrysanthemum tea.

ROBERT
Try pu'er or ti guan yin. Better
margins.

Robert finishes his food like a military man, stands up
and walks to the door. He looks at Lim directly. The first
time today.

ROBERT
Chrysanthemum is cheap tea.

MIN
Dad.

Robert goes to the door and Min hurries after him.

At the door, he stands upright, not sure if he should hug
his daughter.

ROBERT
I have to buy some new clothes.
When are you free--

MIN
(teasing)
Yes, I will go with you...
shopping.

Same stern face, except for a barely discernible upward
curve at the side of his tight lips.

Min kisses her dad, who turns away a little, grunting his
displeasure at this expression of emotions.

7 EXT. PORCH - DAY

Min goes to Robin and spots him sitting alone in the
porch.

MIN
What's up, Superman?

ROBIN
I tried to push the door. But it
didn't work. Hong Hong doesn't
believe me. Can you tell him it
worked just now?

MIN

Well, you don't have to care what he thinks.

ROBIN

Can you tell him I did it just now?

MIN

Who cares what he thinks?

A RED BUTTERFLY lands on Robin's hand.

He wants to swat it away, and looks at Min for permission.

MIN

Remember what I told you?

ROBIN

Yes.

MIN

What?

ROBIN

People die and they are born again as insects.

MIN

Something like that.

ROBIN

People die, and then they are born again as insects. If you're good, you are born as a beautiful butterfly.

MIN

And if you're bad?

ROBIN

You become a cockroach.

Laughter.

The butterfly flies away and the sun slowly sets.

8

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The next morning. Robin opens the door and comes out from his bedroom.

The house is quiet and no one else is up.

He opens the door and goes over to the calendar hanging on the wall. He rubs his eyes and stares at it.

Min's FLIGHT DATES are marked red on the calendar. He places his finger on the calendar and traces to the date today.

It is marked red.

He runs to his parent's room and opens the door.

9 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Robin tries to wake Min up. Lim is snoring, in deep sleep.

ROBIN
Ma, you're working today.

Min opens her eyes and yawns.

ROBIN
Ma, listen. Wake up.

He pokes her and hides under the bed. She stretches her hand and pretends she cannot find him.

He's on the floor, avoiding Min's hand, giggling uncontrollably.

ROBIN
You cannot find me!

He pokes her again and hides under the bed again. She pretends again to find him. It's their morning ritual.

ROBIN
You cannot find me!

MIN
(catching him)
Boo!

Robin screams in delight. Everyone is awake now.

Min gets out of bed and playfully chases after him.

ROBIN
Ma, you cannot catch me.

He runs out of the room, chuckling gleefully.

10 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Robin hides behind the curtain. He can barely contain his excitement. Following him from behind, she makes monster gestures.

MIN
(monster voice)
Where is my Bin? I can't find him!

Min comes close to the curtain. She pretends to walk past it. Robin is trembling with excitement.

Suddenly she pulls the curtain and catches Robin!

He screams!

MIN

OK, Ma needs to get ready.

But he's just getting started.

He spots Lim, who is already sitting at the dining table working.

He bugs Lim to continue playing. He hides behind the curtains and pesters Lim to find him.

ROBIN

(behind the curtain)

Pa, come find me. Pa?

Lim doesn't care. Min begins making a simple sandwich.

MIN

Robin, I am going to work soon.

Robin runs and points at the calendar.

ROBIN

Ma is working today. And then rest. And then work, work, work. And then rest. When are we going to Nepal?

She doesn't answer, and glances at Lim.

MIN

Robin, breakfast.

Father and son sit the their place at the breakfast table, while Min goes in and out of the room getting ready for work.

Robin takes the red marker pen again and waves, trying to get dad's attention. But dad is focused on his work, mindlessly eating his breakfast.

ROBIN

Pa, quick circle the date. Please, please, please. Circle the date.

LIM

Eat your breakfast, Robin.

Min comes out dressed in air stewardess costume for work.

MIN

Bye, Bin!

ROBIN

Bye, Ma.

MIN

Be a good boy. Love you.

ROBIN

Ma, I want to fly like you. I
want to touch the clouds.

Min points at the calendar, hinting he should ask dad to circle the dates. Robin giggles. It's their little secret.

Min kisses Lim on the cheek.

MIN

Bye, baby.

He gives an obligatory bye, eye still on work. She's annoyed, and claps her hand to get Lim's attention.

He realises he is neglecting his wife.

LIM

Where are you flying off to,
baby?

MIN

London.

ROBIN

Ma, where is London?

MIN

It's very far!

LIM

How many days?

MIN

Just 6 days.

Lim looks at his work again, while Min kisses him on his head.

Min takes her luggage and goes out the door.

The sound of the wheels of the luggage bag slowly fades away.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

On the table, a giant pile of chrysanthemum flowers. Lim and Robin are busy sorting them into small piles to be packed.

News on TV plays in the background. REPORTER's soft voice permeates the air.

REPORTER (O.S)
 plane is believed to be
 a scheduled international
 passenger flight from Kuala
 Lumpur to London. The Boeing 777
 airliner lost contact about 50 km
 from the border of India and
 there has been no communication
 for the past 3 hours. There is
 little that we know at this
 moment...

ROBIN
 Hong Hong says we have no
 chimneys in Malaysia.

LIM
 Well, he's right.

Robin grabs a handful of chrysanthemum flowers.

LIM
 A bit more. Show me your hands.
 Your hands are small. So, two
 hands. OK? Me one hand, you two
 hands.

He demonstrates grabbing two handfuls as his eye catches the news.

Robin, half helping but mostly more interested in his drawing, drops some flowers on the floor.

LIM
 Don't drop the flowers.

Lim pauses for a while, as he tries to make sense of the news.

Something is wrong. It is not clear what, as he gazes thoughtlessly at the TV.

They continue packing.

He strains his ears to hear the news, while Robin bugs him incessantly.

ROBIN
Pa, listen. Can I have a chimney
in the house?

The HANDPHONE rings. Lim picks it up.

LIM
Sorry, wrong number.

He puts his phone down.

His eyes switches to the TV once more. It slowly dawns on Lim as he turns the volume up.

The handphone rings again, but this time he does not hear the vibrating sound; the ringing is drowned by the loud news.

He is now completely caught with the news, staring at the screen with two handfuls of chrysanthemum flowers.

ROBIN
Pa, not so much. You one hand, me
two hands.

Robin takes Lim's right hand and shakes off the chrysanthemum flowers back into the box.

Then, Lim ears perk up and he snaps out of this stupor.

It's the handphone again.

Irritated, he lets it ring for a while before picking up again.

It is clear now to Lim. He blinks.

News shows a plane has crashed. The news ticker reads:
"London-bound plane crashes in India."

LIM
Robin, where did Ma says she's
flying to?

ROBIN
I don't remember.

Lim finally picks up the phone with his left hand; right hand still holding chrysanthemum. He presses the phone hard to his ears with his shoulder, as he struggles to also listen to the TV at the same time, with his left hand turning the volume up.

LIM
Hello. Yes? Say that again? I
can't hear you.

His face turns pale.

Robin clings on to Lim and continues to pester Lim, as Lim juggles the phone, the chrystanthemum, the remote control and Robin at the same time.

ROBIN

Pa, listen. Can I have a chimney in the house? Can I have a chimney in the house? Can I have a chimney in the house?

The cacophony of sounds - the loud TV, the shouting on the phone, Robin's incessant pestering - all culminate into one giant confusion.

He slumps down, dropping all the chrysanthemum on the floor.

Utter devastation.

ROBIN

Pa, you dropped the flowers.

It is all clear to him now. His eyes dart around, between the TV, the calendar, Robin.

LIM

(mumbling incoherently)
Robin, where did Ma say she's flying to? Min, that's not you right? That's not you. Not your plane. Robin, where did Ma say she's flying to?

Robin shrugs.

He starts texting and calling, but throws down his phone repeatedly in a daze.

Robin starts drawing, oblivious to what just happened.

Slowly, Lim faces Robin.

LIM

Robin...

The boy is too engrossed with his drawing. He takes his pencil and draws a chimney. It's a pivotal moment for him.

ROBIN

I have decided I will have a chimney.

Lim, still incoherent, staggers to the calendar, not knowing why, but could only stare at it.

Robin sees Lim at the calendar. Pa is finally going to circle the date for Nepal!

He runs over, takes the red marker and passes the red marker to Lim excitedly.

ROBIN

Pa, are you going to circle the date? Quick circle the date. Please, please, please. Circle the date.

Lim is jolted from his daze. He slowly wraps his arms around Robin's tiny little frame.

Robin is not getting a response he wants. He suspects that the trip might not happen after all. As always, Pa has to be a spoil sport.

ROBIN

(disappointed)

When are we going to the Nepal?

LIM

Nepal? We might need to go later.

Lim freezes and looks straight to Robin. That look of disappointment.

He could not let his boy down. In his head, a million thoughts.

LIM

Yes, of course we are going. We're going for sure.

ROBIN

Yeay!

LIM

Yes, we will go up a mountain. And Pa will carry you to touch the clouds.

ROBIN

I want Pa and Ma to carry me at the same time.

He is crushed by Robin hopeful stare. It felt like a giant bolt of electricity.

LIM

Whatever happens, we will go to the Nepal. Me, you and Ma.

ROBIN

Carry me! Carry me!

Lim carries Robin on his back. Robin is holding the pen.

ROBIN
Can I choose the date?

LIM
You choose the date!

ROBIN
I choose? OK!

Robin circles the date in red - a big, proud, giant red circle - on the twelfth of May.

Lim forces a smile, even as his heart is shattered.

ROBIN
I prayed to Ti-Gong that you will circle the date.

LIM
That's great. Ti-Gong answers all your prayers.

ROBIN
I also prayed that he will make the door open, but Ti-Gong didn't listen.

LIM
Pray harder.

Lim's mind is anywhere but here.

ROBIN
It doesn't work.

Lim clasps his hands and prays to Ti-Gong. Indifferent. Just going through the motion.

LIM
You don't believe me? Let me show you. Ti-Gong, open the door.

Then, he 'pushes' the door.

It opens! Ti-Gong really answers prayers!

LIM
See?

Robin clasps his hands.

ROBIN
Ti-Gong, please open the door!

He 'pushes' the door.

It opens!

ROBIN
I will show Hong Hong. Now, he
will believe me.

Robin runs into his room, but suddenly stops and turns to
Lim.

ROBIN
I remember now, Pa.
(beat)
London.

Off he runs.

Lim stares into space; his entire world has collapsed.
He wanders around the house, unsure what to do or who to
call.

Tears roll down his eyes as he feels his legs turn soft.

He stares at the calendar, at the red circle - the day
they will go to Nepal.

It will be exactly 8 days from today.

12 EXT. HOSPITAL MORTUARY - DAY

A sign above: **MORTUARY**

Lim spots a car.

It is AUNTY CHIN. She's 60 years old, wrinkled, with a
kind motherly face and a gentle wise voice that hide a
mischievous side. She has an inhaler, and breathing hard.

Lim knocks on the door. Aunty Chin is startled and puts
away her inhaler.

Lim opens the car at the same time Aunty Chin unlocks the
door. At the exact moment, both are trying to get the car
door open at the same time.

The door gets stuck. It's a really old car.

She signals him to let go, so she could unlock the door
properly.

The door opens.

Lim gets in. Robin, carrying his toy plane, hops into the
back.

AUNTY CHIN
Hi.

LIM

Hi. Robin, say hi to Aunty Chin.

ROBIN

Hi, Aunty Chin.

LIM

Thanks for driving.

AUNTY CHIN

Oh my God. So shocking.

LIM

Just go around the corner. The undertakers... I told the undertakers... to wait for us there.

AUNTY CHIN

Sure.

The car moves a little, but dies.

Aunty Chin lets out a frustrated sigh. She restarts the engine.

Ignition sound.

It doesn't work.

AUNTY CHIN

Old car.

Ignition sound. Straining.

Lim is unbelievably calm. Aunty Chin eyes him while desperately trying to get the car moving.

Ignition sound. Straining hard.

LIM

The body parts... they tried to collect as many body parts as possible...

Ignition sound. Long one.

LIM

...we are very lucky, we are very lucky, Min is in one... she's, she's, she's intact...

Ignition sound. A very long one.

LIM

...because apparently right, for others, many of them the mortuary

LIM
said, they have, they have
missing...

Ignition sound.

He bursts into tears.

VROOM! The engine suddenly starts again.

AUNTY CHIN
It's ok. Don't explain, Lim.

Lim tries his best to control his emotion in front of Robin.

Silence in the car, except for the sound of the engine struggling to work.

13 EXT. PORCH AT HOME - DAY

The car stops. They have arrived.

The undertakers, following them, stops too.

Lim gets down and signals to the undertakers to bring the coffin out.

Robin runs around with this toy plane, unaware it's his mother's funeral.

LIM
How do I tell him?

AUNTY CHIN
He will never understand.

LIM
Aunty Chin, the rituals... you'll
have to advice me on the rituals.
I want to make sure all the
rituals are done properly for
Min.

AUNTY CHIN
Just because I'm old, I know all
the ancient rituals?

Lim chuckles. Bad joke.

AUNTY CHIN
But yes I'll try to ask my
friends. Those who are still
alive.

The place is already set up. An empty stand awaits the coffin.

A white cloth is hung over the main gate and a gong is placed on the right side.

Min's picture is placed at the foot of where the coffin will be. It's her smiling - full of youth and rigour.

A few MOURNERS trickle in one by one to comfort Lim. Hushed words and quiet sobs fill the air.

Robin is playing with his toy plane and is oblivious to the entire situation.

Four UNDERTAKERS begin moving the coffin out. The mourners turn and face 180 degrees away until the coffin is put on the stand.

AUNTY CHIN

Turn around. Bad luck to face the body.

Worried that Robin might catch a glimpse of the coffin, Lim turns Robin around and tries to distract him by imitating Min. He re-enacts Robin's earlier hide and seek game by pushing Robin behind the curtain.

LIM

Robin. Psssst. Ma is back. Let's hide. Don't let her find you!
(monster voice)
Where is my Bin? I can't find him!

Robin gets it.

He hides behind the curtain excitedly. Lim continues his monster voice as he eyes the coffin being carried to be put on the stand.

LIM

Don't come out, ok? Hide! Ma is looking for you! Ma is going to catch you!
(monster voice)
Where is my Bin? I can't find him!

Robin is now behind the curtains, barely breathing.

Over at the porch. A small commotion. The coffin is too big for the stands. There is a small quarrel as the four undertakers try to solve the problem.

BURLY UNDERTAKER

Widen the legs.

BALD UNDERTAKER widens the legs of the stand, and they try again.

It doesn't work. They strain to carry the coffin.

BURLY UNDERTAKER
Widen it a bit more.

The legs are spread wider.

At last, the coffin is finally properly fixed. A sigh of relief fills the air. The little drama is over.

Mourners begin hugging Lim. He has forgotten about Robin.

Robin, still hiding in the curtain, decides to come out.

He wonders where Lim is and heads straight to the coffin.

Lim spots Robin and rushes to him.

LIM
Robin! Ma... is very tired... and
she's just resting. Let's not...
disturb her ok?

ROBIN
Ma is in there?

LIM
She's sleeping.

ROBIN
Why is Ma always sleeping?
(to the coffin)
OK. Good night, Ma.

Lim walks away a little, waiting for Robin to follow him and catches the boy whispering to the coffin.

ROBIN
Ma, we are going to Nepal soon.
Pa circled the date already.

It's their little secret.

A BESPECTACLED MAN comes in to pay his respect. Robin runs around with this toy plane.

LIM
Robin, come here. We have a job
to do.

ROBIN
What job?

LIM
You see all these people? They,
they, they know we're going to
Nepal. They have come to say
goodbye to us.

(beat)
Goodbye, everyone!

ROBIN
Goodbye! Don't miss us!

The bespectacled man bows at the coffin and lights a joss stick. As a sign of respect, Lim kneels next the coffin and bow to mourners who come and visit.

LIM
They will bow to us. Then, we bow to them. Got it?

The bespectacled man bows to them. Lim returns the bow, pressing Robin's head down.

LIM
(to BESPECTACLED MAN)
Thank you for coming.

A SOBBING COUPLE lights a joss stick, and bows to Lim and Robin. They return the bow.

Followed by a FAMILY OF THREE. Again, they return the bow.

Then, an OLD LADY, moving really slowly. She lights the joss stick. It's taking forever.

ROBIN
I'm bored.

LIM
Stand here for a while, OK? They have come all the way to say good bye to us!

ROBIN
OK.

But when a EMOTIONAL MOURNER comes to greet Lim and hugs him tightly, Robin spots an opportunity to escape.

He runs off. Before Lim could catch him, he is already off.

CRASH!

A joss stick pot crashes on the floor. He has clipped the pot with his arms.

Joss stick ash is all over the floor. Every single pair of eyes is on the floor.

Robin is in deep shock. He is in big trouble and stares at Pa.

To his surprise, Lim gives him a smile.

Lim takes some ash and smears Robin's face with it. Robin laughs.

LIM
Go finish your drawing.

Robin runs off to get his drawing and plonks himself quietly at the corner in the living room, at his usual spot.

Then, a dark shadow hovers over above.

It's Robert. Same stern face, no visible emotions, but we spot red, teary eyes.

Behind him is Hong Hong, bored as hell, wishing he's anywhere else but here.

He squints his eyes and studies the drawing intently.

ROBERT
Drawing a picture, huh?

ROBIN
Yes, Ah Gong.

ROBERT
You can burn it for Ma later. She will receive it.

Robin doesn't get it.

ROBERT
Ma is up there now. Up there, are no bad people. No need to draw a fence.

HONG HONG
(glancing over)
No chimney too.

Hong Hong grabs the drawing and erases the chimney.

Robin stares at this silently, completely annoyed. Did Hong Hong just erase the chimney the second time? But he does not dare protest. He's very of scared of Robert.

They leave, as quietly as they came.

Robin runs back to Lim, who is greeting more mourners.

ROBIN
Pa, Hong Hong erased my chimney again.

LIM

Then, just draw it again.

ROBIN

Ah Gong and Hong Hong said there is no need to draw a fence. But I want a fence. I want a chimney and a fence.

LIM

You can have both. Don't listen to them.

As Robin is about to leave, he suddenly turns around.

ROBIN

How come Hong Hong says Ma is up there? Ma is sleeping.

LIM

Don't tell anyone ok? Your cousin is stupid!

They laugh at their little secret insult. Robin turns around to leave.

But, suddenly, he turns around again.

ROBIN

I know what Hong Hong means.

Lim freezes. Does Robin know?

ROBIN

(whispering very softly)
Hong Hong thinks Ma is up there. But he doesn't know - Ma is not working today!

Phew.

LIM

Exactly! Your cousin is so stupid!

14 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The day has ended, and mourners have gone home after the first night's wake.

Lim and Aunty Chin are at the living room, finally having some time to breathe.

AUNTY CHIN

I can't believe this. She's turning 28 next month?

LIM
29.

AUNTY CHIN
Not 28?

He's not sure.

AUNTY CHIN
I knew her since she was Robin's
age.

Robin appears with his drawing.

LIM
Are you still angry with your
cousin?

ROBIN
Yes, very angry.

AUNTY CHIN
Hong Hong? Why?

LIM
Kids.

Lim goes into his room.

AUNTY CHIN
Hey, Robin. Let me teach you a
method. Are you very angry?

ROBIN
Yes.

AUNTY CHIN
How angry? One to ten. Ten is
very, very, very angry.

ROBIN
Ten.

AUNTY CHIN
Remember this rule. You cannot go
to sleep if you're angry with
someone. You must forgive that
person. As long as you don't
forgive, you cannot sleep.

ROBIN
What if I'm sleepy?

Lim pops his head out.

LIM

I'm pretty sure she's turning 29.

Aunty Chin nods. He goes back in.

ROBIN

What if I'm sleepy?

AUNTY CHIN

Then you just have to forgive.
Then you can go to sleep.

Robin tries to digest this piece of philosophy.

15

EXT. PORCH AT HOME - DAY

The next day. Robin is helping Lim fold gold paper for offering.

LIM

Fold them exactly like this.

ROBIN

Why are we folding this?

LIM

So we can burn them! Do you want
to burn them?

ROBIN

Yes!

They continue folding. Robin struggles to follow his father as much as he can.

Hong Hong walks past them, eyeing Robin, wondering what fun Robin is having without him.

Lim spots Hong Hong and squints his eyes.

LIM

Robin, what's that on Hong Hong's
face?

There's a giant streak of ash on Hong Hong's forehead.

Robin shows Lim his fingers, smeared with joss stick ash.

LIM

(mock horror)
You can't do that to your cousin!

ROBIN

Just kidding.

They fist bump.

Aunty Chin appears and puts a stack of old newspaper down. She looks at Lim and gestures quietly to the mirror near the door.

He knows what to do.

LIM

I need your help, Robin. I need you to help me cover all the mirrors with newspaper.

ROBIN

Why?

He pauses, struggling to think of an answer.

LIM

So that Hong Hong cannot see his face, of course! What if he finds out you put ash on his face? He will kill you!!

Robin leaps up, grasping the high stakes.

16

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Robin is holding a cellophane tape and tears a big chunk out.

LIM

No, just tear a small piece. Like this. And pass it to me.

Robin tears a small piece of the cellophane tape and passes it to Lim. Lim sticks newspaper on the living room mirror.

Hong Hong passes them again, eyeing Robin, wondering what fun he is having without him.

LIM

Faster!

Robin plays along with utmost excitement. He doubles his speed, tearing cellophane tape with energy.

They move to the next mirror near the dining table. Occasionally, Robin would try to stick the paper himself, with Lim lifting him.

QUICK CUT TO:

Mirror at Min's bedroom. Newspaper all over.

QUICK CUT TO:

Mirror at Robin's bedroom. Newspaper all over.

QUICK CUT TO:

Mirror at the bathroom. Newspaper all over.

At last, they are done with covering all the mirrors with newspaper.

LIM

Good job.

ROBIN

Good job.

LIM

How's your drawing?

ROBIN

I've finished drawing it already.
It's there.

Lim didn't get what Robin means by 'there'. He looks around and spots a drawing stuck on top of newspaper on a mirror at the bathroom.

He inches towards the bathroom.

Something does not look right. He goes closer. It's Robin's drawing.

A house. With a damn chimney.

Lim quickly unsticks the top two corners to bring it down.

LIM

I don't think you want to Hong
Hong to see this.

He turns around and spots Hong Hong eyeing them.

Too late.

In one swift move, he flips the drawing around and sticks in back on the mirror. We can now only see the back of the drawing - plain white paper.

They are safe. For now.

17 EXT. PORCH AT HOME - DAY

Some mourners are heard crying and sobbing. They are friends of Min.

ROBIN

Pa, why are they crying?

LIM
They are sad.

ROBIN
Why are they sad?

LIM
Because we're going to the Nepal.
They are going to miss us. They
are going to miss Ma.

Robin yells at a CRYING MOURNER.

ROBIN
Don't worry. Ma will come back.

Crying Mourner looks at Lim.

Lim shrugs.

18 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Hong Hong suspects something. Curious about the picture,
he takes it out.

To his annoyance, he spots the chimney. How dare Robin
draw a chimney again.

He runs to Robert with the drawing.

HONG HONG
Look, Gong Gong. Robin drew a
chimney. I keep telling him there
is no such thing here. But he
wouldn't listen.

Robert takes the drawing and looks at it.

ROBERT
What an ugly house. Even after
she's dead, she has to live in an
ugly house.

19 EXT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The next morning. Lim is already up and about
early, cleaning the living room - the first time in his
life.

Robin, still half asleep, comes out and goes to the
calendar again and traces today's date.

Ma is working today.

20 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He goes to the bedroom and tries to find Min. But she is not there.

Suddenly, he remembers: Min is asleep outside. He runs outside to the porch.

21 EXT. PORCH AT HOME - CONTINUOUS

There she is.

Too short to see his mother through the mirror, he knocks on the coffin.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

Mum is not waking up.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

ROBIN

Ma, wake up. You're working today.

He squats down on the floor and starts his bedside hide and seek game - their morning ritual.

ROBIN

You cannot find me! You cannot find me!

BAM! BAM! Squat.

BAM! BAM! Squat.

Lim, inside, hears the commotion and rushes over and pulls Robin away.

LIM

Hey Robin, come with Pa. Ma is not working today. Don't worry. Don't disturb Ma.

He pulls Robin away. But the boy thinks his dad doesn't get it.

ROBIN

Pa, listen. Ma is working today. Look the calendar.

LIM

I know, I know. But today is a special day. Ma is not working.

A couple of mourners are coming in already. Time to distract Robin.

LIM
See all these people?

ROBIN
Yes.

LIM
You know what they're doing here?

ROBIN
What?

LIM
They are here to give us money.
(beat)
They are here to give us
money to go to Nepal.

Robin looks at him, puzzled.

ROBIN
Really?

LIM
Yes. I'm going to give you a very
important job. OK?

ROBIN
OK.

He leads Robin to a table where the money box is.

LIM
You sit here. Your job is
to collect money. All these
people, they will put money in a
white envelope. Just like this
one.

ROBIN
OK.

LIM
Just say thank you. Ask them
to write their name here. And
then give them each a piece
of red thread. OK?

ROBIN
OK.

LIM
Are you sure you know what to do?

ROBIN
Yes. Take the white envelope.
Write the name here.

LIM
Red thread.

ROBIN
Give them a red thread.

LIM
Pa has to make a call. So, you sit here and do that ok? It's an important job. Otherwise, we will have no money to go to Nepal.

Robin nods, feeling the weight of this heavy responsibility.

He waits for money to come, and he didn't need to wait long.

Seeing the boy is well distracted, Lim walks away to make a phone call.

An ELDERLY MAN and ELDERLY WOMAN inch towards the table, staring at the kid.

ELDERLY MAN
Here.

EDLERLY WOMAN
(whispering to ELDERLY MAN)
This is her boy. Looks more like the mother than the father.

ROBIN
Are you giving us money?

Awkward moment. Awkward smiles.

They drop a white envelope into the box. Robin pushes a red thread to each of them.

Over there, Lim is on the phone, worried look on his face, while eyeing Robin. Deep, serious discussion.

LIM
Yes, boss. Yes, I know they want to order. But you know, my wife... yes, so it'll be hard for me to deliver such a big order. Is it possible...

Then, a TEENAGE BOY approaches the table.

TEENAGE BOY
Hi, Robin.

ROBIN

Are you here to give us money also?

TEENAGE BOY

(baffled)

Yes, yes. From my family.

ROBIN

Please tell your family we won't spend all your money.

Over there: serious discussion gets more serious.

LIM

No, no, I can deliver it. Just maybe two days later. Or three days. I need to be around, yes, I know you mean well. Yes, business... business is business. I will explain to them. You don't have to explain to them. I will explain to them...

An OLD WOMAN approaches the table. She pauses, and hands Robin a white envelope.

Robin proceeds to nonchalantly open the envelope in front of her. The old woman is mortified.

That's a lot of money. Robin separates the cash and gives half back to the old woman.

ROBIN

We don't need that much, Aunty.

The old woman turns red. She pushes it back to Robin.

OLD WOMAN

No, no. It's ok. I know your mother well.

Robin pushes it back to her, insisting.

Over there:

LIM

Is there no way I can take the order? I mean, boss you know I worked hard for it. How about Weng delivers the order, but the commission we split half, if Weng doesn't mind... I mean, I did most of the work anyway...

Lim has seen the commotion, and tries to stop the pushing while simultaneously covering his phone mouthpiece.

LIM
 (to OLD WOMAN)
 Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry.
 (to ROBIN)
 Say thank you, Robin.

The old woman walks away embarrassed.

LIM
 Hello? Boss?

Boss has hung up.

ROBIN
 Pa, so much money. We are rich.

Lim is stunned, devastated at the loss of his big chrysanthemum order.

LIM
 (murmuring)
 No... we are not.

Before realising Robin is talking about the offering money.

LIM
 Oh yes, yes, we are rich.

Aunty Chin pops out from the living room.

AUNTY CHIN
 Time to put the clothes into the coffin. You know why right?

LIM
 Yes, cremate with her favourite clothes.

Lim stares into the abyss, before realising the matter at hand: to continue the game of distracting Robin.

LIM
 Hey! Robin. We're going to help Ma pack for the trip. Want to come?

ROBIN
 Yes! Yes! Yes!

22 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

In the bedroom.

Lim, Robin and Aunty Chin stare at the wardrobe.

LIM

Ma is a bit tired, so we have to help her pack, OK? Can you help me bring out her clothes?

Lim opens the wardrobe door.

It is extremely neat, colour-coded, and well-organized. It's an unfamiliar sight. He has never even opened this side of the wardrobe before.

LIM

What do you think Ma would want to wear?

Robin, less helpful than he should be, begins jumping and touching the clothes.

Lim runs his finger through the row female clothes. A dude like him, he has no clue what clothes to pick.

Lim spots a photo album at the bottom. He opens it. It's Min's childhood pictures. She was quite a wild chick back then.

There's a picture of her in a goth costume.

Another one in a cosplay.

And another with some crazy purple hair.

One in a rock concert.

Another of her in a bikini in a pool holding a beer. Peace sign, arched body, sexy back.

Robin jumps on the bed and keeps himself busy by rolling around.

LIM

Look. Min. When she was younger.

Aunty Chin flips through the album.

AUNTY CHIN

Yes, this was her. She had some wild years.

LIM

When I met her, I guess she has outgrown that phase. She was such a serious person.

AUNTY CHIN

(whispering)

She was a hot chick back then. Let's just say, a lot of

AUNTY CHIN
 boys wanted to get into her
 pants.

LIM
 Aunty Chin!

AUNTY CHIN
 I'm her best friend. She tells me
 everything.

Andy continues flipping through the album, while Aunty
 Chin pulls out Min's clothes, peering over to the album.

Picture of Robert, younger but same stern face.

AUNTY CHIN
 Military father, this Robert. You
 can imagine growing up as a
 teenager in such a strict
 family... yeah, this is Robert,
 same serious face... her house
 was like an army mess... this is
 her house.
 (pulling out a red G-string)
 No?

LIM
 Aunty Chin!

AUNTY CHIN
 Crazy discipline. That poor girl
 had no fun.

Lim continues flipping the album.

LIM
 Well, she was a totally
 different person when we met.
 Always talking about wanting a
 baby.

AUNTY CHIN
 She would go to Toys R Us and
 start picking out toys, right?

Tear in his eyes.

AUNTY CHIN
 She was always in a hurry to have
 her own family. Too impulsive.
 This young girl.

This is too much. He chokes. Tears run down freely.
 Sniffles.

LIM
Five years ago, she prayed in a temple in Nepal.

AUNTY CHIN
I know.

LIM
She prayed for a baby. And we did get a beautiful baby. She really wanted to go back to the temple in Nepal to give thanks. That's really her last wish.

AUNTY CHIN
God took her away too soon.

LIM
Right before our trip.

AUNTY CHIN
(holding the the red G-string again)
So... really no?

Lim is crying and laughing at the same time. He grabs the panties and stuffs it in a drawer.

LIM
Clothes. We need to pick her clothes.
(to ROBIN)
Robin, come help. Aunty Chin and me will pass you Ma's clothes. You fold them, OK?

Robin stands straight on the bed, fully ready to help.

Lim picks a GREEN DRESS. Aunty Chin nods her approval.

He picks a BLUE TOP. She approves.

FLORAL SKIRT? Approved.

TORN JEANS? Nope.

WHITE TOP? Approved.

GRAY SWEATER. Approved.

SHOCKING PINK SKIRT? Nope. Mock quarrel.

Andy picks a conservative DRESS. Aunty Chin says no. Lim is disappointed. They fight. Aunty Chin wins.

A couple more CLOTHES.

Robin folds the clothes and piles them up.

LIM
Can you help me bring them
outside?

Robin dutifully carries the green dress, and follows Lim.

Lim goes to the coffin. Robin passes the red dress up.
Lim takes it and stuffs it gently into the coffin,
avoiding eye contact with the corpse.

Robin runs into the room and gets the blue top. Lim stuffs
it into the coffin.

Now, the floral skirt.

And the white top.

And the gray sweater.

A couple more clothes.

Soon, all the clothes are in the coffin.

LIM
Done. Thanks, Robin. Good job.

Aunty Chin pats his back, comforting him. Both staring at
Min. It's surreal.

Suddenly, Robin remembers something: it's behind the door.

ROBIN
Pa, listen. We forgot Ma's
superhero costume.

He runs back to the room and jumps to get the black dress
hung behind the door, reaching it easily this time.

Then, he runs out again.

ROBIN
Ma, your favourite dress.

He wants to do it himself, pushing the black dress into
the coffin.

But he's too short.

He throws it over into the coffin, patiently pushing the
jutting parts in with his little fingers. Bit by bit.

Lim bursts into tears. The grief is unbearable.

He loses it. This is just too painful to watch. He walks
away, wiping away his tears.

23 EXT. PORCH AT HOME - DAY

The next morning. Funeral and cremation today.

The spine-chilling CHANTS from the monks reach a crescendo.

The fat undertaker takes a hammer and nails the coffin.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

Then, the four undertakers start to lift the coffin and carry it into the hearse.

The procession begins.

Robin and Hong Hong are seen comparing their mourning pins - small pieces of cloth pinned on the shirt sleeves.

Lim and Robin walk behind the coffin, carrying joss sticks.

Mourners begin to sob; their sobbing drowned by the chants.

Lim pretends to walk in slow motion, like a robot, trying to distract Robin. Robin sees this and imitates him.

LIM
(whispering)
Watch them follow us.

He pretends to pull the crowd. Robin gleefully laughs at their little secret.

Suddenly, Robert appears in front of them, Hong Hong in tow. They are now at the second row.

ROBERT
(turning behind)
By the way, the monk insisted the urn is placed at a house that has an altar. Mine has one.

LIM
She's my wife.

Meanwhile Hong Hong and Robin is having a quarrel of their own.

HONG HONG
Liar!

ROBIN
I swear. I have superpowers.

HONG HONG

No, you don't.

The adults quarrel, trying to be heard amidst the chanting.

ROBERT

Don't know how many times I've to repeat. You don't know the rituals.

LIM

I've Aunty Chin.

ROBERT

Lim, I'll be frank. I never liked you. You're a 35 year old man leeching on my daughter. She's paying for everything. She's pulling the family together. You were never around, Lim. Never.

LIM

You know I had some--

ROBERT

Financial problem? When I gave her to you, I expected you to take care of her. Instead, she took care of you.

Silence.

ROBERT

I shouldn't have given her away when she was alive. Now she's dead, I want her back.

(beat)

I want the urn.

End of story.

Lim pretends to push Robert as he walks ahead, prompting Robin to push him too, like how he pushed the kitchen door.

Robin squeals at their silly antics.

Silence.

ROBIN

Pa, where are they taking Ma?

HONG HONG

(turning behind)

They're going to burn your mummy.

24 EXT. FUNERAL PARLOUR - DAY

At the funeral parlour.

Preparations are done for the cremation. The coffin is at the door of the furnace. In a few moments, the coffin will be pushed in and burned.

The mourners stand in neat lines, holding joss sticks. The monk is next to the coffin, performing the last rituals.

The squabble continues in low, angry voices coming out of polite faces.

LIM

Robert, I hope you'll be reasonable.

ROBERT

We can't just put Min's ashes on any IKEA shelf that you have.

LIM

Of course I am going to put my wife's urn in a proper place.

Meanwhile, the kids:

HONG HONG

If you're so good, you can make anything move. Make this one move. Or this one. Or this one.

Hong Hong points at random things that don't move.

The chant is nearing its climax.

ROBERT

(yelling over the chant)

I've lost my daughter once when she was alive. I won't lose her again now she's dead. The urn--

The chanting stops abruptly.

ROBERT

(whispering)

--will be at my altar. The Family Altar.

Announcement: time for last respect.

The monk chants again as mourners all line up in neat rows according to hierarchy once again. They clasp their hands in prayer, while the monk runs the ceremony.

Hong Hong turns around and whispers to Robin.

HONG HONG
Your mummy will be burned in an
oven.

ROBIN
Our oven is spoilt.

Robert turns around.

ROBERT
(lovingly)
Your Ma is up there now.

ROBIN
(to Lim)
Why does Ah Gong keep saying Ma
is up there? Ma is not working
today.

Lim signals to Robin that Robert has gone nuts.

The monk gestures Robert to lead the crowd to circle the
coffin. They walk in single file.

Robert goes first, followed by Hong Hong.

Then it's Lim's turn. He walks towards the coffin and
stops. Gently tracing the shape with his finger, bursting
into tears as he hugs the coffin.

LIM
Min...

Tears drop onto the coffin, creating a small puddle.

Hong Hong is ahead of them. He hops over a pail filled
with flowers to wash away bad luck. He hops again, and
again, and then looks at Robin, showing off how much fun
he's having.

Robin gets excited; he's missing out on the fun!

He grabs onto Lim's leg and pushes him to hurry up,
oblivious to what's happening above: Pa saying goodbye to
Ma.

ROBIN
Pa, faster! Faster!

Lim refuses to move for a minute, desperate for one final
minute with his wife, before moving on very reluctantly.

He takes Robin's hand and leads him to the pail.

Finally!

Robin takes a giant hop.

ROBIN
One more time!

He hops over the pail again.

ROBIN
One more time!

LIM
(sobbing)
Later, Robin. Later.

The monk's chants continue, mingling with quiet sniffles.

At last, the mourners finish walking around the coffin.

The MECHANICAL RAILS that will move the coffin into the furnace begins WHIZZING. Any moment now, the coffin will start to move into the furnace.

The monk's chant grows louder and louder as the mourners begin praying for Min's soul to go off peacefully. The air is chocking with smoke, chanting and muffled crying.

Hong Hong is still rubbing it in. He's not letting Robin get away.

HONG HONG
You don't have superpowers.

ROBIN
I have.

HONG HONG
You can't make anything move.

Robin ignores Hong Hong's taunts and pushes air, expecting nothing.

To his surprise, the COFFIN MOVES!

He pushes again. The coffin is moving!

ROBIN
Pa, it's moving!! It's moving!

It's moving alright. Robin taps Hong Hong's shoulders, raises his eye brows, smug face, and pushes the coffin again.

Hong Hong watches in disbelief!

The coffin enters the furnace completely.

The monk's chant, musical instruments, the cracking sounds of the coffin being burned, together with wailing from mourners, all crescendo to a climax as the steel doors of the furnace are slowly shut.

Hong Hong stares at Robin, bewildered.

ROBIN
I told you.

It's his moment of vindication.

25 EXT. FUNERAL PARLOUR - DAY

The next day. At the crematorium. Min's bones scatter on a pile of ash, spread over a giant platter. Lim and Aunty Chin holding pincers, while Robin keeps himself entertained around the crematorium.

It's like a dream: this pile of bones used to belong to Min.

LIM
I don't know how to tell him.

AUNTY CHIN
He'll understand eventually.
Where's Robert?

LIM
He's late.

Robert saunters in, holding an URN. It is beautiful, with exquisite Chinese designs. He puts the urn on the table, as if it's understood.

ROBERT
Toilet.

He goes off, with Hong Hong tailing him.

Lim and Aunty Chin gently pick the bones with pincers and put them into the urn. Slowly and gently, piece by piece.

AUNTY CHIN
Min Min. You're free from pain
now.

Robin sees the urn. He lunges forward to play with it.

Whoa!

Lim stops him in time. Look of disapproval.

Robin tries to see what the adults are doing, being too short.

ROBIN
What's that?

LIM

It's ash.

ROBIN

Like the ash on Hong Hong's face?

LIM

Yes, ash.

ROBIN

Can we bring it to Nepal?

Lim doesn't hear him. They continue picking out the bones, ignoring Robin.

AUNTY CHIN

So the 7th day ceremony - all prepared?

LIM

Since the urn is going to be at Robert's place, we will do the ceremony there. No choice.

ROBIN

(interrupting from below)
Pa, listen. Can we bring the ash to the Nepal?

AUNTY CHIN

Nepal?

LIM

He thinks it's on.

AUNTY CHIN

That's all he thinks of, huh? Nepal.

LIM

How do I explain to him his mother is dead?

ROBIN

(interrupting from below)
Pa, can we bring the ash to the Nepal?

LIM

By the way, I was wrong. Min was turning 28, not 29.

ROBIN

(interrupting from below)
Can we bring the ash?

LIM

What kind of husband am I? I don't even know my wife's age. No wonder Robert can't trust me with Min's ash.

AUNTY CHIN

I've bad memory too.

LIM

I wish I was a better husband. Now it's too late. Too late. I would do anything for us three to be together again.

ROBIN

(interrupting from below)

Pa, can we bring the ash to the Nepal?

Suddenly, Lim freezes. His eyes begin to brighten, seemingly slowly energised with a plan in his head.

Aunty Chin looks at Lim, asking for his thoughts.

LIM

Actually, we could still go to Nepal. Three of us. All three of us. Together.

AUNTY CHIN

I would love to, but...

LIM

No, I don't mean you.

His stupor is interrupted by Robert's footsteps.

Robert looks into the urn, gives his approval and takes the urn. It will be placed at the Family Altar.

ROBERT

OK, thanks. As discussed and agreed.

Robert goes off with the urn, Hong Hong in tow.

Lim is deep in thought, as if hatching a plan. He stares at Robert and Hong Hong as they walk away to their car.

26

INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

7th day ceremony: freshly cooked dishes lay on the table. Steamed wine chicken, fried fish, a plate of mixed vegetables, a bowl of rice, sweet cakes, and a pair of chopsticks.

DING DONG.

Robert opens the door.

It's Lim and Robin. He runs back to the kitchen.

ROBERT
(to ROBIN)
I cooked your mother's favourite
dish - steamed wine chicken.

Robert spots Min's picture at the altar.

ROBIN
Oh, Pa. You put Ma's picture
here.

Lim panics at the thought that Robin might ask more questions.

LIM
(to ROBIN)
Let's go help Gong Gong.
(to ROBERT)
Do you need help, Robert?

ROBERT
Nope. Just one more dish to bring
out.

LIM
Let me help.

Robert comes out, holding a bottle of TALCUM POWDER.

ROBERT
Help me... not to walk here.

He begins sprinkling the powder on the floor.

ROBERT
I don't really believe in all
this nonsense about pouring
talcum powder to see if the
spirit comes back home, but I
guess rituals are better done
than not done.

LIM
Technically if Min comes home,
her home is actually our place.

ROBERT
Don't worry. I've put a red
plaque at the door. It'll guide
her soul back. She'll know this
is the place.

Proudly showing his contingency plan.

ROBERT

Plus, her ash is here. Of course she will come here.

He throws a giant puff of talcum powder on the floor, to Robin's amusement.

ROBERT

The soul always goes back to the ash.

He points at the urn, sitting majestically at the Family Alter, complete with spotlight.

Robin goes over to Robert curiously.

ROBIN

Ah Gong, are you playing with ash?

ROBERT

This is not ash. This is talcum powder. Help me. Take this and sprinkle all over the place. Like this.

Robert takes a fistful of powder and very gently sprinkles it around on the floor.

How boring.

Robin takes a fistful and throws it up, blasting talcum powder into the air.

ROBERT

No! No! Gently, gently. Like this. Like this. One, two, three, four. Slowly. One handful. One small handful.

Yawn. How tame.

Robert passes the talcum powder to Robin and then goes off into the kitchen.

Lim signals to Robin he can go a little crazy with the powder. Like the chrysanthemum flowers. Two handfuls.

He gestures to Robin throw it as wide as he can. Robin is delighted and begins to sprinkle aggressively.

Meanwhile, Lim eyes the urn sitting at the Family Altar.

Then, he goes to the cupboard and spots the SPARE KEY. He grabs it and puts it in his pocket.

Robert comes out with the last dish. He spots the mess.

ROBERT

Told you to sprinkle gently.
Come. Light the joss sticks.

Robert lights the joss sticks and passes three each to Lim and Robin. He grabs Robin's hand, clasps them on the joss sticks, gives three quick flicks, and it's done. He snatches the joss sticks from Lim, sticks all six joss sticks on the pot, and shoos them off impatiently.

ROBERT

OK. After we pray, we quickly turn off the lights and go to sleep. She might be shy to come in to eat if we are here. Thanks for coming. Careful, don't step on the powder.

They tiptoe and climb over furniture to avoid stepping on the powder.

Next thing they know, they're out of the house, before hearing the door slam behind them.

Robert takes out a joss sticks and lights it for his own. A giant one.

ROBERT

Min, I cooked you your favourite dishes. Please come home and eat.

He sticks the giant joss stick on the pot.

27 EXT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lim and Robin are sitting outside.

LIM

Robin, we're going to Nepal.

ROBIN

When?

LIM

Tomorrow! You circled the date!

Finally!

LIM

Remember you said you'd like to take the ash with us to Nepal?

ROBIN

Can we?

LIM

Yes! And we're going to get the ash. It's inside. But we got to do this without waking Ah Gong up.

ROBIN

Why?

LIM

Otherwise, he won't let us go.

Robin squeals at this secret plan.

The LIGHTS go off. It's time.

LIM

Ready?

28 INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sound of door unlocking. Two dark figures enter Robert's house. It's pitch black, except for the faint light from the candles.

Lim spots the silhouette of the urn - there it is!

Robin dashes straight for the urn, but Lim stops him, pointing at the powder.

They debate which way to go in the dark. Lim points to a pathway that looks easy.

But Robin spots a furniture that will block them.

Lim points to another pathway, but Robin spots a barrier again.

Finally, Robin figures out the best way to get to the urn - jumping through the sofa.

Slowly and painstakingly, they jump through and step over the furniture towards the urn.

First the sofa.

Then the coffee table.

Then the rug. Slow and steady.

Finally, they reach the urn.

But alas, it is too far away! There is absolutely no way of reaching the urn. Unless they step on the powder.

Standing precariously on a chair, Lim has an idea.

LIM
 (whispering)
 Streeeeettttcccchhhh!

Lim lifts Robin, and in one swift move, grabs the urn. Robin holds the urn in his hands, as he piggy backs on Lim.

Over the rug.

Then the coffee table.

Finally, the sofa.

And then, the door.

They dash as fast as they can down the dark road.

29 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert hears a noise and wakes up.

ROBERT
 Min? Min? Don't scare me. I'm
 your father. Min?

Robert comes out and turns on the light.

He sees it: footprints all over the place!

ROBERT
 Min?

He realises there that there are footprints all over the floor leading to the door.

He looks at the urn. It's gone!

He screams. Like a girl.

30 EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

Lights turn on one by one. NEIGHBOURS begin to come out of their houses.

In the dark, suddenly, a CAR's headlights shine on them. It is Aunty Chin, waiting with her getaway car. They run towards the car, as neighbours start coming out.

Lim tries to unlock the door the same time Aunty Chin does. It's stuck.

She signals that he lets go. She unlocks it. They jump in and off they go.

LIM
Please don't break down.

AUNTY CHIN
I fixed it.

Aunty Chin hits the pedal hard. Like a racer.

The car speeds off.

LIM
(decisively)
Go Aunty Chin. Nepal is on. Me,
Robin and Min. All three of us.
Just like she wanted.

AUNTY CHIN
(talking to the urn)
Hope you don't mind me coming,
Min.

The neighbours slowly congregate at the main road,
wondering what the commotion is about.

Robert runs out of his house. Face pale, hands shaking.

ROBERT
My daughter's soul came home. And
she took away her own ash. Oh my
God. It was so scary.

The neighbours stare at this mad man, and then slowly
disperse. What a stupid story.

ROBERT
It's true! You can come and see.

He is left alone in the dark, standing at the front of his
house.

31 INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Lim, Robin and Aunty Chin are in a plane. Robin is seated
at the window seat, Aunty Chin in the middle and Lim at
the aisle seat, holding the urn, wrapped in cloth.

The plane is already on the runway, taking off. Robin
presses his face on the window, in awe. Then, he points at
the urn.

ROBIN
Pa, what's inside?

Lim looks at Aunty Chin.

LIM
It's a... gift. We're going to a
mountain in Nepal, and we're
bringing a gift.

The plane gains speed on the runway.

LIM
Ready, Robin?

ROBIN
Go, go, go!

LIM
Any minute now we will be flying.
In the air.

ROBIN
(staring outside)
I want to touch the clouds. Like
Ma.

The airplane is in the air now. Robin screams excitedly.

ROBIN
Pa, we're flying. We're flying.
Look outside.

LIM
It's ok.

ROBIN
Look, Pa. Look.

AUNTY CHIN
Your Pa is scared of heights.
Chicken.

Aunty Chin makes chicken sound.

Robin chuckles. He looks out again. It's the moment he has
been waiting for. He stares outside for a few moments,
before turning to Lim.

ROBIN
Then how will you go up the
mountain?

LIM
You'll have to carry me up.

ROBIN
I'm not scared of heights.

Robin presses his face on the window again. Things get
smaller and smaller, and there is a sense that an
adventure is about to start.

ROBIN

How come Ma is going there first?
Why can't Ma come together with
us?

Silence.

32 EXT. NEPAL - DAY

The plane is above clouds. The sun shines at the magnificent puffs of clouds, creating a golden silhouette.

ARIAL VIEW of Nepal come into sight. The sky is clear and the majestic Himalayan range spreads as far as the eye can see. Snow-capped mountain tops jut out from the clouds.

PILOT (O.S)

Ladies and gentlemen, as we start our descent, please make sure your seat backs and tray tables are in their full upright position. Make sure your seat belt is securely fastened and all carry-on luggage is stowed underneath the seat in front of you or in the overhead compartment. Thank you.

ROBIN

Pa, have we reached?

LIM

Yes. Are you ready for our adventure?

33 EXT. OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT - DAY

INSERT: **Kathmandu, Nepal.**

It's a sensory overload. As they come out of the airport, they are swarmed by a group of taxi drivers.

They try to make their way out, and Lim holds on to the urn tightly. A TAXI DRIVER grabs his arm.

TAXI DRIVER

Where you go? Where you go?

Lim shows him a piece of paper.

The taxi driver looks at it, barely reading it, and hurries them into the taxi.

LIM

Metre? Use metre?

TAXI DRIVER
Metre. Metre.

34 INT. TAXI - DAY

They are in the taxi now. Lim is sitting in front.

ANGLE ON - TAXI METRE

as it runs suspiciously fast.

Lim keeps his eye on it, while showing the taxi driver the address.

LIM
You know?

TAXI DRIVER
OK. OK.

LIM
I mean, you know this place? You sure?

TAXI DRIVER
OK. OK.

It's obvious he doesn't understand English. They sit in silence. The metre continues to run fast.

LIM
Metre. So fast? Very fast.

TAXI DRIVER
Metre, metre.

LIM
Why so fast?

Lim does the 'fast' gesture.

TAXI DRIVER
Metre, metre.

There's no point talking.

AUNTY CHIN
Doesn't look right.

LIM
Think it's rigged.

AUNTY CHIN
(to TAXI DRIVER)
Metre. Why so fast?

TAXI DRIVER

Metre, metre.

It's now obvious that the metre is rigged. Robin checks Lim's Waze.

ROBIN

Pa, we should turn there.

Aunty Chin peers over to check the Waze direction.

AUNTY CHIN

Is he even bringing us there?
Looks like we are making a big
detour.

Uncomfortable silence. The metre continues to run really fast.

LIM

I think he's scamming us.

AUNTY CHIN

I thought only Malaysian taxi
drivers do this.

LIM

Excuse me--

TAXI DRIVER

Metre, metre.

The taxi driver pretends to be frustrated and raises his voice, yelling angrily, trying to intimidate them.

TAXI DRIVER

Metre. OK. Metre.

Realising they are being scammed, Lim taps the taxi driver's shoulder.

LIM

OK, stop. Stop.

TAXI DRIVER

No stop. Metre OK. Metre OK.

LIM

No! Stop! Stop now.

The taxi driver stops the taxi abruptly and yells at them.

TAXI DRIVER

You give money. You go.

Lim gives him some Nepalese Rupee.

TAXI DRIVER

No, no. See.

The taxi driver points at the PRICE on the metre.

AUNTY CHIN

No, no. Too much.

TAXI DRIVER

No, no. Metre say. See.

The taxi driver points at price again.

LIM

No, no. Too much. Too expensive.

TAXI DRIVER

No, no. This metre. This you pay.

No point arguing. Lim gives him the money.

The taxi driver yells at him in Nepali. He opens the door, goes to the back and throws their bags out.

THUD! First bag.

THUD! Second bag.

The trio open the door and jump out.

LIM

No! No! No!

The taxi driver flings the last bag out.

THUD!

He huffs back into the taxi and drives off, yelling at them.

Lim runs to the last bag and opens it and yells in despair: there is a huge CRACK LINE on the urn.

LIM

No, no, no, no, no.

Lim holds the urn, tracing the crack with his finger. Aunty Chin brings out a towel and wraps it tightly.

LIM

Careful, careful. Slowly. Please don't break, please don't break.

She wraps the urn gently.

ROBIN
Is our gift broken?

LIM
It's cracked. We've to be very
careful.

Lim puts the urn gently back into the bag. It's safe for
now.

AUNTY CHIN
OK, where are we?

They look around. The sun is shining bright, the sky is
blue and they are on a MOUNTAIN ROAD.

AUNTY CHIN
I guess that way?

They begin walking along the road, with nothing in
sight. Robin tugs Lim's hand.

ROBIN
Where's Ma? You said she's will
meet us here.

Pause.

LIM
Ma will meet us there on top of
the mountain.

35 EXT. A LONELY MOUNTAIN ROAD IN NEPAL - DAY

They begin walking the long road ahead.

MONTAGE:

1. Aunty Chin walks in front, holding Robin's hand.
2. Lim walks in front, holding the bag with the urn.
3. Robin walks alone way ahead. The other two is way
behind, catching up.
4. Aunty Chin is left far behind; she takes out her
inhaler and quietly inhales it without letting the rest
know.

END MONTAGE.

Finally, they see what seems to be a BUS STOP. They hurry
towards it.

But, there is no one there.

They sit at the bus stop, panting and breathing hard.

AUNTY CHIN
Is this even a real bus stop?

No one can say for sure.

Minutes pass.

LIM
Doesn't look like a bus will ever
come.

More minutes pass.

ROBIN
When is the bus coming?

Then, a FARMER, carrying chicken and some bags, appears
and sits next to them.

They stare at each other.

LIM
Excuse me. Bus. Come?

FARMER
OK.

LIM
No. Bus. Come here?

Lim pretends to drive a bus. The farmer does not seem to
get it.

FARMER
OK. OK.

Frustration.

Minutes pass.

AUNTY CHIN
No bus come?

FARMER
OK.

Minutes pass.

LIM
This go where?

FARMER
OK.

AUNTY CHIN
You wait for bus?

Farmer smiles. There's no point trying to communicate.

AUNTY CHIN
Should we wait?

LIM
No choice. We wait.

AUNTY CHIN
For all you know, this isn't a
real--

FARMER
(yelling)
OK!

He points. They look.

It's a BUS, trudging from a distance.

As it slowly comes into view, they realise the bus is
packed to the brim. Every square inch.

36 EXT. ON TOP OF THE BUS - DAY

On top of the bus, Aunty Chin sits with Robin, while Lim
sits with the farmer. The farmer is carrying many things,
and puts a chicken on Lim's lap.

The bus is moving slowly and the road is bad.

Pothole! They hang on to the rail on the roof for dear
life.

And another one!

And another one! Lim holds the urn tightly.

Then suddenly, the bus stops.

The passengers try to see what's happening, all speaking
in Nepali.

In front, there is an overturned LORRY, with piles of
things spilled all over the road.

The BUS DRIVER shouts some indiscernible instruction.
Everyone gets it, except three of them. They start to get
off the bus.

Lim looks at the farmer. The farmer does the 'walk'
gesture.

Great.

37 EXT. A LONELY MOUNTAIN ROAD IN NEPAL - DAY

Lim, Aunty Chin and Robin leave the overturned lorry behind. The road is bad, and the mud is deep.

But Robin seems to be enjoying it.

Lim looks ahead. It's going to be a very long walk.

The farmer is far ahead and they follow him.

Suddenly, faint sounds of BELLS. Robin looks behind and sees an approaching herd of yaks.

ROBIN

Pa.

Lim turns and sees the yaks.

LIM

OK remember... in Nepal when you see yaks, always stand on the side of the mountain. Otherwise they might accidentally push you off the cliff. Understand?

Aunty Chin and Robin nod.

They squeeze themselves flat against the wall of the mountain, barely breathing, as the herd passes them, yak by yak.

38 EXT. RUNDOWN LODGE - DAY

At a rundown lodge. It looks like it will fall apart any moment.

AUNTY CHIN

OK, looks like we're staying here tonight.

LIM

It looks--

The sound of thunder, startling them.

Then, rain pours suddenly. No choice. They have to stay here.

39 INT. ROOM IN RUNDOWN LODGE - NIGHT

It's not even a real tea house. More like a hut, made from wood that is falling apart.

The bedroom is sparse, and there are three mattresses on the floor, with a dim light bulb hanging from the top.

It's freezing up here in the mountains and three of them shiver, huddling together.

The urn sits on the floor in the middle of the room. The crack has gotten a little bigger.

LIM

It's going to crack more if we continue moving it around.

Aunty Chin is holding a cellophane tape. She tears off a long piece.

AUNTY CHIN

When she was a kid, she loves talking. There were so many times I wanted to tape her mouth.

(beat)

Now--

Robin tries to make himself useful.

ROBIN

Can I play with ash?

AUNTY CHIN

Robin, go wash your legs and and go to bed.

Robin opens the door to go outside to the toilet. The wind rushes in. Brrrrr...

The urn is now taped tightly.

LIM

Hope it lasts till we reach the temple.

Lightning.

Thunder.

It begins pouring again.

Lim looks out the window, gazing into the darkness.

LIM

You think we can find the temple? Min is the only one who knows where.

AUNTY CHIN

I'm sure someone knows.

40 EXT. RIVER - DAY

They stare at a tiny long boat. That's the boat they are supposed to get on.

The BOAT MAN, already seated inside the boat, gestures for them to hop in. Their luggage is already tied at the back of the boat.

AUNTY CHIN
This, three people OK?

BOAT MAN
OK. Three ok.

LIM
Looks a little small. I'm not so sure.

BOAT MAN
Come, come! No problem.

Lim hesitantly steps in. It is indeed too small.

The boat sinks a little.

Robin steps in.

It sinks a little more.

AUNTY CHIN
Sure wish I lost some weight.

She steps in. The boat sinks even more.

By now, the tiny boat is just a couple of inches above water.

BOAT MAN
OK?

The boat man starts rowing, with them facing one direction.

Slowly, they drift down the river. VILLAGE PEOPLE wave at them.

Suddenly, Robin notices something.

ROBIN
Pa, water is coming in.

Lim spots some water inside the boat. It's not too bad. Just a little.

LIM

Excuse me, excuse me.

BOAT MAN

No problem. Sit. Sit.

Water keeps coming in.

Their luggage, tied to the back, begins to get wet. They cannot reach it as it is too far behind them.

AUNTY CHIN

Hello! Hello! Water, water.

The boat man turns around and then realises they are right.

BOAT MAN

Oh!

He mumbles something in Nepali.

Suddenly, a lot of water enters the boat. They are now completely underwater waist-down.

ROBIN

Pa, I am wet.

LIM

I know, I know. Just sit down and don't move.

AUNTY CHIN

Excuse me, water come in.

The boat sinks even more. The boat man now realises they are going to sink. A moment of tension.

He jumps out of the boat and stands in the water. It's a little above his waist and not too deep.

BOAT MAN

(pointing at LIM)

OK, you come out, you come out.

Lim jumps off, and the boat rises up a little, above water.

The luggage bags have unravelled from the strings, but no one realised this.

LIM

Too heavy.

Aunty Chin spots a luggage bag floating away.

AUNTY CHIN

Lim! Luggage! Luggage! Luggage!
Hello, Mister.

Lim wades through the river but could not reach the luggage in time.

Another luggage floats away.

AUNTY CHIN

The urn! Where's the urn?

Lim grabs the bag containing the urn.

ROBIN

Pa, our bag is swimming away.

The boat man tries to chase after the two pieces of luggage, almost reaching it at one point.

He wades a little distance further, but the two bags are out of his reach. He wades even further, but now the bags have gone too far ahead.

It's too late.

They stare helplessly as the two luggage bags bob up and down until they disappear into the horizon.

AUNTY CHIN

The last time I got so wet was
about forty years ago.

41 INT. HIMALAYA LODGE - DAY

At a homestay with the sign: **HIMALAYA LODGE**

They are at a dining room. It's very comfortable and homey, with a traditional Nepali heater in the middle.

Lim and Aunty Chin are dry now, wearing some new clothes; Aunty Chin's tiny frame disappearing under an oversized shirt.

RAM, a 70-year-old man, brings out some more clothes. He's dark and wrinkled, and has a very friendly face.

RAM

We are small lodge. We have
everything. But usually tourist
bring own clothes.

Chuckle. Ram hands Lim and Aunty Chin some clothes.

AUNTY CHIN

Thanks, Ram.

RAM
Old ones from neighbours. Sorry,
hope is OK.

AUNTY CHIN
No, it's ok. Dry clothes. Good.

Aunty Chin rubs her breast.

AUNTY CHIN
Nepali woman here very big.

Ram, embarrassed, goes into the kitchen and brings dinner out - dal bhat (rice and lentil). He serves them one by one.

RAM
I ask neighbour about temple. No
one know.

LIM
It is around here. But I don't
know which mountain. My wife.
Five years ago. She come.

RAM
I live here. Forty years. But I
don't know this temple. But, I
will ask my friends.

AUNTY CHIN
Thanks, Ram.

RAM
Enjoy. Home-cooked Nepali food.
Very good dal bhat. My wife cook.

AUNTY CHIN
It's delicious.

RAM
Meanwhile, best view.

Ram opens the curtain and reveals: the magnificent,
snow-capped pyramid - the mountain AMA DABLAM.

They drop their utensils and gasp at its sheer beauty.

LIM
Beautiful.

RAM
Ama Dablam.

AUNTY CHIN
What's it again? Ama means
(mother)--

RAM
Mother. And Dablam means--

LIM
Necklace, right?

RAM
That's right. Mother's Necklace.
Ama. Dablam.

Ram stands behind Robin and puts both his hands over Robin, almost cradling him.

RAM
See the mountain? Like mother.
Two hands. Holding baby.
(beat)
Enjoy the view!

Ram leaves. Lim gazes at the mountain before he is interrupted.

ROBIN
Pa, when is Ma joining us?

He stops eating and looks at Aunty Chin.

Aunty Chin nods, encouraging Lim. It seems like they have discussed telling Robin the truth.

Robin continues eating, childlike in his manner, forgetting he had asked a question.

Lim begins speaking, as if he has rehearsed this a thousand times.

LIM
Robin, Ma is not joining us.

Robin puts his spoon down.

ROBIN
Why?

LIM
Ma is actually in heaven. Like Ah
Gong says.

The kid doesn't get it.

ROBIN
Why can't Ma come back from
heaven and join us?

LIM
Ma is going to live in heaven for
a long time. So she's not coming

LIM
back. So for this trip, it's just
me and you and Aunty Chin.

ROBIN
But Pa, you promised that Ma will
come too. We three will go.

Lost for words, Lim tries to make sense.

LIM
Ma is coming with us. But just
that you can't see her.
(beat)
Ma is inside here.

Lim points at the urn. Robin is getting agitated. Pa is
not making sense.

ROBIN
Why is Ma inside? How did she go
in there? I thought you said it's
a gift?

LIM
When people grow old, they die.
So after they die, we burn their
body, then they become ash, and
then we put the ash--

Robin jumps off the chair, runs out of the door, unable to
comprehend all this: he's been lied to!

AUNTY CHIN
Let him go.

Lim ignores Aunty Chin and runs after Robin. Robin has
disappeared outside. Lim pretends to play hide and seek
with Robin and tries to find the boy.

LIM
(monster voice)
Where is my Bin? I can't find
him!

42 EXT. OUTSIDE HIMALAYA LODGE - CONTINUOUS

Lim looks around. Robin is nowhere to be found. Outside,
it's all rocks and plains and other lodges.

LIM
Robin?

Eyes darting around as he calls out for Robin.

LIM

Robin.

He is growing impatient.

LIM

Robin! Come out now. It's not funny.

Aunty Chin comes out and look around.

LIM

Robin, this is not funny. I'm going to count to three. And you better come out. I'm serious.

Lim gets increasingly worried and agitated.

LIM

One!

Nothing.

LIM

Two!

Nothing.

LIM

Three!

Nothing.

Lim is furious. He's losing it.

AUNTY CHIN

He'll come out.

LIM

That boy doesn't know what the fuck is happening. He thinks this whole fucking thing is fun? Does it look like I want this?

AUNTY CHIN

Calm down.

LIM

Calm down? My wife just fucking died. And left me with a kid. And that kid is now fucking missing.
(beat)

This is a stupid idea. I thought it would be great to fulfil Min's last wish by having me, Robin and her together. She always wanted this. So I thought, "Let's make

LIM
 this happen for Min". But it's a
 stupid idea. Why didn't you stop
 me? Why did you let me do this?
 You're supposed to talk sense
 into me.

Lim collapses on the ground, hand in face. A broken man.
 He begins sobbing angrily and stands up and furiously
 kicks the rocks on the ground.

A small, defeated man amidst the magnificent Himalayan
 mountains behind him.

LIM
 How the hell did I end up here?
 With my wife in a fucking urn.
 (beat)
 One week ago, we were one family.
 Why did you have to die, Min?

Then, a small figure appears. It's Robin.

In a fit of rage, Lim stands up and beats Robin hard. He
 slaps and slaps and slaps Robin in a fury. It's all coming
 out now.

Aunty Chin grabs Lim's hand. Lim is too strong and
 continues to beat Robin.

He pushes the old lady to the ground. He's losing it.

Robin is terrified, blocking Lim with his tiny hands.
 Aunty Chin crawls over to Robin and protects him with her
 frail body.

At that moment, Lim realises what he has done.

He walks away towards the mountains, taken aback with what
 just happened.

43 INT. HIMALAYA LODGE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aunty Chin is in bed with Robin. They are covered with
 thick blankets.

AUNTY CHIN
 Cold!
 (beat)
 Are you cold?

No reply. The boy is still in shock.

AUNTY CHIN
 If you don't want your blanket, I
 don't mind having it. Aunty Chin
 is freezing.

No reply.

AUNTY CHIN
You cannot be angry with your Pa.

ROBIN
I hate him. I want Ma.

AUNTY CHIN
You have to forgive him.

ROBIN
No!

AUNTY CHIN
Remember, what Aunty Chin told
you about forgiveness?

ROBIN
I don't care. I hate him. I want
Ma.

AUNTY CHIN
You cannot go to sleep...

Expecting Robin to finish the sentence, but Robin is in no mood for forgiveness.

AUNTY CHIN
... without forgiving someone.

ROBIN
I don't care.

AUNTY CHIN
How are you going to sleep
tonight? You cannot sleep while
you're angry.

ROBIN
I won't sleep. I will never sleep
again.

Lim comes in, head hung low. Robin covers himself with the blanket. Aunty Chin gestures that she's working on it. It seems like the adults have made up.

LIM
Ram has asked many people. And no
one seems to know where it is.
Not one person.

AUNTY CHIN
There must be someone.

Lim sits down at the bed and strokes the urn.

LIM
We've come so far.

He turns his attention to Robin.

LIM
(monster voice)
Where is my Bin? I can't find
him!

ROBIN
Shut up!

AUNTY CHIN
(to ROBIN)
OK, we're going to sleep.
(to Lim)
Let's sleep. There's nothing we
can do.

LIM
I'm sorry, Robin.

ROBIN
Shut up!

LIM
Good night.

ROBIN
Shut up! Shut up! Shut up! I want
Ma!

There is no point talking to Robin. Lim switches the lights off, leaving a dim candle. Aunty Chin and Lim both go under their blankets.

Moments pass. It starts to drizzle.

Robin gets out of his blanket and stares at the candle.

His eyes begin to droop but he fights his sleepiness. He looks at Lim angrily, moving around, trying to fight fatigue.

Slowly, his eyes droop and is about to close.

He snaps himself out of it, refusing to sleep.

He sits up. Stretching. Pulling his hands and legs. Trying to fight his yawn.

Slowly, his eyes droop again. He is about to sleep again.

He rubs his eyes to wake himself up.

But his eyes droop again.

He slaps himself. But his eyes keep closing.

Giving up, he gets out of his bed and goes over to Lim.

ROBIN

Pa.

Lim wakes up.

LIM

Bin?

Aunty Chin stirs from her sleep and looks at Robin.

ROBIN

I forgive you.

Speechless.

LIM

I forgive you too.

Robin turns to Aunty Chin.

ROBIN

Can I sleep now? I'm not angry any more.

AUNTY CHIN

Yes, you can, Robin. Good boy.

Robin climbs up his bed, pulls his blanket and immediately falls asleep.

Lim looks at Aunty Chin, wondering what that was all about.

AUNTY CHIN

Thank me tomorrow.

She covers herself with blanket. Lim does too. It's freezing!

Rain starts to pour.

44 INT. HIMALAYA LODGE BEDROOM - DAY

The rain has stopped and it is near dawn.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

Lim wakes up and opens the door. It's Ram.

RAM

I think I know where temple.

45 EXT. HIMALAYA LODGE - DAY

Outside the lodge, they are all packed ready to go. There is a very OLD WOMAN next to him.

RAM

I not sure, but I try. This lady say... it is not really a temple. It is a small... how to say.. small temple.

AUNTY CHIN

Like, a shrine?

RAM

Maybe. I don't know how to say in English. A 'shrine'? Maybe. For woman who cannot have baby. They go there and pray.

AUNTY CHIN

Yes, yes, that's right! This must be the one.

The old woman says something in Nepali to Ram.

RAM

Only people with good heart and clean wish can go. If god give the wish, if god give baby, they must go back and give thank you.

LIM

I think we found it.

RAM

I go with you.

LIM

So where is it?

Ram points at Ama Dablam.

RAM

Bottom of big mountain Ama Dablam is small mountain. There.

46 EXT. TREKKING PATH - DAY

On a trekking path. They look up towards what seems like a gigantic hill, which is covered with mist and snow.

RAM

It's here. Maybe half day go up.

AUNTY CHIN

I thought you said small
mountain.

RAM

In Himalaya, considered very
small.

(beat)

Give me bag.

They pass him their day-bags. He's a strong man, and carries all three bags Nepali style - on a basket with a strap over his forehead.

They begin their first step up a steep ascent.

MONTAGE:

1. Robin walking way ahead with full energy, leaving the adults behind.
2. Aunty Chin struggles to get over a boulder. Lim offers his hand and pulls her up.
3. Lim pants heavily, gasping for oxygen in this high altitude.
4. Ram leads the way, looking behind to see if they are ok. They are not ok. They are far behind.
5. All four of them continue pressing ahead. Except for Ram, all of them managing to muster only two steps before stopping to gasp for air.
6. Aunty Lim pauses, unable to continue, taking out her inhaler.

END MONTAGE.

Aunty Chin suddenly begins breathing hard.

LIM

Are you ok?

Aunty Chin doesn't respond. She can't talk, but keeps panting hard.

Panting.

Panting.

Panting.

Lim and Ram rush towards Aunty Chin.

RAM

Deep breath. Deep breath.

Ram holds Auntie Chin's hands while Lim massages her back gently.

A moment of tension as Auntie Chin's face turns pale. She keeps breathing.

RAM

Slowly. Slowly.

Finally, she calms down.

RAM

We rest here.

Ram drops the bags, and they sit on some big rocks.

There's a tail among the rocks. Robin spots it. It's a SQUIRREL.

ROBIN

Squirrel.

He runs after it. He has lots of energy.

LIM

Slowly!

Robin runs a little further up.

RAM

So, why you want to find this place?

LIM

My wife. Six years ago, she come here to pray. Because she cannot get baby.

Lim gestures tummy.

LIM

One year later, she get baby.

Ram points at Robin.

RAM

This boy?

LIM

This boy.

RAM

So, she want to thank you god.

LIM

Yes.

RAM

Where is your wife?

Lim holds the urn and caresses it.

LIM

My wife.

Ram understands.

Robin returns.

RAM

Let's go?

They get up and continue to trek. They are nowhere near the top.

Then, there is a downward SLOPE. It's precarious.

Suddenly, Lim slides forward. He tumbles and tumbles. Aunty Chin screams. Ram tries to catch him.

The urn, wrapped in cloth, tumbles along side.

A heart-stopping moment.

Lim lands violently with a thud, and groans in pain, holding his ankle. The urn rolls over a little further.

They rush down to him. He's in pain and can't even utter a word.

RAM

Don't move.

Lim points at the urn. Aunty Chin rushes towards it and picks it up.

LIM

Is it--

AUNTY CHIN

It's fine, it's fine. Are you OK?

Ram takes a look at Lim's ankle.

RAM

Hold hard.

Ram takes off Lim's shoes. His ankle is swollen with tons of blisters.

RAM

No good. You cannot walk.

LIM

I can.

RAM

It's dangerous. You can go up but you cannot come down.

LIM

We can't give up now.

RAM

Night time coming. You cannot go down if you continue.

LIM

No, we must go. I can walk.

47 EXT. TREKKING PATH - DAY

Lim is limping behind while the rest move forward. They continue moving.

Aunty Chin stops, gasping for oxygen. She takes her inhaler out again.

They inch forward step by step, sucking in as much air as possible.

They take another step. Breathe.

And another step. Breathe.

And another step. Breathe.

Then, SOUNDS of YAK BELLS.

ROBIN

Yaks! Stand inside! Pa stand inside.

Before Lim could react, he finds himself face to face with the first YAK and quickly dodges it. That scary animal.

But alas, he's on the wrong side of the trekking path - on the side of the cliff.

The herd of yaks walk past them like an unstoppable train. Lim stands tip-toe at the edge of the cliff, holding onto the urn.

Wrong place to stand. His foot slides down a little over the cliff. Bits of sand and rocks fall over the cliff.

ROBIN

Pa!

Lim tries to pass the urn to Robin over the yak train.
Robin tries to grab it.

But alas, it's not possible.

He tries again.

But the Robin is too far.

The yaks continue to pass. Lim, stands precariously at the edge, trying his best not to move, hardly daring to breathe.

A yak bumps into him. Just as he is about to fall over the cliff, he grabs the yak's burden and throws the urn to Robin over the yak train.

Robin catches it. Phew!

The LAST YAK passes them.

Lim looks at Robin, relieved the urn is safe. Robin flashes a grin.

48 EXT. HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN - DAY

Rest time again.

AUNTY CHIN

How's your ankle?

LIM

Not too bad. You?

AUNTY CHIN

Still alive.

RAM

You sure you want to go up? You can rest few days in my house--

LIM

No, I can walk. See? I'm fine.

Lim stands up and walks around, limping a little.

AUNTY CHIN

Well, even if you can, Robin doesn't look like he can.

They all look at Robin, who is exhausted and has fallen asleep on the ground.

The icy wind blows and they shiver.

AUNTY CHIN
I don't think he can make it.

RAM
Altitude sickness. Feel dizzy.
Dangerous.

AUNTY CHIN
We should stop and turn back.

LIM
No, no, no. We've come so far.

AUNTY CHIN
I know, but this is dangerous.
The poor boy is not strong
enough.

LIM
Yes, he can do it.
(to ROBIN)
Can you do it, Robin?

Robin is too weak to answer.

LIM
Robin, can you do it?

ROBIN
Yes.

LIM
See?

Aunty Chin pulls Lim aside.

AUNTY CHIN
I know this is important.

LIM
Then, don't complicate things.
We're almost there.

AUNTY CHIN
But is it worth risking anyone's
live?

LIM
Just a small headache. He's
young. He wants to do it.

AUNTY CHIN
Does he want to do it?
(beat)
Or do you want to do it?

Silence.

LIM
You've no idea how important this
is, Aunty Chin.

AUNTY CHIN
I do.

LIM
This is what Min would have
wanted. Me, Min and Robin.
Together. Her last wish.

Lim walks away.

LIM
It has to be on the twentieth of
May. Exactly five years. And
that's today.

She knows.

Lim walks back to Ram and Robin, gesturing to Ram to
start.

49 EXT. HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN - DAY

Robin is on Lim's back. He's asleep. Aunty Chin looks at
them worriedly. Ram moves on forward, lunging forward with
the bags.

Lim is exhausted - his son on his back and urn in his
hand.

LIM
Yes, Ma has gone to heaven. But
her body has become ash. And it's
inside the urn.

ROBIN
I miss Ma.

Suddenly, Ram halts and points to the top.

RAM
See. Almost there. See?

The top of the small mountain is in view. They pick up
pace. It's so near now.

50 EXT. TOP OF SMALL MOUNTAIN - DAY

Finally, they reach the top of the small mountain, with
the mighty Ama Dablam towering above them.

They let out a collective sigh of victory.

The place is like a dream. It's quiet and there is nothing below them except a thick sea of mist. It feels like a different world, and they are here all alone.

There is a giant pile of rocks, some moss, and just silence.

A gush of icy wind blows. They shiver and huddle together.

Lim squats down to let Robin off his back.

LIM

Robin, look. We've arrived.

Robin wakes up and realises they have arrived.

RAM

You go pray. I wait down here.

Ram goes downhill a little and sits on a rock below, disappearing below the mist.

Only three of them are left.

Lim moves towards what seems like a SHRINE. It's nothing much - just a lump of rocks, with some colourful prayer flags tied around them. On top of the pile is a rock that looks like a woman carrying a baby.

AUNTY CHIN

This is the place. She did talk about this rock. See?

LIM

It's basically a miniature version of this mountain.

Aunty Chin traces her fingers around the rock.

AUNTY CHIN

Face. Hands. Cradling baby.

Lim takes the urn that contains the ash and puts it in front of the rock. Then he takes out two cakes and a stalk of plastic rose.

ROBIN

Pa, what are you doing?

LIM

Robin, we're finally here. Three of us. All three of us. Together. Me, you and Ma.

Robin talks to the urn.

ROBIN
Ma, we have arrived in Nepal.

Lim and Aunty Chin look at each other, wondering if this means Robin has finally understood the truth.

A RED BUTTERFLY appears and stands on the urn. Instinctively, Lim wants to swat it away.

ROBIN
Pa, don't.

Lim looks at Robin, wondering why.

ROBIN
People die and they are born again as insects.

LIM
I see.

ROBIN
If you're good, you are born as a beautiful butterfly.

Lim lets that sink in.

ROBIN
Do you know what happens if you're bad?

Lim shakes his head.

ROBIN
You become a cockroach.

Laughter.

At the corner, Aunty Chin silently watches father and son.

The butterfly flies off and Robin chases it, trying to make it stand on this finger. He's off a little further now.

Lim spots Aunty Chin staring at him.

LIM
What's wrong?

Hesitation.

AUNTY CHIN
Lim. I don't know how to tell you this. I love how sincere you are in bringing Min and Robin on this trip. To fulfil her last wish.

LIM

What do you want to say?

Aunty Chin strokes the urn.

AUNTY CHIN

Min came here to pray for a baby.
But it wasn't the god of this
mountain that gave you Robin.

LIM

I know. We went to a fertility
clinic after that. And she got
pregnant.

AUNTY CHIN

Yes, the fertility clinic.

(beat)

The doctor said Min needed a new
donor.

Puzzled look.

LIM

Aunty Chin, I don't know what
you're trying to say. We went to
a fertility clinic, and had...
you know, artificial
insemination. And then we got
Robin.

AUNTY CHIN

That artificial insemination...
that wasn't you, Lim.

LIM

What do you mean?

AUNTY CHIN

They couldn't use yours, Lim. Min
had to find a new donor. She
didn't have the heart to tell
you.

Lim stares into the abyss, deep in thought. Moments pass.

AUNTY CHIN

She tried many times with yours,
but it just couldn't work. So she
found new donor.

(beat)

I know because I accompanied her
to the sperm bank.

Lim stays silent and emotionless. He holds the urn
tightly.

AUNTY CHIN

She couldn't break your heart.

A tear runs down his cheek.

He wipes it.

He kisses the urn and hugs it.

Robin appears again. Lim stares at Robin, as if seeing Robin for the first time.

ROBIN

Pa, the butterfly flew away.

Lim squats down, and gives Robin a long hug.

LIM

Come. When I count to three, we take this ash and throw it out into the sky ok?

ROBIN

Throw Ma into the sky?

LIM

Ma loves to fly. So we're going to throw her and let the wind take her up the sky.

ROBIN

Then she can touch the clouds.

Lim and Robin move towards the edge of the mountain.

Lim grabs a handful of ASH.

LIM

One, two, three.

He throw the ash in the air and the WIND takes it away.

It's Robin's turn. He puts his hand in the urn, takes the ash and throws into the air.

LIM

Oh, come on. Throw harder. Like you did at Ah Gong's place.

Robin puts his tiny hands into the urn again. It's that chrysanthemum palm moment again.

ROBIN

Pa, your hand is bigger than my hand, so you one hand, me two hands.

Robin takes two palmful and spreads his palms, as the wind carries the trail of ash into the horizon.

FLASHBACK.

MONTAGE. The pictures hanging on the wall at home come alive.

1. Lim and Min on one of their dates - bad fashion sense, young and very in love.
2. Lim and Min at their wedding, walking down the aisle. She is radiating like an angel. He's proud as hell; he got the girl - the prettiest girl in the world.
3. Min as a proud air stewardess, looking so elegant in her uniform. It's her first day at work, and she is serving her customers with vigour.
4. Lim as a successful business man, standing in front of his restaurant with a banner above: "**GRAND OPENING. 4th Outlet.**"
5. Robin as a baby. Lim holding Robin clumsily, while Min beams with pride. A happy family.
6. Min holding baby Robin, pretending she is about to throw the baby to Lim.
6. Their first vacation at a beach. Robin is making sand castle, while Lim is sipping his cold beer. Min smiles broadly - probably her happiest moment in her life as a wife and mother.

END MONTAGE.

Robin continues throwing his mother's ash in the air. A big puff spews off the top of the small mountain, as a thrilled Robin looks at the trail of powdery cloud he created.

Lim takes the last handful and holds his hand together with Robin. Together - ONE BIG PALM, TWO SMALL PALMS. Then, they open their palms and the wind takes the ash away.

LIM

Hope I fulfilled your last wish.
You can go now, Min.

ROBIN

Bye bye, Ma.

The last bits of ash has been blown away. Lim grabs Robin's hand.

It's all over.

LIM
Let's go home.

All three of them begin their descent from the top of the small mountain.

They see Ram, who nods at them. It's time to go home.

As the trail of ash blows into the horizon, down below, three tiny figures make their descent, as the sun slowly sets.

From afar, we see a herd of yaks coming their way.

ROBIN
Move to this side, Pa!

51 INT. ROBERT'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Robert and Aunty Chin are sitting on a sofa.

ROBERT
I swear. Min's soul came back. I even saw footprints!

THE END.