

BECOMING WE

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"Becoming We"

FADE IN:

EXT. AUSTIN BUS STATION - NIGHT

SUPER "Austin, Texas."

Two buses appear ready to depart from the Greyhound Bus Station in Austin, Texas. One bus reads, "Airport." One bus reads, "Denver." Dr. HUI GAO (29), a beautiful Chinese woman in a comically out-of-place blue satin "Princess gown" stares at one bus, then the other in a moment of indecision.

HUI (V.O.)

Once upon a time, there was a competent, single, happy, medical doctor, who was heading back to Beijing to marry a man she had only met a few times at formal dinner parties.

She carries an old leather medical bag, and drags a small, wheeled suitcase back and forth between the two buses with a growing frustration. She stares up into the camera.

HUI (V.O.)

Who am I kidding! I'm not happy!

She clutches the medical bag like it is her baby.

HUI (V.O.)

My grandfather was a doctor. He wanted my father and me to be doctors. My father became a wealthy divorce attorney in Beijing, and left me to become a doctor!

She stares at the bus to the airport.

HUI (V.O.)

Why not fly home for the holiday? Have you seen the way people and security officers in a crowded airport view a Chinese doctor in a Princess gown? Going through med school and residency in Texas was hard enough, thank you!

She glances at the bus to Denver.

HUI (V.O.)

Beijing and Austin, Texas! All I've ever known. Four years of prep school, four at university, three years of med school, three years of residency, no years for me.

She looks back at the bus to the Airport.

HUI (V.O.)

All I have to do is get on that bus to claim a dream life!

She looks back at the bus to Denver, and smiles.

HUI

But that is my parents' dream! I'm twenty-nine years old, I've never lived my own dream, and

(beat)

I've never seen snow!

Hui picks the Denver bus and boards. A gray-haired, Bus Driver (50) carefully scrutinizes her Princess gown, medical bag, and suitcase. He lets her pass, but he watches her suspiciously in the rearview mirror. There are seven other passengers widely distributed on the bus. An elderly woman (70) sits near the driver. Two College men (20s) sit together a few rows back. A young farmer/snowboarder, SAMMY GREENLEY (23) looks like a cowboy, but he's reading *Snowboarder* magazine about three-quarters down the bus. A middle-aged Redneck (50; man) in a baseball cap and chewing tobacco sits in the second to last row.

Hui struggles to put her suitcase in the overhead storage bin and fails to see a shadowy man (BRIAN XU; 40) board the bus, nudge past her, and take a back seat in the darkest corner of the bus. He slumps down.

Hui sits sadly in an aisle seat, one-third of the way back. Her old medical bag extends into the aisle a bit.

The bus pulls out slowly. The bus driver keeps looking at Hui with suspicion in the rearview mirror.

The elderly woman, college students, and redneck GLARE at Hui in her hijab, and STARE at her medical bag.

The bus takes a sharp turn, and Hui's medical bag tips over, but doesn't open. Everyone hears metal CLANG when it falls over, and when Hui sets it upright again.

The redneck passenger near the back RACES up and LUNGES at the medical bag. The Bus Driver slams on the brakes.

REDNECK

She's got something in that bag!

Everyone but Hui, Sammy, and Brian scream, as the redneck lands on the medical bag. It opens, and medical equipment spills out across the floor.

Hui is drawn to tears as she returns her equipment one piece at a time.

Sammy looks up from his magazine.

SAMMY

She's a medical doctor. Y'all are idiots!

The redneck returns to his seat without a word. Sammy gets up to help Hui collect equipment. Hui is still in tears but tries to hide her face.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Y'all gonna be okay, Ma'am?

Hui manages a fleeting smile with her tear-stained face.

HUI

Thanks.

SAMMY

(whispers)

Don't y'all just feel like kickin' him in the balls, Ma'am?

HUI

He showed no respect for royalty.

SAMMY

You royalty?

HUI

No. But I can dream, can't I?

SAMMY

Want me to kick his ass, Ma'am?

Sammy holds out a hand to shake.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

I get along well with everyone, 'cept Mexicans. Just the illegals. Not much into that 'Remember the Alamo' stuff after being a history major, but border security is a real issue.

Hui does not extend her hand. The Bus Driver and the other passengers see this and glare.

HUI

Please accept my humble apology.

Hui bows to Sammy, who drops his hand.

SAMMY

No apology needed, Ma'am. It's a long drive to Denver. I got snacks and water if you need any.

Hui nods, but she tears up again, and hides her face.

HUI

Are history major's always this cheerful?

SAMMY

I know my crew is having the time of their lives, and I'll be joining 'em tomorrow.

HUI

Your crew?

SAMMY

(excited)

My roomies on the hill. Should have seen us two weeks ago on an epic powder day.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKI SLOPES - DAY

While Sammy describes her, we see a strong Asian female freestyle skier, OLIVIA "OLLIE" LEE (34) riding a rail, taking a short ramp, speeding up, then jumping a huge ramp, spinning and turning to a beautiful landing.

SAMMY (V.O.)

There's Olivia, but everyone calls her Ollie. She's my hero. One of the oldest free-style skiers in the Olympics, but she never ages.

(beat)

You've seen her on every X-Games for the past eighteen years!

We see JACOB "BURNER" BRUNER (28), a ruggedly handsome snowboarder carving down a dangerous snow-shoot, hitting a ramp and doing a grab, and flipping a three-sixty before speeding down a mountain of powder.

SAMMY (V.O.)

Then, there's Jake, really Jacob, but everyone calls him Burner: the most fearless shredder ever born. I do my best to keep up with him.

We see Sammy following Burner, but missing the jump, and wiping out big time before slowly proceeding down the hill.

SAMMY (V.O.)

We're best bro's cause we're so much alike. And Catherine Ford, but everybody calls her "Soccer," short for Socrates. She doesn't shred or ski. Philosopher and novelist, which is to say she tends bar.

(beat)

Scary smart. Never went to college!

BACK TO:

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Hui glances up at Sammy, who has a genuine smile.

HUI

They sound charming.

Sammy returns to his seat and picks up his snowboard magazine. He looks over the top of it toward Hui.

LATER

INT./EXT. BUS - NIGHT

The bus stops at a gas station. The two College Men run to the small convenience store. Sammy stops at Hui's seat.

SAMMY

Sorry for those y'all's. Few days back home and I slip into old habits. They'll be gone soon. I'm getting coffee. You want any?

Hui shakes her head 'no.' Sammy heads to the store.

The shadowy passenger in the back, Brian, acts like a private investigator in a black business suit and a small briefcase.

He creeps forward through the bus. Hui hadn't noticed him. No one had. He glances at each passenger, before stepping out of the bus to smoke.

He takes two puffs, re-enters the bus, hiding his face from Hui. He takes the seat vacated by Sammy.

The Bus Driver glares in the rearview mirror at Hui and the strange passenger in the dark suit. When Sammy returns with coffee and a bottled water, he sees that his seat is taken. He sits across from Hui and hands her the water.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Denver is a mile high. You'll need to stay hydrated, Doc.

Hui resists, then reaches out for the bottle, careful not to touch Sammy's hand. Brian snaps a photo on his phone.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Don't talk much, do you?

HUI

Thanks for the water. I should know better. Haven't been thinking lately.

SAMMY

Find that hard to believe.

HUI

Believe it, Mr...

SAMMY

Greenley. Samuel Greenley, but my crew calls me Sammy.

HUI

Your crew again, Samuel?

SAMMY

My boys, except there are girls, too. Up in Breck.

HUI

Breck?

SAMMY

Breckenridge! The mountain! Thirty-five lifts, thirteen-K summit, best snowboardin' in the world!

HUI

What's it like?

SAMMY  
What's what like?

HUI  
Snow?

SAMMY  
What? You've never seen snow?

HUI  
Pictures. Movies. On the web.  
Originally from southern China.  
Then Austin! Never seen snow.

SAMMY  
May see some soon! Why you goin' to  
Denver?

HUI  
To not go to Beijing.

SAMMY  
I never went anywhere not to go to  
someplace else! What's in Beijing  
you're not goin' there for?

Oddly, Hui followed his question.

HUI  
Not important.

She sips her water, and turns away, trying to end the  
conversation by faking she's sleepy.

SAMMY  
Plenty hours to Denver, and I had  
coffee. Come on, spill your guts.

Hui takes a deep breath and surrenders.

HUI  
Marriage.

SAMMY  
People still do that?

HUI  
My parents' idea. Marry a rich  
attorney and your future is secure.  
Cheng is a few years older than me.

SAMMY  
How old?

HUI

Forty-two.

SAMMY

Forty-two? Middle-aged! Near dead!

Brian sneers at Sammy and takes notes.

HUI

Accomplished. Has his own firm, many partners, a big house, and no one to share it with.

SAMMY

Your parents like the marriage idea?

HUI

His parents too.

SAMMY

And you? Gotta a job waiting in Beijing?

HUI

Yes. At a women's health clinic. Great hours and pay, but...

SAMMY

You got cold feet.

HUI

Took the wrong bus.

SAMMY

You bought the ticket to Denver, Doc! Cost a hundred and twenty bucks?

HUI

Two-hundred thousand dollars!

SAMMY

What?

HUI

My new husband would have paid off my med school loans the day after we were married.

Brian's head drops.

SAMMY

Aren't you the idiot, then?

HUI

Never fit in with the others in med school. Only one who wore Princess gowns to parties. I was making one bad decision after another...

SAMMY

Wait! You didn't fit in med school? You're so smart!

HUI

When you wear Princess gowns and elect not to shake hands with everyone 'cause of germs...

SAMMY

Germs?

HUI

Bit of a germaphobe Wash my hands five extra times a day.

SAMMY

(chuckles)

More than a lifestyle, it's an obsession?

Hui's head drops.

Brian sneers at Sammy again, and takes more notes.

HUI

Here, when others see a woman in a pantsuit they think, "What a successful woman!"

SAMMY

When they see a princess gown?

HUI

Nut job! Every time!

Sammy leans over to hug Hui, but she moves away.

SAMMY

Soccer says people can't be intolerant when they're hugging.

Hui looks Sammy in the eyes.

HUI

We hug and love so naturally from the time we are born. Infants know no other way.

(MORE)

HUI (CONT'D)

But we are taught as children to distrust others who are different.

SAMMY

You sound like Soccer.

Sammy looks out his window.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Your parents must be pissed you're not returning to Beijing.

HUI

Angry, disappointed, and worried  
I'll be kidnapped or killed.

(sadly)

I'd better text them from Amarillo.

SAMMY

Haven't told them yet?

HUI

Didn't know how.

SAMMY

What'll you text?

HUI

Not getting married. I'm safe. On the bus to Denver. Forgive me.

SAMMY

Deep shit!

HUI

Father will take it as a personal insult bringing shame to the entire family for generations to come.

SAMMY

Your mother?

HUI

Will worry about losing the deposits for the country club, caterers, the cake, the dress, the band, the decorations. Thirteen-thousand dollars in fresh flowers.

SAMMY

Deep, deep shit, man. What about your fiancé?

HUI  
Afraid to talk to him, too.

Sammy shakes his head, chuckling in disbelief.

SAMMY  
Never heard anything like that ever  
happening in San Antone.

Hui fights back tears.

HUI  
No plan, nowhere to go, one small  
suitcase and my grandfather's  
medical bag. Lost my marriage, a  
job, and my parents by getting on  
this bus!

Sammy looks to Hui with a sad look.

SAMMY  
Sorry, dude.

HUI  
I'll text them all now. Probably  
all wondering why I had my phone  
turned off.

Hui turns on her phone, as Brian returns to a seat in the  
back corner of the bus. Her phone lights up with messages.

Hui shields the phone from Sammy. She reads it until her  
hands shake in anger. She shuts off her phone, and buries it  
in her purse.

Sammy looks away, afraid to speak.

Brian, in the back seat, smiles. He leans back to sleep.

EXT. DENVER BUS STATION - NIGHT

The bus rolls into the station. It's cold, but not snowing.

Sammy helps Hui with her overhead luggage.

SAMMY  
Y'all gonna be okay?

HUI  
I'll be fine.

SAMMY  
What ya gonna do?

HUI

Don't know. Stay a few days until the heat blows over, then go home to apologize to everyone.

SAMMY

That sucks.

HUI

Know a good hotel?

SAMMY

Brown Palace. Like a damn museum. Seventeenth and Broadway. But Christmas vacation, it'll be full.

Brian writes "Brown Palace" in a notebook.

HUI

And, you?

SAMMY

Burner and Ollie are picking me up and taking me back up the hill.

HUI

Yes, to your ski resort.

Brian takes another photo with his phone.

The Bus Driver opens the door to a cold gust of winter air.

HUI (CONT'D)

Freezing.

SAMMY

Where's your jacket?

HUI

Wouldn't need one in Beijing.

Sammy hands her his winter parka.

SAMMY

Take this. I'll get one from the Lost and Found on the hill.

Hui reluctantly hands the coat back.

HUI

Can't wear it. Germs.

Sammy puts it on and shakes his head in disbelief.

SAMMY

If you say so, Doc. Come meet my crew.

Sammy smiles. Brian snaps another photo, and sneaks away.

Sammy fetches his duffel bag and helps Hui out of the bus. Burner and Ollie are across the street in an old dark-green Subaru Forester with a ski rack with a snowboard and skis. Burner honks, and yells from an open driver's-side window.

BURNER

Sammy! Move it. Bar's waitin'.

SAMMY

We're coming.

Burner and Ollie exit the car to meet Sammy's new friend. Burner is average height with stunning good looks and deep dark eyes. He wears a plaid shirt and black snowboard pants. Ollie wears a white ski jacket and matching pants. Sammy shields Hui from the wind as they cross the street. Ollie races to hug Sammy and Hui. Ollie acts like a TV announcer.

OLLIE

There he is, ladies and gentlemen;  
our roommate is home!  
(beat)  
Sammy, welcome back.

BURNER

Who's this? Meet a queen on the bus?

Ollie hugs Hui. Hui does not hug back.

Burner glares at Hui for not hugging Ollie back.

SAMMY

She's a medical doctor. Name's Hui Gao.

OLLIE

Hi, Doc. I'm Ollie.

HUI

Hello, Ollie. There's a cut on your neck. I have some Vaseline in my bag for it.

OLLIE

Thanks, Doc. This is Jake, but everyone calls him Burner.

HUI

Samuel told me all about you.

Burner extends a hand to shake with Hui. She makes eye contact with his deep dark eyes but doesn't shake his hand.

Burner smirks, mildly annoyed.

BURNER

Okay, sorry about the queen joke, but we're not afraid to hug or shake hands.

SAMMY

Doc's had a tough night with a redneck jerk on the bus.

Burner puts his hand down, and he hugs Sammy.

HUI

Sorry.

SAMMY

Burner, think Hui can hang with us for few days before she catches a plane to Beijing? She's never seen snow!

Burner smirks again, this time in disbelief.

BURNER

Never seen snow? Right!

Hui glares at Burner.

HUI

Never!

Burner relaxes and smiles at Hui.

BURNER

Then your chariot awaits, Doc.

Ollie scrambles for the seat behind the driver.

OLLIE

I gotta spare hoodie for the Doc. I'll take the Windy Shitty.

SAMMY

That's the seat behind Burner. Ain't got his window fixed yet. I'll take the back too.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Sammy grabs the other backseat, while Burner tosses Sammy's duffel bag and Hui's suitcase in the back.

Hui buckles in the front seat with her medical bag. The car is filthy with coffee cups, energy drink cans, beef jerky wrappers, and donut wrappers. Burner hops in.

BURNER

Better put on Ollie's hoodie, Doc.

SAMMY

Where'd you get the hoodie, Ollie?  
It's a women's hoodie, right?

OLLIE

Women's hoodie. Lost and found.  
Somebody lost it. I found it!

HUI

(snickers)  
I'll mail it back from Beijing.

They all chuckle. Hui puts on the hoodie.

OLLIE

We can always use a doctor around  
the place.

Burner turns up the radio, and races away.

Along Highway 70, it starts to SNOW. The speakers are blasting tunes, and no one seems to notice, except for Hui.

HUI

It's snow!

BURNER

Frozen crystals of H-2-O. What?

SAMMY

She's never seen snow.

BURNER

Thought she was kidding!

Burner swerves onto an off-ramp, pulls over, and lets Hui get out. She takes off her hoodie, swings her arms, catches snowflakes on her tongue, and stomps in patches of snow on the side of the road, while others stare in disbelief.

OLLIE

Yes, folks, she's gonna freeze to death before we get her home, where she'll really be cold.

Sammy exits to rescue Hui, who is playing, smiling, and laughing. Burner curiously watches Hui, as Sammy guides her back to the car.

SAMMY

Need snow boots, ski pants, and a jacket to last any longer!

HUI

Yes, Samuel. Sorry.

SAMMY

Nothing to be sorry about, Doc.

They get back in the car, and Burner races off.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Hui shivers in the cold car.

OLLIE

We'll scrounge up some snow gear for ya tomorrow.

BURNER

You could freeze out there, Doc. Or, in here, for that matter.

HUI

It's all so new to me. What do you people do?

(beat)

For work, I mean?

SAMMY

I work the kitchen at the resort, and shovel snow for extra dough.

OLLIE

I'm a free-style skier with a few endorsements, and I clean rooms at the resort.

BURNER

Work in the deli at the market, Shovel snow in winter, tree-cutter and landscaper in summer.

SAMMY

My Pops has some health issues, so,  
in summer, I help out on the farm  
back in San Antone.

BURNER AND OLLIE

San Antonio!

SAMMY

San Antone to us locals!

OLLIE

Our other roomie is a bartender.  
She's working tonight.

SAMMY

Soccer's chill.

HUI

Samuel told me about you all.

BURNER

Smartest novelist that you'll ever  
meet.

OLLIE

'Cept all she has is her title.

BURNER

You really a doc, Doc?

HUI

Completed residency last June.  
Working at a women's clinic now,  
but I passed up a better job in  
Beijing by getting on that wrong  
bus to Denver.

Burner pulls out a flask and takes a swig.

BURNER

You're in good company, Doc. I make  
wrong choices every day.

Burner offers the flask to Hui who refuses it abruptly.

HUI

Doctors don't drink foolishly.

Burner smirks, and flips the flask to the back seat.

BURNER

Geez! Talk about wrong choices.

Ollie, Sammy, and Hui look sadly at Burner.

Burner turns up the music as they race along up the mountain.

EXT./INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Burner, Ollie, Sammy, and Hui enter a dilapidated, grungy, dark two-bedroom house. Dirty dishes fill the sink, pizza boxes litter the tables, and beer bottles abound. Hui is wrapped in the hoodie so only a small part of her face shows.

SAMMY

Welcome to our castle: Chateau  
Sewer-flow, the Ghetto on the  
Meadow.

HUI

Chateau Sewer-flow?

Hui looks for a clean place to sit, but doesn't find one, while Sammy pulls out his phone.

SAMMY

Calling Ma to tell her I made it.  
Guess nobody cleaned up while I was  
in Texas.

HUI

Were you gone ten years?

SAMMY

Few days, just to help my Daddy  
order supplies for plantin' season.  
(into the phone)  
Hi, Ma. Made it back safe and  
sound. I'll call tomorrow. Bye.

Ollie acts like a TV announcer again.

OLLIE

Yes, folks, and all the manure he  
needed was right here! I blame  
Burner!

BURNER

Me? You and Soccer been bringing in  
all the strays?

HUI

Stray what? Cows? Apes? Rhinos?

The others laugh. Burner grabs a can of cheap beer. It sprays out a bit as he opens it.

BURNER

Stray friends from the flatlands  
who need a place to crash for a  
night or two, so they can shred.

HUI

Everything looks shredded.

They all laugh again.

SAMMY

We'll get this place cleaned up  
tomorrow. I'm exhausted. Hui, you  
take the couch.

OLLIE

And if a crazed philosopher busts  
down the front door after two A.M.,  
it's just Soccer, our other roomie.

Hui stares at them, bewildered.

BURNER

She'll talk your ears off, which  
nobody can see anyway.

OLLIE

Geez, Burner, cut her slack.

Sammy stands at his bedroom door.

SAMMY

*Becoming We.* Soccer's title. Love  
story, I think.

OLLIE

Help yourself to the egg or water  
in the fridge. Eat anything you  
find.

BURNER

Except the stuff that was green,  
and has turned brown.

SAMMY

And the stuff that was brown, and  
has turned green.

Burner and Sammy laugh.

OLLIE

I'll take us shopping tomorrow.

Burner points as he talks.

BURNER

Sammy and me are in this room.  
Ollie and Soccer are in that one.  
Bathroom's in the middle. Sammy's  
turn to clean it next month.

Hui rolls her eyes in disgust.

OLLIE

Strays get the couch. Don't think  
we have any more strays tonight.

Burner and Sammy shake their head 'no.'

BURNER

We never lock the door.

Burner toasts with his can of beer and follows Sammy into one  
bedroom, while Ollie trudges off to the other.

OLLIE

Night, everyone.

Hui looks around at the mess in disgust. She heads to the  
kitchen and begins to wash dishes.

LATER

Hui is fully dressed in gown and hoodie, but asleep on the  
couch, when a light-skinned Creole bartender from Belize,  
Catherine "SOCCER" Ford (30), bursts through the front door.  
Hui jumps up startled, which startles Soccer, who races to  
the kitchen to turn on the lights.

SOCCER

Who are you? What you done with my  
roommates?

HUI

I'm Hui Gao, a doctor. Samuel,  
Olivia, and Jacob invited me to  
stay a few days. You must be the  
philosopher-novelist.

Soccer sounds profound.

SOCCER

She who laughs, laughs, laughs  
best.

HUI

Not sure it goes like that.

Soccer looks around at the clean kitchen.

SOCCKER

You'll learn.

(laughs)

They call me Soccer. Real name's Catherine Ford. What's that you wearing?

HUI

Princess gown. I'm a dreamer.

Soccer steps in close to Hui and examines her princess gown.

SOCCKER

Takes courage to be different.

Hui takes a step back.

SOCCKER (CONT'D)

It's okay, man. Not gonna bite ya. You in some kinda trouble?

HUI

Not with the law. Trouble with my parents. Big time.

Soccer laughs.

SOCCKER

Who isn't, man? My parents haven't called me in three months. Belize. Long distance.

Hui falls back on the couch and pouts.

HUI

Three months? That would kill me.

Soccer looks away.

SOCCKER

Killin' me, too. I don't let on though. I gotta get me shut-eye, Princess. See you in the morning, ya?

HUI

It's Hui. Hui Gao. And you're Catherine?

SOCCKER

Call me Soccer. They all do.

Soccer exits to her bedroom.

HUI  
Good night, Soccer.

SOCCKER  
Good night, Princess.

Soccer giggles, and shuts her door.

HUI  
What strange people!

Hui falls back, exhausted, but her eyes are wide open.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Hui drags her suitcase from lodge to lodge, getting turned away at each one. Her borrowed sweatshirt helps, but her legs and feet are freezing in the Princess gown. She trudges on, amazed by the ski town. She pretends not to see the dirty looks she's getting from some of the Drivers (3 SUVs and trucks) and Pedestrians (5) in full ski outfits, thick coats, and snow boots; but most townies smile weakly or ignore her.

Two Young Men (15) walk by Hui, smile, and give her a thumbs-up sign and a Hawaiian hang-loose sign.

INT./EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Ollie enters the bathroom. She SCREAMS. Sammy RACES out to the family room in flannel pajama pants and a country music T-shirt. He sees that Hui is gone. Ollie races out of the bathroom to the family room wearing sweatpants and a bra.

OLLIE  
Hold onto your toilet seats, ladies  
and gentlemen, somebody cleaned the  
bathroom!

SAMMY  
She's gone!

Ollie sees the kitchen is clean too. She screams again. Next, Soccer stumbles into the family room, wearing a sweatshirt and gym shorts.

SOCCKER  
Who's gone? The stray? Princess?

SAMMY  
Hui.

OLLIE

We gotta get her back. Place never  
looked this good.

SAMMY

They'll eat her alive! Quick! We  
gotta find her!

OLLIE AND SOCCER

*And Donuts!*

SAMMY

I'm serious! She hasn't got snow  
boots or snow pants.

OLLIE

I'm not waking Burner.

SAMMY

I will. We need his car!

EXT. STREET - DAY

It's snowing, windy, and cold. Hui exits another lodge with a disappointed look. She crosses the street at a pedestrian crossing, but a SUV full of skiers, races around her, HONKING as they pass. Ollie (driving), Sammy, and Soccer are driving up the other side of the street and see it all. Ollie yells through the open window at the SUV.

OLLIE

Damn touristas! Watch where you're  
driving!

Sammy hops out to assist Hui who is not phased, as Soccer hops out to open the hatchback for Hui's suitcase.

SAMMY

Hui, are you okay?

HUI

Little cold. Can't find a hotel  
room.

SOCCER

Busiest season.

OLLIE

Christmas Break!

Hui smiles.

HUI

I get it. No room at the inn for a  
Princess in traditional dress.  
Happens all the time!

Everyone laughs, even Hui.

SAMMY

You need donuts!

HUI

No, I need snow boots and warm  
clothes, and a place to stay.

OLLIE

After donuts. We owe you for  
cleaning the Chateau Sewer-flow.

HUI

You people are very strange. You  
know that, don't you?

Soccer shakes her head in disbelief.

SOCCER

You think we're strange?

They load in the car, and speed away.

INT. DONUT SHOP - DAY

Hui, Ollie, Soccer, and Sammy eat donuts and drink coffee in  
the far corner of the coffee shop. Twenty Patrons (18-30),  
mostly young snowboarders and skiers, are having a great  
time. For once, Hui is warm, and no one is staring at her.

HUI

I like this place.

SAMMY

Everybody does.

OLLIE

Everyone loves gluten-free health  
food, but us.

SOCCER

Heaven is a donut store.

Suddenly, Brian Xu, the man from the Greyhound bus, storms in  
from the front door and stomps down to Hui.

BRIAN

Dr. Hui Gao, I am Brian Xu, a private investigator hired to find you and keep you safe until your parents get here.

HUI

My parents?!

Sammy stands ready to fight.

SAMMY

This joker botherin' you, Hui?

HUI

No, no. Sit down, Samuel. Mr. Xu will go and leave us alone.

BRIAN

No, Ma'am. It took me all night to find you. I've reported your location to your parents, and told them you were shackled up with four low-life ski-bums!

SOCCER

What's this low-life talk, man?

OLLIE

Leave us alone, dude. She's free to do what she wants.

Hui looks down in disgust.

BRIAN

Your mother has called you twenty times. Worried sick about you.

HUI

I have no excuse.

Sammy rests his hand on Hui's shoulder to show his support.

SAMMY

You don't need no excuse.

Brian knocks Sammy's hand off of Hui's shoulder, and punches him in the face, sending him flying back, as Burner enters the donut shop, and sees everything.

Ollie and Soccer see Burner come in.

OLLIE AND SOCCER

Uh oh!

The owner in an apron, PETE (30) behind the counter yells.

PETE

Burner!

Pete tosses Burner an apple fritter, which he catches with his left hand.

BURNER

Thanks, Pete.

Burner takes a bite, as he approaches Brian, who turns toward Burner. Burner decks Brian with a right cross. He's out cold, as Burner stands proudly, eating his apple fritter.

BURNER (CONT'D)

Did I miss much?

Hui gives Burner an evil look, as she attends to Sammy.

HUI

That man works for my parents! My father will never forgive me! My life is doomed!

They hear a SIREN approaching.

BURNER

Uh oh! I'm on probation! I'm really screwed!

Everyone looks sad.

INT. DONUT SHOP - DAY

Hui opens her old leather doctor's bag and takes out a package of gauze for Sammy's bleeding eye lid and presses on it. A local policewoman, CINDY (35, cute, in uniform) enters the donut shop. Pete yells:

PETE

Cindy!

As he tosses her a glazed donut, which she catches in her right hand.

CINDY

Thanks, Pete.

Cindy rushes to the two men on the floor, while Hui pulls out an eye-light to examine Sammy's eyes and Brian's eyes.

BURNER  
Good morning, Cindy.

Cindy angrily takes a bite of her donut.

CINDY  
Is it, Jake? Looks like six months  
in jail for you! What happened?

OLLIE  
Long story, Cindy.

CINDY  
I got an assault call.

Pete turns away.

SOCCER  
Pete?

PETE  
The Asian guy looked like trouble.  
And he decked, Sammy.

BURNER  
So, I decked him. End of story.

Cindy points at Hui, then at Brian, who is slowly getting up.  
Sammy's eyes open.

CINDY  
Who are these two?

OLLIE  
One's a Princess doctor from Texas.  
She's staying with us. Other's a  
creep private dick.

BURNER  
And a public dick, hittin' my buddy  
Sammy like that.

HUI  
He was protecting my honor. Samuel  
had a hand on my shoulder...

CINDY  
No law against that, but assault's  
a different matter.

BURNER  
See.

CINDY  
 You too, Jake. Big trouble now.  
 You're on probation.

Hui turns to Burner.

HUI  
 There's no need for violence, ever!

CINDY  
 Listen to the Princess.

Brian dusts himself off, and takes Hui's hand and tries to force her to leave with him. Cindy takes another bite of her glazed donut, then stops Brian.

CINDY (CONT'D)  
 (to Hui)  
 Did Sam assault you or anyone else?

HUI  
 No.

CINDY  
 Did you see this man assault Sam?

HUI  
 Yes, but...

CINDY  
 Did you see Jake assault this man?

Cindy points to Brian with the remains of her donut.

HUI  
 Yes, but...

CINDY  
 You three are coming with me!

HUI  
 Samuel needs stitches.

CINDY  
 Olivia can take him to the clinic.

OLLIE  
 Doc Stevens has the flu. Burner took him to get an I-V in Silverthorne, and fed his dog.

SOCCKER

(yells)

Don't nobody hurt themselves on the slopes today.

CINDY

Bring him with us. Maybe this Doc here can patch him up.

Cindy leads Burner, Brian, Sammy, and Hui through the donut shop. Burner flips a \$20 bill to Pete.

BURNER

For me and my favorite copper.

PETE

Thanks, man.

CINDY

Bribing a policewoman won't help.

Ollie yells from the back table.

OLLIE

I think Burner needs a strip-search, Cindy.

Everyone laughs.

HUI

Samuel, how are you feeling?

SAMMY

Like Burner's in a whole heap of trouble this time.

They all look worried as they leave.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Cindy finishes filling out a report on Brian.

Hui ties off the three stitches above Sammy's right eye on a chair next to them.

Burner is napping quietly.

CINDY

Mr. Xu, you may go.

BRIAN

Not without Doctor Gao.

CINDY

She is free to come and go as she pleases. You are free to go now, unless you want resisting arrest tied to your disturbing the peace citation.

Brian grunts. He threatens Hui as he exits.

BRIAN

Your parents will be here tonight. Then you'll get it!

Hui's eyes open widely in shock.

CINDY

(loudly)

Jacob Bruner, you're next.

Hui turns when she hears the name "Jacob Bruner," tugging on Sammy's the new stitches.

SAMMY

Ow!

HUI

Sorry. Jacob Bruner? You're Jewish?

SAMMY

His folks are, but Burner sort of quit. Now, he's nothin'.

Burner struggles to the chair next to Cindy.

CINDY

Except for those monthly checks. Isn't that right, Jake?

BURNER

Can't you call me Burner like everyone else?

CINDY

Not into your childish nicknames, Jake. You know that!

Hui senses a history between them, and Burner turns angry.

BURNER

Just do your report.

CINDY

If I do, you'll be locked up for six months over at the Summit County Jail. That what you want?

BURNER

You judge and jury now too, Cindy?

CINDY

It's automatic! Violation of probation on your last fight! Just can't stop drinking and fighting, can you, Jake?

BURNER

Nobody said I was drinking.

CINDY

I smell it! Want me to demand a blood test to confirm it. You might do a year then!

Burner looks away.

SAMMY

Burner was just defending Doc.

CINDY

Shut up, Sam. You're what we call an enabler!

SAMMY

Enabler, I was...

BURNER

Shut up, Sammy.

CINDY

I'm giving you a break, Jake.

BURNER

How?

CINDY

I'm filling out the report, but I will only submit it if...

Burner gets up to leave.

CINDY (CONT'D)

You fail either of the two new conditions added to your probation.

BURNER  
You can't do...

CINDY  
One, you'll submit to a  
Breathalyzer or urine test here at  
the station daily at noon for the  
entire week. Miss one day, or test  
positive, and I turn in my report.

BURNER  
Noon? Every day?

CINDY  
And two: You'll report for  
community service daily from eight  
A.M. to noon, at this address.

Cindy writes a name and address on a slip of paper.

BURNER  
What's this about?

CINDY  
Not sharing your gift of drinking  
and fighting, that's for sure.

Burner grabs the paper, crumples it up, and shoves it in his  
pocket. He grunts at Cindy first, then at Hui.

BURNER  
(to Hui)  
That's what I get for helping a nut-  
job Princess out!

HUI  
I didn't ask for your help, and I  
sure didn't ask for your violence!

SAMMY  
Let's get out of here.

Burner stomps out, followed by Sammy and Hui. Ollie and  
Soccer are waiting in Burner's car.

EXT./INT. CAR - DAY

Sammy, Burner, and Hui squeeze into the backseat of Burner's  
car, with Ollie at the controls, and Soccer riding shotgun.

SOCCER  
Who was that private dick?

HUI  
 Brian Xu! Maybe hired for my  
 safety.

SAMMY  
 That's all?

HUI  
 Maybe my parents wanted to make  
 sure I arrived home safely.

SOCCER  
 Worse than your folks, Burner.

Burner is silent.

SAMMY  
 Ya, tell her about your parents,  
 Burner.

Burner takes the small piece of paper from his pocket.

OLLIE  
 Cough it up, Burner. Or I will.

BURNER  
 Parents were Jewish-lite. Semi-  
 practicing but very political.

OLLIE  
 Then...

BURNER  
 Then I got tired of arguing, and  
 quit being a Jew all together. That  
 didn't go over well.

HUI  
 You can't just quit being Jewish!  
 Nothing the matter with preserving  
 historic and cultural identities.

Burner turns away.

BURNER  
 I didn't fit in anymore, okay?

SAMMY  
 They like, orphaned him.

SOCCER  
 Or he orphaned them!

OLLIE  
Either way, it sucks, dude.

HUI  
Do you communicate with them?

BURNER  
They send checks. I rip most of 'em  
up. Except when I'm really short.  
(angry)  
Now, leave me alone.

HUI  
I wish I could help.

BURNER  
Tell me how to cheat a Breathalyzer  
tomorrow at noon.

HUI  
Cheat your body from the dangerous  
effects of alcohol!

Ollie, Soccer, and Sammy laugh. Burner looks worried.

SAMMY  
Drop us at work, will ya, Ollie?

OLLIE  
Yeah, we're late.

Ollie drives to the big high-end resort, and she and Sammy  
hop out. It's snowy, windy, and cold.

SAMMY  
Stopped bleeding?

Hui checks the stitches.

HUI  
May want to ice it.

SAMMY  
Thanks, Doc.

Burner sits in the back of the car staring at the little note  
Cindy gave him.

OLLIE  
I'll get you snow pants from our  
lost and found. Shit! I gotta walk  
Doc Stevens' mutt later, when  
Burner's working the deli.

HUI  
Can I do this for you, Ollie?

SOCCER  
I can show her the place. I gotta  
get to the bar early for the  
inventory.

Sammy and Ollie head off to work. No one offers to drive.

SOCCER (CONT'D)  
Old D-U-I's, man. I can't drive.

BURNER  
I can't drive. Still lit from last  
night. Cindy's probably waiting to  
bust my ass.

HUI  
I do not drive.

BURNER  
What?

HUI  
Never learned. No license.

SOCCER  
Some kinda religious thing?

HUI  
I choose not to drive. I take a  
taxi, bus, Uber, or train.

BURNER  
We ain't walkin, Doc. Drive!

Hui stares at Burner meanly. She takes the keys, opens the trunk, and grabs her suitcase and medical bag.

HUI  
I'm walking. If you two can't  
drive, I suggest you walk with me.  
Come back for the car when you  
sober up, Jacob!

Soccer laughs. They exit the car and start walking home.  
Burner snarls at Hui.

BURNER  
Who ever heard of modern women not  
driving cars?

Soccer rolls her eyes in disgust at Burner.

SOCCKER

Allow people to be different,  
Burner?

Hui looks depressed and cold.

HUI

You all think you have problems. My  
parents are coming to take me away  
tonight! My life is over!

EXT. DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

WEI GAO (54), a successful divorce lawyer in a blue business suit, and his wife, LILLY (47), traditionally dressed in a loose-fitting dress of the finest silk, freeze as they wait for their limousine driver. Lilly does not lift her gown to avoid the dirty puddles of snow melt. Wei sees that his patent-leather shoes are disgustingly muddy. It is snowy, windy, and cold. Both people are upset.

WEI

Why does she put us through this?

LILLY

She has thrown her life away. For  
what? Alaska?

WEI

It's Colorado!

LILLY

Same difference! The road into  
mountains is closed. Limo can't  
drive us there 'til tomorrow.

WEI

I've left our daughter several  
messages. So have you. This is what  
they mean about Hell freezing over!

EXT./INT. OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT STORE - DAY

Hui, Soccer, and Burner trudge through the snow and wind on a barely passable sidewalk. They enter an outdoor equipment store.

BURNER

Doc, you need boots. Frostbite  
isn't pretty.

SOCCKER

"You're no good to anyone if you're dead," my mom used to tell me.

Hui sees her shoes are frosted over.

HUI

You're right. Snow boots!

Hui is immediately paralyzed by the warmth of the store.

SOCCKER

Look! Snow boots with pink fur.

HUI

Very Princess-like. I like...

Burner finds a pair of extra warm Sorel's and brings them to Hui. He smiles.

BURNER

Try these, Doc.

Hui snatches them, as if it were an emergency. She sits down and puts them on quickly

HUI

Heaven.

BURNER

Don't exactly match the gown.

Hui laughs.

HUI

Wool underwear?

Burner and Soccer roll their eyes and chuckle.

HUI (CONT'D)

My mother wears traditional Chinese clothing Very conservative, my parents. They think I am a Disneyland or nut-house escapee for wearing a princess gown from time to time.

Hui SIGHS in the warm comfort of insulated, waterproof boots. She walks to the counter to pay.

BURNER

(snickers)

I feel your pain.

(MORE)

BURNER (CONT'D)

My dad called me a hot-headed,  
devil-worshiping pagan once when he  
was mad at me.

HUI

What did you say?

BURNER

I said I wouldn't invite him or mom  
to our next human sacrifice.

A female CLERK #1 (21) in a revealing blouse pops up from  
behind the counter.

CLERK #1

Hi, Burner. You haven't called.

Hui produces a credit card.

HUI

I'll take these.

The Clerk #1 runs the card, and the system rejects it. She  
snarls at Hui.

CLERK #1

Card's been reported stolen.

HUI

Not stolen. It's right here.

(beat)

My dad! He hasn't a paid the bill  
for three years!

CLERK #1

(rude)

Sorry, Ma'am. Cash or check?

Before Hui can answer, Burner slams two one-hundred-dollar  
bills on the counter.

BURNER

I got this. See you guys at home!

Burner angrily storms out of the store.

SOCCER

Boy needs anger management classes  
for sure.

Hui is removing her shoes.

HUI

I can't take these.

SOCCKER

She'll take 'em. He's got the money. Wouldn't pay if he didn't want to.

HUI

I'll pay him back.

Soccer collects the change from the Clerk #1, before turning to Hui.

SOCCKER

Spoon with that man one cold night, he forget all about it.

Hui looks at Soccer with a seriously frightened look. Soccer laughs.

SOCCKER (CONT'D)

Just messin' wicha, girl!

HUI

I need a job! Fast! How can I get a hold of Doc Stevens, the doctor with the flu?

SOCCKER

You take care of his mutt. He takes care of you. How things are done on the mountain. Ask Burner!

Soccer and Hui join Burner outside the door. Brian Xu steps out of the dressing room with an oversized jacket and skull cap on. He heard it all.

EXT./INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The sign out front reads "Dr. Abraham Steven's M.D." Inside, Hui is playing with a small, black and white, fluffy mutt, whose yaps ring of happiness. Hui speaks on the phone to DOC STEVENS (75), a bald Jewish man, who is in the hospital.

DOC STEVENS (O.S.)

Sounds like Killer loves you.

HUI

We're getting along like old friends.

DOC STEVENS (O.S.)

And you're an M.D.?

HUI  
I need a job that pays cash, daily.

DOC STEVENS (O.S.)  
Drug habit?

HUI  
No. Eating habit.

DOC STEVENS (O.S.)  
My e-mail is on the computer. Send  
me your resume and license. I'll  
read up after my sponge bath.

Hui is stunned.

DOC STEVENS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
You still there?

Hui peeks outside in the door to the waiting room.

HUI  
You have two patients waiting,  
Doctor Stevens.

DOC STEVENS (O.S.)  
Nothing but first aid, EMT-stuff,  
until I see your resume and  
license.

Doc Stevens hangs up.

EXT. BUNNY HILL - DAY

Burner, in heavy winter clothing covering all but his eyes, watches intently from a safe distance as three disabled Children (two boys and a girl, ages 7-10) are pulled around on sleds. Despite the bitterly cold weather, Burner hears them laughing and joking with two Instructors (20s, male and female). He can barely see the children in the storm.

Burner reaches in his pocket for a flask, but he doesn't open the top. He studies the disabled children.

INT. RESORT - DAY

Ollie, in a maid's uniform, pushes a cleaning cart wildly down a long corridor, with Sammy racing behind her with a room-service tray in his hands.

SAMMY

I'm telling you, that's what I heard from Philippe at the front desk.

OLLIE

They'd never toss someone out to make room for somebody who can't even get here in this blizzard.

SAMMY

They did. Twice. That private dick, Brian, is in room 2557, and they set up the top corner penthouse for Hui's folks.

OLLIE

But they're stuck in Denver?

SAMMY

Storm's supposed to break tomorrow. Her folks gonna get here tomorrow night for sure. Gotta warn Doc.

OLLIE

Nothin' she can do. It's a family problem. Let them handle it!

Sammy stops, and Ollie races ahead.

SAMMY

Ollie, this isn't like you. What's the matter?

Ollie stops with tears in her eyes. She pulls a letter out of her pocket. She tries to hand it to Sammy, but his hands are full with room-service trays. Sammy dumps them in Ollie's garbage bag on her cart. He reads the letter.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Shit. First, no winter Olympics for you, and now, no X-Games.

OLLIE

Too old. Washed up at thirty-four!

She hugs Sammy.

SAMMY

That isn't right. What you gonna do?

Ollie gains her composure, and pushes the cart down the hallway, while Sammy looks on sadly. Ollie sounds like a dejected newscaster.

OLLIE

You heard it here first, ladies and gentlemen. Olivia Lee sentenced to life as a cleaning woman at the tender age of thirty-four.

Ollie loses her composure and drops to the floor, sobbing. Sammy rushes to comfort her.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

I'm not a doctor. I'm not even a college graduate like you.

SAMMY

History major. Look where it got me. Daddy's farm hand!

OLLIE

What have I got? My folks are grammar school teachers! I'm screwed!

Sammy hugs her.

INT./EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A few patients remain in the waiting room: a Truck Driver (50), a male SNOWBOARDER (17) in snowboard pants and two knit skull caps, and a MOM (35) with her daughter, ANNA (4) who is sniffing and scared. Hui guides an ELDERLY MAN (70) out of the office and through the waiting room. He walks slowly.

HUI

Be with you all shortly.

TRUCK DRIVER

Where's Doc Stevens?

HUI

The doctor is out sick with the flu. He's getting an IV in Silverthorne. He asked me to take any emergency patients.

The Truck Driver takes one look at Hui in the Princess dress and snow boots and stomps out.

HUI (CONT'D)  
 (to the elderly man)  
 Your wife is outside with the car.  
 Tell her you are to pick up two  
 bottles of prune juice before the  
 market closes in twenty minutes. Be  
 fine by tomorrow afternoon.

ELDERLY MAN  
 Thanks, Doc.

The Elderly Man smiles at Hui, and exits.

HUI  
 Who's next?

SNOWBOARDER  
 Take the kid with the earache.

MOM  
 (to the snowboarder)  
 Thank you, very kind.  
 (to Hui)  
 I'm Mary. This is my daughter,  
 Anna, who has a painful earache.

Hui squats down and speaks in a gentle voice directly to  
 Anna.

HUI  
 Thank you for coming to see me  
 tonight, Anna. Would you and your  
 mother like to come into my office?

Anna shakes her head, 'No.'

HUI (CONT'D)  
 (speaks softly)  
 You would not be the first to say  
 that. We'll have a look right here,  
 and your mom can hug you.

MOM  
 (whispers)  
 Thank you, Doctor.

HUI  
 Call me Hui. Let me get my  
 grandfather's medical bag.

Hui fetches the bag and returns. Anna is quite curious.

HUI (CONT'D)

This was my grandfather's medical bag. When I was a little a girl, I had an earache too, so my mother took me to see my grandfather, a kind and gentle doctor.

Hui slowly opens the bag. Anna's eyes light up at the perfectly organized shelves with shiny tools, cotton balls, gauzes, and ointments of all types.

HUI (CONT'D)

Tell me what is wrong, Anna.

Anna points to her left ear.

HUI (CONT'D)

How long has it been bothering you?

MOM

Since lunch, but we knew Doc Stevens was out. And I thought it would get better.

Hui pulls out a small flashlight from her bag.

HUI

Let's have a look, if that's okay, Anna. This is my flashlight made for ears and noses. See! Let's look in your mommy's nose and see if we can see boogers.

Hui looks in Mary's nose and Anna giggles. Then Hui looks in Anna's ear. Anna is mesmerized by Hui's soothing voice.

HUI (CONT'D)

My grandfather asked my parents to name me Tan Yunxian, who lived over 500 years ago in China, a time when women had a low status in society. She was a wonderful, gentle doctor. My grandfather wanted my father and me to be doctors. My father named me Hui instead of Tan, but I became a doctor anyway! Ha!

(beat)

Your ear is red, Anna, and I see what might be bothering you.

MOM

That's good, right?

Hui takes a small set of tweezers from the medical bag, and she gently tilts Anna's head to the side in her mother's lap.

HUI

And after my grandfather fixed my earache, I wanted to be a doctor too, so that I could help little girls like you.

Hui removes a small clear-plastic LEGO-like piece from Anna's ear.

MOM

What?

HUI

You have a brother or sister who builds things all the time?

Anna nods 'yes.'

MOM

Oh my. Older brother. I'm so sorry.

HUI

No problem at all. I often wish I had an older brother. Let me put in one tiny ear drop. It may tingle.

Anna immediately feels much better.

MOM

Oh, thank you, Hui. How much do we owe you?

Anna stands, happy and healed.

HUI

Hmmm. I would say, two hugs.

Mary and Anna hug Hui, and exit smiling. Only the Snowboarder remains.

SNOWBOARDER

Chill Princess dress. You were amazing with that kid!

HUI

Thank you. And how may I help you?

SNOWBOARDER

It's my knee.

HUI  
Can you walk?

SNOWBOARDER  
Yep, but dancing's out.

Hui points to the office door.

HUI  
In there. Take off your boots,  
socks, and pants. There's a paper  
gown to put on. Call when you're  
ready.

SNOWBOARDER  
Okay, Doc.

She watches the snowboarder limps into the back office. He seems to favor his right leg.

A minute later.

SNOWBOARDER (CONT'D)  
Ready, Doc.

Hui enters, and the teenager did as he was told.

HUI  
What is your name?

SNOWBOARDER  
James Newton, but everybody calls  
me...

HUI  
(interrupting)  
James is a strong name. Is your  
major complaint concerning the  
right knee, James?

SNOWBOARDER  
How'd ya guess?

HUI  
You favored it slightly, but you  
are able to walk without crutches.  
That's a good sign. May I touch  
around your knee.

SNOWBOARDER  
Sure, Doc.

Hui feels around James's right knee. Only at one small spot is there discomfort.

SNOWBOARDER (CONT'D)

That hurts a little.

HUI

I would need an MRI to confirm it,  
but I'd say you have a slightly  
torn meniscus.

SNOWBOARDER

Huh?

HUI

It's a small piece of cartilage in  
your knee. It stabilizes and  
cushions the joint, and protects it  
from wear and tear. Easily torn.

SNOWBOARDER

What do I do?

HUI

After the MRI, rest. They may  
recommend mild physical therapy.  
Very slowly. Don't do things that  
hurt!

SNOWBOARDER

Like snowboarding over Christmas  
break?

HUI

Exactly. Get the MRI, and no  
dancing.

SNOWBOARDER

Can I at least get a prescription  
for medical marijuana?

Hui's expression says it all, but she adds:

HUI

What do kids say, 'Not only no, but  
hell no?'

James laughs as he starts to get dressed. Hui exits the  
office to the waiting room. Soon, James exits the room.

SNOWBOARDER

What do I owe you, Doc?

HUI

No charge.

SNOWBOARDER  
Wait, no hug?

HUI  
Modesty prohibits me.

SNOWBOARDER  
Aren't all patients equal?!

Hui thinks about what James said. James doesn't leave. He puts out his arms, winks, and smiles.

SNOWBOARDER (CONT'D)  
Come on! Bring it in!

Hui hugs him quickly, and James smiles. Then, Hui smiles.

SNOWBOARDER (CONT'D)  
Thanks, Doc!

He leaves. Hui gathers her medical bag, turns off the lights, and locks the door. She smiles as she heads out of the office. Snow is falling. She sees Sammy waiting for her in Burner's car. She yells at Sammy through the open window.

HUI  
You'll freeze to death, Samuel. My ears have been outside for thirty seconds, and I can't feel them.

SAMMY  
(laughs)  
Those princess gowns weren't made for snow?

HUI  
Not this one.

Sammy tosses her a knit skull cap, which she puts on quickly.

HUI (CONT'D)  
Snowboarders and skiers are on to something here. My ears are warm already.

SAMMY  
How was your first day at work, Doc?

HUI  
When you are doing what you love, it is never work.

SAMMY

Come on. Crew is waitin' for us.

HUI

I should get home and get my rest.

SAMMY

No one goes home after work here.  
Besides, they need you!

HUI

Is anyone hurt?

SAMMY

On the inside, Doc.

Hui gets in the car, and Sammy spins a donut in the snow before racing away.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Ten snowboarders and skiers fill the bar. Hui walks in the bar with her Princess gown and the skull cap on, and no one bats an eye. She fits in. Sammy enters in a loud way.

SAMMY

Howdy, everybody. Soccer, I'll have the cheapest beer on tap.

SOCCER

Comin' up, Sammy. But don't wave it in front of Burner.

Burner, sitting sadly next to Ollie, turns to scowl at Soccer, as Hui sits down. Hui sees their sad faces.

HUI

(yells)

Soccer, three Irish Coffees, hold the Irish, start a tab. Put Samuel's beer on it too.

OLLIE

Hey, Doc, I can still drink.

HUI

One should never drink alcohol when they are too sad or too happy.

OLLIE

Why?

HUI

We have a saying that sorrow and joy teach us too much to be easily forgotten.

BURNER

Got sayings for everything?

HUI

Not for self-pity. Imagine that, five thousand years of civilization, and not one good saying for self-pity!

SOCCER

(yells)

That's a pity.

Everyone laughs, even Burner.

BURNER

Okay, screw you. Soccer, I'd like a god-damn Shirley Temple please.

HUI

Whiskey? Rum? Gin? What's in a Shirley Temple?

BURNER

Seven-Up and grenadine, idiot! No alcohol, Doc. I gotta big urine test tomorrow after community service.

Everyone pats Burner on the back.

HUI

I deserved that!

Soccer delivers a Shirley Temple to Burner, a shot of tequila to Ollie, a draft beer to Sammy, and non-Irish Coffees to Hui and herself. They toast.

HUI (CONT'D)

Olivia, Samuel told me about the letter you received. I'm sorry.

OLLIE

Making the best of it. Grabbed a sandwich from Burner at lunch for a cheer-up.

BURNER

My name tag at the Deli said I was the Deli Lama. Maybe tomorrow I'll be the Baby Cheeses.

HUI

I love that all you make the best this short-lived experience, while you're young. Won't last forever!

Everyone turns gloomy.

HUI (CONT'D)

What did I say?

SAMMY

Like the news, current events, politics, and health, we generally do not discuss the future. Could get depressing.

HUI

I see.

Too late. The mood dampens. Sammy's phone rings.

SAMMY

Damn it. See? It's my mom calling about my dad!

Sammy answers as he steps outside.

HUI

What's the matter with Samuel's father?

BURNER

We don't talk about it!

EXT. BUNNY HILL - DAY

A perky, ritzy woman, NANCY (40) wears a white ski suit with a "Staff" patch as an employee of the ski area. She waves over Burner from the bus stop nearby.

NANCY

Mr. Bruner, Mr. Bruner. Over here!

Burner walks over in his snowboard boots, flannel shirt, and slick sunglasses. He carries his snowboard.

BURNER

How'd ya know it was me?

NANCY

Your favorite policewoman, Cindy,  
said you were gorgeous for a man. I  
took a chance. And it's exactly  
eight A.M.

BURNER

Where are the students?

NANCY

Getting suited up. Takes time with  
some of 'em.

BURNER

What do I do for four hours a day?

NANCY

Keep them safe. Keep them happy.  
And you help them find success  
despite their different abilities.

BURNER

Got it!

NANCY

Do you?

BURNER

Keep them safe. Keep them happy.  
And you help them find success  
despite their different abilities.

Nancy gets in his face.

NANCY

Tougher than you think! And one  
word from me to my friend, Cindy,  
and you serve six months in the  
cross-bar hotel in Silverthorne.

She storms away, and returns with three students, AMANDA (10)  
with a prosthesis on her right lower leg, LARRY (12) born  
blind, and CRYSTAL (9) who is mentally challenged and very  
shy. Larry wears thick old-fashioned sunglasses.

NANCY (CONT'D)

These are your snowboarding  
students this week. Say hello to  
Mr. Bruner, your coach.

AMANDA AND LARRY

Hello, Mr. Bruner.

Larry and Amanda hold out their arms for a shake. Crystal turns away. Burner shakes the two hands.

BURNER  
My friends call me, Burner.

AMANDA AND LARRY  
Hello, Burner.

NANCY  
Hot chocolate in two hours,  
children. Includes you, Mr. Bruner.

Nancy exits promptly, without turning around. Burner tries to remember their names. He points at each of them in turn.

BURNER  
Amanda, like Amanda Seyfried, what  
a babe. Got it.

Amanda blushes.

BURNER (CONT'D)  
Larry, like Larry the Cable Guy,  
funny as hell, got it.

LARRY  
I'm not funny! Some people are hard  
of hearing. I'm just a little hard  
of seeing.

BURNER  
Nice sunglasses, Larry. Not as cool  
as mine, but still pretty chill.  
And Crystal, like a fine crystal  
bowl of snow. Got it.

Crystal, glances over at Burner, but doesn't speak.

BURNER (CONT'D)  
The basics. Let's go!

Burner struggles to get their boots strapped into their snowboard bindings. The kids fall down often.

Amanda falls and Burner grabs her thin prosthesis. Amanda looks horrified, but recovers quickly. Larry's jacket sleeves keep flailing around. Crystal never makes eye contact with anyone. Everyone is frustrated. No one looks safe or happy.

AMANDA  
This is too hard!

LARRY  
Impossible!

Burner looks over at shivering Crystal, who looks away.

BURNER  
What do you say we call it a day?  
Nancy pokes her head out the cafeteria door.

NANCY  
Who'd like some hot chocolate?  
Burner trudges into the cafeteria with Amanda, Larry, and Crystal dragging their snowboards. Nancy scolds Burner.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
This is not going well. Are you incapable of holding a conversation with anyone who isn't exactly like you, an irresponsible teenager who never grew up?! I'm calling Cindy!  
Nancy storms away. Burner looks around. Right behind him are Amanda, Larry, and Crystal. Burner tries to smile.

BURNER  
Come on, team, the hot chocolate is on me.

LARRY  
You got a load of whoop-ass on you from that lady, that's for sure.

BURNER  
(laughs)  
Who says you're not funny, Larry?  
This fight ain't over yet!

Burner gets them hot chocolates. He puts ice cubes in Crystal's cup. She notices and snarls at Burner.

CRYSTAL  
I like my hot chocolate hot.

BURNER  
Didn't want you to burn yourself.

AMANDA  
I want ice cubes too!

Crystal looks away, then looks back.

LARRY  
Me too, please.

BURNER  
You bums are awfully demanding.  
But, okay.

Burner smiles and fetches more ice cubes and straws. He gets the same set up for himself. Larry hears Burner dropping ice cubes into his cup. It surprises him.

AMANDA  
When did you start snowboarding,  
Burner?

BURNER  
Age four. By the time I was eight,  
I was ripping down the slopes. I  
had great balance.  
(laughs)  
But I was horrible at reading! I  
needed a bookmark for *The Cat in  
the Hat!*

The kids laugh. Burner smiles.

LARRY  
I can read *The Cat in the Hat* with  
my fingers. But I trip down the  
easiest stairs. How come you wanted  
to teach us snowboarding?

Burner's smile disappears.

BURNER  
Truth is, it's community service.

AMANDA  
A punishment?

Crystal looks away. Burner sees her.

BURNER  
Look, I could have lied to you, but  
I didn't.

Silence.

LARRY  
(sadly)  
Are you really an irresponsible  
teenager who never grew up?

Burner looks to the left and right before whispering to Larry, Amanda, and Crystal.

BURNER

Nobody's perfect. I'm new at this adult stuff. Go easy on me, okay?

The kids are silent.

INT. RESORT - DAY

Wei and Lilly Gao and Brian Xu hurry into the high-end resort that Ollie and Sammy work in. A Clerk #2 (25, blonde woman) is registering them with curious glances at the shivering couple.

WEI

Mr. and Mrs. Wei Gao. Darn snow kept us from getting here. Looking for our daughter.

CLERK #2

Shouldn't be too hard to find.

Sammy passes by carrying room-service meals. He sees Wei and Lilly, and races away wildly balancing the trays.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Hui meets with a redneck Patient (50) with the flu. The Patient wears overalls and an NRA T-shirt, under a leather coat. Hui wears a surgical mask.

HUI

You'll have to excuse me. I don't want what you have!

PATIENT

Long as you fix me.

HUI

Commonly, you're going to feel like elephant poop for four to seven days until this passes.

PATIENT

What can I do?

HUI

Isolate yourself. Drink plenty of fluids. Don't pass it on.

The Patient looks at Hui.

PATIENT

Okay, Doc. But what about sex?

HUI

Alone, you're okay. With others,  
you will make enemies.

The Patient laughs as he exits. Hui shakes her head, smiling, confident, and enjoying life.

INT. RESORT - DAY

Sammy hunts down Ollie in a hallway of the resort.

SAMMY

They're here! Doc's parents!

OLLIE

What do we do?

SAMMY

I don't know, but that jerk of a  
private investigator is with 'em.

OLLIE

We could tell 'em that Doc's happy  
here and to leave her alone.

SAMMY

They gotta see it themselves.

OLLIE

They'll be starving if they just  
drove up. Let's let them overhear  
us at the restaurant!

SAMMY

Dressed like this?

They look at each other and sigh.

OLLIE

I know where we could borrow some  
nice threads.

Ollie pulls Sammy by the hand, and they race down the hall.

EXT./INT. HOUSE - DAY

Brian Xu prowls around the dilapidated house rented by Burner, Soccer, Ollie, and Sammy, expecting that everyone is at work. Soccer is in the shower, but the water pressure is so low, Brian can't hear the shower run.

Brian peeks through two windows, snapping a few photos on his phone. He checks the front door handle to see the door is unlocked. He walks in just as Soccer shuts off the water.

BRIAN  
Filthy ski-bums! Slum-dog hundred-aires!

Brian takes photos of the clean home, turns and snaps a photo of Soccer, naked, and holding a baseball bat.

Soccer swings for the stomach and doesn't miss.

INT. RESORT RESTAURANT - DAY

Wei and Lilly are already seated when Sammy and Ollie show up. Ollie is dressed in a fur-lined snowsuit. Sammy is in an oversized knee-length down jacket. Ollie whispers to the Maitre d', a cute friend named SUZI (30), in a black pantsuit and white blouse. Ollie points to the Gao's table.

SUZI  
That them in the prom outfits?

SAMMY  
Traditional Oriental dining-wear.

OLLIE  
Sit us next to them. Coffee for Sammy. Tea for me.

Suzi giggles and whispers as she leads Ollie and Sammy to the table. Sammy plays up his Texas accent.

SUZI  
Where'd you get the threads? Mug a European couple?  
(loudly)  
Mr. and Ms. Gates, right this way.

Sammy slips her a one-dollar bill.

SAMMY  
Thank you, Ma'am.

Suzi palms the tip perfectly. The Gaos only see a flash of the green bill.

SUZI

Oh, Mr. Gates, how generous of you once again. I'll have your regular morning beverages right out.

Ollie and Sammy act rich and stuffy. They speak loudly.

SAMMY

How y'all feeling this morning, darlin'?

OLLIE

Just fine, dear. Thanks to that fabulous new doctor in town.

Wei and Lilly glance over.

SAMMY

Fixed me right up to! Everybody loves her. What's her name?

OLLIE

Dr. Hui Gao. Nothing she or Hui can't cure.

Wei glares at Ollie, but he is polite.

WEI

That's our daughter.

LILLY

She established a practice?

OLLIE

She's subbing for Doc Stevens who's out with the flu, but everybody I know wants her to stay on.

SAMMY

Magnificent healer.

WEI

Where can we find her?

Sammy and Ollie freeze.

SAMMY

Might see her tonight. She's a guest at the resort, of course.

OLLIE  
Top floor, of course.

LILLY  
They love her here?

OLLIE  
Pillar of the community.

Suzi brings coffee and tea to the table, as Wei stands.

WEI  
We must find Dr. Steven's office!

Wei and Lilly hurry out.

OLLIE  
Didn't quite go as planned.

SAMMY  
And, we gotta return these clothes.

They jump up and race out.

OLLIE  
Better call Doc, too!

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Cindy stares at the photos on Brian's phone as he holds a plastic bag of ice to his gut. Soccer comes out of her bedroom dressed for work, in a tight red top and blue jeans. She snarls at Brian, then at Cindy. Cindy ignores her.

CINDY  
On the bus ride from Austin to  
Denver, a passenger really thought  
Hui was a terrorist?

Brian nods 'yes.' Soccer is in a rare, angry mood.

SOCCER  
That's messed up.

CINDY  
She was crying in the next photo?

Brian nods 'yes.'

SOCCER  
That's more messed up.

CINDY

Then we got breaking and entering,  
invasion of privacy, and attempted  
sexual assault.

Brian's chin drops.

SOCCER

Good for ten years?

CINDY

And a registered sex offender if  
you get out at all. Shall I call  
your employer? Mr. Wei Gao if the  
recent call list is any indication.

Brian nods 'no.'

SOCCER

That Doc is a straight shooter. We  
all love her already!

BRIAN

I have photos of Hui drinking Irish  
coffees!

SOCCER

Non-Irish coffees, man! No alcohol.  
She doesn't drink! Me either, now.

BRIAN

I got photos of her wearing a ski  
cap and a princess gown! In the  
snow!

SOCCER

If she gets sick, there's no other  
doctor in town now!

CINDY

I'll download these photos to my  
office computer. Evidence!

SOCCER

Suppose you'll need a formal  
statement from me as well?

CINDY

(whispers to Soccer)  
Yes, my friend.

Cindy winks at Soccer. Brian GLARES at the two women. Soccer  
turns furious.

SOCCKER

Don't you call me your friend. You won't hold hands with me and walk down the street!

CINDY

That's another matter!

SOCCKER

Like hell it is!

Soccer kick's Brian in the ankle, and storms out.

INT./EXT. SKI HILL CAFETERIA - DAY

Burner is in a huddle with Amanda, Larry, and Crystal. They are suited up and ready to go outside.

BURNER

Look, we got a little time left today before my urine test.

AMANDA

That's too much information!

LARRY

I'm betting against ya, big guy!

Burner laughs! Crystal looks the other way.

BURNER

Let's stay positive, stay warm, and stay alive. Tomorrow will be better, I promise!

The four snowboarders trudge to the bottom of the Bunny Hill. Burner has them sit on a snow bank, and put on their own bindings.

BURNER (CONT'D)

Snap in. You got this!

The kids do it. He puts on his bindings and stares across at them.

BURNER (CONT'D)

Arms out a little. For balance.

The three kids comply, though Crystal is a little late.

BURNER (CONT'D)

Think balance and edges. Balance and edges. Ready?

(MORE)

BURNER (CONT'D)

I'm gonna take you the first five feet. Then you go five feet, bend your knees, and fall on your butts. Got it?

ALL

Got it.

He demonstrates, then unbuckles from his bindings, and holds the back of Amanda's jacket and guides her five-feet. She glides a few feet and falls, laughing.

Burner grabs the back of Larry's jacket and guides him five feet, and he falls, laughing.

Burner grabs Crystal's jacket in the back, and she SCREAMS. Onlookers (a few skiers and snowboarders; various ages), turn to look at Burner and Crystal, who is shaking in fear.

Burner's hands shake (like the DT's). He's scared, too.

Nancy leans her head out of the door to the cafeteria.

NANCY

Okay, Mr. Bruner. That's all the time you have for today. Tell the kids good-bye, and send them in.

Amanda and Larry unbuckle their boots. Larry stands first, and holds out a hand for Amanda. She lets him pull her up, and she guides Larry and Crystal to the cafeteria. Crystal is still shaking. So is Burner.

BURNER

See ya, kids. Tomorrow will be better, I promise.

Burner is depressed as he trudges to a nearby bus.

INT. RESORT - DAY

Sammy and Ollie race out of a guests' room. Sammy flips out his phone to call Doc.

SAMMY

Damn. Voice message.

OLLIE

Tell her everything.

SAMMY

Sammy and Ollie here. We were having coffee next to your folks at the resort. Told 'em you were taking over for Doc Stevens, and staying at the resort here.

OLLIE

Tell her about Soccer.

SAMMY

Oh, and Soccer was accosted at home by your creepy private investigator dude, so Cindy hauled his ass down to the station.

OLLIE

Tell her we hope she's having a nice day!

SAMMY

And I think I love you.

Sammy ends the call. Ollie's eyes are huge! She drags him down the hall. Ollie sounds like a TV news reporter.

OLLIE

Here we are at the Dumbest Man In America Contest in Breckenridge, Colorado. The crowd, anxious in anticipation. Wait! Wait! Here's a young man who told a girl he loves her for the first time -- with a voicemail message!

SAMMY

I was nervous!

OLLIE

Bottom of the ninth inning. Will he use a sky-writing airplane or a yellow sticky note to say I love you for the first time? He chooses the seldom-used voice-mail.

SAMMY

I said I was nervous.

OLLIE

Dumb-ass!

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Brian is sitting in the chair next to Cindy's desk. Soccer is behind Cindy glaring at the two of them. Burner trudges in the door and sees them.

BURNER  
(sarcastic)  
Why you two so happy?

CINDY  
Love drug-testing days in my town.

SOCCER  
She loves busting pervs, too.

BURNER  
The private dick is a perv?

SOCCER  
Tried to photograph my ta-tas after  
he broke into your house.

Burner glares at Brian, then Cindy.

BURNER  
Okay, give me my cup to pee in.  
Let's get this over with.

CINDY  
I'll let you use the Breathalyzer  
today. I'm busy.

BURNER  
But those things always read low.

CINDY  
I trust ya.

Soccer hugs Burner.

SOCCER  
Me, too. And Nancy told us all  
about your first day of community  
service.

BURNER  
Probably my last day.

SOCCER  
Not what those kids told Nancy.

CINDY  
They can't wait 'til tomorrow.

SOCCKER

And their parents will be there for videos at eleven-thirty.

BURNER

Videos of what? Me making a fool out of myself and the kids?

CINDY

You got three-and-a-half hours before the show, man.

BURNER

I'd need three and half weeks. Those kids are nothing like me!

Soccer stands and gets in Burner's face.

SOCCKER

They are exactly like you! They are scared to grow up! They got issues, and they got scars. Like you!

Burner's eyes open up.

CINDY

Tell him, girl.

Soccer raises her finger and keeps talking into his face.

SOCCKER

Don't you go crying to a bar with your tiny-ass problems. Look what real people have to face every day!

CINDY

Without a flask!

Cindy hands a Breathalyzer to Burner, who uses it.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Zero.

SOCCKER

Which is where you'll stay until you get your life on track!

Burner turns without saying a word, and starts to leave.

CINDY

(yells)

Don't miss community service or the urine test tomorrow at noon!

Burner storms out.

EXT./INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Wei and Lilly sit freezing in the back of a cab outside the doctor's office. The Cabbie (25), a long-haired snowboarder, grows impatient.

CABBIE

That will be seven-fifty. I'd like to finish early and hit the slopes.

WEI

This is a very small doctor's office, yes?

CABBIE

Yep. Doc Stevens does it all though. I was born here.

LILLY

Born here?

CABBIE

Happens all the time, Ma'am. Or at home. Too far to Silverthorne or Denver. Don't got all day.

WEI

No place for our daughter.

CABBIE

She saved my grandpa's life yesterday.

(beat)

Prune juice!

Lilly laughs. Wei tips a ten-dollar bill, and helps Lilly out of the cab. The cabbie speeds away.

WEI

I hope we can talk sense into that girl.

LILLY

If you upset her, you could lose her forever! Stubborn. Like you!

WEI

I can handle this calmly!

They slip and slide in city shoes on the way into the office.

The waiting room is packed. A Mother #2 (35) is with her Son (12) who is holding his shoulder and arm. An Elderly Woman (70) wearing one shoe and one slipper reads a magazine. A middle-aged couple (50) sits holding their stomachs. The teen with the bad knee is back, smiling. When he sees Wei and Lilly stumble in, he is less happy.

There are groans, but everyone except the Truck Driver, Wei, and Lilly are talkative.

MOTHER #2

I hear very good things about the new Doc. Talk of the town.

ELDERLY WOMAN

(laughs)

Long as she can turn my toes white. What's the matter with your boy?

MOTHER #2

Followed his older brother on a rail at the school. Almost made it!

SON

Did make it. Fell at the end. We'll clip it from the video.

MOTHER #2

You'll have something to watch for the next eight weeks is my guess.

She pats his head, then hugs him. He grimaces in pain.

Hui exits her office, wearing the princess gown, to see her parents in the waiting room.

MOTHER #2 (CONT'D)

Collar bone, I think. Wanta be sure.

Silence. Hui and her parents stare at each other.

HUI

I have patients to see.

WEI

(softly)

You have a family, too. One with a rich cultural history.

HUI

Maybe I would rather be poor, happy, and independent, Papa.

The patients look back and forth at Hui and her parents.

WEI

Abandoning your parents and a well-matched man who wants to marry you...

LILLY

(interrupting)

We just wanted to see that you are safe and happy.

HUI

I am safe and happy here. I'm making friends. Real friends. For the first time in my life.

WEI

Who needs friends, when you have family?

Lilly steps up to hug her daughter.

HUI

(sadly)

I think I do, Papa.

WEI

(still calm)

We hope you return to Beijing with us tomorrow afternoon. You can be married and practice medicine there. You'll be home!

Lilly looks to her daughter with sadness, and her husband with disdain.

LILLY

(sadly to Hui)

If you think you need to abandon us to find joy, we hope you are wrong.

Lilly hugs her daughter one last time, as Wei's chin drops to his chest. Lilly turns and exits the doctor's office. Wei silently follows. Hui has tears in her eyes.

HUI

I sort of ran away from home. Silly right. Twenty-nine, alone, afraid, and I'd never seen snow.

Hui composes herself as the patients look on with pity.

HUI (CONT'D)  
Okay. Who's next? You, with the  
slipper.

Hui guides the elderly lady up into the office.

HUI (CONT'D)  
I'm Doctor Hui Gao. Call me Hui.  
What is bothering you today?

Hui checks her phone for messages as she walks the elderly lady to the office. She sees a voicemail message from Sammy.

INT./EXT. RESORT - DAY

Ollie leads Sammy out of the resort.

OLLIE  
Bad idea. It's getting late.

SAMMY  
One run before the mountain closes.

OLLIE  
Gettin' kinda dark.

SAMMY  
Burner's up there! No worries!

EXT. SKI SLOPES - DAY

Burner shreds a double-black "expert" slope perfectly. Ollie is right behind him on her skis.

Sammy, wearing snowboard gear and a cowboy hat, takes a run on a blue "intermediate slope," but he can't make a turn, and ends up on the double-black run. He cusses and swerves out of control until he hits a tree. BAM!

INT./EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Hui finishes listening to Sammy's voicemail as she sits alone in the empty waiting room. She stands and paces. She straightens her princess gown. She pulls out her phone and types a text message to her parents.

The text reads: "I'm very sorry. I'll be ready to go home tomorrow afternoon."

EXT./INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Two Ambulance EMTs (30s; male and female Mexicans with heavy accents) wheel Sammy on a gurney into Hui, as she waves goodbye to the 17-year-old snowboarder she met yesterday.

HUI

The answer is still no.

She sends him on his way, and races to meet the ambulance. Hui calmly meets Burner and Ollie guiding the gurney.

HUI (CONT'D)

What happened here?

OLLIE

Sammy hit a tree!

EMT #1

We got 0-2 on him to calm him down.

EMT #2

He was cussing up a storm!

BURNER

Found him screaming, holding his right knee, and calling for you.

HUI

Where's his helmet?

OLLIE

Wore his proud State of Texas helmet tonight!

HUI

Not his cowboy hat?

BURNER

Afraid so. His older brother would do the same!

HUI

Bring him into the office.

The EMTs wheel Sammy in, while Hui scolds him.

HUI (CONT'D)

Still want to build a wall Samuel, so these fine Mexican Emergency Medical Technicians won't be there to save your butt next time?

Sammy shakes his head, "No." The EMTs chuckle.

HUI (CONT'D)

Maybe they should have left the  
great white patriot to die, and  
gone to pick your father's crops!

Sammy shakes his head, "No." The EMTs chuckle, again.

Hui rips the oxygen mask off Sammy.

HUI (CONT'D)

This is what we call a "teachable  
moment." Now thank these well-  
trained, underpaid health workers  
for their service!

SAMMY

Thank you very much.

The EMTs transfer Sammy to a chair, and start to exit.

EMT #1

No problem, dude.

EMT #2

Never heard so much screaming.

Hui takes Sammy's blood pressure and pulse, and looks into  
his eyes.

HUI

Thank you for your sweet voicemail.

Sammy is silent.

SAMMY

Don't matter. Going back to Texas.  
Don't belong here. Never did.

HUI

Where do you feel pain?

SAMMY

Head, knee, 'n heart.  
(smiles)  
Sounds like a country-western song,  
don't it?

Ollie and Burner poke around the doctor's office, playing  
with things. Hui continues examining Sammy.

HUI

Samuel, you didn't tell me you had  
an older brother.

Burner and Ollie race to Sammy.

SAMMY  
Died last year.

HUI  
I'm so sorry.

SAMMY  
Fighting ISIS in Afghanistan.  
Martin loved to shred with Burner  
on Christmas Break.

OLLIE  
It's one reason none of us talk  
politics or health.

BURNER  
Understand, Doc?

Hui nods 'yes,' and tries to change the subject.

HUI  
Your eyes look fine, Samuel, but  
we'll treat for concussion. Ice on  
and off for twenty minutes. You'll  
need to try to stay awake and make  
sure your brain works.

BURNER AND OLLIE  
Poker night?

They high-five each other.

HUI  
No alcohol. Now, let's look at the  
knee. We'll need those pants off.

Sammy pops up and starts to strip.

OLLIE  
We'll go pick up some pizzas.

Ollie and Burner begin to leave.

HUI  
Veggie for me.  
(yells)  
Wait! I almost forgot. My parents  
got me a room at the resort. I'm  
going home tomorrow.

Ollie and Burner stop dead in their tracks.

HUI (CONT'D)  
 (sadly)  
 I'm to be married next week.

Ollie and Burner race to hug Hui. She allows it.

OLLIE  
 What about your practice here?

BURNER  
 I don't know what to say.

Meanwhile, Sammy is stripped to nothing but a cowboy hat, and joins in the group-hug. Hui realizes Sammy is naked, and she breaks off the hug.

HUI  
 Samuel, put on that hospital gown immediately.

Sammy complies, while Ollie and Burner burst out laughing.

HUI (CONT'D)  
 Catherine and Cindy will be by to say good-bye, and take me to the resort.

BURNER  
 Maybe it will be a wild night, and you'll have to stay, Doc.

HUI  
 Get lost, you two. We'll be done soon.

Burner and Ollie race out laughing, as Sammy hobbles to the examining table in pain.

HUI (CONT'D)  
 Right knee is swollen. We'll need an MRI when the swelling is down.

SAMMY  
 What's that mean, Doc?

HUI  
 You probably tore your meniscus. No more snowboarding this season.

Sammy smiles. He looks relieved.

HUI (CONT'D)  
 This makes you happy?

SAMMY

More reason to go home. Truth is,  
I've never been any good shredding.  
I love farming. Plowing actually.  
And my parents kinda need me now  
that...

HUI

Your brother is gone. I understand.  
It's good, honest work, Samuel.

SAMMY

But I love the way I'm treated by  
my crew.

HUI

They love you very much.

SAMMY

Even if I can't shred. They  
accepted me as is.

HUI

Me, too.

SAMMY

Exactly. They didn't care.

HUI

They did care. So did you.

Hui turns away.

SAMMY

What?

HUI

That night on the bus ride was the  
closest thing I ever had to a date.

SAMMY

You never dated?

HUI

The way we talked back and forth  
all night was the sweetest night of  
my life. There is nothing wrong  
with dating.

SAMMY

I liked it, too. Fact, I think I  
fell for ya.

HUI

Forbidden fruit sometimes appears  
the sweetest.

(beat)

I'm no psychologist, Samuel, but I  
think you may have been lonely  
after your brother's death. All  
warfare and violence leaves a wake  
of misery.

Hui turns back to see Sammy tearing up.

SAMMY

I really miss my farm and my folks.

They HEAR Burner's horn honk outside.

HUI

Let's go have some pizza. It will  
be our little good-bye party.

INT. RESORT - NIGHT

Wei paces as Lilly tips the Room-Service Delivery Woman (20).  
Two trays sit on the elegant table in their suite.

WEI

Where can she be?

LILLY

Working late? Patients? You heard  
the ambulance.

WEI

Call her. Text her. Do something.

LILLY

I will not push her away again by  
pulling her too close.

Wei looks out the window. He is nervous again.

WEI

It's snowing again!

LILLY

Romantic, isn't it? Come enjoy a  
cup of hot tea with me.

Wei turns with a little smile, then a bigger smile.

WEI

You are the best, Lilly. The best!

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Hui, Ollie, Sammy, and Burner talk quietly at the kitchen table. Sammy has a knee brace on and ice on the back of his head. Three pizza boxes sit in the middle of the table with a deck of cards and poker chips stacked before each player. Ollie has cans of cheap beer next to her plate of pizza, while Sammy, Hui and Burner have hot tea.

Cindy and Soccer burst in the front door with another pizza, a bottle of fake champagne, and beaming smiles.

SOCCKER

Fake champagne, poker, and pizza!  
Burner sober as a judge! Life is  
good, yah man?!

Everyone cheers.

CINDY

Proud of you, Jake.

Everyone laughs and cheers.

OLLIE

Gather around the poker table.  
There are a few other things to  
celebrate tonight.

SOCCKER

Like what?

BURNER

Sammy wiped out into a tree, tore  
up his knee, and is going home to  
be a farmer tomorrow.

The mood turns sullen.

SAMMY

It's true. I'll be back to visit  
though.

They smile! Cindy and Soccer hug Sammy.

BURNER

And Doc's leaving us to get married  
in Beijing.

Cindy is stunned, and everyone is speechless.

CINDY

Wow. Didn't know you were engaged.

OLLIE  
It was implied. By her folks.

Silence.

HUI  
They're happy. I'm happy. But, I'll miss you all very much.

SAMMY  
They never dated. Just dinner parties.

Hui looks away.

HUI  
We do things differently. Different is okay, is it not?

CINDY  
What? Never dated? Even I dated. Just about everyone. Isn't that right, Jake?

BURNER  
(laughs)  
See! Whenever I'm in trouble, they call me Jake or Jacob.

Everyone, except Hui, laughs.

HUI  
I just stopped by to get my things. My parents paid off the people next to them in the resort, so I could sleep there tonight in luxury, safety, and under their watchful eyes.

OLLIE  
Mustn't let anything happen to their precious daughter before her big day.

HUI  
(laughs)  
Or their big day, as the case may be.

Sammy transfers the ice pack to his sore knee.

SAMMY  
Plum crazy if you ask me. Specially after our date.

SOCCKER

You two dated?

HUI

We stayed up most of the night  
talking on the bus ride from Texas.

OLLIE

And that was the date?

HUI

My parents have very conservative  
approaches to these things.  
Arranged dinners. Meetings.

Everyone is stunned. Cindy pours champagne into paper cups in  
the kitchen. They're about to toast. Hui lifts her tea cup.

BURNER

(laughing)

Seriously, Doc. This is Sammy's and  
your good-bye party, and probably  
the only bachelorette party you'll  
ever see!

HUI

I'm fine with tea.

They cheer and toast.

BURNER

Sparkling apple cider?! Yuck!  
That's it for me. Big urine test  
tomorrow!

Everyone laughs. Burner and Soccer join Hui with tea.  
Everyone gathers around for a fun game of poker.

SAMMY

Is this strip poker?

Everyone hits Sammy.

We see the passage of time, as the clock spins around until  
almost midnight.

HUI

Oh my! I've got to get my things  
and get to the resort.

CINDY

I have to get going, too. Work  
night!

OLLIE

I'm crashing. Day off tomorrow. No room cleaning! Yeah!

Burner goes to hug Ollie.

BURNER

This woman is the toughest competitor I know, and she wasn't invited to the Olympics or the X-Games this year!

SOCCER

Girl? You didn't say anything.

OLLIE

(sadly)

Just found out.

There is a group-hug around Ollie.

HUI

Olivia, I'm so sorry.

OLLIE

I'm thirty-four. Had a good run!

CINDY

That's bullshit. What are ya gonna do?

Ollie forces a smile.

OLLIE

Don't know.

(beat)

But I'll think of something.

SAMMY

You could come be a farmer with me?

OLLIE

Sweet, Sammy. I'll think about it.

HUI

Neither of you have ever stayed at the elegant resort you work at. You could both enjoy my suite tonight. Two bedrooms, a full mini-bar, and charge all the room service you can order.

OLLIE

Sounds kinda fun, actually.

SAMMY

We could wear those white bathrobes  
and limp up and down the hall.

BURNER

Hey, what happens in Breck, stays  
in Breck.

Everyone smiles.

CINDY

I could drop Sammy and Ollie off on  
my way home.

HUI

I better go and clear it with the  
registration desk.

BURNER

I'll drive.  
(to Hui)  
Wait. Where will you sleep?

OLLIE

Take my room. Fair trade for the  
luxury of the resort.

SOCCER

(pointing at Burner)  
We'll lock the door, Doc.

CINDY

What happens in Breck...

They all laugh.

HUI

Stop it, you guys!

They all exit laughing.

EXT. RESORT - NIGHT

Hui steps out of the resort with a smile. She gets to the car  
to see Burner in the passenger seat.

HUI

Come on, Jacob. It's late. Stop  
fooling around.

BURNER

You're driving!

HUI  
I don't drive.

BURNER  
You have to drive. I had one sip of  
fake champagne, and you had zero.

HUI  
No. I don't know how!

BURNER  
It's easy. I'll teach you.

Hui looks up to the penthouse.

HUI  
This is crazy. You wanted me by the  
broken window.

BURNER  
I want to give you the confidence  
to face any situation in the  
future! This is your last night in  
the free world! Take a risk!

She gets in the driver's-side door. She is furious!

HUI  
How do you drive this thing?

BURNER  
It's in "P" for park, so you can  
turn on the ignition.

The car starts. Hui's eyes light up. Burner moves over to be  
closer to Hui. Her hands grip the steering wheel tightly.

BURNER (CONT'D)  
Use only your right foot between  
the gas and the brake. Winter, so  
use the brake as a last resort. Let  
the car slow down. Don't grip the  
wheel too tight.

She loosens her grip. Her eyes light up again.

HUI  
Let's do this!

Burner sees her enthusiasm.

BURNER  
Put it in "D" for drive and ease on  
the gas pedal.

Hui guns it by accident, and the car speeds out of the resort driveway.

BURNER (CONT'D)  
Foot off the gas! No brake!

The car slows down and stops. Hui is elated!

HUI  
So exciting! So exciting!

BURNER  
Not so much gas this time. And you haven't mastered turning yet, so pull into the big parking lot below Peak Seven.

From above and at a distance, Soccer and Cindy see Hui pull into a big empty parking lot. Snow is falling. Hui drives around in figure eights, learning to handle the car.

SOCCER  
Doc ain't got no license. You gonna bust her?

CINDY  
I don't see anything.

Cindy and Soccer laugh.

SOCCER  
So glad we followed them! Now, let's go to your place!

LATER

Hui is making giant square turns, using turn signals and arm signals through the broken window, and going in reverse.

Hui practices parallel parking. We HEAR Burner laughing, then they both laugh.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Hui is smiling from ear to ear.

BURNER  
Ready for your test?

HUI  
Test?

BURNER  
Late-night convenient store run for  
munchies. Let's go. Edge of town!

HUI  
(excited)  
Edge of town!

They drive off.

EXT./INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Hui parks well, and they hop out. The Clerk #3 (25), a male with a baby-face, looks nervous as Burner and Hui enter.

CLERK #3  
I don't keep cash.

BURNER  
Don't need any.

HUI  
I have a little cash.

Hui and Burner look around the store, and whisper.

BURNER  
Three-day-old breakfast burrito or  
ice cream. Always a tough choice.

HUI  
Your choice. It's on me since you  
taught me how to drive.

BURNER  
Just trying to impress a girl on  
our first and last date.

Hui stops and stares at Burner. Burner looks over at Clerk #3 who won't take his eyes off of Hui.

BURNER (CONT'D)  
He's been staring at you since we  
got here.

HUI  
Thinks I'm either a Princess or a  
nut-case. I'm used to it.

Hui sees that Burner's hand forms a fist. She looks into his eyes and Burner's fist unclenches. He fakes a smile and waves at the Clerk #3.

BURNER

Idiot! Come on, Doc. I've got  
pancake mix at home!

Burner storms out pulling Hui by the hand.

BURNER (CONT'D)

Gimme the keys.

HUI

They're in the ignition.

BURNER

That dumb-ass!

HUI

A fist fight is the same as a war.  
Violence breeds violence. Idiots  
like that are everywhere. Happens  
every day!

Hui gets in the car. Then Burner does.

BURNER

How do you stand it?

HUI

I meditate and send them love.

BURNER

Lotta good that does!

Burner slams the door on the car, and speeds away.

INT. RESORT - NIGHT

Sammy and Ollie are in white bathrobes, enjoying ice cream  
sundaes from room service, and little bottles of booze from  
the mini-bar. The TV has a raunchy comedy on, playing a bit  
too loudly.

Next door, Wei and Lilly lay in bed with their eyes wide  
open. Wei is about to get up, when Lilly holds out her arm  
for him to lay still.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Burner is in the kitchen frying pancakes. A jar of maple  
syrup heats in a small pan of boiling water. Hui is in the  
family room meditating with closed eyes. She's smiling.  
Burner glances over, bewildered.

BURNER  
Breakfast is ready.

Hui stands. She has the look of peace when she gets to the kitchen table. Burner notices.

BURNER (CONT'D)  
Amazing. Maybe it works.

HUI  
Works for me.

BURNER  
I suppose meditating would do the same for me.

HUI  
Hmmm. Maybe. You should try it.

BURNER  
Try my pancakes. Mom's recipe. Just add water!

HUI  
My kinda woman.

BURNER  
She'd like you. So would Dad. Long as you don't mention me not going to a synagogue.

HUI  
He does not approve.

BURNER  
I always thought religion should be personal. On the inside.

HUI  
It is on the inside. Is there is something wrong with a proud culture showing it on the outside?

Burner pauses.

BURNER  
You've been kind and helpful. You became a doctor to heal all people. Your actions make everyone stronger. But many people wear their beliefs outside, with flags, uniforms, rifles, and hats.

Hui feels her princess gown. She pauses.

BURNER (CONT'D)

Us versus them. I just don't get it! I got in fights in public school when I wore the yarmulke. What's inside is enough for me.

HUI

I will wear what pleases me. My parents teach peace and non-violence. Your parents didn't teach you to punch people. Stop punching people.

BURNER

I will. Humans are slow learners!

HUI

You can't afford to live in Breckenridge on the wages from the deli. Your parents bought you this house, didn't they, Jacob?

Burner pauses.

BURNER

I guess so.

HUI

Then thank them.

Burner looks away.

HUI (CONT'D)

They brought you into this world and made you strong and caring, didn't they, Jacob?

Burner turns slowly, with his head down.

BURNER

Yes.

HUI

Then thank them.  
(beat, angry)  
Now!

Burner pauses.

BURNER

They're asleep.

HUI

Just as you taught me to drive the car, I will teach you how to drive your heart.

(beat)

Call them now, please!

Burner struggles to take out his phone.

BURNER

It's been a while.

HUI

So, it's long overdue. Then, we will celebrate with pancakes.

(beat)

And thank your mother for the recipe!

Burner makes a phone call.

LATER

Burner and Hui stare into each other's eyes across the table, as they eat pancakes. They smile.

INT. RESORT - DAY

We see a beautiful blue sky and sunrise in Breckenridge. Wei and Lilly are dressed and sitting on the edge of the bed, staring at the phone.

WEI

You call.

LILLY

No, you call.

WEI

No, you call.

LILLY

This is silly.

Lilly picks up the phone and dials her daughter's room. Sammy answers the phone, shocking Lilly.

SAMMY (O.S.)

Howdy!

Lilly hears Ollie giggling quietly in the background.

LILLY  
 (appalled)  
 You may both join us for breakfast  
 at the restaurant!

Lilly hangs up quickly. Wei is anxious.

WEI  
 What was that? What do you mean,  
 'you may both join us for  
 breakfast?'

Lilly grabs Wei's hand and begins to lead him out of the room, when the resort bill is slipped under the door. Wei bends down to pick up the bill. He struggles to comprehend the bill as Lilly pulls him down the hall.

WEI (CONT'D)  
 What's this? Room Service for  
 eighty-two dollars? Mini-bar  
 restocked at two in the morning,  
 for sixty-seven dollars?

LILLY  
 Just come with me!

She drags him faster to the elevators.

INT. RESORT RESTAURANT - DAY

Moments after they sit down in the restaurant, Sammy and Ollie poke their heads in, immediately recognizing each other. Sammy, wearing his cowboy hat, is limping.

SAMMY  
 Remember us? I'm Sammy. This is  
 Ollie.

OLLIE  
 Doc let us stay in her room last  
 night. Sweet!

WEI  
 She's not here?

LILLY  
 Thank God!

SAMMY  
 It's her last morning at the  
 doctor's office.

OLLIE

Doc Steven's recovered from the flu and wanted to meet her.

SAMMY

Whole town loves her! That's true!

OLLIE

Gonna hate to see her go.

WEI

I'm Wei. This is Lilly Gao. All the noises in the room were yours last night?

OLLIE

(giggles)

And this morning.

LILLY

Thank God!

Sammy and Ollie sit right down.

SAMMY

Life is great! Steak and eggs for me, Wei.

WEI

There is a small matter of the room service and mini-bar bill.

OLLIE

Nothing but the very best for the only two people who talked your daughter into going back to Beijing, huh?

Wei and Lilly stare at each other, bewildered.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Hui is surprised to see Doc Stevens at the door with a bouquet of flowers and a large envelope.

DOC STEVENS

Well, it's an honor to meet the great mountain physician I've heard so much about.

Doc Stevens throws his arms around her, surprising her.

HUI  
Oh, Doctor.

DOC STEVENS  
I'm sorry, I should have asked  
about handshakes and hugging.

HUI  
(laughs)  
I'm getting used to them up here.

DOC STEVENS  
I've never had so many patients  
call me to tell me how wonderful  
you are. Then, when my grandson,  
Jacob called this morning, I knew  
you must be someone very special.

HUI  
Jacob? Jacob Bruner?  
(beat)  
That's why he takes care of your  
dog.

DOC STEVENS  
And drove me to the hospital in  
Silverthorne. My grandson has the  
biggest heart on the mountain.  
(shakes his head)  
Missing out on the games because of  
some community service gig!

HUI  
Yes, he had a rough day...

DOC STEVENS  
You run along to Peak Nine and see  
how he does teaching those  
youngsters. I'll look after our  
store.

Doc Stevens pushes her out of the office. He shoves the  
envelope into her hand.

HUI  
What's this?

DOC STEVENS  
Read it later.

Doc shuts the door. Hui sees the bus coming and races to  
catch it.

EXT./INT. BUS - DAY

Hui hops on the front of the bus, and finds Ollie racing up to her from the back of the bus.

OLLIE

Sammy and I just had breakfast with your folks at the resort.

HUI

You are kidding, yes?

OLLIE

No. We told them you let us stay there instead of you, and they seemed rather happy about it for some reason.

HUI

Probably because I'm leaving with them this afternoon.

OLLIE

Sammy is getting them snow jackets from the lost and found, so they can see Peak Nine before they go.

HUI

They want to see the snow?

OLLIE

Well, Sammy insists he give them a tour to repay their generosity. They'll be on the next bus.

HUI

What are you doing on the hill today?

Ollie shows Hui her GoPro camera and fake microphone.

OLLIE

I'm gonna pretend to be an ESPN X-Game reporter for the hell of it. Why are you going to the hill?

HUI

To say good-bye to everyone. They're all coming to see Jacob perform his community service with children. Cindy, Catherine, Samuel, you, and Jacob will all be there.

OLLIE

You're saying good-bye to all of us, including Burner?

(beat)

I gotta film this!

INT. SKI HILL CAFETERIA - DAY

Burner has Amanda, Larry, and even Crystal laughing. They are in their snowboard boots standing on couches in the corner of the hectic cafeteria. The kids try to imitate the moves of Burner on the floor in his snowboard boots. Ten Onlookers (various ages and types) are cheering them on. It's all captured by Ollie with a GoPro camera and "fake" microphone, acting as a sports announcer. Hui, Soccer, and Cindy look on from the back of the room.

OLLIE

Here we are folks. It's a beautiful day for the Y-Games here in Breckenridge, Colorado. I've got my GoPro camera with a live feed to every computer and smartphone in the world. I'm your host, Olivia Lee, and it looks like Jake "the Burner" Bruner is racing down the hill with three excellent young shredders: Amanda, Larry, and Crystal.

BURNER

There I was, with a big tree in front of me. I gotta turn left!

OLLIE

They've gotta do something quick or they'll hit that tree!

BURNER

(yells)

Heels!

The kids lean back on their heels without tipping over on the couch. The crowd goes wild with cheering. Sammy limps over and finds Hui in the back of the room. He has Wei and Lilly in tow, wearing ugly, bright, torn snow jackets. Wei and Lilly force smiles as they look on. The smiles on the faces of Sammy, Hui, Soccer, and Cindy are genuine.

OLLIE

They just missed that tree, but there's another tree in front of them. They'd better turn right!

BURNER  
 (yells)  
 Toes.

The kids lean forward on their toes without tipping over on the couch. The Crowd goes wild with cheering.

OLLIE  
 They're in the open! Balanced.  
 They're about to have some fun!

BURNER  
 (yells)  
 Switch!

The three students switch feet with a clumsy hop on the couch, but they don't fall down. The crowd roars.

OLLIE  
 They did it, folks! They are  
 amazing!

BURNER  
 Best snowboarding the cafeteria has  
 ever seen!  
 (beat)  
 Just do the same thing out there!

The students gather around Burner and hug him.

OLLIE  
 That's Jake "the Burner" Bruner,  
 Instructor of the year!

Nancy and Cindy see it all from the back of the cafeteria. Also enjoying the live feed is the PRODUCER (50; high-class winter outfit) of the main X-Games.

BURNER  
 And medium-hot hot chocolate and  
 marshmallows before we go!

The kids yell, "Yeah'!

BURNER (CONT'D)  
 Did you know that marshmallows make  
 me invincible on the slopes?

OLLIE  
 Be sure to tune in about ten  
 minutes for the Y-games Grand  
 Finale on the sketchy Black-Diamond  
 Bunny Hill! This is your host,  
 Olivia Lee signing off for now!

The crowd cheers as the three students head to the cups of chocolate waiting for them at the table.

From a distance, in the other corner of the room Nancy and Cindy SMILE. Soccer and Hui are nearby, cheering.

SOCCKER

Never seen Burner so happy.

HUI

He can be charming.

Soccer and Hui move in closer to Burner, who is smiling at his students.

EXT. BUNNY HILL - DAY

Burner leads Amanda, Larry, and Crystal to the bunny hill. The Crowd grows from the ten people in the cafeteria to thirty people outside, as the audience from the X-Games sees that it's Ollie and Burner. Many are watching the live streaming re-postings from the cafeteria on their *Samsung* smartphones. Crystal grows more nervous.

Wei and Lilly whisper as they follow the limping Sammy to the front of the crowd. Hui stays closer to Burner.

WEI

Hui should be here with us. We're all leaving soon.

LILLY

Let her say her good-byes in her own way. Never seen her this happy.

Sammy shows his phone to Wei and Lilly, where they see Hui's smile.

SAMMY

Oh my God! These kids are gonna be famous!

Amanda, Larry, and Crystal are joined by their Parents (Three couples in their late-30s to match the kids) to hug them before their big exhibition. They pat Burner on his back, as he leads the kids a little way up the slope. Ollie continues her role as ESPN X-Games commentator.

OLLIE

Welcome back, folks. I'm Olivia Lee reporting live for what could well be the greatest single snowboarding event in history.

The Crowd cheers and grows.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

We see instructor Jacob "the Burner" Bruner, the most fearless shredder on the mountain, leading his three protégés, dare I say prodigies, up the perilous Black Diamond Bunny Hill. His students are Amanda, age ten; Larry, age twelve; and Crystal, age nine.

Again, the Crowd cheers and grows.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Amazingly enough, folks, none of these kids snowboarded before this week! It was up to their internal courage and fortitude to brave this difficult winter sport with the help of their encouraging and passionate coach.

Stomping over from the X-Games, is the Producer, who looks angry at the competition. He wears an ear-phone.

PRODUCER

(whispers to Burner)

What the hell is going on over here, Burner? Some kind to pity party for washed-up ex-athletes?

BURNER

(laughs, whispers back)

Just playing in the snow. Stick around if you want to see athletes with real courage!

OLLIE

(announcing)

We're still streaming live, folks. And the biggest producer in winter sports came to enjoy the show!

The Crowd cheers for the Producer, who now waves and smiles. The Producer makes a quick call on his ear-phone.

PRODUCER

Get me a camera over here at the bunny hill! Now!

Burner checks the kids' bindings, then does his own. He moves down the line of kids at eye level: Amanda, Larry, then Crystal.

BURNER

Amanda, you're the leader here. You're a born leader, destined for greatness. Show 'em what you're made of!

AMANDA

I got this, Coach Burner!

Burner slides a little to Larry. He looks at his funky dark sunglasses. Burner pulls a new pair of *Polarlens G7 Multisport Sunglasses* out of his jacket pocket.

BURNER

Larry, I got you a new pair of sunglasses. All the hot-shot shredders are wearing these.

Larry smiles as he switches the sunglasses. He looks up toward Burner's face.

LARRY

Hey, Coach Burner, I think I can see you smiling.

Burner pats him on his helmet, and slides down to Crystal, who is frightened.

He squats down, leans in, and whispers.

BURNER

Crystal, let me give you three great pieces of advice that a philosopher named Soccer taught me.

CRYSTAL

(meekly)

Okay.

Amanda and Larry turn to listen in.

BURNER

One: Treat every day of your life like a toy. Two: Anything worth doing is worth over-doing. And three, when they take your photos afterward, no matter how you do, remember everything worth posing for, is worth over-posing for! Got it?

CRYSTAL

Got it, Coach Burner!

Suddenly, Crystal faints. Burner yells down to Hui.

BURNER  
Doc, come quick!

The crowd gasps. Hui races up the hill. Her parents and Sammy gasp. Hui reaches Crystal and takes her in her arms.

HUI  
She's fainted. Wait. She's coming back.

Crystal sees Burner and smiles. Then, Hui yells.

HUI (CONT'D)  
She's okay. Just fainted.

And the crowd cheers wildly.

BURNER  
She smiled!

HUI  
Crystal, I can walk you down if you don't want to do this.

CRYSTAL  
I gotta learn to treat every day like a toy sometime in my life. May as well be now.

Burner smiles.

BURNER  
Okay, everybody, follow me down the slope, one at a time. Amanda, sing on the way down, so Larry can follow you. Let's go.

Ollie is positioned near the bottom to capture it all.

OLLIE  
They're buckled in, and ready to challenge the sketchy Black-Diamond Bunny Hill! Here comes Coach Burner, showing them how it's done.

Modest applause from the crowd.

OLLIE (CONT'D)  
Now, it's Amanda's turn!

Amanda is slightly unsteady at the start, but she starts singing, "Let's Get This Party Started," and the Crowd goes nuts as she makes her way down to Burner for a big hug. Amanda, smiles, and waves to the Crowd. The Crowd eats it up.

Larry is right behind, a little more unsteady, but the Crowd cheers like crazy. Larry's smile says it all as he hugs Burner, and hams it up for the Crowd, who cheers even more wildly.

We have anxious moments as Crystal hesitates. Crystal begins her run, and falls after two feet. The Crowd gasps.

BURNER

You got this Crystal!

HUI

You can do this!

AMANDA AND LARRY

Come on, Crystal!

The Crowd starts chanting for Crystal. She gets up, and snowboards very slowly down the bunny hill. The Crowd cheers. Then Crystal jumps and rides switch, and the Crowd erupts as she reaches Burner's hug. Hui joins the hug.

OLLIE

Wow, that was the most exciting and rewarding exhibition of amateur sports I've ever seen!

CRYSTAL

(to Ollie)

Anything with doing is worth over-doing.

OLLIE

Why don't you all take a bow?

The Crowd goes wild as the kids over-pose for photos. The ESPN X-Game Cameraman (40) shows up late. The Producer pulls Ollie aside for a little chat.

Sammy limps over and guides Wei and Lilly to Hui, Burner, and the kids and their parents. Brian is with them.

SAMMY

Wait! I want a photo with my crew before I go back to Texas.

Sammy hands Brian his phone. Burner, Ollie, Sammy, Soccer and Cindy pose. Hui stands by her parents.

BURNER, OLLIE, SAMMY, SOCCER, & CINDY  
Hui! Come on! Bring it in!

Hui joins them, smiling big. They all over-pose.

WEI  
Hui, say your good-byes. We have to  
be going.

LILLY  
That was quite an exhibition, but  
yes, we have to go, dear.

BRIAN  
Someone is waiting in Beijing.

HUI  
Still?

BRIAN  
I told him you stayed alone in the  
resort, saw only a few emergency  
patients, and never went out at  
night. And, he will still marry you  
and pay me well.

HUI  
Papa, you didn't hire this private  
investigator to lie?

BRIAN  
Don't be silly. Your fiancé did. He  
will take you back if you beg for  
his forgiveness, and dress more  
conservatively in the future.

Hui turns angry.

HUI  
Tell him this for me.

Hui raises her hand to slap Brian across the face, but she  
doesn't! Still, her parents gasp.

Soccer races up to Hui.

SOCCER  
May I write your story, Doc?  
(beat)  
As a novel.

HUI  
It would an honor, Soccer! I'm so  
proud of you!  
(MORE)

HUI (CONT'D)

But I have to tell my folks  
something first. Please excuse me.

Hui turns to her parents.

HUI (CONT'D)

Soccer is right! All my life, three  
things have been important: our  
family came first, our culture came  
a close second, and our personal  
relationships with others came a  
distant third. I will continue to  
honor them all, but in a different  
order.

WEI

Who is this Soccer?

Burner joins Hui's side.

BURNER

Soccer says personal relationships  
come first. Making people happy and  
healthy. All people. Becoming we.

Hui links her arm with Burner's. The crowd cheers.

HUI

We'll be cultural integration  
pioneers!

(laughs)

Ha! I love it!

BURNER

Soccer says there would be no  
fighting or war if there was more  
love.

(beat)

Teaching everyone something about  
tolerance, two people at a time.

WEI

You both think it's that easy?  
What's gonna happen when your  
parents meet Jacob's parents?

HUI

(laughs)

We'll find out next week!

Burner and Hui kiss softly, respectfully.

The crowd cheers louder than ever. Even Brian smiles.

Hui hugs her parents, who smile for their daughter, and all leave arm-in-arm, chatting and waving to a cheering crowd.

INT. BRECKENRIDGE LIBRARY - DAY

Soccer begins to type a novel into her laptop. We see the title, "Becoming We" by Catherine "Soccer" Ford.

ROLL END CREDITS (with montage)

BEGIN MONTAGE

EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY The sign outside the Doctor's office now reads: "Dr. Hui Gao, M.D."

EXT. RESORT - DAY Burner introduces Hui to his mom and dad (50s, dressed in typical winter wear). Hui wears the princess gown. They all smile and hug.

EXT. SKI SLOPES - DAY Ollie is a TV announcer for ESPN X-Games competition somewhere on a ski slope.

EXT. BUNNY HILL - DAY Burner is in a "staff" jacket, coaching three more developmentally challenged Kids (9-12).

EXT. DONUT SHOP - DAY Soccer and Cindy (in her Cindy uniform) are seen walking down Main Street together, holding hands.

Across the street from Soccer and Cindy, Burner and Hui walk down the street holding hands. Hui is not wearing a princess gown. Instead, she is wearing a snowboarder jacket and pants, a pink knit cap with a fake tiara on top.

EXT. FARM - DAY Sammy drives a tractor. There is the group photo of "the crew," and a single photo of Ollie taped to the rearview mirror. We zoom out to see a snowboard rack and snowboard atop the tractor. As he drives away, we see a bumper sticker: "I 'heart' Mexicans."

END MONTAGE

FADE OUT.

THE END