

"YIYI AND THE WISH HAT"

By

Lin Lin

A NOVEL "YIYI AND THE AMAZING WISH HAT"  
by

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YIYI AND THE WISH HAT

FADE IN:

INT. BLACK PICK-UP TRUCK - DAY

MR. SCARECROW, 35, sits in the driver seat, stares at the roadway ahead.

EXT. DAVID ROAD - DAY

VIVIAN WANG, ASIAN, 30, makes her way across the street.

PHILIP ZUNIK, CAUCASIAN, 16, calls out to her from the sidewalk.

PHILIP

Vivian...

Vivian pauses, glances back.

INT. BLACK PICK-UP TRUCK - DAY - TRAVELING

Mr. Scarecrow presses hard on the gas.

MR. SCARECROW

Goodbye, Miss Wang...

EXT. DAVID ROAD - DAY

Philip walks toward Vivian.

Vivian spots the incoming Pick-up Truck. She pushes Philip out of harm's way.

The truck strikes Vivian, makes no stop, disappears down the road.

Philip crawls to Vivian's side.

PHILIP

Vivian... Vivian...

Vivian lies on the pavement. Blood runs down her forehead.

VIVIAN (V.O.)

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Forgive me, Yiyi. I'm going to be late...

FADE TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY - TRAVELING

YIYI LU, ASIAN , 10, peeks out of a small window.

DIAN SONG, ASIAN, 31, leans over.

DIAN  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Tonight, you will see your mother.

Yiyi beams.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I can't wait. Much taller I have  
grown. She might not recognize me.

Dian caresses Yiyi's head.

DIAN  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
She will be surprised I'm sure. You  
are a big girl now.

INT. HOSPITAL/HALLWAY - DAY

JIMMY WANG, 40, ASIAN, lingers outside of an OPERATING ROOM.

OCLAND ZUNIK, CAUCASIAN, 43, halts next to him.

JIMMY  
She will be alright, will she?

OCLAND  
The doctors are doing their best,  
Mr. Wang. Vivian is a fighter. She  
will pull through this.

JIMMY  
How could it happen, in broad  
daylight? Have they caught the  
driver?

OCLAND  
Not yet, but I will find the one  
who did this to her, trust me.

INT. HOSPITAL/OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Vivian lies on an operating bed.

On a monitor nearby, the section that indicates HEART RATE, a flat line runs across the screen.

A DOCTOR massages Vivian's heart...

FADE TO:

INT. NEWARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY (DUSK)

Yiyi holds on to Dian's hand, scans about the crowded hall.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Where is my mom?

Dian glimpses at her watch.

DIAN  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I'm afraid she's running late.

EXT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jimmy parks his car on Ridge Road, and remains inside the vehicle.

INT. JIMMY'S CAR - NIGHT

Jimmy fishes a check out of his jacket pocket...

INT. HOSPITAL/WAITING HALL - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

OcLand hands Jimmy a check.

OCLAND  
Please accept this, Mr. Wang.

JIMMY  
(gapes at the amount)  
No, this is too much. You are not  
responsible for her accident.

He returns the check.

OCLAND

Vivian is a special friend, not just an employee. She saves my son's life. It's the least I can do for her family.

He pushes the check back.

JIMMY

I appreciate your thoughts, but I can't take the money.

OCLAND

Your mother suffers from Alzheimer's disease, and is currently in a nursing home. Moreover, you have two young children to take care of...

JIMMY

How do you...

OCLAND

Like I said, Vivian is a dear friend. I wish to embrace her family as my own. Do not consider it a payment, think of it as a gesture of my gratitude, Mr. Wang. It would put my mind at ease.

With reluctance, Jimmy takes the check.

OCLAND

(continuing)

I have a small favor to ask. Presently, it might be for the best interest of everyone that you keep her condition to yourself...

INT. JIMMY'S CAR - NIGHT

Jimmy stares at the check.

JIMMY

FIFTY-THOUSAND-DOLLARS...

His cell phone buzzes.

JIMMY

(into phone)

Hello...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - NIGHT

JOYCE YAO, 37, places FIVE TAKE-OUT orders on the kitchen counter.

JOYCE  
 (into phone)  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Where are you?

INTERCUT JIMMY AND JOYCE --

JIMMY  
 (into phone)  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I'll be right in, honey...

Jimmy tucks the check in his jacket pocket.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jimmy enters.

Dian and Yiyi sit on a waiting bench. Two luggage park near their feet.

JIMMY  
 Can I help you?

DIAN  
 (springs to her feet)  
 Are you Vivian Wang's brother,  
 Jimmy?

JIMMY  
 Yes, I am, and you are...

DIAN  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 My name is Dian Song, a good friend  
 of Vivian's. We worked together at  
 the International School of  
 Beijing.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 If you are looking for my sister,  
 she does not live here. I'm afraid,  
 presently, she can't be reached.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Where is my mom?

Yiyi steps forward, looks at Jimmy.

Jimmy gapes at Yiyi.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Your mom...

DIAN  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 This is Vivian's daughter,  
 Yiyi. She said, in case, we miss  
 her at the airport, I should bring  
 Yiyi to your restaurant.

She turns to Yiyi.

DIAN  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Say hi to Uncle Jimmy.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Happy to meet you, uncle. I wish  
 you great health.

She bows.

The sound of a plate CRASHING to the floor startles everyone.

Joyce stands a few paces away. About her feet, scatters large pieces of a broken dish.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 What did I just hear? Vivian has a  
 daughter?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Lower your voice, honey. People are  
 watching.

He picks up the broken dish.

Joyce heaves him to the side.

JOYCE  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Where is that idealistic and  
independent sister of yours? She  
ought to show up and explain  
herself.

About then, several customers stroll in.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Let's talk about it later, honey.

He waves and smiles at the customers.

JOYCE  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
You'd better send the kid away. We  
don't have room for her here.

She glares at Jimmy, strolls away.

Dian walks up to Jimmy.

DIAN  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Excuse me, Mr. Wang. I'm taking a  
connecting flight tonight to LA. I  
have to go now.

EXT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dian gets into a taxi, waves Yiyi goodbye.

The car disappears down the road.

Jimmy glances at Yiyi.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Let's go upstairs.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy leaves Yiyi's luggage by the window.

He fetches a cookie jar from a coffee table, hands it to  
Yiyi.



JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Have some cookies if you are  
 hungry.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Thank you, uncle.

Jimmy's cell phone buzzes.

He glances at the number, ignores the call.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Can you stay by yourself for a few  
 hours? The restaurant is very busy  
 around dinner time. I must go and  
 help your aunt.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Don't worry about me, uncle.

She waves at Jimmy as he strolls away.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Yiyi lies on a sofa, cuddles an empty cookie jar, fast  
 asleep.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

BEGIN DREAM:

INT. VIVIAN'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM (BEIJING) - DAY

Vivian holds Yiyi in her arms. They dance.

VIVIAN  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 We are leaving for the United  
 States, Yiyi. The three of us are  
 going to live together.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Will dad take me to school every  
 morning?

VIVIAN  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Of course, he'd love to.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Will he play with me, and read me a  
 bedtime story every night?

VIVIAN  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 He'd be happy to, I'm sure.

INT. VIVIAN'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tears glisten in Vivian's eyes as she hugs Yiyi tight.

VIVIAN  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Wait for me, Yiyi. I'll come back  
 for you. I promise.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Mom...

END DREAM.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yiyi stirs, sits up, scans about...

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joyce folds her arms before her chest, frowns at Jimmy.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I'm telling you, Vivian must have  
 abandoned her daughter.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Calm down, honey, lower your voice.  
 The kid might hear you.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Hear me? You are Vivian's brother.  
 She didn't even tell you about the  
 (MORE)

JOYCE (cont'd)  
 child. Now, you want me to be quiet  
 in my own home?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Perhaps, she didn't get the  
 chance...

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Didn't get the chance? Yiyi is not  
 an infant, but a ten-year-old  
 girl. Vivian has a whole decade to  
 tell you about her existence. Where  
 is she hiding now?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 She's away, on a business trip.  
 Let's look after the girl for the  
 time being.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Easy for you to say. While you play  
 the part of an awesome uncle, I end  
 up caring for the kid. I'm too  
 tired as is, have no time or energy  
 to raise another child.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 We are all she has in the States,  
 honey. If we don't take care of  
 her, who will?

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 What about Yiyi's father?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 If Vivian has other alternative,  
 she would not send her daughter  
 here, to us.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 We have two kids of our own. Do you  
 know how much it will cost us to  
 raise another one?

Jimmy fishes the check out of his jacket pocket.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Look here, honey. We have money.  
Mr. Zunik, Vivian's employer, gave  
it to us.

Joyce stares at the dollar amount on the check.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

This is no pocket change. Why is he  
being so generous? Are they in some  
kind of relationship?

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

It doesn't appear so...

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

I bet she's not coming back. If I  
have a rich employer who takes an  
interest in me, I wouldn't want a  
child to stand in a way.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Vivian is not an irresponsible  
person.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

People change. Vivian might be  
living in a huge mansion,  
forgetting all about us and her  
daughter.

Yiyi bursts into the room, with tears in her eyes.

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)

No way, my mom would never abandon  
me.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Yiyi...

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Please uncle, let me stay. I know  
she will come. She promised me.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Listen kid, we have no choice.  
 Don't take me wrong. We simply have  
 no room for you here.

Yiyi turns to Joyce, grabs her hand, shakes it.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I'm small. I won't take much room.  
 I can sleep on a couch, or on the  
 floor. Please let me stay.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 It's dinner time, honey. They are  
 waiting for us. Let's discuss the  
 matter later. Yiyi must be hungry.

Joyce loosens Yiyi's grip.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I told you already, we don't have a  
 room for you.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 She can share a bedroom with  
 Allison. They are about the same  
 age, will get along just fine.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 You know how small her room is.  
 Besides, she only has a twin bed.  
 How will the two of them sleep?

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I can sleep on the floor, aunty.  
 Please let me stay. I promise I  
 won't bother anyone while living  
 here.

Joyce shakes her head, sighs.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

MR. ZHANG, 55, MR. WU, 30, MR. HONG, 35, dress in white kitchen staff uniform, ALLISON WANG, 10 and WILLIAM WANG, 8, sit around a dining-table.

Jimmy and Yiyi stroll in. Joyce nips behind them.

MR. ZHANG  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Who is this cute little girl?

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
My sister's daughter, Yiyi, just came from China.

MR. ZHANG  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Come here, sit by me.

Yiyi takes the empty seat next to Mr. Zhang. Eyes train on a chicken dish. She licks her lips.

Mr. Zhang hands Yiyi a bowl of white rice, puts a chicken leg on top of it.

Yiyi smiles at him, and digs in.

ALLISON  
Yiyi, what a strange name.

JIMMY  
Allison...

ALLISON  
I speak the truth. Yiyi, what kind of name is that?

JIMMY  
Be nice to your cousin. She's going to share your room.

ALLISON  
My room, no way! I'm not sharing my room with anyone!

JIMMY  
Allison...

ALLISON  
What about William? She can move in with him.

JIMMY

He's a boy. Yiyi would be more comfortable sharing a room with you.

ALLISON

It's not fair. I don't want a roommate.

JIMMY

Allison...

JOYCE

Let her be. I told you it won't work.

ALLISON

There is a spare room in the basement. She can use that one.

JIMMY

It's too cold.

ALLISON

I don't care!

She slams chopsticks on the table, pouts her lips.

JOYCE

Let her finish the meal.

She glowers at Jimmy, places chopsticks into Allison's hand, strokes her head.

JOYCE

Eat your dinner sweetie, and don't you worry a thing. Mom will take care of it.

Yiyi peeps at Joyce and Allison with envy.

INT. HOSPITAL/DR. MAXWELL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

DR. RICHARD MAXWELL, 42, hands OcLand a cup of coffee.

RICHARD

We moved Vivian to an intensive care unit a moment ago.

OCLAND

When will she wake up?

RICHARD

Hard to say. The operation is difficult, but successful. However, she suffers massive internal injuries, and has slipped into a coma.

OCLAND

Is there a possibility she might never wake up?

RICHARD

That question only God may answer you. I'm just a doctor.

OCLAND

Any change, will you let me know first? I promise her family to look after her.

RICHARD

Of course.

INT. OCLAND'S CAR - NIGHT

OcLand takes out his cell phone, dials a number.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Philip picks up the phone at the first ring.

PHILIP

(into phone)

Yes, father, how is Vivian?

INTERCUT PHILIP AND OCLAND

OCLAND

(into phone)

I'm sorry son. She's dead.

Philip's hand trembles. The phone slips from his grasp.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Philip takes a NOTEBOOK out of the top drawer of a nightstand. His eyes get misty.



INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

Vivian hands Philip a NOTEBOOK and a JEWELRY BOX.

VIVIAN

Will you keep them for me, just in case?

PHILIP

What's wrong, Vivian? Are you in some kind of trouble?

Vivian caresses Philip's face.

VIVIAN

I'll tell you later...

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Philip opens the notebook. A picture of Yiyi falls out. He picks up the photo.

PHILIP

I'm sorry, Yiyi.

A tear runs down his cheek.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yiyi and William occupy a long sofa, watch Disney Channel.

Allison holds up an empty cookie jar, shouts at Yiyi.

ALLISON

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Did you eat all my cookies?

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)

I'm sorry. Uncle Jimmy gave them to me.

ALLISON

(in Mandarin Chinese)

I know you are a troublemaker the moment I saw you, ate my snacks, and now, try to take over my room.

WILLIAM

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Be nice, Allison. She's our cousin.

ALLISON  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Shut your mouth, Stinky. I'm older  
 than you. You are under my command.

William turns to Yiyi.

WILLIAM  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 How old are you, cousin?

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Ten.

WILLIAM  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 When did you born? I mean the exact  
 date.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 January 3rd, 1992.

William turns to Allison, grins.

WILLIAM  
 Our cousin is two months older than  
 you, BIG SIS. Shouldn't you treat  
 her with respect?

ALLISON  
 I respect no tramp, cousin or not.

YIYI  
 I'm not a beggar. My mom will pick  
 me up soon.

WILLIAM  
 Wow, cousin, you can speak English  
 really well.

YIYI  
 My mom taught me. She said I'm a US  
 Citizen, and will return to the  
 United State one day, so I should  
 learn proper English.

ALLISON  
 (snorts)  
 That mother of yours doesn't want  
 you anymore. I overheard my mom  
 saying that to my dad.

YIYI  
No, it's not true!

Yiyi pushes Allison. Allison pulls Yiyi's hair. The two fight.

William squeezes between the girls, tries to break them apart, but unsuccessful.

Jimmy and Joyce come running. They part Yiyi and Allison.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
What's going on? Why do you fight?

Allison cries, storms into her room, slams the door shut.

WILLIAM  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
It's not Yiyi's fault. Allison calls her a tramp, and says her mother doesn't want her anymore.

JOYCE  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
It's already passed the bedtime. Go to your room.

William pouts his lips, saunters away.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jimmy pounds on Allison's door.

JIMMY  
Open up, I order you. OPEN THIS DOOR!

ALLISON (O.S.)  
No, no, no!

JOYCE  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
She's upset. Let her be.

She drags Jimmy away.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joyce sets up the bedding on the living room sofa.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Tonight, Yiyi can sleep on the sofa. It's better than the floor.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

A draft runs through the living room. She might catch a cold.

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)

I don't mind, uncle, really, and I'm sorry. I shouldn't fight with Allison.

Jimmy strokes Yiyi's head.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

You sleep here only for tonight. Tomorrow morning, I'll get you a bed and set it up in Allison's room. She's a bit spoiled, but not a bad kid.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

Bright streetlight pierces into the living room through a large window.

Yiyi tosses and turns, unable to fall asleep. She gets up, fetches A BLUE STRAW HAT from the luggage, and then, lies down, covers her face with it. Before long, she dozes off.

INT. OCLAND'S LAW OFFICE/PRIVATE CHAMBER - NIGHT

OcLand picks up his cell phone, dials a number.

OCLAND

(into phone)

Where are you? You almost hit my son, you fool...

INT. "QUALITY INN" ROOM #264 - NIGHT

Mr. Scarecrow paces about the room.

MR. SCARECROW  
 (into phone)  
 Sorry, boss, he suddenly ran out...

INTERCUT OCLAND AND MR. SCARECROW

OCLAND  
 (into phone)  
 You are lucky my son was not hurt.  
 That woman...? She is in a coma.

MR. SCARECROW  
 If you wish, I can do a clean job  
 this time...

OCLAND  
 Don't bother. Lay low for a while.  
 The cops are looking for you. I  
 want no more trouble, understand?

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY

The SOUND of horn beep...

William glances out of the window, waves at a VAN below.

WILLIAM  
 (shouts)  
 Hurry up, Big Sis. Our ride is  
 here.

INT. ENTRANCE WAY

William grasps one of the satchels leans by the corridor.

YIYI  
 Where are you going? Today is  
 Saturday.

WILLIAM  
 Weekend school. Trust me, you  
 haven't missed a thing.

YIYI  
 What classes are you taking?

WILLIAM

Reading, writing, arithmetic,  
tedious stuff, tell you the truth,  
I'd rather play basketball with my  
friends than being locked up in a  
classroom. Oh, almost forget,  
Taekwondo, that's not too bad,  
comes handy sometimes.

YIYI

What about Allison?

WILLIAM

Piano, very boring, what a big  
waste of money on someone who has  
no talent whatsoever. The only  
reason she takes the class is  
because of a boy...

Allison smacks William on the head.

ALLISON

Shut up, Stinky!

They put on shoes, hurry out of the door.

INT. OCLAND'S LAW OFFICE/PRIVATE CHAMBER - DAY

A knock on the door.

OCLAND

Come in.

The door opens.

MRS. HAYWOOD, 40s, halts at the doorway.

MRS. HAYWOOD

Mr. Travis is here to see you.

OCLAND

Let him in.

ALAN TRAVIS, 60s, saunters in.

Mrs. Haywood steps out, shuts the door behind her.

OCLAND

Please have a seat, Mr. Travis.  
What brings you here?

ALAN

(eases into a chair)

I want to personally confirm that everything has been taken care of.

OCLAND

Of course, your son's case will be closed next week.

ALAN

Excellent, as long as he maintains a clean record, I'm willing to pay anything.

OCLAND

It's my duty to make a VIP client happy.

Alan stands up, pauses at the spot.

ALAN

Almost forget, will you please send my regard to your sister, Christy? I'm deeply sorry about her loss.

OCLAND

She will get over it. Don't worry.

ALAN

What a pity, her husband was a promising young lawyer, only too stubborn for his own good...

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/ALLISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jimmy sets up a folding bed.

Yiyi looks on with knitted brows.

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)

She won't like it. The room is too small to fit two beds.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

She will get use to it.

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Will everyone be happier if I move to the basement, uncle?

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Your mom will be sad if she finds  
out, and I can't allow it either,  
unless, there is no other  
alternative.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/ENTRANCE WAY - DAY

Yiyi greets Allison and William.

Allison tosses her satchel on the floor, storms inside.

William make a grimace.

YIYI  
(whispers)  
What's the matter? She seems mad.

WILLIAM  
Never mind of her. She's my sister,  
but even I can't stand her princess  
temper sometimes.

The sound of glass CRASHING to the floor startles Yiyi and William.

A loud scream follows...

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/ALLISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Yiyi and William hasten in.

A broken fish bowl scatters on the floor.

Allison lies on the bed, holds up her right foot. Blood drips down her leg. A piece of broken glass pierces her sole.

ALLISON  
(cries)  
Call mom, I'm hurt. Mom, I want  
mom...

William runs out in a hurry.

Yiyi freezes at the spot.

ALLISON  
(growls)

(MORE)



ALLISON (cont'd)  
It's all because of your stupid  
folding bed. I hate you! Get out of  
my sight!

Yiyi backs to a corner.

Jimmy and Joyce rush in. William tails behind them.

Jimmy folds up the bed, leans it against the wall.

Joyce wraps a towel around Allison's injured foot.

Jimmy carries Allison in his arms. The whole family heads  
out, leaves Yiyi behind.

Yiyi picks up the broken fish bowl, puts the pieces into a  
waste basket.

As she reaches underneath Allison's bed, Yiyi finds the  
missing goldfish.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Yiyi puts the goldfish in a large bowl filled with water.

YIYI  
Swim, please swim.

The fish floats with its stomach upward.

YIYI  
(cries)  
Please goldfish, don't die...

She fetches the blue straw hat, places it over the bowl,  
prays with all her might...

INT. HOSPITAL/ICU - NIGHT

Vivian lies on a bed, with an oxygen mask over her face.

YIYI (O.S.)  
Would you save the poor goldfish?  
Please, don't let it die...

Vivian's Index Finger twitches...

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yiyi dozes off on a sofa.

Jimmy pats her shoulder.

Yiyi stirs, sits up.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
How is Allison?

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Don't worry. She's going to be  
alright.

Yiyi glimpses behind Jimmy. Face clouds up.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
She doesn't want to come home  
because of me?

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
She just had a minor surgery, will  
remain in the hospital overnight.  
Your aunt is there, taking care of  
her.

Tears glisten in Yiyi's eyes.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Her goldfish is dead.

Jimmy smiles, caresses her face.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
That's an easy fix. I'll get  
another one from a pet store. MR.  
RED HEAD had already outlived its  
expectancy.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Uncle, would you please let me wait  
for my mom here? I can stay in the  
basement if I have to.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 It's too cold down there, even  
 during summer time.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I don't mind, really. I can wear  
 sweaters...

She drags her luggage over, opens it, takes out a couple of sweaters.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Look, my mom knitted them for me. I  
 have plenty to keep me warm.

Jimmy draws Yiyi into his arms. Eyes cloud up.

INT. WILLY'S BAR - NIGHT

CHRISTY ZUNIK, 36, sits at a bar. She empties a glass of gin, taps on the table, signals the bartender to fill it up.

THE BARTENDER, 30s, pours more gin into the glass.

Christy reaches for the glass. A hand snatches it from her grasp. She looks up.

CHRISTY  
 Ha, who is this, my cold-hearted  
 brother?

OcLand slides a HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL across the counter.

OCLAND  
 Keep the change.

BARTENDER  
 (pockets the money)  
 Thank you, sir.

CHRISTY  
 (glares at the bartender)  
 You told him. Nice work, traitor...

The bartender shrugs his shoulders.

OcLand grabs Christy's wrist, drags her away from the bar.

INT. CHRISTY'S HOUSE/CHRISTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

OcLand hands Christy a glass of water.

OCLAND

Drink it, HONEY WATER. It will make you feel better.

CHRISTY

My husband is dead. How can I feel better?

OCLAND

Don't be a fool. He was leaving you anyway. Perhaps, it's a blessing in disguise. A nasty divorce would stain your reputation. Being a grieving widow, you gain sympathy.

CHRISTY

How do you know he's leaving me? I haven't told a soul about it. Don't tell me you were eavesdropping.

OCLAND

There is no secret in the world. You are my sister. Your happiness is always my concern.

CHRISTY

You speak as if you really care.

OCLAND

I'm worried about you, Christy. Move in with us. Cindy and Philip will be happy to have their aunt around.

CHRISTY

Leave me alone. That's all I pray for.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/CINDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Philip reads CINDY, 8, a bedside story.

CINDY

Where is Vivian?

PHILIP  
She's taking a vacation.

CINDY  
When will she be back?

PHILIP  
I don't know. She didn't say.

CINDY  
Will she leave us like mother had  
done so?

PHILIP  
Too many questions, you may never  
fall asleep. Where was I...

He clears his throat, continues with the book.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/CINDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

OcLand opens the door, peeps inside.

Cindy sleeps.

Philip dozes off in a chair nearby.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/VIVIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

OcLand searches the drawers, the bedding, and the mattress.

Vivian's suitcase leans against the wall.

OcLand runs through her belongings...

OCLAND  
Damn it! Where did you hide it?

He sits on the edge of the bed, stares at the mess in  
frustration.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/LIBRARY - NIGHT

Vivian skims through a bunch of case folders in a cabinet  
against the wall.

She takes out a folder marked STONE CASE, snaps pictures of  
the documents inside.

A pen falls out of the folder.

She picks it up, examines it, then pulls the cap off, reveals a MINI-USB...

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

OcLand watches Vivian's every move on a monitor. His eyes train on the mini-USB.

INT. BOOKSTORE/CAFE - DAY

Vivian leaves a large envelope on a table, steps away.

MARC MAPLE, 45, saunters over. He scans about, picks up the envelope...

EXT. BOOKSTORE/PARKING LOT - DAY

A black Pick-up Truck strikes Marc as he walks across the parking lot.

Marc lies on the pavement. Blood runs down his face. His eyes wide open.

Mr. Scarecrow wears a baseball cap and sunglasses, snatches the envelope from Marc's grasp. He jumps back into the truck, drives off.

INT. OCLAND'S LAW OFFICE/PRIVATE CHAMBER - DAY

OcLand opens a large envelope, empties the content. He frowns...

END FLASHBACK.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/VIVIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

OcLand kicks Vivian's suitcase.

OCLAND  
You had it, I saw it. Where is it  
now?

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Yiyi removes the blue straw hat from the bowl. Her eyes widen with amazement.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Uncle...uncle...

Jimmy rushes over.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
What's the matter?

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
The fish, it's alive!

She points at the bowl.

The goldfish swims in the water like an elegant fairy.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Looks like we don't need another  
one after all.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
But yesterday, it was dead.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
It must be a miracle.

He strokes Yiyi's head, smiles.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/ALLISON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Yiyi places a new fish bowl on Allison's desk, drops a teaspoon of fish food into the water.

YIYI  
Thank you for being alive,  
goldfish. Thank you for hearing my  
prayer.

INT. JOYCE'S PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY

Joyce's cell phone buzzes. She glances at the caller's name.

JOYCE  
 (into phone)  
 Hello...

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Jimmy closes the bedroom door.

JIMMY  
 (into phone)  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Please come home, honey. Yiyi  
 agrees to live in the basement.  
 Tell Allison, she may have her own  
 room back.

INTERCUT JIMMY AND JOYCE --

JOYCE  
 (into phone)  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 That place needs lots of work. How  
 are you going to pay for the  
 expenses?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I know a friend. He can give me a  
 good discount. Besides, I have that  
 check...

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 You know how much those after  
 school classes cost me, and you are  
 spending all that money on your  
 sister's daughter?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Don't worry, honey. I will work  
 extra hard. Everything I earn is  
 yours...



INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/VIVIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Philip opens the drawers and closet. They are all empty.

OCLAND

What are you doing here?

Philip turns to the sound.

OcLand stands at the doorway.

PHILIP

Where are her belongings?

OCLAND

I send them back to her family. We have no reason to keep her things.

Philip's face saddens.

PHILIP

Have you found the person who did this to her?

OcLand shakes his head.

PHILIP

What about the license plate? Are you able to trace the owner?

OCLAND

The truck was stolen. I'm doing the best I can, son. You have to trust me on this.

PHILIP

Wish there is something I can do... She died to save me.

OCLAND

I understand how you feel. But her death is not your fault.

He strokes Philip's head.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/BASEMENT - DAY

Jimmy gives Yiyi a tour about the finished basement.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

(MORE)

JIMMY (cont'd)  
I bought you a twin bed. This dresser is a little old, but still usable.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I like it.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I move Allison's old desk and chair here, hope you don't mind.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Look, I have my own fridge too.

Yiyi peeps inside a small fridge, beams.

INT. BATHROOM

Jimmy shows off the renovated bathroom.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
The toilet, shower and sink, they are all new.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Can I really stay here, uncle? No one will send me away, right?

Jimmy nods.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Wish I can get you a better place, a warm room with a great view. But for now, this is all I'm capable of.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Thank you, uncle, for everything.

Yiyi hugs Jimmy.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Don't mind your aunt. She has been through lots of hardships because  
(MORE)

JIMMY (cont'd)  
 of my lacking. That's why she  
 complaints. It has nothing to do  
 with you.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I shall try harder to please her.  
 She will like me in time.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Good girl.

He pats Yiyi's head.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/BASEMENT - NIGHT

Joyce's voice thunders above.

Busy footsteps pace back and forth.

Yiyi looks up at the ceiling.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Aunt Joyce is back!

A smile embraces Yiyi's face as she listens to the noises  
 upstairs.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Several customers saunter in.

Joyce leads them to a table.

JOEY WOODWICK, 45, JASON WOODWICK, 12, BOTH  
 AFRICAN-AMERICAN, enter the restaurant.

Jimmy greets them with a sunny smile.

JIMMY  
 How are you doing, Mr. Woodwick?

Yiyi halts next to Jimmy.

JOEY  
 I'm doing great, my friend. I see a  
 new face. Who is this pretty little  
 girl?

JIMMY  
 She's my sister's daughter, Yiyi,  
 just came from China.

JOEY  
 Yiyi, what a special name, it's  
 really nice to meet you. I'm Joey.  
 This is my son, Jason.

YIYI  
 Hi...

She waves her hand. Jason waves back.

JOEY  
 You know what I like, Jimmy.

JIMMY  
 Of course, the usual, it will take  
 about 15 minutes.

He writes down the order from memory.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Jimmy hands Yiyi a TWO-LITER bottle soda.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Give it to Mr. Woodwick. It's free.

INT. FRONT COUNTER

Jimmy passes a box of food to Jason.

JIMMY  
 Here you go.

Meanwhile, Yiyi holds up a bottle of soda.

JIMMY  
 The beverage is on house.

JOEY  
 Thanks, my friend.

He takes the soda from Yiyi, at the same time, places a tip  
 into Yiyi's hand.

Joey and Jason walk out of the restaurant.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 How much did you get?

She peeps over Yiyi's shoulder.

Yiyi unfolds the bills.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Two dollars.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Not bad. Last time, William got two dollars as well. Most customers don't give a tip when they pick up the food.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Why does he give a tip, uncle? He has already paid for the food.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Tipping is a way of showing gratitude, and in return, we provide the customers with great food and services. However, not every customer is as generous as Mr. Woodwick...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi inserts her tip into a piggy-bank.

William gloats over.

WILLIAM  
 With this money, we can buy some tasty snacks, or go to the movies.

YIYI  
 (shakes her head)  
 No, William. I must stay here till my mom comes. I won't spend it on petty pleasures.

WILLIAM  
 I'm sure dad will cover all your expenses while you live here.

YIYI  
I don't want to be a burden to  
anyone, so don't attempt me.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN' RESTAURANT/BASEMENT - NIGHT

Yiyi holds up the blue straw hat, speaks to it.

YIYI  
Where are you, mom? You will come  
and pick me up, right? I promise to  
be a good girl, make you proud.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - NIGHT

Richard checks Vivian's Patient Chart, while OcLand looks  
on.

RICHARD  
Her condition is stabilized.

OCLAND  
When will she wake up?

RICHARD  
Hard to say, could be weeks, months  
or much longer...

OCLAND  
Can I move her to a private care?

RICHARD  
I don't see a problem with that.

He fishes a business card out of his coat pocket.

RICHARD  
You may call Dr. Parlin in case of  
emergency. He is a good friend of  
mine, currently in private  
practice.

OcLand pockets the card.

INT. OCLAND'S CAR - DAY

OcLand's car parks on the street outside of Eastern Pearl  
Garden.

Jimmy sits in the passenger seat, glances at OcLand's face.

JIMMY  
How is my sister?

OCLAND  
Don't worry. She's alive. We won't know for sure when or if she will come to, but her condition is slowly improving.

JIMMY  
Thank god. I thought something terrible has happened.

OCLAND  
To better care for Vivian, I'm planning on transferring her to a private sanatorium. I hope you don't mind.

JIMMY  
I trust you always have her best interest in mind. Please know that your kindness is very much appreciated.

OcLand hands Jimmy a legal-sized envelope.

OCLAND  
As I said before, I'd love to take care of Vivian until she fully recovers, and I shall be responsible for all her medical expenses during the time.

Jimmy browses through the document.

OCLAND  
(continuing)  
All you need to do is sign your name at the bottom of this sheet. It temporarily grants me the power as her guardian.

Jimmy hesitates for a second, and then, writes his name on the paper.

EXT. OCLAND'S CAR - DAY

Jimmy waves at OcLand as his car pulls away.

Yiyi walks over.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Uncle, Aunt Joyce is looking for  
 you.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Tell her I will be right there.

INT. OCLAND'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

OcLand catches a glimpse of Yiyi through the side mirror. He  
 frowns.

EXT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Jimmy fishes a check out of his trousers pocket.

INSERT - CHECK

"\$100,000" written on the amount line.

BACK TO SCENE

Jimmy gapes at the amount.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

William and Allison occupy a round table near the kitchen  
 door.

Text books and note books scatter about the table.

Yiyi brings over a large plate of sliced oranges.

WILLIAM  
 Father said you had attended the  
 International School of Beijing.  
 Were you a good student?

He takes a slice of orange.

YIYI  
 I earned 95 and above on all  
 subjects last semester.

WILLIAM  
 You mean 95 out of 100?

Yiyi nods.



William's face lights up.

WILLIAM

No kidding! That's awesome, cousin!  
Can you solve this problem for me?

He points at a text book.

ALLISON

So she's lucky, got a few good  
grades. That doesn't mean she's  
smart.

WILLIAM

No offense, Big Sis, the highest  
you have ever scored is a B-.

ALLISON

You shut up!

She tosses an orange peel at William.

William ducks like an agile monkey.

YIYI

Don't fight, please. I will help  
you with the school work.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Jimmy peeps at the kids over a half-sized kitchen door.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Are they fighting again?

She sits at a staff table, browses through a newspaper  
without looking at Jimmy.

Jimmy walks over, takes a seat next to Joyce.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Let's send Yiyi to school, honey.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Her mother should be the one taking  
care of that.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 But she's away. We shouldn't delay  
 her study under the circumstance.

Joyce puts down the newspaper, glares at Jimmy.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 You sound as if she may not come  
 back. Do you know something that  
 you haven't told me?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I would never keep a secret from  
 you.

Joyce turns her attention back to the newspaper.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I'll enroll her for the fall  
 semester if Vivian is not back by  
 then.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I'm also thinking of sending the  
 kids to a Summer Day Camp, all  
 three of them.

Joyce tosses aside the newspaper, glowers at Jimmy.

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Do you know how much that's gonna  
 cost us?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Lower your voice, honey.

He drags her to the side, away from the kitchen staff,  
 fishes a check out of his pocket, shows it to Joyce.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Look, honey. We have money.

Joyce's jaw drops as she stares at the dollar amount.

INT. OCLAND'S LAW OFFICE/PRIVATE CHAMBER - DAY

OcLand opens a top drawer on the left side of his desk, takes out a picture.

INSERT - PICTURE

"YIYI HUGS VIVIAN WITH A SUNNY SMILE ON HER FACE"

BACK TO SCENE

OcLand stares at the picture. Face darkens.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

THREE kitchen staff members, Jimmy, Joyce, Allison, William and Yiyi sit around a long dining table, eat dinner.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Allison, sweetie, your birthday is coming up. We'd like to throw you a party this weekend.

ALLISON

(in Mandarin Chinese)

A party, really mom? For me?

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Of course, this Sunday afternoon, from 2 to 5, the restaurant is all yours. Try to keep the attendance below 35 though.

WILLIAM

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Don't worry, mom. All she needs is one boy -- PATRICK.

ALLISON

Shut your mouth!

Allison gives William an evil glare, waves her fist at him.

Jimmy pokes Joyce under the table.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Honey, we shouldn't spend too much money on a birthday party.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Why not? We always help the customers celebrate their birthdays, but have no time or the budget for our own children. It's not like we can't afford it.

WILLIAM

(in Mandarin Chinese)

Did we hit a jackpot, mom?

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)

If you behave, and not pick on your sister all the time, this year, I might throw you a birthday party as well.

William cheers.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi hangs up a "Happy Birthday" sign across the dining-area.

Joyce blows up colorful balloons.

Chefs set up a long buffet table in the middle of the room.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY (LATER)

YOUNG GUESTS, 5 GIRLS and 13 BOYS, arrive one after another.

Allison's face lights up the moment PATRICK MAXWELL, 13, enters the restaurant.

Yiyi takes a corner seat, looks at the crowd.

William and Jason approach her.

WILLIAM

Why sit here all by yourself, cousin?

YIYI

They are having a good time. I don't want to intrude.

WILLIAM

Intrude? It's a party. Of course,  
you are invited.

JASON

Let's go. We'll introduce you.

WILLIAM

(drags Yiyi into the crowd)  
Excuse me, everyone. This is my  
cousin, Yiyi. She comes from China!

The kids quiet down. All eyes train on Yiyi.

YIYI

(waves her hands)  
Hello...

PATRICK

Nice to meet you!

He steps forward, offers Yiyi a handshake.

Yiyi breaks into a bashful smile.

PATRICK

Branden, come over here! You speak  
Chinese, say Hi to our new friend.

Patrick hails BRANDEN LEE, 12, Asian boy, who stands several  
feet away.

BRANDEN

(steps forward)  
Not Chinese, I speak Taiwanese!

He throws Yiyi a disdainful look.

PATRICK

Sorry, my mistake. I thought  
Chinese and Taiwanese are the same.

ALLISON

(claps her hands)  
Look here, everyone. The buffet is  
ready.

Allison directs the crowd to the Buffet Table. The tautness  
in the air breaks.

Yiyi, Jason and William each takes a plateful of food.

They occupy an empty table near the doorway, across the room  
from where Patrick, Allison and Branden sit.

JASON

Don't mind, Branden. He's a bit strange.

YIYI

Is that so important, being called Chinese or Taiwanese?

WILLIAM

Technically, he's a Half-Blood. His father is a Korean-Born American, owns a big convenience store down the street. His mother, a housewife, was born and raised in Taiwan.

JASON

Who invited him?

WILLIAM

He's Patrick's friend. You know Allison, she would do anything to please her man.

YIYI

We speak the same language, yet, he sounds so cold as if I have done something terrible to him.

WILLIAM

His family is very arrogant. Just because they have some money, they think they are above the rest of us.

JASON

My dad said we are all born equal. No one should look down on another. Treat people nice and they will return the favor.

YIYI

All I want is true friendship, friends who will not abandon you, despise you, regardless of your origin or status.

JASON

I'd love to be your friend.

WILLIAM

Me too, cousin.

They smile at each other.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

A monitor gets set up next to Vivian's bed.

ANDREW PARLIN, 50s, checks Vivian's vital signs.

LORIEN MCCARTHY, 40s, in a nurse uniform, halts next to him.

ANDREW

Any change, call me. Otherwise, I shall come back tomorrow, check up on her.

LORIEN

Yes, doctor.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/ATTIC - DAY

OcLand opens a closet, stores Vivian's suitcase inside...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Patrick, his grandpa HENRY, 75, grandma MARY, 69, enter the restaurant.

Yiyi brings a fresh teapot to the table.

HENRY

I hear you come from China.

YIYI

(nods)

Yes, Beijing, the capital.

HENRY

Ha, the Forbidden City. I had lived there once, long ago. It's a fascinating place, always crowded with people though, especially in restaurants. You can tell, I love good food.

He laughs.

YIYI

What's your favorite Chinese Food, sir?

HENRY

There are too many to mention. Though one dish in particular I can't forget -- Peking Duck.

YIYI

That's my favorite as well! Roasted duck meat topped with spring onion, wrapped in a pancake.

HENRY

And you dip it in some kind of dark brown sauce, a bit on the sweet side.

YIYI

Tian Mian Jiang, it's called, sweet bean sauce.

HENRY

That's right! Nobody makes a duck dish as good as that place. Don't tell Jimmy I said that.

He lowers his voice, winks at Yiyi.

Yiyi grins, nods.

HENRY

We are going to host a barbecue party next Sunday, at my villa. Patrick has invited several of his young friends over, Allison and William included. Would you like to come as well?

YIYI

(glances at Jimmy)  
May I go, uncle?

JIMMY

Of course, go if you want to.

YIYI

(turns to Henry and bows)  
Thank you, sir, for inviting me.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

OcLand places a glass of milk on Philip's desk.

OCLAND

You haven't been sleeping well lately. This will help you relax.



PHILIP  
Still no news of that  
Hit-and-runner?

OCLAND  
I'm doing the best I can, son. It's  
not easy.

PHILIP  
But you know many powerful people.

OCLAND  
I'm not here to discuss that. Mr.  
Maxwell invites us to his barbecue  
party on Sunday.

PHILIP  
I don't feel like going.

OCLAND  
I have already told him we will  
attend. So don't plan anything on  
Sunday.

EXT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/REAR GARDEN - DAY

Yiyi, Allison and William step out of a car.

Patrick greets them.

PATRICK  
Welcome, Let me introduce you to my  
friends.

EXT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/BUFFET TENT - DAY

Patrick ushers Yiyi, Allison and William to the buffet  
table.

PATRICK  
This is Philip and his sister,  
Cindy.

Philip's eyes train on Yiyi.

PHILIP  
What's your name?

YIYI  
Yiyi Lu.

OCLAND

(saunters over)

Yiyi, what a special name... Does your mother have a unique name like yours as well?

YIYI

Her name is Vivian Wang. I don't know if the name is unique or not, but to me, she is the one and only.

OcLand's hand trembles, spills a glass of red wine on his shirt.

Philip glances at his father.

HENRY

Are you alright?

OCLAND

How clumsy of me.

INT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Henry hands OcLand a new shirt.

HENRY

I'll send your shirt to the cleaner. Hopefully, they can get the stain out.

OCLAND

Who is that little Chinese girl? I have never seen her before.

HENRY

You know Jimmy Wang, the owner of Easter Pearl Garden, my favorite Chinese Restaurant? That girl is his niece.

OCLAND

Niece...

HENRY

She's from China, an adorable young lady, isn't she?

EXT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/BUFFET TENT - DAY (LATER)

Yiyi and William sit next to each other, chat and eat.

Philip barely touches his food. He peeps at Yiyi from time to time.

Allison squeezes between Philip and Patrick.

ALLISON

Your grandpa doesn't need to invite Yiyi. She's not really a part of my family you know?

PATRICK

But she's your cousin.

ALLISON

We take her in because she has nowhere to go. She lives in a basement. Our apartment has no room for her.

PATRICK

Where are her parents?

ALLISON

(lowers her voice)

Tell you the truth, her parents have abandoned her...

Philip drops his fork. He steps away from the table.

EXT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/TENNIS COURT - DAY

Yiyi wears the blue straw hat, sits down next to Allison. They watch Patrick and Philip play tennis.

Cindy serves as Philip's ball girl. William serves as Patrick's ball boy. Allison cheers aloud for Patrick.

A tennis ball bounces off the court, strikes Allison. She pouts her lips, switches her seat with Yiyi.

Another ball flies over, hits Allison on the arm. Allison moves behind a protective net...

EXT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/BUFFET TENT - DAY

Cindy, William and several kids sit around the buffet table, enjoy Ice Cream.

Patrick hands Philip a bottle of Spring Water.

PATRICK  
Great game, Philip. You win again.

PHILIP  
You are not bad either, just lack of practice.

He scans about.

PHILIP  
Where is Yiyi?

PATRICK  
She's probably with Allison.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - DAY

Allison drags Yiyi to the waterfront.

ALLISON  
My Patrick lost the game because of you!

YIYI  
I didn't do anything.

ALLISON  
It's your stupid hat, so old and ugly. Patrick said he's distracted.

YIYI  
No, that's not what he said. He thinks it's an attractive hat.

ALLISON  
Attractive my eye...

Allison snatches the hat from Yiyi's head, tosses it into a nearby river.

YIYI  
(runs into the water)  
My hat!

ALLISON  
 There, your punishment for  
 irritating me.

She meanders away.

Yiyi loses her footing. The river carries her down the  
 stream.

EXT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/BUFFET TENT - DAY

Allison unwraps an Ice Cream Cone, about to take a bite.

Philip saunters over.

PHILIP  
 Have you seen Yiyi?

ALLISON  
 She should be back by now...

She scans about. Eyes widen.

ALLISON  
 (continuing)  
 The hat... Oh, no, she didn't...

She drops the Ice Cream Cone.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

The monitor next to Vivian's bed makes an alarming beeping  
 sound.

Vivian's Index Finger twitches.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Yiyi holds on to the brim of the hat, manages to stay  
 afloat.

Water pours into her mouth, splashes into her nostrils.

YIYI  
 Help! Help me!

VIVIAN (O.S.)  
 Hang on, Yiyi. Don't let go.

YIYI

Mom...

A ball of light closes in on her, follows by a loud humming noise.

Yiyi stares into the light.

A speed boat catches up with her. A powerful hand pulls Yiyi out of the water...

FADE TO:

INT. MAXWELL'S VILLA/GUEST ROOM - DAY

Yiyi comes to, beholds Henry's benevolent face.

HENRY

How are you feeling, kiddo? You have given us a quite fright.

YIYI

I'm sorry.

HENRY

You don't need to apologize. We are glad you are okay.

YIYI

(sits up, scans about)  
Hat, where is my hat?

HENRY

Don't worry. It's getting dried at the moment, along with your clothing.

EXT. MAXWELL'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Yiyi caresses the blue straw hat, beams.

Allison glowers at her.

INT. OCLAND'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Cindy falls asleep in the backseat.

Philip glances at OcLand's face.

PHILIP  
Father...

OCLAND  
Yes?

PHILIP  
That girl we pulled out of the  
river this afternoon, Yiyi, she's  
Vivian's daughter.

OcLand peeps at Cindy through the rear mirror.

OCLAND  
Lower your voice.

PHILIP  
You know it, don't you?

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE/OPEN FIELD - NIGHT

OcLand's car parks on the shoulder of the road.

OcLand steps out, strolls into the nearby field.

Philip follows.

PHILIP  
Allison said Vivian has abandoned  
Yiyi. Who is lying, her family or  
you?

OCLAND  
The truth does not matter. You are  
my main concern.

PHILIP  
Me? You lie for me?

OCLAND  
For my children, I would do  
anything.

PHILIP  
Then for my conscience' sake, why  
don't you look after Vivian's only  
child. Wealth, you have plenty.

OCLAND  
How do you know I didn't compensate  
them? Besides, money can't solve  
everything. You have a lot to  
learn, my son.

PHILIP

Vivian gave her life to save mine,  
yet her child lives in a basement.

OCLAND

Her death is an unfortunate  
accident. Some people are born to  
serve and suffer. Some are born to  
thrive above others. It's a matter  
of fate.

PHILIP

Matter of fate? You haven't changed  
a bit, still cruel and selfish.  
That's why mom couldn't stand you.  
That's why she decided to leave  
you.

OCLAND

Leave me? Nobody dares to abandon  
me. If I let them go, it's because  
I no longer need them.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nightmare haunts Philip...

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SAILBOAT/DECK - NIGHT - (DREAM)

JUDITH ZUNIK, 32, leans against the rail, holds a wine  
glass. A ray of moonlight shines upon her. She laughs.

A shadow swims over, picks her up, tosses her overboard.

The wine glass drops onto the deck, shatters into pieces.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Philip stirs, sits up. He turns on the light, looks at  
Judith's picture on the nightstand.

PHILIP

Oh mother, I wish it was only a  
dream...



INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/ENTRANCE WAY - NIGHT

Lorien greets OcLand as he enters.

OCLAND

How is your patient, Ms. McCarthy?

LORIEN

We had a little scare earlier, Mr. Zunik. Her vital signs went wild all of sudden. Fortunately, her condition stabilized shortly after.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

OcLand studies Vivian's peaceful face.

OCLAND

Why do you hang on? Is that because of her, your little girl? I saw Yiyi today.

Vivian's Index Finger twitches...

EXT. DELAFIELD AVE - DAY

Yiyi wears the blue straw hat, ambles down an empty street.

Ahead, THREE LOCAL TEENAGERS beat up an Asian boy. The boy is Branden Lee.

BRANDEN

I don't have any money!

GANG LEADER

Go and get it. Your father has plenty.

BRANDEN

No, I won't steal.

GANG LEADER

Now you are asking for it.

Three teenagers kick Branden as he falls to the ground.

Branden struggles to his feet. He folds his hands into fists, swings at the teens, but misses each time.

BRANDEN  
Back off, I warn you!

GANG LEADER  
What a feisty little Chinese boy.

BRANDEN  
I'm not Chinese!

GANG LEADER  
So what are you then?

BRANDEN  
I'm an American, like you!

GANG LEADER  
Are you kidding me? American, says  
who?

GANG LEADER, 17, knocks Branden down, seizes his throat.

Branden gasps for air.

GANG LEADER  
Obviously you are not one of us. Go  
back to where you come from.

He steps on Branden.

YIYI  
Police officer, someone is fighting  
over there!

The teenagers let go of Branden. They meander away as if  
nothing happens.

Branden gets up, coughs and wheezes.

Yiyi dashes forward, grabs Branden's hand. They take off.

Three teens realize Yiyi's charade, give a chase.

EXT. DEAD END ALLEY - DAY

Yiyi and Branden pound on windows and doors, but no one  
answers.

The teens' shouting gets closer.

BRANDEN  
Why do you have to butt in? Now we  
are both in trouble.

YIYI  
I can't pretend not to see it.  
There must be a way...

BRANDEN  
This wall is too high to climb  
over.

Yiyi's eyes fix on a round metal bucket that leans against a tall brick wall. She opens the cover.

YIYI  
Here, it fits one person inside.

BRANDEN  
You go in and hide. They want me,  
not you.

YIYI  
That's exactly why you should take  
it. They don't know me, and might  
not harm a stranger.

BRANDEN  
(peeps inside, hesitates)  
It looks oily and dirty.

YIYI  
No time to waste, they are coming.

Branden gets inside the bucket.

Yiyi covers the top. She backs to a corner.

YIYI (V.O.)  
Help me, mom. Don't let them see  
me.

She places the blue straw hat over her face.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

The monitor near Vivian's bed makes loud beeping noises.  
Vivian's heart rate accelerates...

EXT. DEAD END ALLEY - DAY

Three teens enter the alley.

The gang leader strolls pass Yiyi.

GANG LEADER  
Where did they go?

RASCAL #1  
Perhaps they climb over the wall.

RASCAL #2  
It's too high. Unless they can fly,  
like that movie CROUCHING TIGER AND  
HIDDEN DRAGON.

GANG LEADER  
Those are actors flying on wires,  
you fool. If that boy knows Kong  
Fu, he wouldn't take punches from  
us, and not be able to fight back.

He taps his fingers on the cover of the bucket.

RASCAL #1  
I have a strange feeling. We are  
being watched.

He scans the surrounding.

Yiyi holds her breath.

The teens gather around the metal bucket, kick it, and peep  
inside through a tiny hole on the top.

GANG LEADER  
Anybody home? Make a sound if you  
hear me.

Three teens laugh. They gesture at each other.

RASCAL #1 sits on top of the bucket, covers the hole with  
his buttocks.

RASCAL #1  
Come on. Beg me, I'll let you out.  
Pretty soon, you won't have air to  
breathe.

INT. METAL BUCKET - DAY

Sweat drips down Branden's face. He gasps for air.

EXT. DEAD END ALLEY - DAY

Yiyi shuts her eyes.

YIYI (V.O.)  
What shall I do?

VIVIAN (O.S.)  
Courage, Yiyi. Do not be afraid...

Yiyi opens her eyes, puts on the blue straw hat, springs out of the hiding.

She pushes the one on top of the bucket to the ground.

Rascal #1 scrambles to his feet, curses.

RASCAL #1  
Who pushed me?

GANG LEADER  
Nobody laid a finger on you.

RASCAL #1  
(scratches his head)  
Someone did.

GANG LEADER  
Let's just find the kid, alright?

They place their hands on the cover of the bucket.

The gang leader's right knee gives away. He drops to the ground, wails.

The two lackeys rush to help him.

One finds himself down on all fours.

The other gets a smack on the head.

RASCAL #2  
(rubs his head)  
What the hell...

RASCAL #1  
(springs to his feet)  
G...Ghost!

GANG LEADER  
Let's get out of here!

They squeal, flee like daunted rats.

Yiyi heaves a sigh of relief. Her eyes skim over a glass window in the wall. Her body freezes.

YIYI

What's going on? I'm not seeing my own reflection...

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Andrew holds a flashlight to Vivian's eyes.

The monitor nearby makes steady beeping sound.

ANDREW

It seems everything has returned to normal.

LORIEN

But her vital signs went wild a moment ago.

ANDREW

As of now, she still shows no signs of waking...

EXT. DEAD END ALLEY - DAY

Yiyi takes off the blue straw hat. Like a work of magic, her image materializes before her eyes.

YIYI

So this is the reason they are petrified. They can't see me.

BRANDEN (O.S.)

(shouts)

Hello, anybody there?

Yiyi hastens to the bucket, opens the top.

Branden's head pops out. Dirt stains his face and clothing.

BRANDEN

Are you alright? What had happened? Where did they go?

YIYI

A dog came and chased them away.

BRANDEN

Dog? But I heard no dog bark.

YIYI

Not every dog barks you know? By the way, my name is Yiyi.

BRANDEN

I know. I saw you at Allison's birthday party. I'm Branden Lee.

YIYI

Branden, I remember you... May I ask you a question? Why do you dislike others calling you Chinese?

BRANDEN

Because I'm not. My mom told me so.

YIYI

Does it really matter whether you are called Chinese or Taiwanese? We speak the same language, share the same culture.

BRANDEN

It's important to my mom, I guess. My country is small, but modern and powerful. She says China is an underdeveloped place. People there are poor and uneducated. I don't want to be mistaken as one of them.

YIYI

But that's not true! I came from China not too long ago. Most Chinese are kind and friendly. They go to school for knowledge and skills. Work hard just like people here do...

BRANDEN

My mom said not to believe the propaganda. It's all a lie.

YIYI

Do you think I'd lie to you?

BRANDEN

I don't know. I have never been to Mainland China before.

YIYI

Can't we at least be friends?  
Doesn't matter where we come from,  
or do for living, we are all here,  
in this country, this town. There  
shouldn't be a condition for  
friendship, is there?

BRANDEN

I need to think about it. I have to  
go now.

He runs off.

Yiyi gazes after him, sighs.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Branden, EDWARD LEE, 40, KATHY JUNG, 35, enter the  
restaurant.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jimmy fries an order of chicken wings.

Joyce peeps at Branden and his parents through a half-sized  
kitchen door.

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Strange, this is the first time  
ever having the family here.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Branden was at Allison's birthday  
party, remember?

JOYCE

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
That must be it. He enjoyed our  
food so much, told his parents  
about us.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
A moment ago, Mr. Lee proposed a  
deal. He'd like to provide weekly  
supplies for us -- fifteen percent  
cheaper than what we are paying  
now.



JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 What a pleasant surprise...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Yiyi makes dumplings at a round table.

Branden takes the seat next to her.

BRANDEN  
 Need help?

YIYI  
 I don't think so. You are our  
 guest.

BRANDEN  
 Alright, just remember I offered  
 it.

YIYI  
 Thank you, Branden.

BRANDEN  
 For what?

YIYI  
 For persuading your father to help  
 us out. My uncle is very pleased  
 about the deal.

BRANDEN  
 I suppose it's a good business for  
 both sides... Am I worthy enough to  
 be your friend now?

YIYI  
 As I said before, no condition is  
 needed for my amity. Nonetheless,  
 I'm happy to gain a friend like  
 you.

They smile at each other.

INT. TAEKWONDO CLASS - DAY

A group of youngsters, ages between 8-13, sit in a ring,  
 amongst them, William.

A MALE TEACHER, Asian, 30, introduces Branden to the class.

TEACHER

Let's welcome our new member,  
Branden Lee.

He claps his hands. Kids follow suit.

Branden bows. He sits down next to William.

BRANDEN

(grins)  
Hello, my friend.

INT. TAEKWONDO CLASS - DAY (LATER)

Branden teams up with William. He places his right hand on William's shoulder.

William grasps Branden's wrist, throws him onto the mattress, afterwards, renders a victorious smile.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Branden brings Yiyi and William each an Ice Cream Cone.

WILLIAM

What's this, a bribe?

BRANDEN

Practice Taekwondo with me, please.

WILLIAM

I don't think so. You have the strength of a girl. We are not on the same level.

BRANDEN

Then help me reach your level. I will buy you an Ice Cream every day, for an entire summer. How does that sound?

William looks at the Ice Cream Cone in his hand, licks his lips.

WILLIAM

Alright, but have to warn you. I'm a strict partner.

BRANDEN

That's exactly what I want, tougher the better.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY (LATER)

William sinks into a chair, pants.

WILLIAM

I have never seen anyone so eager  
to learn, or to get beaten in his  
case. I bet he practices so hard to  
impress a girl.

Yiyi hands him a glass of water.

William drinks the water in one take.

YIYI

Perhaps, he has the need to learn  
how to defend himself.

WILLIAM

(taps his nose)  
Nay, I smell something fishy.

EXT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Kathy carries a PRADA handbag in one hand, a bag of wine in  
another, walks toward a new MERCEDES-BENZ.

A YOUNG MAN, 20s, pushes Kathy to the ground, snatches her  
handbag, jumps into the Benz, drives off.

Kathy's high heels break. Her tight dress rips.

The wine bottle shatters. Red wine spills all over her  
dress.

She screams and curses.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Kathy seats at a table, her face livid with rage.

KATHY

That damn thief, I wish his whole  
family burn in hell!

Joyce brings her a glass of ice water.

KATHY

Do you have a camera installed  
somewhere that might give a view of  
the street outside?

JOYCE  
 Sorry, we don't have a camera.

Yiyi walks over, hands Kathy a box of BANDAGES and NEOSPORIN.

A COP enters the restaurant.

COP  
 Did anyone report a robbery?

KATHY  
 (springs to her feet)  
 Over here, officer...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Jimmy and Joyce sit at a staff table.

Joyce eats sunflower seeds.

Jimmy browses through a newspaper.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 This town is not safe as before.  
 Should we install a security camera  
 just in case?

JOYCE  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 We have 5 adults working at the  
 restaurant. They dare not rob us.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I hope so.

Yiyi steps forward, places her hand on Jimmy's shoulder.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Don't worry, uncle. I will protect  
 you.

Jimmy strokes Yiyi's head, smiles.

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Thank you, Yiyi. You are such  
 comfort.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

William and Yiyi occupy a round table near the kitchen door.

WILLIAM

plays a video game.

YIYI

reads a book THE HOBBIT.

Branden strolls in, takes a seat next to Yiyi.

BRANDEN

My mom is checking out a house in a high-priced community.

YIYI

(puts down her book)  
Are you moving away for real?

BRANDEN

It seems so, but rich people get robbed too. Moving to an expensive district doesn't guarantee security.

WILLIAM

Your mom must be really frightened.

BRANDEN

Woman, always wants the best of everything. That's why the thief picked on her.

YIYI

Is it far, the place you are moving to?

BRANDEN

I'm not going?

YIYI

But kids have to live with their parents.

BRANDEN

Says who?

YIYI

It's the fact. My mom came to the United States to meet with my dad.

(MORE)

YIYI (cont'd)  
 Now I'm here, so that I can live  
 with both of them.

BRANDEN  
 How come you are living with your  
 uncle's family? Where are your mom  
 and dad?

YIYI  
 They are away, for the time being,  
 but soon, they will come and pick  
 me up.

Branden leaps to his feet.

BRANDEN  
 You can't leave!

WILLIAM  
 (perks his brow)  
 Why not? She will move to a nice  
 house and live with her parents.

BRANDEN  
 What if I never get to see you  
 again...

He blushes, runs out of the door.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY (LATER)

Philip enters the restaurant.

Yiyi greets him with a sunny smile.

YIYI  
 Good afternoon, sir. Can I help  
 you?

PHILIP  
 Just one, please. May I have a seat  
 by the window?

YIYI  
 No problem.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Jimmy and chefs play Mahjong.

Yiyi puts the order on the counter.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Uncle, one order of Shrimp with  
 Lobster Sauce Comb.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Jimmy brings the comb dish to Philip's table.

Yiyi takes a nearby seat , steals a glance at Philip.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY (LATER)

Philip finishes his meal.

Yiyi walks over.

YIYI  
 Would you like a free dessert Sir,  
 orange or Vanilla Ice Cream?

PHILIP  
 Which one do you prefer?

YIYI  
 Me? Ice Cream of course.

PHILIP  
 Then Ice Cream it is.

YIYI  
 I will be right back.

She places the bill face down on the table, heads into the kitchen.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY - TRACKING

to follow Yiyi out of the kitchen with a serving of Ice Cream.

Philip disappears.

The bill lies on the table, along with TWENTY DOLLARS.

INSERT - BILL

"YOU MIGHT ENJOY THE DESSERT MORE THAN I DO -- P.Z." printed in a space next to the total amount of \$8.50.

BACK TO SCENE

Yiyi gapes at the money and the note.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/BASEMENT - NIGHT

Yiyi inserts the tip into a piggy bank.

YIYI  
(beams)  
P.Z... Whoever you are, thank you.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi stares at the clock on the wall.

YIYI  
Almost three thirty...

Philips saunters in.

Yiyi's face lights up.

YIYI  
Welcome, sir.

PHILIP  
Did anything good happen? You look so happy.

YIYI  
Yes, because you come back!

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Jimmy places a Shrimp With Lobster Sauce Dish, a bowl of white rice, a serving of Wonton Soup and a Spring Roll on a tray.

JIMMY  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Are you sure you can carry this?



YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Don't worry, uncle. I'll be  
 careful.

She takes the tray.

Jimmy opens the kitchen door for her.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi holds a book, sits across the table from Philip, peeps  
 at him.

PHILIP  
 What are you reading?

YIYI  
 (shows him the cover)  
 THE HOBBIT.

PHILIP  
 That's one of my favorites as well.

YIYI  
 Really? My mom gave it to me.

PHILIP  
 The two of you must be very close.

YIYI  
 Tell you a secret. I can hear her  
 voice sometimes, even though she's  
 not around.

PHILIP  
 Do you miss her?

YIYI  
 (nods)  
 Uncle said she's working on an  
 important project, will return when  
 it's finished.

PHILIP  
 What if the project takes long time  
 to finish?

YIYI  
 I will wait for her no matter  
 what. She promised that she will  
 come back for me.

PHILIP  
Does she always keep her promise?

Yiyi nods.

Philip's eyes get misty. He lowers his glance.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Yiyi scoops up a big spoon of Ice Cream.

YIYI  
I hope he's still there.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Philip places Twenty Dollars with the bill, and then, steps out of the restaurant.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY (LATER)

Yiyi stares at the twenty dollars and the bill, sighs.

The Ice Cream on the plate melts away...

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Philip lies on the bed, stares at the ceiling with a smile on his face.

A knock on the door, OcLand enters.

OCLAND  
Dinner is ready, son.

PHILIP  
I have already eaten. You go ahead,  
father.

OCLAND  
Again...

He frowns.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi ushers Philip to a window table that is set up for one.

PHILIP  
How do you know I will show up?

YIYI  
My sixth sense tells me.

PHILIP  
Does that mean I'm your special customer?

Yiyi nods. She claps her hands.

Jimmy brings Shrimp with Lobster Sauce Combo to the table.

PHILIP  
You remember it!

YIYI  
It's not that difficult. You always order the same dish.

PHILIP  
Still, I'm touched.

YIYI  
Why don't you try something else for a change. We have a wide variety to choose from.

PHILIP  
Someone I liked very much cooked it for me once. The food brings back fond memories.

YIYI  
Who does the cooking in your house, may I ask?

PHILIP  
The maid.

YIYI  
Wow, you must be rich.

PHILIP  
My father is the one with money. I'm just a freeloader.

JOHN LEMAN, 50s, wears dusty construction clothing, enters the restaurant.

Jimmy walks up to him.

JIMMY

How are you, Mr. Leman? Do you want the usual, or prefer something different this time?

JOHN

The usual please.

LEON KAINE, 20s, walks in, halts behind John.

John pays the Take-Out Order with a stack of cash that he fishes out of his trousers pocket.

Leon turns around, steps out.

EXT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/TELEPHONE BOOTH - DAY

Leon halts by a payphone, peeks into the restaurant through a large window.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Jimmy lifts his eyes, spots Leon peeping inside.

JIMMY

It might not be safe carrying so much cash on your person, Mr. Leman.

JOHN

Haven't got a chance to go to the bank yet. Don't worry. It's still daylight.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Yiyi and Jimmy place food containers into a large box.

JIMMY

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I smell trouble.

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
What's wrong, uncle?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 That young fellow lingers by the  
 telephone booth outside, he's up to  
 no good.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 How do you know?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 I can tell by the way he looks at  
 Mr. Leman. He's interested in the  
 man's cash.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Shall we call cops?

JIMMY  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 There is no crime yet. They won't  
 do a thing unless an actual robbery  
 has been committed.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Jimmy hands a box of food to John.

JIMMY  
 Here you go, sir. It's rather  
 heavy. If you like, I can drive  
 you...

JOHN  
 Don't bother. My house is just down  
 the block.

He heads out with the food.

EXT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi watches John stagger down the empty sidewalk.

Leon jumps out, punches John in the face.

The food scatters on the ground.

Yiyi shouts.

YIYI  
 (in Mandarin Chinese)  
 Uncle, hurry, call cops. Mr. Leman  
 is being mugged.

She runs to John, but a strong hand grabs her arm.

PHILIP  
 Stay here, Yiyi. It's too  
 dangerous.

A BLACK CAR with tinted windows pulls over.

Leon snatches John's money, gets into the car.

The car speeds away.

John lies on the pavement, moans in pain.

Philip dashes to a red Porsche nearby. He jumps in, tails  
 after the black car.

Jimmy hastens over, places a white towel over John's wound.

JOHN  
 He takes my money, and he stabs me.

JIMMY  
 I called the cops already. Don't  
 worry, Mr. Leman. They will catch  
 him.

The sound of sirens draws near.

YIYI' P.O.V. - THE BLACK CAR

runs two red lights, almost collides with another car at the  
 intersection. It makes a wide left turn.

The red Porsche speeds up, cuts in front of the black car.  
 Two cars crash into each other.

BACK TO SCENE

Yiyi gapes at the accident site. Tears well up in her eyes.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jimmy chats with a reporter.

The phone rings like crazy.

Joyce picks up the phone, glares at Jimmy, annoyed.

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yiyi's eyes train on the TV screen. She watches Evening News.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Camera lights flash.

OcLand faces a group of reporters.

LUCY CHEN, 30s, thrusts forward a microphone.

LUCY

Mr. Zunik, is that true your son helped catching two robbers this afternoon?

OCLAND

Yes, it's been confirmed, and I'm very proud of my son.

LUCY

Is he seriously wounded in the incident?

OCLAND

The hospital will release a statement concerning my son's condition momentarily. Thank you all.

TWO ASSISTANTS part the crowd, escort OcLand inside the hospital.

LUCY

(turns to the camera)

Philip Zunik, the son of Bergen County Prosecutor, OcLand Zunik, is held as a hero this afternoon for his bravery act...

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Philip's picture displays on the TV screen.

Yiyi gapes at the picture.

YIYI

Philip... Philip... I remember now. Mr. Maxwell's Barbecue Party, yes, he was there...

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - NIGHT

Philip lies on a bed, with his eyes shut. His right arm casts in plaster.

OcLand stares at Philip's face.

OCLAND

Why do you have to be a hero,  
foolish boy? Is that because of  
her, Yiyi?

PHILIP

(opens his eyes)  
It's the right thing to do, father.

OCLAND

You could lose your life!

Philip struggles to sit up.

OcLand places a pillow behind his back.

PHILIP

Vivian lost hers to save mine. Why  
should my life worth more than  
others?

OCLAND

You are my son, my blood.  
Everything I possess belongs to  
you.

PHILIP

But I'm not happy. Mom wasn't happy  
either. Does our happiness mean  
nothing to you?

OCLAND

Happiness is what you build with  
your own hands. I'm not lucky as  
you. My father didn't give me the  
riches. I earn it myself, my way.

PHILIP

A part of that fortune comes from  
my mom's inheritance...

OCLAND

It's fair to say I expand her  
wealth. What does her family have,  
really, other than money? Without  
my reputation, talent, and people

(MORE)



OCLAND (cont'd)  
connections, that father of hers  
could never become a State Senator.

Philip glares at OcLand. His eyes turn watery.

PHILIP  
Perhaps, that's the root of her  
misery. She preferred an  
affectionate husband who would  
spend time with her, shower her  
with attention. Why do you think  
she turned to alcohol for comfort?  
She was lonely and unhappy. She  
needed love!

OCLAND  
That weakness cost your mother her  
life.

PHILIP  
Like always, you never admit your  
own mistake.

The door opens. Christy stumbles in, intoxicated.

CHRISTY  
Philip, my hero, you are famous  
now. Let aunt take a good look at  
you...

She staggers to the bed, cups Philip's face.

CHRISTY  
Who did this to your handsome face?  
Did you?

She hisses at OcLand.

OCLAND  
Go home. You're drunk.

He grabs her arm, hauls her off the bed.

CHRISTY  
I'm perfectly fine, just had a tiny  
bottle of gin. I could hold much  
more...

INT. HALLWAY

OcLand pins Christy to the wall.

CHRISTY

Let go of me! I'm here to see  
Philip, not you.

OCLAND

Enough is enough, Chris. There are  
reporters roaming about the place.  
Don't make a scene.

CHRISTY

Reporters, why should I care? Did I  
kill someone?

OCLAND

(whispers into her ear)

Be careful of what you say. Even  
though you are my sister, I won't  
forgive anyone who steps on my  
toes. Get it?

Terror glistens in Christy's eyes as she beholds OcLand's  
cruel face.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - NIGHT

OcLand caresses Philip's head.

OCLAND

Your aunt is a bit under the  
weather. I'll put her to bed, and  
come back later.

PHILIP

Don't bother. I'm not seriously  
hurt. Besides, you have Cindy to  
take care of.

OCLAND

Alright, I'll come back tomorrow  
then.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

OcLand places a glass of water on the nightstand. His hand  
reaches for the light switch.

CHRISTY  
(sits up)  
Don't shut the light.

OCLAND  
Since when you are afraid of  
darkness?

CHRISTY  
(Eyes train on OcLand's face)  
The day I found out my husband was  
murdered.

OCLAND  
Drink the honey water. You are  
still quite drunk.

CHRISTY  
Howard, he knew his life was in  
danger. It's because of the Stone  
Case...

OCLAND  
(sneers)  
Poor Christy, you'd rather believe  
the words of an estranged husband  
than your own kin? Love has indeed  
blinded your senses.

CHRISTY  
My greed costs the life of a man I  
love, and yours turns you into a  
monster.

OCLAND  
Monster? No Christy, if I'm a true  
monster, you wouldn't have a chance  
to speak those disrespectful words  
to me. The fact is we are the same.  
To us, love means possession.

CHRISTY  
No, he's my world. I'd do anything  
for him.

OCLAND  
Is that why you offered him money  
and a position in the firm?

CHRISTY  
What's wrong with that? He would  
soon become my husband.

OCLAND

You provided him financial support when his father was suffering from apoplexy, in dire need of expensive medical treatment. Back then, you knew he was engaged to another. You knew he did not love you...

CHRISTY

(holds her head up high)  
He left her and married me. He had pledged his faithfulness to me ever since.

OCLAND

You kept his body only, not his heart. No wonder, after 10 years of marriage you are still childless.

CHRISTY

You are wrong! He, he was overwhelmed with work, he suffered some health issues...

OCLAND

Do you know that woman gave birth to his daughter? She's ten years old now...

CHRISTY

Ten... it can't be. She didn't say a word back then.

OCLAND

That's why you couldn't hold on to him. His heart and soul were given to another.

CHRISTY

It doesn't make any sense. Why did she hide the fact that she's carrying his child? If he knew about the baby, our wedding might not have happened.

OCLAND

Perhaps she couldn't give him the things he desired the most at the time.

CHRISTY

What do you mean?

OCLAND

He needed money to cure his father's illness, needed a good job to payback the school loans and support his family. He needed security, a bright future. That woman could give him none of these.

CHRISTY

So she goes into hiding and raises his child by herself...

OCLAND

Perhaps, that's how she chose to honor her love. People like us might never understand.

He turns to leave.

Christy grasps his arm.

CHRISTY

Why did you kill my husband? Don't say it's for my sake.

OCLAND

I didn't. It was an unfortunate accident. He happened to be at the wrong place, and the wrong time...

CHRISTY

Will you get rid of me too, if I stand in your way?

OcLand loosens her grip.

OCLAND

It's late. You should rest. Do me a favor. Don't think too much.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

The monitor near Vivian's bed makes a steady beeping sound.

OcLand gazes at Vivian's face.

OCLAND

Why Howard? You took a job as my personal assistant, moved into my house, looked after my children, and spied on me, all because of him, a man who had once betrayed you...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. OCLAND'S LAW OFFICE/PRIVATE CHAMBER - DAY

HOWARD LU, 33, tosses the STONE FILE onto OcLand's desk. He holds up a Mini-USB.

HOWARD

He admits in his own words that he did it. He forced himself upon the girl.

OCLAND

So what? The Firm's position is to best serve and protect our client's interests. Not guilty is the only verdict we seek.

HOWARD

The victim is only thirteen-years-old. He destroys her life, yet displays not even an ounce of remorse.

OCLAND

Let me remind you, his father is one of the richest men in this country. He's willing to pay a high price for his son's freedom.

HOWARD

Money doesn't give a man the right to trample the dignity of the poor and powerless.

OCLAND

That's the world you dream of, but this is the reality. I suggest you take a break. I shall handle the case from now on.

HOWARD

That's all you are good at -- covering up the dirt.

OCLAND

You should put that heart of yours on my sister more often. It's been ten years. You two are still childless.

HOWARD  
It was a mistake from the  
beginning.

He takes out a resignation letter, drops it on OcLand's desk, and marches out of the room.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Howard looks at Yiyi's picture.

Mr. Scarecrow sits next to him, glimpses at the picture.

MR. SCARECROW  
What a pretty little girl! Your  
daughter?

HOWARD  
(smiles)  
Yes...

EXT. ROYAL PARK (BEIJING) - DAY

At the bank of a lotus pond, Howard beholds Vivian with teary eyes.

HOWARD  
Forgive me, I didn't know. I should  
have looked for you sooner. I'm not  
too late, am I?

Vivian caresses his face.

VIVIAN  
I thought this day would never  
come.

HOWARD  
Ten years, you are always on my  
mind. I don't want to live in  
regret anymore. I'm getting a  
divorce, Vivian. Wait for me. I  
shall return to you as a free man.

VIVIAN  
Would you like to meet Yiyi? She's  
curious about her dad.

HOWARD  
I can't face her just yet. A  
terrible father I am...

VIVIAN

It's not your fault. I didn't tell you about her.

HOWARD

Something important I must do first. I have made too many mistakes in my life. For Yiyi, I want to be a father she can be proud of.

He kisses Vivian on the lips.

Mr. Scarecrow hides behind a tree, takes pictures of the two.

INT. WHITE PAGODA TEMPLE/PRAYING HALL - DAY

Vivian bows to the Golden Buddha Statue.

Howard glimpses at her.

HOWARD

What are you praying for?

VIVIAN

I wish this happiness will last. I'm not dreaming, am I?

HOWARD

Trust me once more, Vivian. I shall come back for you, no matter what.

EXT. WHITE PAGODA TEMPLE/STRAW HAT VENDOR BOOTH - DAY

Howard places a blue straw hat over Vivian's head.

HOWARD

You look beautiful.

He kisses Vivian's cheek.

Vivian blushes.

A MONK passes by. He pauses, glances at the two of them as they stroll away.

MONK

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I'm afraid hardship and sorrow  
shall soon befall that woman...



INT. OCLAND'S LAW OFFICE/PRIVATE CHAMBER (NEW JERSEY) - DAY

Mr. Scarecrow hands a stack of pictures to OcLand.

MR. SCARECROW

This young woman in the photo is  
Vivian Wang, Howard's first love.

OcLand browses through the pictures. His eyes train on a  
photo of Yiyi.

MR. SCARECROW

She's Howard's daughter, Yiyi.

OCLAND

So this is the reason he's getting  
a divorce.

MR. SCARECROW

What do you want me to do, sir?

OCLAND

A traitor deserves no mercy...

He tosses the pictures into a desk drawer.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

OcLand takes Vivian's hand.

OCLAND

What did Howard give you so  
precious that you'd sacrifice your  
happiness, your future, even your  
life...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi glances at a clock on the wall.

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)

I wish you'd come back. I didn't  
get the chance to tell you that I  
do remember you, Philip...

EXT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Philip steps out of a car with his right arm in a plaster cast.

Christy greets him with a warm embrace.

CHRISTY  
Welcome home, my dear boy!

OCLAND  
Your aunt is moving in with us.

Christy glares at OcLand.

CHRISTY  
I only agree to stay here until  
Philip fully recovers.

PHILIP  
Cindy and I would be happy to have  
you around, honest.

CHRISTY  
(caresses Philip's face)  
That's an offer I can't refuse.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/GUEST ROOM - DAY

Christy holds a half-filled wineglass, gazes out of the window.

PHILIP  
Are you alright?

CHRISTY  
(wipes away a fallen tear)  
Don't tell your father. Wine helps  
me relax. I won't drink more than I  
should, promise.

PHILIP  
Do you love him that much, your  
husband? You've changed a lot since  
his passing.

CHRISTY  
Someday, when you fall in love, you  
will understand that feeling -- the  
person you may never have is the  
one your heart forever longs for...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi watches an afternoon GAME SHOW on a flat screen TV.

A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT intercepts the Program.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GATE - DAY

In front of an elementary school, Lucy Chen reports.

LUCY

Around 1:30 this afternoon, a Newark Resident, Robert Harding, guns down his estranged wife, and kidnaps their two children outside of this elementary school...

INSERT - THREE PICTURES

PICTURE# 1 - "A HEADSHOT OF ROBERT HARDING" with shoulder-length curly hair. A scar situates on his right side cheekbone.

PICTURE# 2 - "A HEADSHOT OF ROSE HARDING", girl, 11, with long curly hair down to her waist.

PICTURE# 3 - "A HEADSHOT OF SIMON HARDING", boy, 9, with short curly hair.

BACK TO SCENE

Lucy faces the camera.

LUCY

Robert Harding is believed to be armed and dangerous. If anyone spots the suspect, do not approach him, contact the local police immediately...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi takes a good look at the pictures.

YIYI

(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Why does he do those cruel things to his own family?

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY (LATER)

ROBERT HARDING, 40s, wears a baseball cap and large sunglasses, enters the restaurant.

He circles 3 combo dinners on a Take-Out menu.

Yiyi writes down the orders, while peeps at Robert's scarred face.

YIYI  
The food will be ready in 15  
minutes, Sir.

She heads for the kitchen.

Robert takes a corner seat near the entrance way. He browses at the traffic outside.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Joyce makes House Special Duck Sauce.

THREE CHEFS prepare soups for the dinner opening.

Yiyi approaches Joyce.

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
Aunty, that man out there...

JOYCE  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I'm quite busy right now. Can you  
take care of him?

YIYI  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
That's not it. I saw him on TV...

JOYCE  
(in Mandarin Chinese)  
I don't care whether or not he's a  
celebrity. I have no time for this.  
Your uncle is out delivering, and  
I'm swamped with work. You go  
ahead, make yourself useful.

Yiyi meanders to Chef Zhang, hands him the order.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

The front door opens.

Jason springs inside.

Robert lowers his baseball cap.

JASON  
(shouts and heads for the  
kitchen)  
Yiyi, give me an order of egg  
rolls.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT/KITCHEN - DAY

Yiyi pulls Jason to the side.

YIYI  
(whispers)  
That man out there, I saw him on TV  
this afternoon.

JASON  
Is he a celebrity or something?

YIYI  
Lower your voice. I think he might  
be the guy who kills his wife and  
kidnaps his children.

JASON  
Are you serious? Are you sure?

YIYI  
Not hundred percent, but he looks  
suspicious, also he has a scar on  
his cheekbone, similar to what the  
suspect has.

JASON  
That doesn't prove anything. A scar  
hardly makes one a killer. We need  
something concrete. Otherwise, the  
cops won't take us seriously.

YIYI  
Let's follow him then. He just  
ordered 3 combo dinners. If he is  
the suspect, he will lead us to the  
missing children.

JASON  
I feel like a detective.

YIYI  
Where is your bike?

JASON  
I chain it to a tree in front of  
the restaurant.

YIYI  
Great, his Take-Out Order will be  
ready soon. You wait for me  
outside.

JASON  
What about my egg rolls?

YIYI  
You will have them. My treat.

JASON  
Cool, that's a deal.

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi hands the Take-Out Order to Robert.

Robert grabs the food bag, hastens out of the door.

EXT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

Yiyi wears the blue straw hat, jumps onto the backseat of  
Jason's bicycle.

YIYI  
Let's follow him.

JASON  
Hold on tight.

INT. ROBERT'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Robert drives through two traffic lights, turns left,  
continues down the road.

He enters an one-way street next to a cemetery, follows a  
quiet path to a secluded alley.

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE - DAY

Brushwood envelops an old wooden house -- THREE STORY COLONIAL STYLE BUILDING.

All the glass windows are shattered. The first floor windows are blocked with strips of wooden panels.

A mound of dirt, filled with broken tombstones and withered flowers, litters the backyard.

Robert's car stops right in front of the house.

Robert gets out, scans about, then enters the house.

Jason hides his bike behind a bush. He and Yiyi make their way to the back of the house. They peep inside.

INT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE - DAY

No electricity runs inside the house.

Two long candles sit on a square table.

Robert unties the hands of Rose and Simon. He places food containers in front of them.

ROBERT

Eat. It's your favorite Chinese food.

The kids cuddle together, tremble in fear.

ROBERT

I'm your father. I'm not gonna hurt you.

Rose and Simon look at each other, grab the chopsticks, and dig in.

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE - DAY

Yiyi pulls Jason away from the window.

YIYI

(whispers)

My hunch is right. That man is Robert Harding. Those are the kids he kidnapped.

JASON

Let's go, and report this to the police.

YIYI

You know the area well. You'll go faster without me as a burden. I shall stay here, keep an eye on them, in case something happens.

JASON

It's too dangerous. That guy is a killer...

YIYI

What if he harms the children? What if he leaves before the cops arrive? Let's not argue and waste more time.

Jason dithers for a second, runs off.

Yiyi hurries back to the window, peeps inside.

INT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE - DAY

Robert drinks a bottle of gin. He pets Simon's head.

Simon flinches, dodges his hand.

ROBERT

I'm your father, not a monster.

SIMON

Why did you hurt mom?

ROBERT

She's mine, dead or alive. Foolish woman, she can never run away from me. I always have her on a leash.

He smashes the bottle on the table.

Gin spills onto the floor.

ROSE

Please father, don't hurt us. We promise to be good.

ROBERT

Hurt you? You ungrateful rascals, I feed you, clothe you, this is what you think of me?



He lifts the table, tosses it to the side.

Rose and Simon cuddle together.

Burning candles roll alongside of a bottle of gin. In a flash, the flame ignites the liquor.

Fire races across the floor, climbs up the surrounding walls.

Rose and Simon scream in horror.

ROBERT

(steps on the flame)

See what you make me do? Go upstairs, you little rascals. I'll deal with you later.

Rose and Simon stagger to the staircases.

From above, descends rays of natural light.

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE - DAY

Yiyi backs away from the house.

An old FIRE ESCAPE hangs from the attic to the 2nd floor.

Yiyi leaps up, reaches for the bottom portion of the ladder.

With an easy pull, the ladder comes down.

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE/ROOFTOP - DAY

Yiyi scrambles to the broken attic window.

ROSE

Someone help us!

YIYI

(shouts)

Over here... Come to the window!

Two blackened heads pop up.

Yiyi pulls Simon and Rose out of the window.

YIYI

This way, follow me.

They reach the edge of the roof through a shroud of smoke.

Simon and Rose stare at the shady ladder, hesitate.

SIMON  
I don't think it's strong enough to  
hold our weight.

YIYI  
Go one at a time. It will hold.

Yiyi and Rose clutch to the top portion of the ladder.

Simon eases down.

YIYI  
Now, you go next.

Rose follows Simon down the ladder.

The heat gets intense. Tongues of fire leap out of the  
broken windows. Flame burns through the roof.

The ladder becomes unstable, makes strange noises.

A couple of bolts that secure the top portion of the ladder  
come loose.

YIYI  
Watch out!

EXT. MADISON STREET - DAY

Rose and Simon leap to safety as the ladder crashes to the  
ground.

In the distance, the sound of sirens draws near.

Simon and Rose run to the sound, scream for help.

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE/ROOFTOP - DAY

Heavy smoke stings Yiyi's eyes. She coughs.

YIYI  
Mom, help me, mom!

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Vivian's Index Finger twitches.

The monitor nearby makes loud noises.

Vivian's heart rate accelerates...

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE/ROOFTOP - DAY

Yiyi paces along the edge of the roof.

YIYI

What shall I do, mom?

VIVIAN (O.S.)

Jump, Yiyi.

YIYI

It's too high... I'm afraid...

VIVIAN (O.S.)

Everything will be alright. Trust me...

Yiyi holds on to the Blue Straw Hat, leaps from the rooftop.

EXT. MADISON STREET/SIDEWALK - DAY (DUSK)

A SMALL CROWD gathers about Yiyi.

An oxygen mask places over Yiyi's face.

YIYI

(comes to)

Mom...

FIREFIGHTER

Can you hear me? Are you alright?

Yiyi nods, sits up. She presses her hand over her head.

YIYI

Hat, where is my hat?

A POLICE OFFICER, 30s, steps forward with a blue straw hat in one hand.

OFFICER

Is this what you are looking for?

Yiyi examines the hat, beams.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY (DUSK)

The monitor next to Vivian's bed makes a steady beeping sound. All her vital signs return to normal.

EXT. OLD WOODEN HOUSE - NIGHT

The house crumbles, turns into a pile of smoldering ruin.

In front of the ruin, lies Robert's body, covered under a white sheet.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Philip gapes at TV screen as Yiyi's face appears on the news.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Philip bursts into the room.

OcLand hangs up the phone in a hurry, looks at Philip.

OCLAND

What's the matter, son?

PHILIP

Can I borrow your car?

OCLAND

You shouldn't go out this late.

PHILIP

Did you see the news?

OCLAND

If you worry about Yiyi, she's okay.

PHILIP

She was almost killed.

OCLAND

That kid has some strange luck. Stay away from her might be a good idea.

PHILIP

How can you say that? She's Vivian's daughter.

OCLAND

Your safety is my main concern. Do me a favor, son. Don't see her again.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

HELEN LIBERMAN, 60s, gives a speech to a crowd of LOCAL POLITICIANS, REPORTERS and TOWN FOLKS.

Yiyi stands next to her.

HELEN

A week ago, I lost my daughter to a violent man, and almost lost two grandchildren if not for the bravery of this little girl, Yiyi.

She places her hands on Yiyi's shoulders.

HELEN

(continuing)

She risks her life to save Simon and Rose. Within this ten-year-old child, I see the embodiment of a true hero. It takes more than simple kindness to achieve what she had done.

She draws Yiyi into her arms, hugs her.

HELEN

(continuing)

Thank you, child, for your fearless compassion and incomparable courage. Thank you with all my heart.

The crowd applauds. Camera lights flash.

INT. OCLAND'S LAW OFFICE/PRIVATE CHAMBER - DAY

OcLand strolls to his desk, picks up a newspaper.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

"AN EDUCATION FUND IS SET UP FOR A TEN-YEAR-OLD HERO" emblazoned above a photo of OcLand presenting a \$20,000 check to Yiyi.

BACK TO SCENE

OcLand rolls up the newspaper, tosses it into a waste basket nearby.

INT. "BMW" SHOWROOM - DAY

OcLand gestures at a SUV.

OCLAND

How about this one as your college go away present?

Philip glances at the SUV, displays no interest.

OCLAND

I'm sorry that Porsche of yours is beyond repair. This time I choose safety over style.

PHILIP

I'm only sixteen. All my friends are still in high school.

OCLAND

You pass the entrance examinations, and they accept you as a freshman. I don't see the need to delay the enrollment.

PHILIP

Just pick the one you like. I can care less.

He walks away.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/CINDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Christy sits on Cindy's bed, browses through a photo album. Her eyes fix on a picture.

CHRISTY

Who is this woman?

CINDY

Vivian, she's our governess.

CHRISTY

Vivian...

CINDY

She's Chinese, very pretty. She can cook delicious food, and she taught me Mandarin. I like her a lot.

CHRISTY  
Where is she now?

CINDY  
She's taking a vacation, but she's  
been gone for several months. I  
really miss her...

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/BAR - NIGHT

Christy pours herself a glass of gin.

OcLand marches over, snatches the glass from her grasp.

OCLAND  
How long are you going to do this  
to yourself?

CHRISTY  
Ha, my scary brother, this is my  
first glass, honest.

OCLAND  
Quiet, the kids might hear you.

CHRISTY  
Don't worry. They are all sleeping.

She takes another glass, fills it to the brim, and drinks it  
in one-shot.

CHRISTY  
Tell me the truth, brother. Did you  
have that woman killed?

OCLAND  
What are you talking about?

CHRISTY  
Vivian Wang...

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Philip pauses at the sound of Christy's voice. He presses  
his body against the wall, listens...

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/BAR - NIGHT

Christy fills the glass with gin.

OcLand takes it from her.

OCLAND

You are quite drunk. Go to bed.

CHRISTY

I wish I'm drunk, so that I can erase her image from my mind. Cindy showed me her picture this morning. I recognized her face right away.

OCLAND

She's a caretaker I hired for the kids, that's all.

CHRISTY

Tell me the truth, brother. Did you stage the accident to get rid of her, like you did to Howard?

OCLAND

It sounds you are not only drunk, but quite mad as well.

He drags her away from the bar.

Christy kicks his leg.

OCLAND

Stop it, will you?

CHRISTY

Let go of me. You may fool everyone else, but not me. We are both monsters, remember?

OcLand tosses Christy to the floor.

Christy's head hits the chair. She lies on the ground, passes out.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Horror stirs in Philip's eyes as he watches OcLand carries Christy away...



INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

OcLand places Christy on the bed, tucks her in.

OCLAND

I hope in the morning, you will  
remember none of these.

INT. PHILIP'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Philip turns off the headlights, tails after OcLand's car...

EXT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA - NIGHT

Philip watches OcLand step inside the house.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

OcLand settles into a chair that faces the doorway. He gazes  
at Vivian's peaceful mien.

OCLAND

You're getting better everyday. I  
should be glad, but I'm also  
worried... What shall I do if you  
indeed come to?

The door opens.

Philip steps inside.

OCLAND

Philip...

PHILIP

(walks to the bed)  
Tell me this is not a dream,  
father.

OCLAND

(springs to his feet)  
How do you find this place? You  
follow me...

PHILIP

Vivian, didn't you tell us that  
she's dead? Why do you lie to us?

OCLAND

You should not have come here.

PHILIP

(lifts his eyes)

Are you going to eliminate me too?

OCLAND

You get it all wrong, son. As you see, she's in a vegetable state. I'm trying to save her life.

PHILIP

Save her?

OCLAND

We won't know for sure when or if she will wake up, few months, several years, or perhaps much longer. I don't want my kids to go through the pain of losing her the second time.

PHILIP

Can I trust you, father?

OCLAND

If I want to harm her, I wouldn't keep her here, and provide her with the best treatment available.

PHILIP

Forgive me. I shouldn't have doubted you.

OCLAND

Just remember, son, everything I do is for Cindy and you.

PHILIP

Can I visit her often? It might help speed up her recovery.

OCLAND

What about college...

PHILIP

I will manage my time. It won't hinder my study. I promise.

OcLand frowns, remains silent.

PHILIP

(continuing)

I know how it feels, growing up without a mother. I don't want that child to experience the same agony I have been through, please father...

OCLAND

So it's for Yiyi.

PHILIP

I'm fond of Vivian. She's a dear friend, kind and warm. If anything bad happens to her or her daughter, I'll never forgive myself.

OCLAND

You talk like an adult now. Much you have grown, too fast I'm afraid.

He strokes Philip's head.

OCLAND

(continuing)

Alright, as long as it doesn't encumber your study. Another thing, presently, keep her condition between the two of us. Don't mention a word to Cindy or your aunt, and don't tell Yiyi about her mother either.

PHILIP

Why not? If her daughter visits her often, she might...

OCLAND

It's not the time. Trust me.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Philip opens the top drawer of a nightstand, takes out a jewelry box.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/VIVIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK)

Philip hands Vivian a jewelry box.

Inside contains a crystal necklace.

VIVIAN

Philip!

PHILIP

Give this to your daughter. Her birthday is coming up.

VIVIAN

How do you...

PHILIP

I found out by accident. I didn't mean to intrude on your privacy. If you wish, I won't mention a word about your daughter to anyone, not even my father or Cindy.

VIVIAN

It's very thoughtful of you, Philip. Thank you. Let it be our secret for now.

PHILIP

I hope she'll like it.

VIVIAN

(hugs Philip)

I'm sure she will love it.

INT. OCLAND'S HOUSE/PHILIP'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Philip looks at the jewelry box. His eyes get misty.

PHILIP

I kept mine. Why didn't you keep your promise?

He opens the jewelry box.

The necklace holder pops. Besides the necklace, a MINI-USB FLASH DISK also lies on the floor.

Philip picks it up, studies the item...

INT. "EASTERN PEARL GARDEN" RESTAURANT - DAY

A MAILMAN hands Yiyi a package.

Yiyi opens the package, finds a jewelry box that contains a crystal necklace, also Vivian's notebook.

YIYI  
 (face lights up)  
 Mom...

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Philip kisses Vivian on the cheek.

PHILIP  
 Yiyi is a special girl, smart and courageous. I'll do everything in my power to protect her. I promise.

EXT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA - DAY

Philip hands Lorien a book of newspaper clips and magazine articles that concern Yiyi's heroic deed.

PHILIP  
 Can you read the articles to her once a day? Any change in her condition, let me know at once.

LORIEN  
 Don't worry, Philip. I'll take good care of her.

EXT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Philip's SUV pulls out of the driveway.

INT. CLOUD DREAM VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

A ray of sunlight casts upon Vivian's face. A tear rolls down her cheek.

Vivian opens her eyes...

FADE OUT.

THE END