

"HIDDEN SCENT"

By

Lin Lin

A NOVEL "HIDDEN SCENT"

by

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HIDDEN SCENT

FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Mourners break up. DAVID KIM, 63, Asian, walks up to the widow, VIVIAN HUI, 72, Asian. He bows to her.

DAVID

I'm sorry about Edward's passing.
He's a great friend.

VIVIAN

Thank you for coming, Mr. Kim. My
husband was always fond of your
work, and he left you a gift...

INT. VIVIAN'S HOUSE/LIBRARY - DAY

Vivian hands David a redwood box. David opens it, inside contains a set of Art Paint Brushes.

VIVIAN

Edward admired your talent, Mr.
Kim. He'd love you to start
painting again.

A note rests on top of the brushes.

INSERT - NOTE

"BELIEVE IN ITS POWER. YOUR DEAREST WISH MAY COME TRUE -
EDWARD"

BACK TO SCENE

David reads the note. His eyes get misty...

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

An easel holding Melane's portrait stands in the middle of a
commodious room. The painting is near completion.

David hovers over a table nearby, dozes off.

MELANE (O.S.)

David... David...

David stirs.

DAVID
Melane...

He scans about the empty room, sighs.

INT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/PRAYING HALL - DAY

David bows to MASTER SINGYUN, 70s, Asian.

MASTER SINGYUN
(returns a bow)
You look worse than the last time I
saw you, Mr. Kim. The Yin Qi around
you is getting stronger.

He fetches a green jade amulet from his sleeve pocket.

MASTER SINGYUN
(continuing)
Take this talisman, Mr. Kim.
Hopefully, it will reverse your
fortune.

David does not take it.

DAVID
My fortune has already turned,
Master. I start painting again, and
last night, she visited me in my
sleep.

MASTER SINGYUN
You mean...

DAVID
Yes, Melane.

MASTER SINGYUN
Be careful of what you wish for,
Mr. Kim. The return of the dead may
not be a good sign.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/DAVID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A woman's voice chants.

MELANE (O.S.)
David... David...

David opens his eyes.

Melane halts a few steps away, with a soft glow about her.

David gets out of the bed, walks toward her...

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

Melane treads on the face of water.

David follows her into the lake, and soon, submerges.

Air bubbles rise to the top. A moment later, peacefulness resumes.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

FRANK SONG, 62, Asian, lifts a white sheet. He peeps at the body. Tears glisten in his eyes.

INT. FRANK'S CAR - DAY

Frank dials Yang's number with his Smart Phone.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/STUDY - DAY

YANG KIM, 28, picks up the phone.

YANG
(answers)
What's up, Frank?

INTERCUT Yang and Frank.

FRANK
(into phone)
I have bad news, Yang. Your father,
he is dead.

YANG
Dead... How?

FRANK
Drowning, it's an accident.

For a long moment, Yang does not speak.

FRANK
Yang, Yang, are you there? Are you
listening?

YANG
Have you related the news to my
mother?

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

JENNIFER PARK, 58, Asian, holds a half-filled wineglass,
strolls to an answer machine. She presses the play button.

FRANK (V.O.)
(over answer machine,
filtered)
Jennifer, it's me, Frank. David is
dead...

Jennifer drops the wineglass.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Jennifer slaps David across the face.

JENNIFER
Snap out of it, you fool. She's
married with a child.

DAVID
I love Melane. Let me go, Jen. It's
useless to hold on to an empty
shell when my heart is no longer
with you.

JENNIFER
What about Yang, our son? He needs
his father!

DAVID
One day, I will ask him for
forgiveness.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer picks up the phone, dials Yang's number.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/STUDY - DAY

Yang's smart phone buzzes. He glances at the caller's name.

YANG
 (answers)
 Yes, mother.

INTERCUT Yang and Jennifer.

JENNIFER
 (into phone)
 Have you heard? Your father, he's
 dead!

YANG
 It's yesterday's news, mom. Will
 you attend his funeral?

JENNIFER
 We did not end on a good term. You
 know that. To me, he's a mere
 stranger.

YANG
 Sorry I asked.

JENNIFER
 You are different, Yang. You have
 no excuse not to go. As his only
 child, you should at least show
 your face.

YANG
 I'm tired of pretending, mother.
 Can't we be honest about our
 feelings for once?

JENNIFER
 He's a well known artist, Yang.
 Think of his image...

YANG
 I'm just a son he abandoned long
 ago. Why should I mourn for him?

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

ELLIN YOON, 22, Asian, sleeps.

Frank and SANDY MAZE, the housekeeper, 50s, halt by her
 bedside, whisper to each other.

SANDY
 I found her wandering in the garden
 late last night.

FRANK
Did she sleepwalk again?

SANDY
She insists that she saw her
mother.

FRANK
Her mother, Melane, died 15 years
ago, unless she saw a ghost.

Ellin wakes.

ELLIN
Frank, When did you come?

FRANK
Just now...
(sits down on the edge of the
bed)
I have bad news, Ellin. David is
dead.

Ellin gapes at Frank. Tears well up in her eyes.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The window opens wide. Wind blows against a long curtain.

Yang lies on a sofa, watches an old home video...

EXT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/GARDEN - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

David lifts YANG, A TODDLER, upon his shoulders. He runs
about the garden, makes the sound of a choo choo train.

Yang screams and laughs.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY (DAWN)

Yang presses the rewind button as he coughs.

EXT. YANG'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Yang strolls to a red sports car.

SISI SONG, 21, Asian, wears a tight black dress, jumps out
of the driver seat. She embraces Yang.

YANG

Loosen your grip, young lady.
You're killing me.

SISI

(releases him)

That won't do. You need to be alive
to attend your father's funeral.

YANG

How much did Frank pay you to
escort me there?

SISI

My dad is a generous man. As you
see, enough to purchase an
expensive outfit.

(leans forward, measures
Yang's face)

You don't look so hot.

YANG

(coughs)

Nothing a good rest won't cure.

SISI

At least, let's take care of that
cough. Cemetery is a quiet place.
We don't want to disturb the
spirits.

INT. SISI'S CAR - DAY

Sisi opens a small bottle of Cough Syrup, inserts it into
Yang's hand.

SISI

Drink it up. This will help you
feel better.

YANG

(takes a sip)

It tastes awful. What's in it?

SISI

Good stuff, trust me. It won't kill
you.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Sisi talks on a phone, meanders away.

Yang stumbles out of the car, gasps for air.

KEVIN (O.S.)

Help me...

Yang seeks the sound.

KEVIN YOON, Asian, 30s, halts a few paces away, watches him.

Yang struggles to his feet. Kevin strides off. Yang follows.

EXT. CEMETERY/KEVIN'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Kevin pauses before a lonesome grave. He turns, faces Yang.

KEVIN

Help me...

YANG

Who are you?

Kevin steps into the tomb, disappears.

Yang's eyes train on the headstone.

INSERT - HEADSTONE

"KEVIN YOON 1965-1998"

BACK TO SCENE

Yang collapses, loses consciousness.

PAUL GOLDSTEIN, 48, hastens to Yang's side. He places a finger under Yang's nose, then dials 911 with his cell phone.

EXT. CEMETERY/FRONT GATE - DAY

In coming traffic moves to the side as an ambulance rushes out of the gate.

EXT. CEMETERY/KEVIN'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Paul stands before Kevin's grave.

PAUL
I'm still looking for that child.
It won't be long, I promise.

He fishes a photo out of his jacket pocket.

INSERT - PHOTO

"PAUL HOLDS YOUNG ELLIN IN HIS ARMS AS SHE BLOWS OUT FIVE
CANDLES ON A BIRTHDAY CAKE"

BACK TO SCENE

Paul stares at the picture.

PAUL
Where are you, Ellin?

EXT. CEMETERY/DAVID KIM'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Ellin places a yellow rose on top of David's coffin.

ELLIN
Be at peace...

She kisses the cover of the coffin.

EXT. CEMETERY/DAVID KIM'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Mourners gather before David's coffin. Frank skims through
the crowd.

FRANK
Where is Yang?

His cell phone buzzes.

FRANK
(into phone)
Frank speaking. What... Where...
Okay.

He hangs up the phone in a hurry, and dials another number.

FRANK
(into phone)
Jennifer, it's me, Frank. Yang is
in a hospital right now...

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Yang wakes up, looks upon Jennifer's face.

JENNIFER
How are you feeling?

YANG
Where am I?

JENNIFER
Hospital.

YANG
(sits up)
What had happened?

JENNIFER
You suffered a severe allergic
reaction to the cough syrup you
took. In addition, your blood sugar
dropped so low, you almost died.

YANG
Father's funeral...

JENNIFER
It's over now.

She sets up a bedside table over the bed, places a bowl of porridge in front of him.

JENNIFER
(continuing)
Here, I spent two hours preparing
the food. You'd better not leave
any leftovers.

INT. HOSPITAL/LOBBY - DAY

Paul calls out to Frank as he passes him by.

PAUL
Mr. Song, may I have a word with
you?

Frank measures him up and down.

FRANK
Do we know each other?

PAUL
My name is Paul Goldstein.

He hands Frank a business card.

FRANK
Washington Post...

PAUL
I understand you are David Kim's
close friend...

FRANK
If the matter concerns Mr. Kim. I'm
afraid I cannot help you. I'm not
only his friend, but also his
attorney. It's my duty to protect
my client's privacy.

PAUL
Shall I direct my questions to his
son instead? As I know, Yang Kim is
currently staying at this hospital.

Frank glares at Paul.

PAUL
(continuing)
You should thank me, Mr. Song.

FRANK
Thank you?

PAUL
I'm the one who found him
unconscious, and called 911.

FRANK
What do you want from me?

PAUL
Let's find a quiet place. Shall we?

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Frank takes a sip of his coffee.

FRANK
I'm all ears.

Paul hands Frank a picture.

PAUL

I'm looking for this child. The photo was taken seventeen years ago. Her name is Ellin Yoon. She should be twenty-two by now.

FRANK

Ellin... What's your relation with her?

PAUL

She's my best friend's only child. I have been looking for her ever since her parents passed away...

Frank's eyes fix on the photo.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Frank shows Ellin Paul's business card.

FRANK

Have you heard this name before?

ELLIN

Paul Goldstein...
(shakes her head)
Who is he?

FRANK

Just a reporter, never mind.

He retrieves the business card.

FRANK

I bring David's testament with me. According to the Will, he leaves everything to you.

He opens a suitcase, takes out a set of documents, hands them to Ellin.

INT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/PRAYING HALL - DAY

Jennifer prays to a giant golden Buddha Statue. Master Singyun approaches her.

MASTER SINGYUN

(bows)

I'm sorry about Mr. Kim's passing. I had hoped such end could be avoided.

JENNIFER
 Have you foreseen his death,
 Master?

MASTER SINGYUN
 I'm afraid he had predicted his own
 fortune...

INT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/PRAYING HALL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Master Singyun beholds David's face with concern.

MASTER SINGYUN
 Stay at the temple for a few days,
 Mr. Kim. Let me pray for you, and
 expel the negative aura around you.

DAVID
 Certain things may not be changed
 regardless of our will. If the
 worst do come to pass, I shall
 gladly accept it as my fate.

INT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/PRAYING HALL - DAY

Master Singyun hands Jennifer a green jade Guanyin Buddha.

MASTER SINGYUN
 Give this to Yang. It may help
 safeguard him.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Jennifer places a green jade Guanyin Buddha around Yang's
 neck.

YANG
 What's this?

JENNIFER
 Talisman, it's been blessed.

YANG
 You know I don't believe in this
 kind of superstitious stuff.

JENNIFER
 For my sake, wear it. This pendant
 is going to safeguard you. Promise
 me, never take it off.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Frank enters the ward, locks the door behind him.

YANG

You are late. I was expecting you yesterday.

FRANK

Something came up. I couldn't make here on time.

He places a laptop on a bedside table over the bed, turns it on.

FRANK

Your father recorded his Final Will days before his passing.

He opens a folder, clicks on a video file.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIBRARY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

David sits behind a desk, looks into the camera.

Frank gives him an okay sign.

DAVID

I, David Kim, being sound mind and body, make and declare the following to be my last will and testament... All my estates, both real and personal, all my painting collections, I give to Miss Ellin Yoon, to be hers absolutely and forever... As the executor of my Final Will, my son, Yang Kim, shall be the Head of the Trustee, oversee the estates operation...

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

The screen goes blank.

Frank peeps at Yang's face.

Yang bursts into laughter.

FRANK

Are you alright, son?

YANG

He is the crazy one, not me. Can you believe it? David Kim, a self-centered painter, suddenly turns into a redeemer.

FRANK

I assure you. His mind was perfectly clear at the time he made the testament.

YANG

Who is this lucky heiress? Is she my father's mistress?

Frank shakes his head.

YANG

Don't tell me she's his love child.

FRANK

Ellin's parents passed away 15 years ago.

YANG

Then there must be a good reason for a father to abandon his own blood, and takes in an orphan as his heir.

FRANK

Ellin is a gentle and pitiful soul, once you get to know her...

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Frank hands Ellin a set of documents.

FRANK

David leaves you everything, his estates, painting collections, savings and bonds...

Ellin puts the papers aside.

ELLIN

Can you help me, Frank...

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Frank gazes at Yang's face.

FRANK

Ellin has named you the beneficiary
of her assets.

YANG

What kind of trick is she playing?

FRANK

She's hundred percent sincere,
Yang. I can't force you to take on
the responsibilities if you don't
want to. However, this is your
father's final wish.

YANG

I need time to think about it.

INT. PRISON/LIBRARY - DAY

BARRY CRUZ, 25, dresses in prison uniform, flips through a
book - ART COLLECTING TODAY.

JOE ROSA, 29, dresses in prison uniform, saunters over.

JOE

Is this your new interest?

BARRY

I'm seriously considering it as a
possible career.

JOE

Take a look at this, buddy.

He thrusts a newspaper into Barry's hands.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

"AN ARTIST'S SUDDEN DEATH DRIVES THE PRICE OF HIS PAINTINGS
TO NEW HEIGHTS" emblazoned above a photo of David Kim.

BACK TO SCENE

Barry's eyes sparkle as he reads the article.

JOE

What do you think? It's a perfect
opportunity for us.

BARRY
Very attempting...

JOE
If we can get our hands on a couple
of his paintings, we might never
need to work again.

BARRY
David Kim... Let's find out more
about him, and the one who inherits
his estate.

EXT. YANG'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Yang steps out of his car. Paul approaches him.

PAUL
Excuse me, sir. May I have a minute
of your time?

YANG
Do I know you?

PAUL
I don't want to brag, but I saved
your life.

YANG
I beg your pardon?

PAUL
You collapsed a few days ago at the
cemetery. I called the ambulance
for you.

He hands Yang his business card.

YANG
Are you here seeking a reward?

PAUL
Actually, I'm looking for someone.

He fetches a picture out of his jacket pocket.

PAUL
Her name is Ellin Yoon. This photo
was taken seventeen years ago.

YANG

Ellin...

PAUL

She's my best friend's only child, disappeared shortly after her parents passed away. She should be twenty-two by now.

YANG

Why do you come to me?

PAUL

I believe your father might know her whereabouts, and since you are his son...

YANG

My old man and I are not that close. He's dead. Whatever secrets he might have concealed are buried with him. I'm afraid there is nothing I can help you with.

He returns the photo, saunters away.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/STUDY - DAY

Yang opens a top desk drawer, takes out a box that contains several pictures, one of which is a 5-year-old Ellin.

EXT. LAKESIDE/BEACH - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Geese and ducks surround Ellin, 5. They snatch bread from her hands.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/STUDY - DAY

Yang stares at the photo.

YANG

So you are Ellin. It's been a long time.

He picks up a Smart Phone, dials Frank's number.

YANG

(into phone)

I have decided. I'm going to see Ellin tomorrow.

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Frank's face lights up.

FRANK
 (into phone)
 That's great. Shall I accompany
 you?

INTERCUT Yang and Frank.

YANG
 Don't bother. I can find my way
 there. Another thing, how much do
 you know about a reporter named
 Paul Goldstein?

FRANK
 Paul... he claims to be Ellin's
 family friend. However, Ellin has
 no recollection of him. Why do you
 ask?

YANG
 He was just here. Don't worry. He
 probably wants to dig up some dirt
 on my father. I will be careful.

EXT. LAKESIDE/BEACH - DAY

Yang watches several kids, ages between three to ten, play
 on the beach.

A boy, 6, pushes a little girl, 3, to the ground. The girl
 cries. Her mother rushes over, comforts her.

About then, Yang hears a woman chant a familiar name. He
 looks to the sound.

On a bench nearby, Ellin faints. Sandy tries to revive her.

SANDY
 Ellin... Ellin...

YANG
 (walks over)
 What's wrong, ma'am?

SANDY
 Can you help me? She feels ill.

Yang carries Ellin off the beach.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Yang places Ellin on a bed. Sandy tucks her in.

SANDY

I appreciate your help, sir. The doctor will be here any minute. I don't want to keep you.

YANG

The doctor, you mean Dr. Robert Peterson?

SANDY

Yes, do you know him?

YANG

He's my father's friend, also family physician.

SANDY

What a small world!

YANG

Haven't got a chance to introduce myself. My name is Yang. I'm David Kim's son.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - DAY (LATER)

DR. ROBERT PETERSON, 58, checks Ellin's pulse and blood pressure.

DR. PETERSON

She sleeps now. What had happened this time?

SANDY

We were at the Lake Beach this morning. She suddenly fainted. Fortunately, Yang helped us.

DR. PETERSON

Is he still here?

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dr. Peterson walks up to Yang, hugs him.

DR. PETERSON
It's great to see you, Yang.

YANG
How is Ellin doing?

DR. PETERSON
She's sleeping. Poor kid, looks like she suffered another panic attack.

YANG
Panic attack? What triggered it?

DR. PETERSON
Hard to say. Last time, it happened in the garden, by the water fountain. That was the night your father died.

YANG
Is there a treatment for her condition?

DR. PETERSON
She spent two months in a coma following a drowning incident 15 years ago. Since then, she hasn't been the same.

YANG
Drowning incident...

DR. PETERSON
Her suffering will not end unless we find the source of her misery. I once purposed hypnotherapy as a part of the treatment. She rejected the idea right off the bat.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/STUDY - NIGHT

Yang takes out Ellin's photo from his desk drawer. In the picture, a 5-year-old Ellin beams.

YANG
Little Mermaid, that's what I used to call you. What had happened to you? Why are you so frightened that you'd rather block everything out of your mind?

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ellin sleeps. Sweat clings to her face.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/BACKYARD SWIMMING POOL - DAY (DREAM)

Ellin, 7, stares at the shimmering pool. Her red slippers sink to the bottom. She drops her princess doll in the pool.

A body floats face down on the water. The once clear pool smears in red...

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ellin opens her eyes, sits up, shivers with fright.

EXT. PRISON GATE - DAY

Barry and Joe step out of the prison.

JOE

You may find me at Willy's Bar.

BARRY

I'll see you in a bit, buddy.

He pats Joe on the back. They part.

INT. BLACK SEDAN - DAY - TRAVELING

JACK CRUZ, 53, hands Barry an apartment key and an envelope with a stack of cash inside.

JACK

We got you a new place. Your mother and I put up the security deposit and the first month rent.

BARRY

Appreciate it, Jack. Have you talked to Uncle Sidney about my job?

JACK

He okays it. Though he says it won't be an office position.

BARRY

You know me. I like trimming grass,
doing yard work, and sweating under
the sun.

He pockets the money and the key.

JACK

Don't mess it up, son, or it will
be the last time we help you out.

BARRY

Don't worry, Jack. I promise you no
more stealing or drugs. As a matter
of fact, I find joy in art
appreciation.

JACK

Art?

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ellin beholds Yang's face, blushes.

ELLIN

Sandy told me about yesterday.
Thank you for brought me home, and
I'm sorry I couldn't receive you...

YANG

You were under the weather. Why
should you be sorry?

ELLIN

I'm a little worried to tell you
the truth. What if you don't like
me, or hate me even?

YANG

Why should I do that?

ELLIN

Because... because I take away
what's rightfully yours, though
unintentionally.

YANG

It's a bit stuffy inside. Shall we
go to the garden, have a breath of
fresh air?

EXT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/GARDEN - DAY

Yang and Ellin sit side by side on a long bench.

YANG

About yesterday, what had happened?

Ellin glances at him with a cautious look on her face.

YANG

I'm your guardian now. Your well-being is my concern.

ELLIN

I'm not sure myself. I heard a child's cry, then all of sudden, I could not breathe, as if a huge rock sat on my chest.

YANG

Dr. Peterson says your condition might be related to a drowning incident many years ago.

Ellin lowers her eyes, falls silent.

YANG

You were wondering how I feel about you...

Ellin lifts her head.

YANG

Here is the truth. I don't hate you for taking away my inheritance. So don't burden yourself with the thought.

ELLIN

Yang...

YANG

My grandfather once told me, a man should earn his keep and be proud of it. I think he's right. I'm doing fine without my old man's money, and I shall continue my way of life and be satisfied.

Ellin stares at Yang with misty eyes.

EXT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/DRIVEWAY - DAY

A EVERGREEN LANDSCAPING CO. Truck pulls into the driveway.

Barry and TWO EMPLOYEES jump out of the truck. They unload lawn mower, trimmer and edger from the truck.

Barry gapes at Lakewood Manor, grins.

EXT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/VEGETABLE GARDEN - DAY

Barry picks tomatoes, cucumbers, color peppers from the vegetable garden, puts them into a large basket.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/KITCHEN - DAY

Barry carries a basket of vegetables into the kitchen.

SANDY

You may leave it here.

BARRY

Yes, ma'am. Can I use your bathroom?

SANDY

It's down the hallway.

Barry scans about as he strolls toward the bathroom.

He passes several paintings on the wall, and a Ming Dynasty Vase on a redwood table. His eyes sparkle.

INT. WILLY'S BAR - NIGHT

Joe sits at a corner table, drinks beer alone. Barry pats him on the back.

BARRY

Still drinking the cheap stuff, my friend?

JOE

Hei, where have you been?

BARRY

I was busy working.

He holds out his smart phone, shows Joe a picture of Lakewood Manor.

JOE

Nice shot.

BARRY

That house is a goldmine.

JOE

Guess what? David Kim hadn't touched a paint brush for the past fifteen years. That's why his paintings are hot items on the market today.

BARRY

I saw several landscaping drawings in that house, his earlier work, no doubt about that.

JOE

I hear he's most famous for painting portraits. Art collectors are eager to get their hands on one of those.

BARRY

Portraits...

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/STUDY - DAY

Yang opens the top desk drawer, takes a picture out of a box.

INSERT - PICTURE

"YANG, 11, ELLIN, 5, PLAY IN A BACKYARD SWIMMING POOL"

BACK TO SCENE

Yang pockets the picture.

EXT. LAKESIDE/BEACH - DAY

Yang and Ellin meander along the beach.

Ellin withholds her footsteps as a couple of kids run by, chase each other into the water.

Ellin turns her face away.

YANG
What's wrong?

ELLIN
Let's go back.

YANG
Something frightens you. What is
it?

ELLIN
(trembles)
Nothing, I want to go home.

Her face turns pale. She gasps for air. Yang helps her to a bench nearby.

YANG
Breathe Ellin, take a deep breath.

A moment later, she calms down.

YANG
Now, feel better?

ELLIN
(nods)
I get nervous around large body of
water.

YANG
As I recall, you used to love it.
Little Mermaid, that was the
nickname I gave you long ago.

ELLIN
Little Mermaid...

Yang takes out a photo, shows it to Ellin.

YANG
My father took this picture when we
were young. That boy was me,
remember?

Ellin looks at the picture, and then, glances at Yang.

YANG
You were such happy little girl,
always laughing, enjoying water.

ELLIN
(shakes her head)
I can't remember...

YANG
One day, you will. Let me help you.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The window opens on its own.

Melane chants.

MELANE (O.S.)
Ellin... Ellin...

Ellin moans in her sleep.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BACKYARD SWIMMING POOL - DAY (DREAM)

Ellin struggles in the water.

ELLIN
Mom... Mom...

Ellin sinks to the bottom of the pool...

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ellin stirs, scans about with fright.

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/FRONT YARD - DAY

Yang takes Ellin's hand as they stroll toward the house.

YANG
This is your childhood home. Frank
told me my father purchased it
right after your parents passed
away. He kept everything the same
as before.

EXT. THRESHOLD - DAY

Ellin hesitates at the door.

YANG
(scans about)
He said there is a spare key
somewhere...

Without a word, Ellin saunters to a nearby flower pot, lifts it up, fishes out a key. She hands it to Yang.

YANG
Aha, here it is.

With the key, Yang opens the door.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ellin removes a white cloth, unveils Melane's portrait.
She drops the cloth, backs away. Yang follows her.

INT. BABY'S ROOM

Ellin browses about.

ELLIN
This is my room...

She sits on the edge of a twin bed, picks up a pillow, holds it to her face, draws a deep breath.

ELLIN
I can still smell it, the scent of
spring flower.

INT. HALLWAY

Ellin pauses before the master bedchamber.
Yang turns the door knob. It's locked.

INT. GUESTROOM

David's shirt and jacket hang on a clothes-rack.
Ellin meanders to the window.

ELLIN' P.O.V. - A SWIMMING POOL

situates in the backyard, shimmers in the sun. In an instant, the clear water turns to red.

BACK TO SCENE

Horror leaps out of Ellin's eyes. She collapses, loses consciousness.

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/BACKYARD - DAY

Green lawn covers the backyard, with no presence of a swimming pool...

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/GUESTROOM - DAY

Ellin comes to. Yang caresses her face.

YANG
Are you alright?

ELLIN
The pool...

YANG
It's not there anymore.

ELLIN
I saw a body in the water.

She turns her face away from the window.

INT. DR. PETERSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Yang lies on a long sofa with his eyes shut.

Dr. Peterson sits in a chair nearby.

DR. PETERSON
You look tired. Have you slept last night?

YANG
Yesterday, I brought Ellin to her childhood home. I'd hope the visit might jog her memory, but she fainted. I spent the night watching her.

DR. PETERSON

Be patient with her. She's not yet ready to open an old wound.

Yang sits up, looks at Dr. Peterson.

YANG

What can I do, tell me? I want to help her, cure her.

DR. PETERSON

Hypnotherapy might be her last hope. If only you can persuade her to receive the treatment.

YANG

I will try anything, just to see her smile again.

EXT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/GARDEN - DAY

Yang steals a glance at Ellin's face.

YANG

(clears his throat)
Have you heard HYPNOTHERAPY?

ELLIN

(nods)
Dr. Peterson said the treatment might help me recover the lost memory.

YANG

Do you want to try it?

ELLIN

(shakes her head)
What if it unveils that I'm a horrible person with a dreadful past?

YANG

I don't believe you are capable of evil deed. Give me a chance to help you. I promise. No matter what's hidden in your past, I won't run away from you.

INT. WILLY'S BAR - NIGHT

Barry and Joe occupy a corner table, away from a noisy crowd. They converse in low voices.

JOE

I have the Van ready.

BARRY

Good, only two women live in the manor. It will be an easy job.

JOE

Have you secured the buyer?

BARRY

It's all been taken care of. All we need to do is get the painting.

JOE

Here is to our retirement.

He raises the glass.

BARRY

To our retirement.

They drink the champagne in one take.

INT. A BLUE VAN - NIGHT

Thunder rumbles. Rain comes down hard.

Barry and Joe dress in black, put on masks and gloves.

EXT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/BACKDOOR - NIGHT

With a glass cutter, Joe cuts a hole on the backdoor glass. He reaches inside, unlocks the door.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barry turns on the headlight, checks the painting.

BARRY

(whispers)
Here is one.

He takes it down, leans it against the wall.

Joe cuts the painting out, rolls it up, inserts it into a plastic wrapper.

INT. HALLWAY

Barry removes another painting from the wall. Joe cuts the second painting out.

A loud thunder explodes. The electricity in the manor goes out. The security alarm beeps as the backup battery kicks in.

Barry bumps into a table that holds the Ming Dynasty Vase. He catches the vase before it falls to the ground.

SANDY

Who's there?

She holds a flash light, walks down the hallway.

SANDY

Ellin, is that you?

Barry and Joe dodge behind the redwood table.

Joe carries 2 wrapped paintings, holds a knife in his right hand.

The flash light draws near.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ellin feels her way to the door, opens it.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sandy screams as Joe stabs her in the chest. She pulls off Joe's mask.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/SECOND FLOOR STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Ellin halts at the top of the stairway, looks down.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Two men drag Sandy's body across the floor.

Lightning flashes, lights up the hallway.

Ellin pauses at the stairway with a horrified expression on her face.

Joe looks up. He drops the body. With a knife in one hand, he walks to the stairway.

BARRY

Leave her alone. Let's just get out of here.

JOE

I can't. She sees my face.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/SECOND FLOOR STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Ellin backs away, but stumbles as Joe approaches.

ELLIN

No... Please... No...

She sits on the floor with her back against the wall. Pale mist gathers under her breath.

A shadow draws near. Another lightning tears open the darkness. Ellin screams.

Joe hangs suspended in the midair. The knife in his right hand points at his own throat.

A thunder explodes.

Joe's body goes limp. It falls through the air.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Barry watches Joe crash onto the marble floor. Blood gushes out of Joe's neck.

Barry squalls and flees.

The electricity in the manor gets restored in a flash. The House Security Alarm Light turns to red.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

The phone rings.

YANG
(into phone)
Yang speaking.

SECURITY OFFICER (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Sorry to bother you this late, sir.
There has been a break-in at
Lakewood Manor...

EXT. WOOD - NIGHT

Barry tosses the mask away, runs like mad, as if a monster chases after him.

EXT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Police cars and ambulances fill the driveway.

Yang parks his car next to a Police Cruiser.

An officer steps forward.

YANG
I got a call from the security
office. Is Ellin alright?

OFFICER
Are you her relative?

YANG
I'm her guardian. My name is Yang
Kim.

OFFICER
She's upstairs, in her room.

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/ELLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ellin cowers in a corner between the wall and the bed.

Yang wraps a blanket around her body.

Ellin looks at Yang. Tears stream down her face.

YANG

It's okay. I'm here. You're safe now.

Ellin hugs him, cries.

INT. YANG'S CAR - NIGHT

Ellin sleeps in the backseat.

EXT. YANG'S CAR - NIGHT

DETECTIVE BRANDON WHITE, 40s, peeps into the backseat of the car.

DETECTIVE WHITE

It's amazing she survives the incident without a scratch on her?

YANG

Have you found out anything about the robbers?

DETECTIVE WHITE

There are two of them, one dead, and the other missing. The housekeeper is also killed.

YANG

That's unfortunate. Ellin is fond of her.

DETECTIVE WHITE

As a sole eyewitness, Miss Yoon hasn't been able to communicate with us. We need her testimony to solve this case.

YANG

She's in a great shock right now. Give her some time. I will contact you when she's ready to talk.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Yang carries Ellin to the bed as she sleeps. He tucks her in.

Ellin stirs, grasps his hand.

ELLIN

Don't go, please. I don't want to be alone.

YANG

I'm not going anywhere.

He sits on the edge of the bed, caresses Ellin's face.

ELLIN

Sandy is dead. I saw it. That man stabbed her with a knife. I heard her scream, but couldn't help her.

YANG

I know she means a lot to you. There's nothing you could do at the time.

ELLIN

Those I love and care about leave me one after another, first my parents, then Mr. Kim, and now, Sandy. I bring bad luck to the people around me.

YANG

Things happen. It's not your fault.

ELLIN

I think I'm cursed, Yang, living in a nightmare that I can't escape.

YANG

Nonsense, you are too frightened and tired. Try to get some sleep.

ELLIN

I saw the man die.

Fear shimmers in her eyes. She clings to Yang's arm.

ELLIN

Something awful happened to him. I felt his terror, Yang. He could not speak, but his eyes... he was pleading for his life.

YANG

Is that why you said nothing to the police?

ELLIN

They would think I'm crazy. I can't believe myself either.

YANG

It's been a long night. Try to get some rest.

He kisses her brow.

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

Yang sits on the floor with his back against the nightstand. He dozes off.

Meanwhile, nightmare haunts Ellin.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LAKEWOOD MANOR/SECOND FLOOR STAIRWAY - NIGHT (DREAM)

Ellin freezes at the top of the staircases. She watches in horror as Joe inches toward her with a knife in his hand.

A light pierces the window, casts a soft glow around Joe. Joe's feet hang suspended in the midair. Horror leaps out of his eyes.

An unseen force snatches the knife from Joe's grasp. The tip of the blade points at Joe's throat. In the blink of an eye, it thrusts forward...

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY (DAWN)

Ellin opens her eyes, gasps for air. Yang stirs, jumps to his feet.

YANG

What's wrong, Ellin? Are you alright?

He places his palm over Ellin's sweaty forehead.

YANG

You have a fever. Let me call Dr. Peterson.

He reaches for the phone. Ellin clings to him.

ELLIN
Stay with me, Yang. All I need is
you...

INT. BARRY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Barry stumbles into the apartment, locks the door behind
him.

His phone rings.

BARRY
(into phone)
Hello.

SUPERVISOR (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Are you coming to work or not? You
are late.

BARRY
Sorry, I'm not feeling well...

INT. BARRY'S APARTMENT/BATHROOM - DAY

Barry throws up in the toilet. Afterwards, he removes his
clothing, steps into the shower.

Water washes away the dirt on his body.

EXT. CEMETERY/SANDY'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Ellin places a yellow rose on top of Sandy's coffin. Tears
well up in her eyes.

ELLIN
Be at peace, my friend. Thank you
for being in my life. I'll miss
you...

She kisses the coffin.

Yang and Frank look on.

YANG
Ellin can't go back to Lakewood
Manor anymore.

FRANK

I'll seek a new place for her. In the meantime, she can live with my family.

YANG

Let her stay at my place for the time being. I'll look after her.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Barry watches the funeral from the distance. His eyes fix on Ellin.

BARRY

Something's not right. Joe dies, but she escapes unharmed. How is that possible?

INT. POLICE STATION/DETECTIVE WHITE'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective White shows Ellin a mugshot of Joe.

ELLIN

I have never seen him before that night.

DETECTIVE WHITE

Can you tell me more about his death?

Ellin fidgets in her seat.

DETECTIVE WHITE

(continuing)

Don't be afraid. You are safe. No one is going to harm you.

ELLIN

(mutters with downcast eyes)

He... he did it to himself.

DETECTIVE WHITE

I beg your pardon?

ELLIN

He cut his own throat.

DETECTIVE WHITE

Are you serious?

ELLIN
(springs to her feet)
That's what I saw. May I leave now?

INT. POLICE STATION/WAITING ROOM - DAY

Ellin runs to Yang, clings to his arms.

YANG
Are you alright?

ELLIN
Let's go home.

DETECTIVE WHITE
Please feel free to contact me if
Miss Yoon remembers anything else.

YANG
Of course.

INT. POLICE STATION/DETECTIVE WHITE'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective White browses through a stack of crime scene photos. He holds up a picture of bloody footprints.

DETECTIVE WHITE
You must have seen it too. Whoever
you are, I will find you.

INT. BARRY'S CAR - DAY

Barry watches Yang and Ellin step out of the Police Station.

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Yang's car pulls out of the parking lot.

Barry's car tails after them.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Ellin glances out of the window.

ELLIN
I couldn't tell him the truth. He
would think I'm crazy.

Yang grasps Ellin's hand.

YANG

I know a place that will put your
mind at ease.

INT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/PRAYING HALL - DAY

Ellin kneels before a Giant Golden Buddha Statue, prays.

EXT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/COURT YARD - DAY

While Yang waits for Ellin, Master Singyun approaches him.

MASTER SINGYUN

It's been a while, Yang. Are you
here with your mother?

YANG

(bows)

I bring a friend, Master. She's
been through a lot lately. I
thought she might find peace at
your temple.

Master Singyun looks at Ellin from the distance.

MASTER SINGYUN

(frowns)

She's a gravely troubled young
lady. I sense strong Yin Qi about
her... the same aura that haunted
your father.

YANG

My father?

MASTER SINGYUN

He visited me days before his
passing. He was pleased that he
could paint again.

YANG

I saw a portrait at Ellin's
childhood home, where father spent
his final days.

MASTER SINGYUN

That must be his last work. He said
the painting defines his entire
career.

YANG

I feel it. He poured his love and passion into the portrait.

MASTER SINGYUN

I'm afraid Mr. Kim has waken something dangerous. Be careful, Yang...

EXT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/COURT YARD - DAY

Barry hides behind a religious tower, listens to Yang and Master Singyun's conversation.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Ellin lowers the volume of the music in the car.

ELLIN

What's talisman?

YANG

A lucky charm that will bless the person that carries it.

ELLIN

It's official then, even Master Singyun thinks I'm a cursed soul.

YANG

(laughs)

Just because he offers you one, that doesn't mean you are a bundle of bad luck. I have one too...

He pulls the red string around his neck, shows Ellin his green jade Guanyin Buddha amulet.

ELLIN

He told me to come back 7 days later. Why not give it to me right away?

YANG

A talisman needs to be blessed. Only a sincere heart may move the holy spirit, and that process takes 7 days.

ELLIN
(sighs)
7 days, sounds like forever.

YANG
Stay close to me for a whole week,
I will share my good fortune with
you.

Ellin beams, kisses Yang on the cheek.

INT. POLICE STATION/DETECTIVE WHITE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A fax comes through the machine with Joe and Barry's
pictures and information on it.

Detective White picks up the fax...

INT. WILLY'S BAR - NIGHT

Barry sits at a corner table, drinks a bottle of beer.

A noisy crowd gathers around a big screen TV, watches a
football game.

Detective White enters the bar. He shows the bartender a
picture.

The bartender scans about the room, points at a table, where
Barry sits.

Detective White approaches the table.

DETECTIVE WHITE
Are you Barry Cruz?

BARRY
(lifts his brow)
Who the hell are you?

DETECTIVE WHITE
(shows Barry his ID)
I'm a homicide detective, Brandon
White. May I ask you a few
questions?

BARRY
I may not have the answers, but go
ahead, try me.

DETECTIVE WHITE
Do you know Joe Rosa?

BARRY
We were roommates in the BIG HOUSE.
Why do you ask?

DETECTIVE WHITE
He was killed a few nights ago,
during a robbery attempt that went
wrong. His accomplice is still at
large.

BARRY
Sorry, can't help you. His personal
hobby is none of my concern. We
were just drinking buddies.

DETECTIVE WHITE
Where were you last Thursday
between 10:30 pm to 1:30 am?

BARRY
At my apartment, sleeping.

DETECTIVE WHITE
Alone?

BARRY
Of course, haven't got myself a
girlfriend.

He glimpses at Detective White, continues drinking beer.

INT. POLICE LAB - NIGHT

Detective White hands a beer bottle to a CSI.

DETECTIVE WHITE
I hope it matches the DNA evidence
we collected at the crime scene.
Let me know the result as soon as
possible.

CSI
Will do.

INT. BARRY'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Barry peeps out of the window.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE CAR - NIGHT

OFFICER #1 hands a bag of potato chips to OFFICER #2.

OFFICER #1
Here, something to keep you awake.

OFFICER #2
(chews on a chip)
You go ahead and take a nap. I'll
keep an eye on him.

OFFICER #1
Wake me if you need a break.

Officer #2 looks up at Barry's apartment.

The light in the room gets turned off.

INT. BARRY'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

Barry's phone buzzes.

BARRY
(into phone)
Yes, Jack.

JACK (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Uncle Sidney called, he said you
haven't been to work.

BARRY
I'm recovering from a bad cold.
Don't worry. I will go back
tomorrow.

JACK
Just a reminder, your rent will be
due next week.

BARRY
I know. I shall take care of it.

JACK
Are you in some kind of trouble?

BARRY
No, why do you ask?

JACK
Never mind. By the way, your mom
and I are going on a 15-Days
cruise. I'll talk to you when we
get back.

JACK
Have a nice trip.

INT. BARRY'S APARTMENT - DAY (LATER)

Barry dials a number on his cell phone.

BARRY
(into phone)
Mr. Pelion? I'm sorry. There has
been a slight hitch. Don't worry.
The deal is still on. In fact, I'll
get you something much better...

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BARRY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Barry glances at the unmarked police car. Two men from the
day before still sit inside.

Barry enters his car, drives off.

INT. JADE BUDDHA TEMPLE/PRAYING HALL - DAY

Master Singyun greets Jennifer.

MASTER SINGYUN
Yang was here yesterday.

JENNIFER
That's a surprise. He would never
come here at his own free will,
unless I drag him to the temple.

MASTER SINGYUN
He was not alone. He brought a
young lady with him.

JENNIFER
A young lady...

INT. GARDEN STATE PLAZA/PLAY STATION - DAY

Ellin rides merry-go-round alongside of a group of youngsters. She laughs and waves at Yang.

Yang halts at the sideline, waves back.

Paul blends into a crowd nearby, takes pictures of Ellin.

INT. GARDEN STATE PLAZA/DINING AREA - DAY

Yang and Ellin sit at a table, enjoy a large serving of ice cream.

Ellin scans about with delight.

ELLIN

This is a fun place. Everyone seems so happy.

YANG

I can live like them if you wish.

ELLIN

I don't know how. I'm scared, Yang.

YANG

Let me help you...

Paul sits a few tables away, peeps at Yang and Ellin over a magazine.

EXT. YANG'S HOUSE - DAY

Jennifer rings the door bell. No one answers. She phones Yang. He doesn't pick up. She strolls back to her car.

INT. PET STORE - DAY

Two puppies play in a pen. Ellin pets the puppies.

YANG

You can take them home if you wish.

ELLIN

I don't want pets. What if I bring them bad luck?

She meanders away. One of the puppies climbs out of the pen, follows Ellin around.

A store clerk passes by, with a green parrot on his shoulder.

Ellin's attention trains on the bird. She trips over the puppy.

Paul springs forward, catches Ellin before she falls.

PAUL
Be careful, young lady.

Yang hauls Ellin away from Paul's arms.

PAUL
Don't worry. She's not hurt.

ELLIN
Thank you, sir. How clumsy of me.

PAUL
My name is Paul, Paul Goldstein.

ELLIN
Nice to meet you. I'm Ellin.

PAUL
Ellin, what a coincidence, a friend
of mine, his daughter's name is
also Ellin, and she is about your
age.

YANG
We should go.

Yang heaves Ellin out of the store.

Paul watches the two disappear out of the sight.

PAUL
I see it in her eyes. She doesn't
recognize me. Have I changed so
much...

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

Jennifer storms in.

FRANK
(springs to his feet)
Jen...

JENNIFER

Yang brought a woman to the temple yesterday. Her name is Ellin. Tell me, who is she? I'm sure you have an idea.

FRANK

She's a harmless child, an orphan. David had been looking after her for years, and now, Yang becomes her guardian.

JENNIFER

An orphan... Don't tell me... No, it can't be...

FRANK

She's Melane's daughter.

JENNIFER

This is crazy. Why should Yang get involved?

FRANK

It's David's final wish. He wants the girl to be well taken care of after his death.

JENNIFER

I can't allow this.

FRANK

Yang is not a child. Unless you give him a proper reason, he will not leave Ellin.

JENNIFER

My husband went crazy because of that woman. I will not see my son fall for her daughter.

FRANK

What had happened 15 years ago, Jen? You loved David so much. Why did you agree to a divorce?

Jennifer falls silent.

EXT. YANG'S HOUSE/GARDEN - NIGHT

Yang and Ellin gaze at the stars above.

ELLIN

It's a beautiful night. You can see the stars so clearly.

YANG

And the brightest one shines right next to me.

ELLIN

You must have used the line often. Do you always get the result?

YANG

This time, I speak from my heart.

ELLIN

(smiles)

I wish this moment last forever. To me, happiness is always too short and too few.

YANG

(draws Ellin into his arms)

Whatever haunts you, a painful past, a terrifying memory, I shall make them all go away. Let me heal you.

He kisses Ellin on the lips.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - NIGHT

Paul watches Yang and Ellin from his car, across the street.

PAUL

You are in love with her.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/STUDY - NIGHT

Yang's smart phone buzzes.

YANG

(into phone)

What's up, Frank?

FRANK (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Your mother came to see me today.
She knows about Ellin...

YANG
Thanks for the heads up. Don't
worry. I'll take care of it.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A nightmare haunts Jennifer.

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JENNIFER'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING (DREAM)

Rain pounds on the windshield.

Tears cloud Jennifer's vision.

Ahead, headlights flash, then a long horn beep, follows by
the sound of a loud explosion...

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer opens her eyes. Sweat clings to her face.

EXT. CEMETERY/KEVIN'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Jennifer halts before Kevin's grave.

JENNIFER
If someone must pay for your death,
let it be me, not my son. He's all
I have left.

PAUL
Does that mean you are ready to
confess, Ms. Park?

Jennifer hastens away. Paul grasps her arm.

PAUL
You come here to seek forgiveness,
are you not? Go ahead, Kevin is
listening.

JENNIFER

Let go of me. I don't know what you
are talking about.

She wiggles to get free.

PAUL

You are frightened. I see it in
your eyes. The spirit of the dead
is restless...

JENNIFER

I have done nothing wrong, and I
have nothing to fear.

She casts aside his hand, marches off.

PAUL

(shouts)

Tell your son - STAY OUT OF ELLIN'S
LIFE.

Jennifer pauses at the spot. She turns, gazes at Paul.

JENNIFER

What do you mean?

PAUL

Ask him yourself. I think he's in
love with her.

EXT. EVERGREEN LANDSCAPING COMPANY PARKING LOT - DAY

Barry jumps into a landscaping truck as it pulls out of the
parking lot.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Officer #2 drives an unmarked police car, tails behind the
landscaping truck.

Officer #1 holds a walkie-talkie.

OFFICER #1

(into walkie-talkie)

Nothing suspicious. He's been
coming to work 8 to 5, afterwards,
goes straight home.

DETECTIVE WHITE (V.O.)
(over walkie-talkie, filtered)
Leave him alone for now. You have
another assignment...

EXT. RIDGE ROAD - DAY

The unmarked police car makes a U-turn at the next
intersection, and speeds away.

INT. LANDSCAPING TRUCK - DAY - TRAVELING

Barry glances at the side mirror, grins.

EXT. YANG'S HOUSE/THRESHOLD - DAY

Jennifer rings door bell. Yang opens the door, looks at her
surprised. Ellin stands next to Yang.

YANG
Mother...

Jennifer gapes at Ellin's face.

EXT. YANG'S HOUSE/GARDEN - DAY

Jennifer grabs Yang's arms.

JENNIFER
You can't keep that girl here. Get
rid of her, you must.

YANG
I don't understand. Why do you hold
a grudge against someone you hardly
know?

JENNIFER
Just do as I say. It's for your own
good.

YANG
We should talk, mom. Wait for me in
the car. Let's go somewhere quiet.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Yang caresses Ellin's shoulder.

YANG

I will be back soon.

ELLIN

Did I do something wrong? Your mother, she seems angry.

YANG

It's just a misunderstanding. Don't worry. I will clear it up in no time.

He kisses her on the forehead.

EXT. COUNTY PARK - DAY

Jennifer and Yang meander to the riverside.

JENNIFER

Send her away, Yang. She can't stay with you.

YANG

Why? Give me a good reason why I should comply.

JENNIFER

I don't want you to get involved in your father's affair.

YANG

Ellin needs me. She has no one else.

JENNIFER

I'm doing this for you. Don't you understand, Yang? I hate to see you get hurt.

YANG

I'm an adult, capable of taking care of myself.

EXT. YANG'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ellin paces along the driveway. Eyes train on the passing traffic.

Barry approaches her.

BARRY

Do you remember me, Miss Yoon?

Ellin measures his face. Her eyes light up.

ELLIN

You are the gardener. Of course, I saw you several times at Lakewood Manor.

BARRY

Mr. Kim is running late. He bumped into me a moment ago, and sent me here to deliver a message.

ELLIN

Where is he?

BARRY

He's taking care of an urgent business. Mr. Kim said he will meet you at Dreambrook Villa. He asked me to drive you there.

EXT. COUNTY PARK - DAY

Yang glimpses at his watch.

YANG

It's getting late, mom. We should go back.

JENNIFER

You haven't answered me. Will you stop seeing her?

YANG

Ellin is waiting for me. I don't want her to be worried.

JENNIFER

Do you care for the girl so much so that you'd defy me?

YANG

I can't control how I feel, mother.
You know that feeling too. Even
though father had betrayed you,
deep down inside, you can't stop
loving him.

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/THRESHOLD - DAY (DUSK)

Ellin pauses at the front door.

BARRY

(scans about)

We'd better wait inside. Do you
have the key, Miss Yoon?

Ellin lifts a flower pot by the entrance, fishes out a key,
hands it to Barry.

Barry grins.

INT. JENNIFER'S CAR - DAY (DUSK)

Jennifer stops her car on the street outside of Yang's
house.

Yang opens the car door. Jennifer grasps his arm.

JENNIFER

I'm serious, Yang. Leave her,
forget her, erase her from your
life, or you will end up like your
father.

YANG

I'm not my father, and I will not
repeat the mistakes he made.

JENNIFER

Do you love that woman?

YANG

(loosens her grip)
Drive safely, mom.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barry removes the white cover, unveils Melane's portrait.

BARRY
(stares at the painting)
So this is David Kim's final
masterpiece...

A smile blossoms across his face.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/PLAY ROOM - NIGHT

Ellin stands in the middle of the room. The sound of piano echoes in her head.

The smart phone in her hand buzzes.

Barry snatches the phone from her grasp.

Ellin gapes at him, surprised.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yang dials Ellin's number again. The call goes straight to her voice mail.

He frowns, dials Frank's phone number.

INT. FRANK'S HOME/STUDY - NIGHT

Frank reads a legal document at his desk. His phone buzzes. He puts down the paper, picks up the phone.

FRANK
(answers)
Yang...

INTERCUT Frank and Yang.

YANG
(into phone)
Frank, have you talked to Ellin
today?

FRANK
No, what's wrong?

YANG

I was out of the house for a few hours. When I returned, she's nowhere to be found.

INT. POLICE STATION/DETECTIVE OFFICE - NIGHT

Detective White skims through a report on Barry. The phone rings.

DETECTIVE WHITE

(answers)

Yes, it's me.

CSI (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

We found a match. Barry is your man.

DETECTIVE WHITE

Good job.

INT. BARRY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Cops kick the door open. They search through the apartment, find no one inside.

EXT. BARRY'S CAR - NIGHT

Barry loads Melane's portrait into the trunk of his car.

INT. BARRY'S CAR - NIGHT

Barry's car fails to start. He tries multiple times. The engine dies on him.

BARRY

Damn it.

He curses, punches the steering wheel.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ellin lies on the floor, gagged and bound.

Barry marches in, places Melane's portrait on a coffee table. He removes the stuffing from Ellin's mouth.

BARRY
(lifts Ellin's chin)
Just do as I say, no one will get
hurt.

INT. YANG'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Yang scans the street. His phone buzzes.

YANG
(answers)
Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE WHITE (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
About the missing robber, we know
who he is. His name is Barry Cruz.
He works at Evergreen Landscaping
Company.

YANG
Have you caught him?

DETECTIVE WHITE
Not yet.

YANG
Wait a minute, Evergreen
Landscaping you said? That company
provides lawn care services for
Lakewood Manor.

Yang's smart phone buzzes again, signals another incoming
call.

Yang glances at the caller's number.

YANG
Sorry, Detective. I have to take an
important phone call.

He hangs up with Detective White, picks up the second call.

YANG
(into phone)
Ellin, where are you?

BARRY (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Don't worry. She's with me.

YANG
Who is this?

BARRY
Never mind who I am. If you want to see her alive, follow my instructions closely.

YANG
Hurt her in anyway, I will kill you myself.

BARRY
Calm down, Mr. Kim. I'm all business. Her well-being solely depends on your full cooperation...

YANG
Put her on. I need to speak to her before we make a deal.

A moment of silence on the other end of the line.

ELLIN (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Yang...

YANG
Are you alright?

ELLIN
I'm scared.

YANG
Don't worry. I will be right there...

BARRY
(over phone, filtered)
Now, Mr. Kim, listen carefully...

INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Frank hands Yang a black suitcase.

FRANK
It's all here, a quarter of a million dollars in cash.

YANG
Thanks, Frank. You're a great help.

Yang takes the suitcase, heads for the door.

FRANK

I still think we should contact the Police and let them handle the matter. You said Detective White is also looking for Barry.

YANG

I can't risk it. Ellin's life is at stake. If something happens to her, I will never forgive myself.

FRANK

Be careful, Yang.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barry fondles a box of Paint Brushes.

Ellin sits on a sofa nearby. Her hands are bound behind her back.

BARRY

I'm no painter, but these brushes look quite special. They might worth some money. Don't you think?

Ellin remains silent.

Barry leans over, places his hand on her lap.

Ellin flinches.

BARRY

I'm not gonna hurt you, Miss Yoon. I enjoy beautiful things, paintings, girls, and the most of all, money.

He draws a deep breath.

BARRY

I like your scent, sweet, pure, like a rose about to bloom.

Ellin turns her face away.

A noise in the yard startles Barry. He jumps to his feet, trots to the window, peeps out.

A cat lingers next to a broken flower pot.

Barry breathes a sigh of relief. He ambles back to the sofa. His eyes train on Melane's portrait.

BARRY

Mr. Kim is an exceptional artist, I must say. Keep having this weird feeling, she's looking at me...

INT. YANG'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Yang glimpses at the dashboard clock - 11:15 pm.

INT. FRANK'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Frank paces about the room. The clock on the wall displays 11:35 pm.

He picks up the phone, dials a number.

INT. POLICE STATION/DETECTIVE WHITE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Detective White sits at his desk, types a report. His phone rings.

DETECTIVE WHITE

(answer)

Detective White speaking.

FRANK (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

I hear you are looking for Barry Cruz. I know where he is...

DETECTIVE WHITE

(into phone)

Who is this?

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barry sits on a sofa with his eyes shut. The ceiling light shimmers. He stirs.

BARRY

What's that?

ELLIN

She's here.

BARRY

Who's here?

ELLIN
 (speaks in a queer tone)
 Do you really want to know?

BARRY
 You saw something, didn't you, the
 night Joe was killed? Tell me, what
 did you see?

ELLIN
 She killed him.

Ellin gestures at Melane's portrait.

ELLIN
 (continuing)
 Now, she's coming for you.

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/THRESHOLD - NIGHT

Yang carries a suitcase, knocks on the door.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Barry places his arm around Ellin's shoulder.

BARRY
 (shouts)
 Come in.

EXT/INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA - NIGHT - TRACKING

to follow Yang as he opens the door, enters the house. The
 door shuts behind him.

INT. DREAMBROOK/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yang inches toward Barry and Ellin.

YANG
 Are you alright, Ellin?

Ellin nods.

BARRY
 Hold right there. It's far enough.

He tightens the grip around Ellin's neck.

Ellin moans.

YANG

Don't hurt her. I have what you want.

He lays the suitcase on a coffee table, next to Melane's painting.

YANG

The money is all here.

BARRY

Open it.

Yang opens the suitcase, takes a step to the side.

Barry picks up a stack of cash, flicks it, smells at the scent. He laughs.

YANG

You may drive my car to Teterboro Airport. A small private plane should be waiting for you on the runway. It will take you to any place you desire.

BARRY

It's great doing business with you, Mr. Kim.

Barry closes the suitcase.

BARRY

Now give me the car key.

YANG

(holds up the key)
It's right here, but first, let
Ellin go.

BARRY

Looks like she's very important to you.

YANG

You have already had a quarter of million dollars and a priceless painting, what more do you want?

BARRY

Greed is human nature, Mr. Kim. Now I see how eager you want her back, she might be worth a lot more than I thought.

YANG

Money is no object, but do you have the time to enjoy it?

BARRY

(perks his brow)

What do you mean?

YANG

The police are looking for you, Mr. Cruz, as a murder and robbery suspect.

BARRY

I killed no one.

YANG

Tell that to the police, but this moment, if you harm Ellin, you will have no way to clear your name.

Barry broods.

YANG

(continuing)

Take the money and run. At this moment, Ellin's safety is my sole concern. Don't complicate the matter further.

BARRY

Alright, I will set her free, once I get to the airport.

YANG

That is not a part of our agreement.

BARRY

I make the rules, and I change it as I see fit.

YANG

You won't go far with the girl as your burden. Let me take her place instead. You will have my full cooperation.

Ellin looks at Yang, shakes her head.

In the distance, the sound of sirens draws near.

Barry startles, pulls out a knife, points it at Yang.

BARRY

You've lied to me! You bring the cops here!

YANG

I didn't. I swear I didn't. Just calm down, will you? Don't try anything stupid.

Barry waves the knife at Yang. The tip of the blade slices Yang's arm.

BARRY

What did I tell you? No cops or you both die! I'm not afraid of taking two more lives with me.

Ellin wiggles and bites Barry's arm. Barry tosses her on the floor. Her head hits the coffee table. She loses consciousness.

Yang jumps on Barry. They struggle for the knife. Barry gets on top of Yang, pushes the tip of the blade towards Yang's heart.

Pale mist gathers under Barry's breath as he breathes. The viciousness in his eyes turns to fright.

An unseen force lifts Barry in the air. The tip of the blade points to Barry's throat. He stares at it in horror.

In the blink of an eye, the knife thrusts forward.

Barry's lifeless body drops to the floor.

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Ellin, unconscious, gets loaded into an ambulance.

A first-aid personnel binds up Yang's wounded arm.

Barry's body, covered in a white sheet, gets taken out of the house on a stretcher.

DETECTIVE WHITE

(saunters up to Yang)

You are very lucky, Mr. Kim. It's foolish to handle the matter on your own.

YANG
How did you find out?

DETECTIVE WHITE
You have Frank Song to thank.

YANG
I should have known.

DETECTIVE WHITE
I suggest you take the painting and
valuables out of the house. Never
know who else might be interested
in them.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yang picks up a redwood box that sits on the coffee table.

Aside from a set of Paint Brushes, he also finds a note
inside.

The note is written by Edward Hui to David Kim.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Yang watches Ellin as she sleeps. Dr. Peterson pats him on
the shoulder.

DR. PETERSON
Don't worry. Other than a slight
concussion, she's not seriously
hurt.

YANG
It's my fault.

DR. PETERSON
Don't beat yourself up. You did
your best.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - NIGHT

On a table by the bed lies a bouquet, with a note attached.

INSERT - NOTE

"GET WELL SOON, LOVE -- FRANK"

BACK TO SCENE

Yang dozes off in a chair.

Meanwhile, Ellin dreams...

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/BACKYARD - DAY (DREAM)

A swimming pool dazzles in the sunlight.

Ellin falls into the water. A dark shadow pulls her toward the bottom of the pool.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - NIGHT

Ellin moans in her sleep. Yang stirs, rocks her shoulder.

YANG
Ellin... Ellin...

Ellin opens her eyes. She clings to Yang, shivers with fright.

YANG
(strokes Ellin's back)
It's okay. I'm here. Don't be afraid.

INT. DR. PETERSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Yang enters.

Dr. Peterson looks up.

YANG
Ellin suffered another nightmare last night. She dreamed of drowning. I feel so powerless. Is there anything I can do for her?

DR. PETERSON
Hypnotherapy is her best hope, Yang. She must confront her fear.

Yang's Smart Phone buzzes.

YANG
Excuse me, doctor.

He paces to the window.

YANG
(answers)
Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE WHITE (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Can you stop by the station? I have
a few questions need to ask you.

YANG
(into phone)
No problem.

INT. POLICE STATION/DETECTIVE WHITE'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective White hands Yang a couple of pictures.

DETECTIVE WHITE
The first one is Joe Rosa, the
robber who died at Lakewood Manor,
and the second one is Barry Cruz.

YANG
What do you want to know,
Detective?

DETECTIVE WHITE
You were there when Barry was
killed. Did anything strange occur
in that house?

Yang stares at Barry's picture.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Yang lies on the floor, pants.

The ceiling light flickers.

Yang looks up.

Barry hangs suspended in the midair. His right hand holds a
knife. The tip of the blade points at his own throat. Terror
and despair glisten in Barry's eyes.

INT. POLICE STATION/DETECTIVE WHITE'S OFFICE - DAY

Yang shakes his head, returns the pictures.

YANG

No, I didn't see anything out of the ordinary. We were struggling for the knife, and then, he accidentally stabbed himself.

DETECTIVE WHITE

That's odd, according to the autopsies, both Joe and Barry die from self-inflicted wound, as if the pair had committed suicide.

YANG

I'm no expert on such matter. It sounds too incredible, like a case straight out of an episode of the X-Files.

DETECTIVE WHITE

What about Ellin? Can she recall anything else that had happened the night of the robbery?

YANG

I'm afraid her latest ordeal traumatizes her further.

DETECTIVE WHITE

I'm sorry to hear that. I hope she recovers soon.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Ellin waves a bouquet at Yang as he saunters in.

ELLIN

Look Yang, a gift from a secret admirer.

YANG

Frank was here before. He's worried sick about you.

ELLIN

(sighs)

Can't even make you jealous.

YANG

Because of you, my heart is in my
throat these days. Are you happy
now?

Ellin beams, nodding.

YANG

(takes Ellin's hand)
Dr. Peterson suggests hypnotherapy.
What do you think? Want to try it?

ELLIN

(shakes her head)
What if I remember something really
bad?

YANG

I will be with you the entire time.
You have nothing to fear. It might
help stop the nightmare.

ELLIN

I'll think about it.

YANG

(caresses her face)
Good girl.

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

Two workers hang up Melane's Portrait on a Gallery Wall.

Admiration shines out her eyes as Vivian beholds the
painting.

Yang glimpses at her face.

VIVIAN

This is your father's best work I
dare say. I'm grateful you choose
my gallery to exhibit the art
piece.

Yang fishes a note out of his jacket pocket.

YANG

I found this letter inside of a
redwood box, along with a set
of paint brushes. It's from Mr.
Hui.

VIVIAN

(reads the note)

Believe in its power, your dearest dream may come true.

YANG

What does this mean, ma'am?

VIVIAN

My husband Edward obtained a set of paint brushes at an auction 20 years ago. He was told that they once belonged to a genius scholar of Ming Dynasty, and were blessed with an amazing power.

YANG

Interesting...

VIVIAN

I think there might be some truth to the legend. Back then, your father drew a portrait of our deceased son, Charles, and shortly after the painting was completed, strange things started to happen...

YANG

Do you suppose his painting enables one to communicate with the dead?

VIVIAN

(laughs)

Others might take us as a couple of nutcases, but my husband and I would never call a Ghost Buster, not in a million years.

She looks into Yang's eyes.

VIVIAN

(continuing)

Your father was an extraordinary artist. He believed in his creation, and he poured his heart and soul into his work. If he had wakened something unnatural through his painting, believe me, he did it out of love and faith.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Yang's Smart Phone buzzes. He puts it on speaker.

ELLIN (V.O.)
(over phone, filtered)
Where are you, Yang?

YANG
(into phone)
I'm on my way to the hospital.
What's wrong?

ELLIN
I thought about what you said
before. I told Dr. Peterson that I
want to receive hypnotherapy.

YANG
That's great, Ellin! I'll be right
there.

INT. HOSPITAL/HYPNOTHERAPY ROOM - DAY

Ellin lies on a couch. Eyes shut.

Dr. Peterson sits in a chair next to her. Yang halts behind
him.

DR. PETERSON
You can wake up anytime you want
to, Ellin. Just relax.

He glances at Yang.

Yang nods.

DR. PETERSON
Go back to your childhood. Think of
a joyful time. Tell me, how old are
you?

ELLIN
Five.

DR. PETERSON
Where are you?

ELLIN
Lake... Beach...

DR. PETERSON
What do you see?

ELLIN
Mr. Kim and his son, Yang.

DR. PETERSON
What are you doing?

ELLIN
Feeding ducks.

Yang hands Dr. Peterson a note.

DR. PETERSON
(reads the note)
Do you like Mr. Kim's son?

ELLIN
Yang, of course, he calls me Little
Mermaid, because I love water.

DR. PETERSON
You ask him for something. What is
it?

ELLIN
Wait for me...

Yang's eyes glisten.

ELLIN
(continuing)
When I grow up, I'm going to marry
you.

Yang beams.

Dr. Peterson glimpses at Yang, and makes grimaces.

DR. PETERSON
Now, you are a 7-year-old. It's the
morning of your drowning incident.
You are at home.

Ellin's breathing gets heavy. Her hands fold into fists.

DR. PETERSON
Don't be afraid. You are safe. Tell
me, what do you see?

ELLIN

Mr. Kim, he pleads with my mom,
asks her not to leave... Someone
else walks in, a woman... She seems
very angry... She slaps Mr. Kim...

Ellin frowns, stops talking as she resists the memory.

DR. PETERSON

It's okay. No one is getting hurt.
Tell me, where are you now?

ELLIN

I run to the backyard... I fall
into the pool... I'm under water.
It's cold. I can't breathe...

DR. PETERSON

Where is your mom?

ELLIN

She's near. I hear her voice. She's
calling me, but I can't see her...
mom... mom...

She cries. Her body trembles.

DR. PETERSON

It's over now. When I count to
three, you will feel totally
relaxed, and you will only remember
fond memories. One... two...
three...

Ellin opens her eyes. Tears cling to her cheeks.

Yang steps forward, embraces her, strokes her back.

YANG

You did well, Ellin. I'm proud of
you.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Ellin sleeps.

Dr. Peterson and Yang look at her peaceful mien.

DR. PETERSON

Ellin's mother passed away while
saving her. Poor child, she's been
carrying the guilt all those years.

YANG

It was an accident, not her fault.

DR. PETERSON

Ellin believes she's responsible for her death. That's why she keeps having that reoccurring nightmare.

YANG

What can we do to help her?

DR. PETERSON

She needs to forgive herself. Only then, she can let go of the past.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer browses through a newspaper.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

"A KIDNAPPER MEETS A BIZARRE END" emblazoned above a photo of Dreambrook Villa.

BACK TO SCENE

Jennifer's eyes fix on the picture.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Ellin sleeps.

Paul enters the room with a bouquet in his hand...

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Yang stands at the spot where Barry was killed. He stares at the bloodstained floor.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/ENTRANCE - DAY

The doorknob turns.

Jennifer walks in. She stumbles at the sight of Yang.

JENNIFER

Yang...

YANG

Mother, what are you doing here?

JENNIFER

I, I saw the news... Why are you here?

YANG

This is Ellin's old home.

JENNIFER

Ellin, are you still seeing that girl?

YANG

You know Ellin, don't you? You have been here before...

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/FRONT YARD - DAY

Yang catches up with Jennifer. He grabs her arm.

YANG

Tell me, mother. How do you know Ellin?

Jennifer loosens his grip.

JENNIFER

Break up with her. That's my last warning. She's not right for you.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - NIGHT

Yang sits in a chair next to Ellin's bed, gazes at her face as she sleeps.

On a table nearby lays a fresh bouquet.

INT. HOSPITAL/LOBBY - NIGHT

Paul walks to a Vendor Machine, purchases a can of Ice Coffee.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - NIGHT

Yang dozes off. Pale mist gathers under his breath as he breathes.

The door opens on its own.

Yang stirs, gets up, heads for the door as if hears a summons.

INT. HOSPITAL/LOBBY - NIGHT

Yang passes Paul without acknowledge him.

Paul tosses the coffee can into a wastebasket, tails after Yang.

INT. YANG'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Yang stares at the roadway ahead. His face remains expressionless.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Paul glimpses at the dashboard. The time displays 11:55.

A road sign draws near.

INSERT - ROAD SIGN

"7 LAKES DRIVE"

BACK TO SCENE

Paul frowns.

PAUL

Where is he going this late?

EXT. LAKESIDE/BEACH - NIGHT

Yang marches down the empty beach.

Paul steps out of his car, watches Yang from the distance.

Yang trudges into the lake. Little by little, his entire body immerses in the water.

Paul runs to the bank, scans the lake while removes his shoes and jacket.

PAUL
(shouts)
Mr. Kim... Mr. Kim, answer me!

Air bubbles rise to the surface of the lake.

PAUL
I hate late night swim.

He ventures into the water.

INT. LAKE - NIGHT

Paul feels his way about the lake. His fingers grasp Yang's outstretched arm. With all he might, he pulls Yang to the surface.

EXT. LAKESIDE/BEACH - NIGHT

Yang lies on the beach, unconscious.

Paul performs CPR on him.

PAUL
Breathe, you can't die on me.

At last, Yang expels some water from his lung, and breathes again.

Paul squats on the sand, pants.

PAUL
Are you crazy? Try to kill
yourself?

Yang coughs, gags out more water.

INT. PAUL'S CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Paul peeps at Yang in the passenger seat.

Yang wraps in a blanket, shivers and coughs.

Paul turns the heat in the car up a notch.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Yang sits in front of a fireplace with a blanket around him.

Paul hands Yang a cup.

PAUL
Here, drink this, hot cocoa.

Yang receives the cup.

YANG
Ginger tea would be a better choice
at a time like this.

PAUL
I didn't expect your esteemed
presence. Next time, if you decide
to have a late night swim, give me
a heads up.

Yang takes a sip.

YANG
I owe you one.

PAUL
I save you not because I like you.

Yang smiles, continues drinking the cocoa.

PAUL
What were you doing out there? I
hope you were not taking an easy
way out just because your mother
disapproves of your relationship
with Ellin.

Yang glances at Paul.

PAUL
She's a proud woman, and I'm a
resourceful reporter. Juicy stuff
like that won't escape my nose.

YANG
How did you find me?

PAUL
I followed you from the hospital.
You looked like a man being
possessed by a spirit.

YANG

I don't remember anything, except a voice in my head telling me to follow.

PAUL

(measures Yang's face)
Are you serious?

YANG

Perhaps I was possessed.

Yang takes another sip of the hot cocoa, wraps the blanket tight around his body.

Paul presses his palm over Yang's forehead.

PAUL

You are burning up, better lie down.

YANG

I saw him being killed, Barry Cruz, the guy who kidnapped Ellin, his eyes, full of horror and despair.

PAUL

He got what he deserves I dare say.

YANG

Ellin saw it too, the night of the robbery, that thief died of a similar eerie death.

PAUL

What are you saying?

YANG

Do you believe in ghost, sir?

PAUL

I suppose it's possible...

YANG

Wish I know what it wants, and how to make it go away...

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Yang sleeps on a long sofa.

A ray of sunlight peeps into the room through a large window.

Yang stirs, opens his eyes.

Paul stoops over him with a spoon in his hand.

PAUL

It's about time you wake up.

YANG

(sits up)

What time is now?

PAUL

Almost 11 o'clock. Go wash up, I'll have the breakfast ready in a minute.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Paul places a bowl of Chicken Rice Soup in front of Yang. Meanwhile, he chews on a peanut butter sandwich, and washes it down with a glass of milk.

PAUL

I thought about what you said last night, about the ghost. I read it somewhere that a spirit lingers on often because of an unfinished business.

YANG

How can we communicate with a spirit?

PAUL

Would it be a good idea we call up a priest and perform some kind of religious ritual.

YANG

That stuff only works in movies.

PAUL

Hei, you never know.

YANG

I talked to one of my father's friends earlier... I think he might have wakened the spirit of his beloved through his painting.

PAUL

Beloved...

YANG

Do you have any idea?

PAUL

Finish your breakfast, son. I have a friend you should meet.

EXT. CEMETERY/KEVIN'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Yang's eyes fix on the tombstone.

YANG

Who is this Kevin Yoon?

PAUL

He's Ellin's father, Melane's loving husband, and my best friend. He was killed in a car accident 15 years ago.

YANG

I had been here before...

PAUL

Yes, on the day of your father's funeral, You collapsed right in front of this grave. I found you in a terrible shape, and called ambulance for you.

YANG

I remember hearing a voice in my head, asking me for help.

PAUL

Perhaps you can. 15 years ago, his wife Melane passed away on the same day. Yet, she was not buried alongside of him. I suspect your father might have something to do with it.

YANG
Unfortunately, he's dead.

PAUL
Your mom is still alive.

YANG
My mom...

PAUL
She contacted Kevin the day he was
killed. He rushed home after
receiving her call, but his car
ended up at the bottom of the hill.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Jennifer steps into Ellin's ward.

Ellin gapes at her.

JENNIFER
I'm sorry to show up like this. I'm
Yang's mother.

ELLIN
(gets out the bed)
I saw you once before, at Yang's
house. Please have a seat. Let me
fetch you something to drink,
coffee, tea or...

JENNIFER
Don't bother. I only need a few
minutes of your time.

Ellin fidgets at the spot with downcast eyes.

JENNIFER
Do you like my son?

Ellin lifts her head, nods.

JENNIFER
Are you in love with him?

Ellin's eyes sparkle. She nods again.

Jennifer's face darkens.

JENNIFER

Do me a favor, child. Leave my son,
and never see him again.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR - DAY

Yang ambles about the house.

YANG

Mom... Mom...

No one answers.

He takes out a Smart Phone, dials Jennifer's number.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Jennifer's phone buzzes. She glances at the caller's name.

JENNIFER

(into phone)

Yes, Yang.

INTERCUT Yang and Jennifer.

YANG

(into phone)

Where are you, mom?

JENNIFER

I'm outside, taking care of a
business. Where are you?

YANG

At your house. I need to talk to
you.

JENNIFER

Just stay there, wait for me. I
should be home shortly.

She puts her phone away.

Ellin grasps Jennifer's hand. Tears well up in her eyes.

ELLIN

I know I'm not good enough for
Yang, but I love him
wholeheartedly. If you give me a
chance, I will try my best, and be
a good daughter to you as well.

Jennifer loosens Ellin's grip.

JENNIFER

My son is a softhearted man. I hope you don't mistake his pity for love. A girl like you can only be a burden to him.

ELLIN

He's all I have left, precious like the air I breathe. Because of him I feel alive. Please don't take my joy and hope away.

JENNIFER

You are young and pretty, have many chances to meet a better man. Let my son go. If you truly care for him, disappear from his life, and I shall be eternally grateful to you.

Ellin shakes her head, presses a hand over her heart, cries.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Yang dials Ellin's phone. She does not pick up. He dials the number again. Still no response. He tries the number for the third time. The call gets connected.

YANG

(into phone)

Ellin, it's me.

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Ellin holds the phone to her ear. Tears run down her face.

ELLIN

(into phone)

Yes, Yang. Where are you?

INTERCUT Ellin and Yang.

YANG

(into phone)

I'm at my mother's house. I called you many times.

ELLIN

I probably dozed off, didn't hear...

YANG
Are you alright? You sound a bit
strange. Are you crying?

ELLIN
(dries her face)
No, I just had a bad dream.

YANG
I will make all your nightmares go
away. Trust me.

ELLIN
Come back, Yang. I miss you, and I
love you very much.

YANG
(smiles)
I know.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR - DAY (DUSK)

Jennifer enters the house.

YANG
(walks up to her)
Mom, I have something to ask you.

Jennifer puts away her coat and handbag.

JENNIFER
After dinner, my son. It's been a
while since we sat at a
dining-table together.

She caresses Yang's face, meanders away.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/DINING-ROOM - NIGHT

Yang sits across the table from Jennifer.

Jennifer drinks white wine with a salmon dish, while Yang
enjoys a serving of pepper steak. They eat in silence.

Yang peeps at the clock on the wall.

JENNIFER
Are you planning on going
somewhere? You keep looking at the
time.

YANG

A friend is waiting for me. I shouldn't stay this late.

JENNIFER

I just want to enjoy a quiet evening with my son. Is that too much to ask?

YANG

I'm sorry, mother.

JENNIFER

Stay tonight if you are truly sorry. I have your room made ready.

YANG

But I'm used to my own bed.

JENNIFER

Tomorrow, let's go to the Memorial Garden. You have yet visited your father's grave. It's about time to pay your belated respect.

Yang falls silent.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/YANG'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Yang stares at a family portrait on the wall.

INSERT - PICTURE

"DAVID AND JENNIFER OCCUPY A REDWOOD ANTIQUE CHAIR WITH YANG, 5, SITS BETWEEN THEM. THEY SMILE TO THE CAMERA."

BACK TO SCENE

Yang caresses the picture.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jennifer warms up a glass of milk using microwave oven. She drops a couple of sleeping pills into the drink...

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/YANG'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer hands Yang the milk.

JENNIFER

Drink it. It will help you relax.

Yang obeys.

YANG

Can I ask you a question, mom? Why do you dislike Ellin?

JENNIFER

She's not right for you. Besides, too many bad things happen around her. If you continue seeing her, you might end up hurt or worse, like your father. I can't risk it.

YANG

You are being superstitious. She's the victim in the entire matter. You should pity her, not loathe her.

JENNIFER

It's all your father's fault, selfish as always. You have no reason to carry his burden.

YANG

She's not a burden. I'm all she has in the world. I can't leave her.

JENNIFER

She's young, will meet someone new, and forget you in time.

YANG

Looks like I have made a mistake. I shouldn't come here.

He springs to his feet, but stumbles, sinks back into the chair.

JENNIFER

(caresses Yang's head)

You are too exhausted to drive. Take a nap, or you might end up in an car accident.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/YANG'S BEDROOM - DAY

A ray of sunlight peeps into the room through a large window.

Jennifer rubs Yang's shoulder.

JENNIFER
Wake up, son. Breakfast is ready.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Yang strolls alongside of Jennifer with a bouquet in his hand.

EXT. CEMETERY/DAVID'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Yang places the bouquet in a flower holder. He bows to David's grave three times.

Jennifer watches him with a satisfied grin on her face.

YANG
(steps to the side)
Would you like to pay your respect,
mom?

JENNIFER
(shakes her head)
How strange, now that I see your
father rest here. I feel nothing,
no hatred, no anger, and not even
grief.

YANG
Does that mean you have forgiven
him?

JENNIFER
I'm not sure. Perhaps one day I
will.

She turns to leave.

YANG
Mom...

Jennifer glances at Yang.

JENNIFER

What is it, son?

YANG

There is another gravesite I wish to pay my respect. Will you please accompany me?

EXT. CEMETERY/KEVIN'S GRAVESITE - DAY

Clouds gather in the sky, block the sunlight.

Jennifer stares at the headstone, her face pale as a white sheet.

YANG

Ellin's father rests here.

JENNIFER

Why do you bring me here? I have no reason to come.

She backs away. Yang grasps her arm.

YANG

You know him, don't you, mother? He was a journalist with a bright future, and he perished 15 years ago, in a car accident.

JENNIFER

No, I don't know this man. Let us leave, Yang.

YANG

What are you afraid of?

JENNIFER

Afraid? Why should I be afraid? I have done nothing wrong.

YANG

You are trembling, mother. I see it in your eyes. You are terrified.

JENNIFER

I'm not feeling well, Yang. Let's go home.

YANG

What haunts you, mother, a memory or a ghost?

Jennifer gapes at Yang's face.

YANG

You called him that day, didn't you? What did you say to him?

JENNIFER

I had never talked to him in my life, nor did I have anything to do with his death. You must believe me, Yang!

Above, a thunder explodes.

Jennifer shivers.

YANG

What are you trying to hide, mother?

JENNIFER

Please, Yang, let's get out of here.

YANG

Were you at the accident site? Did you witness his death?

JENNIFER

Whatever you heard is a lie, a lie! I didn't kill him. I swear!

YANG

I know you would not deliberately harm anyone. Just tell me what had happened?

Rain pours down. Lightning tears open the gloomy sky.

Jennifer holds on to Yang's arms, looks at him with teary eyes.

JENNIFER

Please, Yang, let's leave.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Jennifer fidgets in her seat, while peeps back.

JENNIFER

Hurry, Yang! Hurry!

YANG
Nobody is after us, mom.

Rain pelts down. The view ahead gets obscure.

JENNIFER
Faster, Yang, go faster!

YANG
I'm doing the best I can, mother.
We might crash if we...

EXT. RIVER ROAD - DAY

Lightning strikes a tree ahead. The debris falls onto the roadway.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Yang steps on the break.

The car slides forward. Inches away from the downing tree, it comes to a screeching halt.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY

Yang hovers over the steering wheel. A moment later, he stirs, looks ahead with a sigh of relief.

Jennifer's head presses against the side window. She doesn't move.

YANG
(rocks her shoulder)
Mom, are you alright, mom? Are you hurt?

Jennifer does not respond. Yang turns her face.

Jennifer's eyes wide open. Tears brim over. She draws Yang into her arms, cries.

JENNIFER
I didn't see him. You must believe me. I didn't mean to kill him...

INT. HOSPITAL/PRIVATE WARD - DAY

Ellin takes off her hospital gown, leaves it on the bed.

In her head, a voice chants.

MELANE (O.S.)
Come home, Ellin. Come to me...

Ellin puts on her dress, gathers her belongings, walks to the door...

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY

Yang strokes Jennifer's back.

YANG
Don't hold it inside, mother. Let
the torment end here. Tell me what
had happened that day?

Tears steam down Jennifer's face.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/FRONT YARD - DAY

A moving truck parks in the driveway.

David glances at the truck, runs inside the house.

Jennifer trails a few paces behind.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Several boxes litter the floor.

Melane packs a pile of books into a box.

Nearby, Ellin plays with a princess doll.

David walks up to Melane, draws her into his arms.

DAVID
Don't go, please. Don't leave me.
Without you I can't think, can't
paint, can't breathe. You are my
air, my inspiration. I'm nothing
without you.

Melane loosens his grip, steps away from him.

Ellin stares at them.

MELANE

It's true I admire your artistry,
Mr. Kim, but that's all I feel
about you, admiration, nothing
more. I belong to my family. Let's
not see each other again.

Jennifer halts by the entrance way, watches their exchange.

DAVID

Is that because of my wife? I'll
get a divorce. For you, I can give
up everything.

MELANE

Go back to Jennifer. She loves you.
I'm just an illusion, and soon, I
shall be a distant memory.

DAVID

She means nothing to me, honest. I
was too young back then, hungry for
success. The marriage was a
mistake.

Jennifer marches in with tears in her eyes. She slaps David
across the face.

David freezes at the spot, gapes at her.

Ellin, 7, runs to Melane, frightened.

MELANE

(strokes Ellin's head)
Don't be afraid. Go to the
backyard, and wait for me there. I
will be with you in a minute, and
don't go near the pool, okay?

Ellin nods, runs off.

David beholds Jennifer's angry face.

DAVID

I'm sorry if I hurt your feeling.
You have every right to loathe
me...

JENNIFER

You are totally out of your mind.
You betray me and our son, for

(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)
what? This woman doesn't love you
like I do.

DAVID
I can't control how I feel. My
heart beats for her and her alone.
What shall I do, Jen? I can't stop
it even if I try.

JENNIFER
You are a hopeless fool.

Tears stream down Jennifer's face.

David turns to Melane.

DAVID
Go away with me. Let's start a new
life together. I will make you the
happiest woman on the planet.

MELANE
How can we be happy when so many
people get hurt?

JENNIFER
She's right, David. Her husband
will be here any moment. He will
put some senses into that head of
yours.

DAVID
What have you done?

JENNIFER
I called him, and told him that if
he doesn't come home soon, his wife
might have run away with my
husband.

David grasps Jennifer's arms, glares at her face.

DAVID
It's over between us. Get it? No
matter what you do, you can't stop
me from leaving you.

JENNIFER
You're wrong, David. My death can
throw both of you into a living
hell. Yang, your only son, will
hate you forever. You may never

(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)
 enjoy happiness for the rest of
 your life.

She runs out. David chases after her.

EXT. JENNIFER'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Rain beats on the windshield. The sky darkens. Thunder booms.

Jennifer cries as she drives along the country road. Her vision gets blurry.

Ahead, bright light flashes, follows by the sound of a car plowing down the hillside, then a loud explosion...

END FLASHBACK.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY

Jennifer holds Yang tight.

JENNIFER
 I didn't know it's him, or how badly he got injured. Your father was there. He took care of everything. Not until much later I learned about his death. Your father broke it to me.

YANG
 Is that why you agreed to a divorce?

JENNIFER
 (sobs)
 I was terrified. He said as the sole witness, he could report to the police that I drove recklessly and caused the accident. I had no choice...

Yang shuts his eyes. Tears tumble down his cheeks.

INT. TAXI - DAY - TRAVELING

Ellin sits in the backseat, gazes out of the window.

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer drinks a glass of milk that Yang hands her.

JENNIFER

She would never forgive me. I
killed her father.

YANG

It's an unfortunate accident,
mom. Try to get some sleep.

Jennifer grasps Yang's hand.

JENNIFER

Stay with me for a while, Yang. I
don't want to be alone.

Yang pulls up a chair, sits down.

JENNIFER

I might be a bit harsh to that
girl, but you are all I have left,
Yang. I can't lose you.

YANG

(tucks her in)
You won't, mom.

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/THRESHOLD - DAY

Ellin's hand rests on the doorknob. With an easy push, the
door opens.

INT. HALLWAY

Ceiling light turns on by itself as Ellin passes. Pale mist
gathers under her breath.

MELANE (O.S.)

Come to me, Ellin...

INT. PLAYROOM

Melane materializes in the air. She sits in front of a grand piano, plays a melody.

Ellin transforms into a seven-year-old girl. She runs to Melane...

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Yang peeps at Jennifer's face.

 YANG
 (whispers)
 Mom... Are you wake, mom?

Jennifer does not respond. Yang tiptoes to the door.

EXT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/GARDEN - DAY

Yang dials Ellin's number.

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ellin's Smart Phone sits on a coffee table. It buzzes...

EXT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/GARDEN - DAY

Yang puts a trace on Ellin's phone. He frowns, springs away.

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Yang's eyes fix on the winding country road ahead.

The sky darkens. Rain pours on the windshield.

EXT/INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA - DAY - TRACKING

Yang leaps up the stairs, hastens inside the house.

INT. HALLWAY

Mist gathers under Yang's breath as he ventures down the hallway.

INT. STAIRWAY

Yang climbs up a flight of staircases. A light draws near.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM/DOORWAY

Yang halts at the doorway, peeks inside.

YANG' P.O.V. - ELLIN

sits on a King-Sized bed, browses through a photo album.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM

Yang walks up to Ellin.

Ellin lifts her head, smiles at Yang.

YANG

What are you doing here?

ELLIN

I found the pictures. Look, my
parents. It was taken on my third
birthday.

She points at a photo.

Yang's eyes train on the picture beneath it.

INSERT - PICTURE

"PAUL HOLDS YOUNG ELLIN IN HIS ARMS, WHILE SHE BLOWS OUT
FIVE CANDLES ON A BIRTHDAY CAKE"

BACK TO SCENE

Yang gestures at the photo.

YANG

Who is this man, do you remember?

ELLIN

This is Uncle Paul, a close family
friend.

YANG

(scans about)

This room was locked the last time
we were here. How did you get in?

ELLIN
Mother opened it for me. She's here
a moment ago.

YANG
Mother...

ELLIN
Hear that music? She's practicing
piano.

YANG
I'm not hearing anything. Let's get
out of here, shall we?

He grasps her hand.

ELLIN
I can't leave. Mom will be upset...

YANG
Don't you want to see Uncle Paul?
He's been looking for you.

Ellin dithers for a moment, then follows Yang to the door.

Without warning, the door slams shut. The ceiling light
flickers.

Ellin backs away from the door with terror in her eyes.

Yang reaches for the door handle. A pocket of air punches
him in the face. He sails through the air, lands on his
back.

An unseen force drags Yang across the floor, lifts him up by
the collar.

ELLIN
(cries)
No, mom, stop it! Please stop!

She goes down on her knees, trembles in fear.

Yang rips off a top collar button as he struggles to
breathe.

A light escapes the green jade amulet that Master Singyun
gave to him.

The grip around Yang's neck loosens. Yang plummets to the
floor. He coughs and wheezes.

Ellin screams, cowers in a corner.

Yang crawls to her side, cups her face in his palms.

YANG

Look at me, Ellin. I'm here. I'm not hurt.

Ellin stares at Yang. Her eyes glaze over.

YANG

Don't you know my voice? Speak to me, answer me, please!

Ellin displays no signs of acknowledgment.

Yang kisses Ellin on the lips.

A tear slips down Ellin's cheek. Life shines in her eyes again. Ellin clings to Yang, wails.

YANG

It's okay. Don't be afraid.

ELLIN

I remember now, why the nightmare would not end, why it keeps haunting me. I killed her. I killed my mother.

YANG

(strokes her back)

You know not what you are saying. You were just a child then...

ELLIN

She told me not to go near the pool. I didn't listen to her. She died because of me.

EXT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/BACKYARD SWIMMING POOL - DAY
(FLASHBACK)

Ellin, 7, cuddles a princess doll, wanders along the edge of a swimming pool.

Jennifer's angry shout startles her. She stumbles, loses balance, falls into the pool.

The plastic cover rips, traps her inside.

ELLIN

Mom, help me! Mom...

Melane jumps into the pool, pushes Ellin to the brink.

Meanwhile, the plastic cover wraps around Melane's legs. She struggles for a moment, then, sinks to the bottom...

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Ellin looks at Yang with teary eyes.

ELLIN
It's my fault.

YANG
It was an accident.

ELLIN
If it wasn't for me, she would
still be alive today.

YANG
Your mother loved you very much.
That's why she gave up her own life
to save you. Forgive yourself,
Ellin, so that she may move on.

MELANE (O.S.)
Come to me, Ellin. Come, my
child...

Ellin stares at the nothingness ahead.

ELLIN
She's calling me... my mother.

YANG
(holds Ellin in his arms)
Don't listen to it.

ELLIN
She wants me to follow her. She
says if I comply, you will be
spared.

YANG
I don't want to live in a world
without you. Stay with me, Ellin.

Yang takes off his amulet, places it around Ellin's neck. He kisses Ellin on the forehead.

YANG
This is yours now. From this moment
on, you shall be blessed with good
fortune. No more tears, no more
(MORE)

YANG (cont'd)
 sadness, and no more nightmares.
 Only happiness will accompany you.

He caresses her face. The light in his eyes goes dim. He collapses.

Ellin holds Yang in her arms. The green jade amulet glows. She kisses Yang's lips.

ELLIN
 I love you, Yang. Don't leave me.

A tear falls on Yang's colorless cheek. He does not move.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer wakes up, glances at the empty chair next to the bed.

JENNIFER
 Yang, Yang, where are you?

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

A ray of golden sunlight peeps into the room through an open window. Birds chirp.

Yang opens his eyes. Ellin lies on the floor, next to him. He gazes at her peaceful mien. She opens her eyes, smiles at him.

YANG
 The storm has finally moved on, it seems.

They get up, look around the room.

ELLIN
 She's gone, my mother.

A white cloth lies on the floor. On the wall, above a dresser, hangs a large wedding picture.

Ellin walks to the dresser. A cinerary urn situates underneath the wedding picture.

The name MELANE is engraved on the surface of the golden bass.

ELLIN

She's here all these time, waiting
for me to come home.

She caresses the urn...

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer paces back and forth, while dials Yang's number.

JENNIFER

Yang, pick up, Yang...

INT. DREAMBROOK VILLA/HALLWAY - DAY

Yang's Smart Phone buzzes.

YANG

(into phone)

Mom...

INTERCUT Yang and Jennifer.

JENNIFER

(into phone)

Where are you?

YANG

I'm with Ellin...

INT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer sinks into a chair...

INT. YANG'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Ellin cuddles Melane's urn, glimpses at Yang.

ELLIN

Where are we going?

YANG

Someone important I want you to
meet... my mother.

ELLIN

(frowns)

I'm afraid she might not wish to see me.

YANG

Don't worry. You are the woman I love. She will like you too. Trust me.

EXT. JENNIFER'S MANOR/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Yang and Ellin step out of the car.

Jennifer walks up to them.

YANG

Mom, I bring Ellin here.

Jennifer beholds Ellin's face.

JENNIFER

If I hurt you in the past, it was not my intent. Will you forgive me?

Tears glisten in Ellin's eyes.

JENNIFER

If you wish, I'll love you like a daughter.

Ellin cries.

Jennifer draws Ellin into her arms, strokes her back.

Yang looks on, smiles.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Master Singyun places an amulet with Melane's remains while chants Holy Buddha Scriptures.

Melane rests in a grave alongside of Kevin's.

Ellin and Yang kneel before the grave, kowtow three times.

Paul and Jennifer watch the ceremony with misty eyes.

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

Ellin halts before the portrait of Melane.

A note situates underneath the painting.

INSERT - NOTE

"DAVID KIM'S FINAL MASTERPIECE - HIDDEN SCENT"

BACK TO SCENE

Ellin smiles.

ELLIN

From now on, you don't need to
worry about me anymore.

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Colorful lights light up a Christmas Tree.

Yang and Ellin dance to a melody.

Ellin rests her head on Yang's shoulder, shuts her eyes.

YANG

What are you thinking?

ELLIN

I'm making a wish.

YANG

What kind of wish?

ELLIN

You will laugh at me.

YANG

Tell me yours, and I shall share
mine.

ELLIN

I pray we live happily-ever-after,
like the prince and princess in a
fairy tale.

Yang lifts her chin, gazes at her face.

EXT. LAKESIDE/BEACH - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Ellin, 5, clings to Yang's shoulders as he piggybacks her along the beach front.

ELLIN
Do you have a girlfriend?

YANG
No, why do you ask?

ELLIN
(beams)
You have one now.

YANG
I beg your pardon?

ELLIN
I have decided. I will marry you
when I grow up.

She kisses Yang on the cheek...

INT. YANG'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Yang looks into Ellin's eyes.

YANG
I have a confession to make. 17
years ago, I promised a young lady
that I'll marry her when she grows
up.

ELLIN
(frowns)
How could you promise such thing to
a little child? She's too naive to
question your sincerity.

YANG
But I was 100 percent serious. Now,
I ask you again. Will you give me
your hand to hold, to love you, and
to cherish you for the rest of your
life?

Ellin's face blossoms.

ELLIN
So it wasn't a dream after all.

She raises to her tiptoes, kisses Yang on the lips.

ELLIN
Now, it's sealed. You are mine,
forever.

They embrace.

FADE OUT.

THE END