

AS YET UNTITLED

**By**

R MICHAEL TORREY

Kelly Red Company  
88 S Garfield Ave. Unit 466  
Alhambra, CA  
91801  
971-207-4990  
[rmichaeltorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:rmichaeltorrey@hotmail.com)

*Copyright (c) 2024 This screenplay may not be used or reproduced for any purpose including educational purposes without the expressed written permission of the author*

## Act 1 - Scene 1 - Day 1

FADE IN:

INTERNAL TONYA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

The camera is at floor level in a darkened room, facing a lit kitchen, kitchen island, kitchen stool and two human feet. a Morkie waddles around in the middle ground. Foreground is the lowest legs of a kitchen island stool which CLEMENTINE is seated upon, all we see is her feet, her feet have those slipper nylons on them and you can see the perfect pink toenails through them. She's wearing designer business slacks. The island side panel takes up the right half of the screen, there's a faint dark wood panel color and a shadow on the little bit of floor that shows in front of it. To the left of this the stool and CLEMENTINE's feet coming down, are in the light, on the linoleum floor, shifting around while CLEMENTINE and her mother TONYA talk and the dog shuffles in and out of the light. Beyond the cabinet and the stool, the kitchen floor and other cabinets are brightly lit with yellow light, but the focus is on the feet and stool legs, the background is slightly blurry, her mother TONYA walks around in the background of the kitchen while they talk, wearing black zipper boots with blocky 1.5" heels. She clomps.

The opening credits are rolling in the right side of the screen [dark area of the cabinet] during this scene. at the top left CORNER of the screen, the word "CLEMENTINE" appears in black. CLEMENTINE is speaking, one foot bobbing up and down.

CLEMENTINE O.S.

...so, then he looks me right in the face and tells me he'll have the contracts ready before Tuesday, when I know damn well he's going to procrastinate until Monday evening and then pull an all-nighter!

TONYA walks back and forth in the background, heels clomping.

TONYA O.S.

Can he do it? I mean is he capable of getting it done that way?

CLEMENTINE O.S.

Well, it wouldn't be the first time...

TONYA O.S.

So maybe as his manager you just need to trust that he'll get it done. You've explained the consequences...?

CLEMENTINE does not reply for a long time. the foot bobs, TONYA waits, then:

TONYA O.S.

Honey? Did y...

CLEMENTINE (O.S. BURSTS OUT)

And then there's the Thailand production! What a shit show! They were supposed to start filming last week and they've got a bunch of local people sitting around getting paid while the director and the writer and the star all argue about the script.

TONYA O.S.

Oh, that's...

CLEMENTINE O.S.

They want me to go there! Straighten everything out! Jeez...! But I'm trying to get this other project funded and off the ground and I really need to be concentrating...

TONYA has stopped pacing in the background, shoes facing CLEMENTINE but not coming closer.

TONYA O.S.

To Thailand? They want you to go  
to Thailand?

CLEMENTINE O.S.

Yes! That's what I'm saying..

CLEMENTINE's phone buzzes, she picks it up, pushes a button.  
Sets it down.

CLEMENTINE O.S.

It's just Patrick..

TONYA O.S.

You could visit Henry.

TONYA's feet go back to pacing, moving things around, maybe  
doing a dish or two. CLEMENTINE is caught off-guard. her feet  
come off the rungs of the stool and she stands up. Morkie looks  
up at her.

CLEMENTINE O.S.

What? Henry?

TONYA O.S.

He lives in Thailand, right? In...  
what is it, Chang Ray?

CLEMENTINE O.S.

Chiang Mai, Mommy (sighs) I  
suppose. I haven't heard from him  
in months!

TONYA O.S.

When was the last time he heard  
from *you*?

CLEMENTINE O.S.

What? Oh mommy, don't start that!

CLEMENTINE scoops up the morkie. Sound of keys and purse coming off the counter, while TONYA's feet come closer and they start to move to the left. Camera pans to follow as they pass into the dim hallway, they walk away talking, the camera does not zoom, so more and more of their figures come into the view. Dialogue continues while they walk.

TONYA O.S.

You know he's got autistic tendencies, right? Henry does? He's on the spectrum. He was able to fake being somewhat normal for...

CLEMENTINE

What's that got to do with it?

TONYA

It's the communication skills, sweetie, you know how much of a social misfit he is...

CLEMENTINE GRUNTS:

I'll say!

TONYA

He's getting really old, darlin', he might not have that many years left.

CLEMENTINE:

How old is he anyway?

TONYA

I think he was 75 his last birthday...

They move down the hallway to the door, now fully within the frame but shadowy in the dim hallway

CLEMENTINE GASPS:

No! Shit, you're right!

TONYA

Plus, I think he's starting to get Alzheimer's. His last birthday message was really weird, remember?

No one speaks for a moment, CLEMENTINE lost in thought, TONYA trying to catch her eye. TONYA switches on the light.

CLEMENTINE (WAKES UP)

Shit, look at the time, I've got to go. I have to call the Thailand folks and they are 14 hours ahead of us which makes it... 6 in the morning there. Schotzie should be up and getting organized, I want to catch him... And Brian will be glad to see me home early for once!

TONYA

Just think about it, sweetie, okay? Seeing Henry?

CLEMENTINE (IN A HURRY)

I will mom. Thanks for watching Bear again.

TONYA

Oh, he makes the place less lonely during the day, brings me out of my shell. He can stay with me while you're in Thailand!

TONYA is opening the door. CLEMENTINE hesitates with it open.

CLEMENTINE:

You really think I should go?

TONYA

You do what you think is best honey, always!

They have a little peck of a kiss and CLEMENTINE steps outside and TONYA closes the door

FADE OUT

### Act 1 - Scene 2 - Day 1

FADE IN - INTERIOR CLEMENTINE'S APARTMENT 10 MINUTES LATER

Front door opens CLEMENTINE comes in and puts Bear down. Starts putting down purse and taking off shoes. Bear goes barking off screen to the right.

CLEMENTINE (CALLING OUT)

Brian! I'm home! Yay! I have to make one phone call and then we can go out to dinner at that new place on Wilshire...

Bedroom door opens and BRIAN steps out in his underwear, he closes the door behind him and looks scared.

BRIAN

Hey, you're home early! Haha...

CLEMENTINE looks at him and snorts. she's had time to consider the trip to Thailand and has decided it might be a good idea. maybe Brian can come along...

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHING)

What the fuck is wrong with you?  
Go get dressed...

The bedroom door behind Brian opens and KIMBERLY steps out. She has obviously been having sex with Brian and she's defiant about it.

KIMBERLY

Hey Clem! Um, I don't think we're gonna get away with this one, Brian, yikes! Sorry!

CLEMENTINE has frozen in the middle of the room in rage. Kimberly tries to slip by but CLEMENTINE grabs her long hair on the way by and yanks it hard.

CLEMENTINE (CLENCHED TEETH)

You get the fuck out of my house,  
bitch! You are dead to me!

KIMBERLY

Ouch! Hey fuck you, Clem! He was  
gonna leave you anyway!

CLEMENTINE rounds on Kimberly and pushes her back against the  
wall, the front of Kim's blouse bunched up in her fist.

CLEMENTINE

No, bitch, fuck you, you fucking  
whore! And I told you, KIM-MIE,  
never ever to call me Clem! Get  
the fuck out of my house before I  
rip your face off!

Kimberly goes out the door, pushed by CLEMENTINE who then slams  
the door shut and whirls to confront Brian. Brian has his hands  
up in surrender and backs into the bedroom as CLEMENTINE  
advances. they are yelling at each other and the sound fades  
with the slow fade out.

CLEMENTINE

And you, you piece of shit! What  
the FUCK do you think you're doing  
with that WHORE in MY BED! I'm not  
having this. You are OUT! You are  
OUT OF MY FUCKING HOUSE!

BRIAN

I've been meaning to talk to you..

CLEMENTINE

Talk?!? So instead, you fuck a  
whore? IN MY BED! I bought that  
fucking bed with MY MONEY, you  
bastard. Get out right now!

BRIAN

Let me get my pants on..

CLEMENTINE

Fuck your pants and FUCK YOU!  
AARRGGGHH!!!

Scene and audio fade slow.

FADE TO BLACK

### Act 1 - Scene 3 – Day 2

QUICK FADE IN INTERIOR AIRPORT EARLY NEXT DAY.

Close up of CLEMENTINE camera backing to keep her in center of frame she is walking fast dragging a carry-on bag behind her and speaking into her cell phone. She is talking to TONYA.

CLEMENTINE

...so anyway, Mommy, I want you to go over there and supervise him packing up, okay? It should only take him one afternoon, but I want to make sure he...

Uh huh, I want to make sure he doesn't take anything not his or fuck something...

Yes, my flight is in 30 minutes so I have to run and thank you SO much Mommy, I can't tell you how...

Yes, okay, I'll say hi to Henry for you... Bye. Call you when I get there. Okay, love you, Bye!

CLEMENTINE gets to the gate and goes into boarding.

FADE OUT

### Act 1 – Scene 4 – Day 2

FADE IN EXTERIOR CHIANG MAI AIRPORT DAY.

The words "FEN FEN" appear in black in the upper left corner. FEN FEN comes out of the airport doors walking fast, dragging a carry-on and speaking on her cell phone in Chinese. She looks around sees a taxi and marches over to it. The driver jumps out to help with the luggage, but FEN FEN has already thrown it into the back seat and jumped in behind it.

Transition to interior same cab. FEN FEN is behind the driver.

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

Yes yes, hold on..

FEN FEN puts the phone against her leg. speaks to the driver in stilted Singapore English and clumsy Thai.

FEN FEN

Arak Soi Som? Do you know where it is?

DRIVER

Yes yes. Old city!

FEN FEN

That's right. How much?

DRIVER

800 baht.

FEN FEN

What? No way! I give you 60 baht.

DRIVER

Oh no no no... too far, bad time for traffic... 150 baht

FEN FEN

I give you 100 baht or I get out and take songthaew for 30 baht!

DRIVER

Okay okay... 100 baht

Driver pulls away and starts driving. FEN FEN picks the phone up to her face and continues in Chinese.

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

So, Ling Fa, do you have that  
information now? Yes? And...?

FEN FEN listens, her eyes darting around and mouth pursing.

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

What took you so long to find it?  
What have you been doing? I told  
you where to go look for it...

FEN FEN drops her hand with the phone, leans forward and yells  
at the driver in English.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Where you going? This not the way!  
You go back that way! This way  
take longer!

DRIVER (ENGLISH)

Too much traffic this time day.  
This way fast. Very fast! Be there  
soon. You see!

FEN FEN shakes her head then remembers the underling on the  
phone. she puts it back up to her ear and speaks in Chinese

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

These people are so inefficient!  
They always take forever to do  
everything, go the long way. Did  
you get that report? Why is it  
taking so long? I told you...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN EXTERIOR HENRY & SYLVIA'S HOUSE A FEW MINUTES LATER

Looking out from front door. Taxi pulls up in front of gate and  
FEN FEN gets out, still on the phone. She pulls her bag out  
behind her and hefts it over the gate, then she reaches over the  
gate and undoes the padlock, which is not locked, lets herself  
in. She calls out while still in the driveway.

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

Mama! I am here!

The camera rolls forward toward FEN FEN, then, keeping her in the center of the frame, circles to the left and around behind FEN FEN. The front door is open and a self-closing mosquito screen is across it. FEN FEN slips off her flip flops to step up on the veranda when a shriek comes from inside the house, followed by another longer one.

FEN FEN (YELLING, CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

Mama! What's wrong?!

FEN FEN rushes forward to push through the screen into a kitchen, the camera follows and over FEN FEN's shoulder a darkened hallway can be seen past the kitchen, from which is emanating continued sounds of vocal distress

FEN FEN (CALLING CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama! I am here!

SYLVIA comes running up the hall, obviously just out of the shower, naked and wet behind a towel, wearing a clear shower cap. Her eyes are wide with fear.

SYLVIA (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

Ah Fen Fen! It is huge! There's a  
lizard! It's going to eat me!  
Going to bite me!

SYLVIA throws herself into FEN FEN's arms and is making sounds of distress. FEN FEN rolls her eyes, wraps the towel more modestly around her mother and tucks the ends in.

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

Ah Mama, calm down! It's just a  
gecko, how big can it be? Where's  
Henry?

SYLVIA (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB.)

Oh, it is huge! Terrible! Henry  
went in to get the lizard out!

FEN FEN walks with SYLVIA following closely back down the hallway, camera follows. The bathroom door is closed and there is movement and noise behind it.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Henry? Are you in there?

CUT TO INTERIOR BATHROOM DAY.

HENRY is gently picking up the lizard to put it out the window through the screen he opens just enough for this. He closes the screen and then yells in mock pain. He starts to bang all the various junk SYLVIA keeps in the bathroom. Bins full of little bottles and tubes and containers of potions and powders and etc.

HENRY

Ow! Ouch! Oh my god it's ripping  
me to shreds!! Ahhh!!

HENRY starts to lay down on the floor, still moaning and little shrieks.

CUT BACK TO INTERIOR BEDROOM

FEN FEN and SYLVIA are holding each other and listening to HENRY's yelling. SYLVIA looks scared. FEN FEN is suspicious. HENRY's voice comes through the door.

HENRY

Oh, you're killing me! Ahhh! I'm  
dyin' I tell ya, dyin'! Here I  
come 'Lizbeth! Here I come to meet  
you up in heaven!

There is a final loud bang against the door and then silence that stretches out for a few beats.

SYLVIA (HIGH SQUEAKY VOICE)

Mi Amor...

FEN FEN rolls her eyes and steps forward pushing open the door. HENRY is lying on the floor hand over his mouth and trying not to laugh out loud. When he sees FEN FEN he breaks into a big smile and creakily rises from the floor.

HENRY

Fen Fen! Oof! What a surprise!

SYLVIA is trying to manage her face between wanting to be angry and wanting to laugh. She seems confused and looks closely at HENRY to see if there are wounds. FEN FEN is containing herself.

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

What about the lizard?

HENRY moves out into the bedroom, which is a tight squeeze.

HENRY

I put him out through the window,  
love. He wasn't gonna hurt you.  
You should put some clothes on, my  
sweet, unless you're trying to  
seduce me. But FEN FEN's here, so  
that would be embarrassing.

He moves past them and into the kitchen. Turns on the kettle and chuckles to himself.

SYLVIA is drying off and FEN FEN is looking at all the pictures. This small room actually serves as SYLVIA's closet, and there are large two-level rolling racks stuffed with clothes and besides that the room is cluttered with a small bed, several plastic chests of drawers, some of which are spilling contents. There are also several dehumidifiers and an air filter. And the walls are hung with hundreds of pictures of SYLVIA in various outfits, mostly similar unimaginative poses. The pictures go back over twenty years, they hang by clips from wires strung along the walls. SYLVIA gets dressed in mismatched long underwear and socks, puts on two sweaters and a leopard print stretch hair cover and another pair of pants over the long johns. They are talking in Chinese the whole time.

SYLVIA (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

What are you doing here? Are you  
okay? Are you sick? Did you get  
fired? How long can you stay?

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

Mama, you called me up two days  
ago and said it was an emergency  
and I had to come right away! I  
had to reschedule 3 meetings and  
get a red-eye out of Singapore to  
get here! You called me, mama,  
don't you remember?

SYLVIA (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

I called you? I don't think I called you. I don't remember calling you.

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

Two days ago, mama! You said I had to come right away!

SYLVIA dressed, they move into the kitchen while still talking, camera following. HENRY is in there pouring hot water into a French press.

SYLVIA (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

What happened two days ago? What day was that?

FEN FEN (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

It was Tuesday, Mama! I had to rearrange those meetings and leave Jing in charge while I scrambled to get here! Mama, what is the emergency?

SYLVIA (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB, THEN ENGLISH)

I don't remember! Mi Amor!  
(switches to English) What happened two days ago?

HENRY STARTS TO REFILL THE KETTLE AT THE SINK.

HENRY (CONSIDERING)

Two days ago? Was that when you burnt the stove?

SYLVIA (CHINESE WITH ENG SUB)

That's right the medicine burned onto the stove and all over the counter and the stove blew up!

HENRY (SPEAKING AT THE SAME TIME)

Yah, she put a pot full of medicine on and turned it up all the way and forgot about it. Popped all the fuses in the house! But Pao next door helped us get

cleaned up and get a new stove,  
see?

HENRY points at a two-burner induction hot plate on the counter, on which is a bubbling pot of what looks like sticks and shrubbery. The counter is tiny and aside from the stove also has a rather large rice cooker and containers of utensils. The sink is also full of dishes. HENRY had been in the middle of washing them when the lizard incident happened. He gets busy with the rest of them.

HENRY (OVER HIS SHOULDER)

So, you called Fen Fen? Made her  
come all the way from Singapore?

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

I dint know what to do! You were  
cursing and yelling!

FEN FEN's phone starts to ring while HENRY and SYLVIA are talking and she answers, then steps back out through the screen, talking fast in Chinese

HENRY

Was I?

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Yes you were! I thought you were  
going to throw me out with the  
stove!

HENRY

Oh, I would never do that, love.  
The stove was a lost cause, but  
you're worth saving!

It's good to see Fen Fen! How long  
is she staying?

FADE OUT.

## Act 1 – Scene 5 – Day 2

FADE IN EXTERIOR GRAVEYARD DAY

The land is flat and dusty with distant hills, a tree or two. a small group stands at one end of the open grave and a lone figure, MEL, at the other. the word "MEL" is showing in the upper left of the screen. The coffin is being lowered. When it is down, MEL scoops up a handful of dirt and tosses it in. stands looking down. Some others throw handfuls in as well. The rest of the people start to leave. One, UNCLE SEAN, walks to MEL and puts his hand on their shoulder

UNCLE SEAN (SOTTO VOCE)

See you back at the house?

MEL NODS

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR MEL'S HOUSE LATER THAT DAY -

A wake is in progress with a lot of relatives, adults and children, milling around, talking quietly, eating. the camera strolls through the people and audio picks up snippets of conversation.

RELATIVE #1

...been taking care of her for 20  
years...

STROLLING CAMERA

RELATIVE #2

...no, no boyfriend... or girlfriend  
either... just her by herself...

RELATIVE #3

It's 'they', they like to be  
called 'they'...

RELATIVE #2

How does that work? 'They' are by  
themselves? I don't think I'll ever  
understand...

STROLLING CAMERA

RELATIVE #4

The deal was she got the house...

RELATIVE #5

...such a shame about the mother...

RELATIVE #6

...tragic...

RELATIVE #4

...all those years ago...

STROLLING CAMERA

RELATIVE #7

...what about the father? He still  
around?

RELATIVE #8

He was *never* around! Left before  
she was born! Living in Taiwan I  
hear. Shame...

STROLLING CAMERA COMES UP TO SEAN & MEL, TALKING IN A LITTLE  
ALCOVE OFF THE KITCHEN.

UNCLE SEAN

So, what's your plan, now?

MEL:

Plan?

SEAN:

Yeah, you're free now. You can do  
whatever you want, right?

MEL:

I suppose...

SEAN:

She left you some money, right?  
Along with the house? You could  
travel, or something.

MEL:

Travel...

SEAN:

Yeah, like... I don't know take a  
trip around the world.

MEL:

I don't think there's that much...

SEAN:

But really. You've been in the US  
all your life...

MEL:

I went to Mexico once...

SEAN:

Pish, that's like going to Canada,  
still the same continent! What  
about a trip to Japan? You always  
wanted to go to Japan!

MEL: (HESITATES, THEN)

Dad called...

SEAN:

Huh? You mean Henry? What... *how* is  
he doing? Where is he now? Didn't  
I see he got married again?

MEL:

He's in Thailand. He sent me  
money, said I should go and visit.

SEAN:

Oh wow...

MEL:

And yeah, he got married like 15 years ago, Uncle Sean, where the fuck have you been?

SEAN:

Hey, he ain't *my* dad! And I don't even like the guy. He went and knocked-up your mom and then took off...

MEL:

First, she told him she was on the pill, and second, that was 45 years ago and we all need to get over it!

SEAN:

46 years ago... technically...

MEL:

Whatever!

SEAN (PUTS HIS HANDS UP:)

I give! It was a long time ago and we can forgive and forget, right?

MEL: (THOUGHTFUL)

I'd like to go, but then there's the menagerie...

SEAN: (SNAPPING HIS FINGERS)

Hey, you know what? You know Cici, right? My youngest? Well, she's...

MEL:

Of course, I know Cici! She's cool!

SEAN:

...She's twenty now and itching to get out of the house and be on her own, but I don't think she's fully... like... ready for that...

MEL:

So, you're thinking she could stay here and...

SEAN:

Yeah, she could stay here and take care of the house and the menagerie... that way we'd know she had a safe place to be and only be a couple hours away... And you know she's reliable. Great with animals! The responsibility will be good for her! A lot like you! Let me talk to her...

Sean starts to move away. AUNTIE DIDI is coming up.

MEL:

Wait, Uncle Sean, I haven't said I'd go yet...

DIDI:

Go where? Where are you going?

SEAN:

She's going to visit her dad in Taiwan...

MEL:

It's Thailand, and I haven't...

DIDI:

Oh, I think that's a great idea!

SEAN:

Cici's going to stay here and take care of the snake farm! Hey Cici! Have you seen Cici?

to a RANDOM CHILD approaching behind Didi.

RANDOM CHILD

She's outside at the rabbit pen. She won't let us take them out!

Sean heads out into the living room crowd.

DIDI:

When are you going? It's good to get out and travel you know. And now that mom's gone... Grammy, I mean, you're free!

MEL:

I haven't decided to go yet...

DIDI:

Oh, you should go! Thailand's a blast, you'll love it! Back when I was in the navy we had shore leave there? All the guys were raving about the ladyboys! You could find a nice ladyboy there...

The random small child is reaching to be picked up by Didi:

CHILD

Grammy what's a ladyboy?

DIDI:

It's a person that's half boy and half girl! But don't talk about it with your Uncle Sean, he'll flip his lid!

MEL: (FRUSTRATED)

Auntie Didi, I don't want a  
ladyboy!

DIDI:

Oh, I know MEL, I was only  
kidding. But you should def go see  
your dad! Visit Thailand! Live it  
up!

Sean comes back in leading a reluctant young person CICI who  
seems similar to MEL in their gender-neutral clothes.

SEAN

Here she is! Mel! Cici says she'll  
take care of the menagerie!

Cici stands looking at MEL, a little shyly. MEL smiles and  
reaches out a hand and takes Cici's. MEL nods. They hug.

FADE OUT.

### Act 1 – Scene 6 – Day 3

INTERIOR HENRY & SYLVIA'S HOUSE THE NEXT DAY -

SYLVIA enters kitchen followed by FEN FEN who is talking rapid  
fire Chinese.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

So, mama, the first caretaker  
interview is at 10 o'clock. She  
will be here at 10. Very nice  
lady. Very experienced. Highly  
recommended.

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I don't want a caretaker lady  
here. She will steal all my  
jewelry.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama, she is bonded and insured by the company. This company has a high reputation in Chiang Mai. Besides you already lost all your jewelry, remember? When you moved here?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

It was stolen! I know! And when you go she will steal my organs too! She will steal my kidney!

FEN FEN (CALLING OUT THE DOOR IN ENGLISH)

Henry! Henry are you out there?

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

She won't steal your kidney mama, I promise!

HENRY enters through screen.

HENRY

Good morning, Fen Fen! Good morning my beautiful bride! You look so lovely today!

SYLVIA (PLEASED BUT SELF-CONSCIOUS)

I look terrible! Terrible!

SYLVIA is looking at herself in the mirror, a shy pleased look. she has forgotten all about the organ thieves.

FEN FEN (IMPATIENT ENGLISH)

So, Henry, You have three appointment today, at 10 and 11 and 12? The first one here at 10, right?

HENRY looks at the clock. it's 9:25. nods.

HENRY

Okay..

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Here is a list of questions in both English and Chinese for you to ask them. I have a Zoom meeting in 5 minutes and I hope it will be over by 10, but, if not, you have to ask these question, okay? And write down the answer! Okay? Okay, bye bye! Bye bye!

FEN FEN escapes to the back of the house and shuts the door.  
HENRY looks over the list of questions and snorts.

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Mi Amor. I have a question to ask of you. Do you think they will steal our organs? Our kidney?

HENRY

Nobody wants our organs, dear love, we are too old.

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

But I saw a video on WeChat, they like old folk because we weak! We can't fight them...

HENRY

Don't you worry, love, I will protect you from the big bad organ stealers!

SYLVIA is still fretting as the scene and audio fades. HENRY hands her the paper and they sit at the table.

SYLVIA

But they could hit you. Knock you down! Then they get me!

HENRY

Don't worry honey, I will make sure they don't...

FADE OUT

Act 1 – Scene 7 – Day 4

FADE IN INTERIOR TAXI DAY

FEN FEN, SYLVIA and HENRY are going to their massage appointments, they are dropping HENRY off at his first and FEN FEN has just learned his massage costs 2000 baht.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I thought you said the massages were 300 baht?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Ours are 300 baht for Thai massage 1 hour. His massage is special, 1 hour and a half.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH LOUD TO HENRY IN FRONT SEAT)

HENRY, your massage cost 2000 baht?

HENRY (BIG SMILE)

Yeah! It's a great massage!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

He is always happy with his massage.

CUT TO EXTERIOR MASSAGE PARLOR MOMENTS LATER

They pull up at the massage parlor. Young ladies in tight Chinese themed dresses and schoolgirl uniforms are sitting out front and they greet HENRY with happy voices, 2 jump up to help him out of the car and into the building. FEN FEN follows and stops to talk to the woman owner BOO behind the desk.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Hello, do you speak English or Chinese?

BOO (ENGLISH)

Little English, yeah. What kind  
massage you want?

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

I just want to ask about Henry's  
massage. He say it cost 2000 baht?  
Why so much?

BOO (ENGLISH)

Oh, Henry get very special  
massage, yeah. Two girl, 1 hour  
half. Very special, Karsai massage  
yeah.

FEN FEN looks up squinting at the menu board where the owner is  
pointing.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Karsai massage? What is that? I  
don't see...

BOO (ENGLISH, POINTING)

Yah very special karsai genital  
massage. Two girl. One hour half.  
Happy ending!

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Happy... happy ending...?

BOO (INTERRUPTS)

He get discount, yeah, cus he  
regular customer. Girls like him.  
Keep hands to self, yeah. Very  
respectful. That why he get  
discount.

FEN FEN is caught speechless by this. her mouth starts to move  
but no words come out as she processes this.

BOO

Good customer, yeah! He get  
discount!

The taxi beeps and FEN FEN's phone rings. She curses in Chinese and turns to go as she raises the phone to her ear, answers and starts talking angrily in Chinese. she gets back into the cab, slams the door and it leaves.

FADE OUT

### Act 1 – Scene 8 – Day 5

INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY MORNING-

FEN FEN is standing in kitchen, keeping one eye on her phone and the other trying to talk about the interview results. HENRY and SYLVIA are sitting at the table having breakfast.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

...what was wrong with the last one?  
She has a great CV, great  
recommendations.

HENRY

She didn't look very nice...

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

He think she's too old. He wanted  
the second one. He said he liked  
her better.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

The second one? So, what was wrong  
with her?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

She is too young! And pretty!  
Henry like her too much! She will  
steal him from me and throw me  
away. Take my kidneys to sell!

FEN FEN (GIGGLING IN ENGLISH)

Okay Henry, you have to promise  
not to run away with the care  
lady.

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Not funny! He will run away with her when she steal my kidney!

HENRY

Oh, my love, I'd never do such a thing. I wouldn't let her steal your kidney before I ran away with her.

FEN FEN (IMPATIENT ENGLISH)

Okay, okay, Henry! Try to keep focus here! Three more care ladies coming today. They all are well-recommended. We have to make a decision soon! There are three more coming today! I will try to get some time for each, but I cannot stay here the whole time. I have more meetings today that I need...

TRANSITION TO A MONTAGE BEGINS WHILE FEN FEN'S AUDIO FADES.

Interview scenes. HENRY looks bored with all the older women and SYLVIA is short and snooty with the younger women.

DISSOLVE TO EXTERIOR HENRY & SYLVIA'S HOUSE DAY AFTERNOON -

The last interviewee is leaving in a huff after being badgered by SYLVIA when CLEMENTINE arrives from the airport. the last woman rushing out through the gate not saying a word while CLEMENTINE comes in, watches her go with curiosity, then walks up to the veranda.

CUT TO INTERIOR KITCHEN.

FEN FEN and SYLVIA are peering out at CLEMENTINE through the screen. HENRY is still sitting at the table.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Who is that? Do you know that woman?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB, THEN ENGLISH)

I don't know!

Mi Amor! There is a western woman  
out there.

CLEMENTINE (CALLING OUT, SHE CANNOT SEE  
THROUGH THE SCREEN)

Hello? Henry? Sylvia? Are you  
here?

HENRY jumps up from the table and goes quickly out through the  
screen.

CUT TO VERANDA

HENRY

Clementine? Oh my god! It's you!  
How, what... you came after all!  
It's so good to see you!

HENRY is out on the veranda with CLEMENTINE and they are  
hugging, exclaiming greetings at each other.

CUT TO KITCHEN

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Is that his daughter? Did you know  
she was coming? Why is she here?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Yes, that's his daughter! Second-  
wife. I did not know. I don't know  
why she is here.

SYLVIA turns to run back to her room and  
change.

CUT TO VERANDA.

HENRY and CLEMENTINE step back but keep holding hands.

HENRY

You look great! It's so good to  
see you! Why didn't you tell me  
you were coming?

CLEMENTINE

You're looking... good too! It was  
short notice. I'm actually here on

a film project and thought I'd stop by. Where's Sylvia?

HENRY

She's inside with Fen Fen. She'll be out in a minute, you know she has to check her makeup and clothes always, huh? She's inside...

CLEMENTINE

Who's Fen Fen? Wait, is that her daughter? How cool! What's she doing here, doesn't she live in... Shanghai, is it?

HENRY

Singapore. She's helping us find a care lady.

CLEMENTINE

A care lady...?

But then SYLVIA is rushing out through the screen with a new clean blouse on and a long skirt and a floppy hat, followed more slowly by FEN FEN.

SYLVIA (BRIGHT AND SMILING)

Clementine! You are here? So good to see you! You look wonderful, so fashion! This my daughter, Fen Fen! She like fashion too!

CLEMENTINE

Hello Sylvia, you look lovely! So good to see you again. And Fen Fen, is it? So nice to meet you!

CLEMENTINE hugs SYLVIA and shakes hands with FEN FEN and there is a look that passes between them. A look of wariness and challenge. HENRY picks up CLEMENTINE's carry-on bag. they move inside and audio fades with picture while the conversation continues.

HENRY

Wow, it's a good thing we have so many bedrooms! C'mon inside, I think you can stay in the sitting room, right my love?

CLEMENTINE

Oh, I have a hotel room reserved...

HENRY

Don't be silly, you're staying with us.

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Hotel waste of money. You stay here with us! Henry very happy!

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR HOUSE NIGHT -

HENRY, SYLVIA, FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE are sitting around the kitchen table eating take out Thai food. CLEMENTINE is really enjoying the meal.

CLEMENTINE

Wow, this is really excellent! Yum! Thank you so much, I was starving!

HENRY

Yeah, the food here is great!

FEN FEN

I found this restaurant last time I was here. It got very good review!

CLEMENTINE (NODDING, SWALLOWS)

And so, you think a live-in caretaker is the way to go? Have you thought about a care home?

HENRY

Actually, I don't think we need...

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

So, Clementine, they cannot take care of themselves any longer. They almost burn down the house last week...

CLEMENTINE

Oh my!

HENRY

It wasn't that bad, actually we...

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

They need help with the cook and clean. And they forget things all the time. I am in Singapore, too far away...

CLEMENTINE

It's hard being so far away, huh? And yes, I can see that they need help. But do you think that an in-home caretaker is the best idea?

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

I don't want! She will steal my jewelry! Steal my clothes! They will cut out my kidney!

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama! Stop going on about the jewelry. They won't steal your kidneys!

CLEMENTINE

But is it the best idea, though? Your mom obviously doesn't think so...

HENRY

That second one today was nice...

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

She too young! She will kill me in  
my sleep and steal you! Steal my  
kidney!

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

I am here and I am handling this.  
No one else is here. I know what  
is best for my mom!

CLEMENTINE

Well, I'm sure you have the best  
intentions, but I don't think  
they're going to want some  
stranger living in their house...

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

I know what they need to have.  
They won't want to live in one of  
those care homes, my mom won't  
like it!

The tension between FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE, the struggle for control, has risen over the time since CLEMENTINE has arrived. they are focused intently on one another, both determined to prevail. HENRY and SYLVIA speak at the same time, HENRY in english and SYLVIA in chinese.

HENRY

Hello! We're right here! We can  
hear you!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUBTITLE)

I don't want that care lady living  
here. She will steal my...

CLEMENTINE (STILL FOCUSED ON FEN FEN)

Hush HENRY, this is not about you!

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB, SPEAKING OVER  
CLEMENTINE)

Be quiet mama! No one is going to  
steal your jewelry!

Silence falls over the group while the tension holds. HENRY clears his throat.

HENRY

Um... actually this is ALL about us, isn't it? Me? Sylvia? Don't we get a say?

More silence, then both FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE take a breath and back off, looking a bit ashamed.

HENRY

Ok, so we don't like the live-in care ladies...

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

You like that one too much!

HENRY

Much as I hate to admit it, Fen Fen is right, we can't take care of ourselves so good now. Sylvia forgets stuff on the stove...

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Just the medicine...

HENRY

And I frankly can't keep up with cleaning up after the two of us anymore, the laundry...

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

He forgot the soap! Wash two hours no soap!

HENRY

And we can't agree on the live-in care lady. So maybe we can take a look at the care homes. Just so we can see the alternatives, right? The options? Okay Fen Fen?

FEN FEN's mouth is set firm, but she says nothing. She stands up and paces.

FEN FEN

I have to see them first. Do research. Online.

CLEMENTINE

I've already started! I can show you what I've got so far and then we can decide where to look further, okay?

FEN FEN is wavering, though she is having a hard time giving up control. She takes a big breath.

FEN FEN

Okay, we look at what you got. After dinner. I wish we had some whiskey...

CLEMENTINE

You read my mind! I bought some at the duty-free store at the airport! Henry, do you have glasses for whiskey?

HENRY

I do! I'll get some, I also have some really nice, blended scotch...

CLEMENTINE

Henry, I think it's best for Fen Fen and me to go over these places ourselves first to make sure they are adequate and appropriate, don't you think so? We can select 3 or 4 of the best ones to show you and Sylvia.

So, we will do that after you and Sylvia go to bed, okay?

HENRY

Oh, but I think...

CLEMENTINE

Fen Fen, don't you agree that we should look these over first? Just us, so we can make sure they are what we are looking for and not just pretty pictures?

FEN FEN (GRUDGINGLY IN ENG)

Yes, yes, I think Clementine is right. Just me and her look at the website first, then decide where to go?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I don't like those care homes! They will have lizards and bed bugs! I read an article about one where they steal people's organs! I want to look at the pictures!

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama, let us look at them first! We will be much more efficient that way and we can make appointments to go see the best ones. I guarantee we won't choose a place that steals organs!

FADE OUT

FADE IN EXTERIOR VERANDA LATER THAT NIGHT.

FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE on the couch on the veranda looking at laptop screens and showing each other what they find. drinking scotch and talking about the places, and their jobs, and their parents. CLEMENTINE is speaking.

CLEMENTINE

Oh, this places looks nice! They have a little pond and a swimming

pool. Hot tubs and saunas! Henry loves those things.

FEN FEN (SINGAPORE ENGLISH)

This place has sauna and hot tub too. Why do people like hot tub?

CLEMENTINE

Huh?

FEN FEN (GIGGLES, THE SCOTCH IS RELAXING HER)

Hot tub seem like a big soup! A big people soup! I keep looking for noodles!

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHS, RELAXING WITH THE SCOTCH AS WELL)

Yeah, I know what you mean! I only like them if I can be alone... oh look! This place has an in-house masseuse!

FEN FEN gulps down the mouthful of scotch she just took while CLEMENTINE was speaking, has to wait a second while she fights the urge to cough.

FEN FEN (STRAINED VOICE)

Your father...

FEN FEN swallows and tries again

FEN FEN (GETTING VOICE BACK TO NORMAL)

Your father have massage every week for 2000 baht. You know how much that is?

CLEMENTINE

Um... I'd have to look it u...

FEN FEN (INTERRUPTS)

That is almost 60 US dollar!

CLEMENTINE (LOOKING FOR SIGNIFICANCE)

Ok, that seems... expensive?

FEN FEN (TALKING OVER HER)

My mom massage 300 baht, that is  
like 9 US dollar.

CLEMENTINE

Wow, so what kind of massage  
costs... oh!

CLEMENTINE's eyes go big as she imagines what kind of massage  
that might be. FEN FEN, eyebrows up, backs away nodding.

FEN FEN

Yes! That kind massage!

CLEMENTINE (TRYING NOT TO LAUGH)

Um... oh my...

FEN FEN

They say he get discount because  
he is regular customer and the  
girls all like him. Very  
respectful!

CLEMENTINE is blinking, taking this in, trying to process all  
the implications.

CLEMENTINE (BLOWS OUT A BREATH)

Okay! Huh... well... does Sylvia know?  
And does he... y'know?

FEN FEN

She knows! She encourage him to  
go! And she say he always have  
happy ending!

CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN sit thinking about that for a couple of  
beats. then CLEMENTINE sits up and raises her glass.

CLEMENTINE

Okay then! Here's to happy endings!

FEN FEN

Happy endings!

They clink glasses and down their scotch. CLEMENTINE reaches for the bottle to pour out more as the scene fades.

FADE OUT.

### Act 1 – Scene 9 – Day 6

FADE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS INTERIOR EXTERIOR DAY

Montage of scenes with no dialogue - FEN FEN, CLEMENTINE, HENRY and SYLVIA visit care homes in large taxi. FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE have to keep interrupting to answer their phones. At the last place they both get calls at the same time and go off in different directions to have their conversations. HENRY and SYLVIA pull an escape, get a songtheaw and ride to Tha Pae Gate, where they are photographed dancing among the pigeons. then they go to dinner just the two of them at the Versailles de Flore, an Italianate confectionary with many beautiful backdrops for pictures. HENRY takes many pictures of CLEMENTINE who is animated while doing it but fades fast after. FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE are waiting like the parents of teenagers when they get home. As they enter everyone starts talking at once.

FEN FEN (SCOLDING CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama! Where did you go? What have you been doing? Why didn't you call me? I've been worried sick about you!

CLEMENTINE (AMUSED IN ENG)

Wow so the wayward teens are back! Fen Fen's been worried sick about you! Why didn't you answer the phone? Or call or text or something?

SYLVIA is tired and wants to sit down, but the memory of dancing comes to her and she lifts her hands and does a tiny waltz step.

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

We went dancing! Took beautiful pictures!

SYLVIA (CONT IN ENGLISH)

Henry, show them the pictures!

SYLVIA fades and sits slowly on her little couch in the kitchen. HENRY is pulling out his phone and scrolling through the pictures they took. Talking about the pigeons.

HENRY

Oh, it was so cool! We went to Tha Pae Gate and danced with the pigeons! There's a guy who'll get all the pigeons to gather around you and then you move and he takes your pictures with the pigeons flying all around. Look at this! Make a great scene for a movie, Clementine! Just sayin'!

FEN FEN (ANNOYED, CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

But you could have called me Mama! Let me know you were okay! I was worried! I didn't know what to think! That was very bad, mama! I was so worried!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Were you worried about the organ stealers? Ha, when I talk about the organ stealers you say oh that could never happen but now you are all worried about them?

CLEMENTINE (TO HENRY)

You really should have called, you know. Fen Fen was going to call the police! I had to convince her to wait until tonight.

CLEMENTINE (WHISPERS TO HENRY)

She's really very uptight, very tense! Always has to be in control!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I want noodle! Fen Fen, will you make me noodle? Mi Amor!

SYLVIA SWITCHES TO ENGLISH

Mi Amor, will you please get the noodle out for FEN FEN? The one on the door no, not those, yes those!

HENRY has opened the fridge door and tries to find the right noodles. there are 6 packages of noodles on the door. FEN FEN has moved to take a pot out from under the sink and fill the kettle. she is still lecturing SYLVIA. HENRY takes a big breath and looks around.

HENRY

Okay! I think we're all good now. I'm going to change and put stuff away. Mi Amor, Eight-thirty date?

SYLVIA (NODS)

Eight thirty date.

HENRY leaves the kitchen. SYLVIA has lain back against her couch and her eyes are closed. CLEMENTINE watches FEN FEN put the pot on the hot plate and turn the power on.

CLEMENTINE

You need help? Anything I can do?

FEN FEN

No, I got it. Thank you!

CLEMENTINE hesitates. uncertain what to do. at the sink she moves a bit closer to FEN FEN who is standing watching her resting mother with a worried look.

CLEMENTINE (SOTTO VOCE)

So... what is this eight thirty date thing?

FEN FEN (OFFHAND, SOTTO VOCE)

Oh, they do it every night. Spend a little time just talking a little, looking at each other, being with each other. It's kind of cute, really? Sometimes short, sometimes long.

FEN FEN pauses, biting her lip, she looks at CLEMENTINE's eyes then quickly down, shy

FEN FEN (STILL A BIT ANNOYED, SOTTO VOCE)

And they have a little thing they say together to wish each other good night. Sylvia says they always say it together.

CLEMENTINE

Oh, that is so sweet! He really loves her, y'know? I've never seen him so happy. She is really sweet to him too.

FEN FEN (SIGHS, RELENTS)

I know. She loves him too and loves that he takes so many pictures and tells her she is beautiful and dances with her a little. And I am glad that he does that too, it make her so happy! They are good together.

FEN FEN drains the noodles and adds a little soy sauce and some white powder from a jar on the table. Rouses SYLVIA who takes the bowl and chopsticks with half-open eyes. SYLVIA puts her mouth down the edge of the bowl and blows across the noodles, pushes some into her mouth with the chopsticks. FEN FEN watches for a few seconds, then CLEMENTINE gets her attention and nods toward the sitting room, which is where CLEMENTINE is bunking.

CUT TO SITTING ROOM.

It has a huge mirror on one wall that makes it feel like a dance studio.

CLEMENTINE

Look, I'm sorry to have to do this, but I really need to get to the set tomorrow to find out what's going on and straighten things out. I'll have to leave early in the morning and won't be back until after 6. Are you going to be okay with them?

FEN FEN (LOOKS ANNOYED BUT RESIGNED)

Yes yes, I will be okay. I was gonna take them to another care home in the morning. But maybe I cancel that. I need to have zoom call with my team. We can take a day off from looking.

CLEMENTINE

Ok, that sounds good. Your mom looks like she needs the rest anyway.

In the kitchen, the bowl bangs in the sink and then SYLVIA comes shuffling down the hall with eyes half-closed and goes into her bedroom as they watch. she pushes the door most of the way closed behind her and we hear the sink water running. CLEMENTINE looks at her watch.

CLEMENTINE

Eight Twenty-Five...

FEN FEN

He will go in soon.

they stand still for a few seconds, staring down the hall at SYLVIA's door, lost in thought. CLEMENTINE shakes her head to break the spell.

CLEMENTINE

I want some tea! Do you want some tea?

FEN FEN (HESITATES)

Okay, maybe that would be good.

They move into the kitchen. turn on the kettle. rattle cups and pull chairs out. They chat as the scene and audio fade.

CLEMENTINE

So.. what's your story? You live in Singapore? What do you do there? Do you like it?

FEN FEN

Yes, I live in Singapore. I work for Superior Finance Management there, yeah. What about you? You make movies?

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHS)

Ha ha! I *try* to make movies! Sometimes it's more like babysitting 2-year-olds! I swear...

FADE OUT

### **Act 1 – Scene 10 – Day 7**

FADE IN EXTERIOR HOUSE EARLY MORNING

A Grab car pulls up to the gate and CLEMENTINE climbs in the back, clutching a thermos of coffee and talking on her cell phone. She has not seen that HENRY is seated lotus position on a yoga mat in the shadows of the veranda. HENRY's eyes are closed and his body is weaving around rhythmically. He counts prayer beads and his lips are moving with his chants.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR KITCHEN LATER MORNING.

HENRY and SYLVIA are looking at the pictures from the night before. FEN FEN's voice talking firmly in Chinese comes from the back of the house and gets louder as she approaches the kitchen.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Li Ping, we have that meeting in 1 hour! I want that report in 15 minutes! What is taking so long? Why aren't you done yet? You should have finished it yesterday!

FEN FEN listens, hand on the refridgerator handle

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Yes, yes, 15 minutes! And it better be complete! Yes... yes... okay bye bye. Bye bye.

FEN FEN ends the call and forces her face into a smile. it looks forced.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Good morning! Good morning! How are you? Are you okay? Did you sleep?

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama, did you sleep? Did you have your meal? Did you have a bowel movement this morning? How is your blood pressure?

FEN FEN opens the fridge and reaches inside, takes out a container, opens it and carefully sniffs the contents. Makes a face. Dumps the goopy mess into the wet trash.

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Yes, I slept. Did you sleep? No bowel movement yet, not until 10 o'clock. Blood pressure okay today. Did you have your meal?

HENRY (FILLING IN WHERE HE CAN BEFORE GIVING UP)

Good morning, I... yeah, had a good... how about y...?

HENRY nods and smiles as the women continue to talk in Chinese, ignoring him. He picks up his coffee cup and retreats to his room.

HENRY (CALLING FROM THE HALLWAY)

You know where I am if you need  
me!

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR HOUSE KITCHEN LATER THAT DAY

SYLVIA is lying back on her couch with a cloth over her eyes, looking wan. FEN FEN can be heard at the back of the house talking loudly on the phone. she comes from the back of the house still talking and listening into the kitchen where she turns on the kettle. looks at her mom, who starts to sit up, the cloth falling down, her sleepy eyes blinking.

Down the hall HENRY's door opens and HENRY comes hurrying out, phone in his hand. He goes out through the screen, camera follows,

CUT TO

FEN FEN and SYLVIA are curious, they turn to watch. FEN FEN issues a final order on the phone and ends the call.

CUT TO EXTERIOR DRIVEWAY,

A car pulls up and MEL gets out looking around sees HENRY and smiles and waves. The driver gets a suitcase out of the trunk and MEL drags it through the gate. HENRY is all smiles and he puts the phone in his pocket, holds out his arms.

HENRY (LOUD, VOICE CRACKING A LITTLE)

There's my beautiful child! Come  
here, come here!

HENRY steps off the veranda to embrace MEL, and they hold each other for a very long time, swaying a bit side to side, their faces full of comfort and love.

FEN FEN and SYLVIA look at each other

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama, who is that, that...? Is that a man? What kind of clothes are those?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I think that is Mel, his daughter.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Daughter? I thought Clementine was his daughter! That doesn't look like a woman!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

She the gay. She likes women, Henry says. She doesn't want to be a woman, she wants the sex change.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I thought Clementine was his daughter! He has two daughters?

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Clementine is stepdaughter. From second marriage. Not his blood child.

FEN FEN (MIFFED, CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

If she only stepdaughter why is she here? Why does she have a say? He's not even married to her mother anymore!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I don't know. I don't understand western culture. I have to let him talk to ex-wife anytime and not be jealous!

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

She has no credit here! No authority!

by this time HENRY and MEL have finished their long hug and are walking slowly across the veranda into the kitchen talking quietly.

HENRY

So here we are! You remember  
Sylvia, right? And this is Fen  
Fen, Sylvia's daughter!

Fen Fen this is Mel! My beautiful  
child!

They all make polite acquaintances while HENRY pulls MEL's suitcase down the hall and into the sitting room. There is a self-conscious silence until HENRY comes back.

HENRY

So, Fen Fen, you don't mind if  
Clementine moves in with you back  
in the big room? It's got that  
comfy couch, right? I think  
there's enough room and you both  
are doing business during the day,  
right?

FEN FEN blinks a few times while SYLVIA recalls her hosting skills and blurts

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Mel, would you like some tea? We  
have very nice tea, or coffee? I  
think Henry can make you coffee...

Do you want to sit down? Are you  
tired?

MEL sits down under the penetrating gaze of FEN FEN, who sits in a chair facing her. SYLVIA gets the kettle going and finds some random boxes of teas. It's obvious no one drinks tea. She takes mugs from the rack on the wall.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

So, Mel, Did Henry invite you? He  
didn't tell us...

MEL

Uh, yeah, actually he sent money for a ticket. And since I was... free for a while, I thought I'd come.

SYLVIA

Would you like Puerh Tea? Or um... English Breakfast? Or we have this tea Henry bought before we got together...

MEL

Puehr Tea, please. I really like that Puehr Tea you sent us last year. I still have some. Grammy liked it too...

FEN FEN

So, Mel, Did you know we were here? Me and Clementine?

MEL

Clementine's here too? No! He didn't tell me! He texted me the day after Grammy died and said he wanted me to come. He sent me money...

FEN FEN

And this was...?

MEL

Three weeks ago. We had the funeral and there were some legal things I had to handle. He didn't tell me you'd be here. Or Clementine.

FEN FEN (TRYING TO CONTROL ANGER, MOSTLY SUCCESSFUL)

Excuse me for a minute please.

FEN FEN stands and walks out of the kitchen

FEN FEN

Henry!

FEN FEN calls out and goes to the sitting room, where HENRY has collected CLEMENTINE's stuff and is bringing it out to carry down to the big room in back. FEN FEN follows, talking..

FEN FEN

So, Henry you send for Mel to come three week ago?

HENRY (WALKING)

I think so...

FEN FEN (NOT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER)

Why did you not tell me? Tell Sylvia?

Camera follows FEN FEN following HENRY down the hall to the back room, which we see for the first time. it is usually HENRY and SYLVIA's bedroom together, and the walls have many portraits of them, taken by HENRY and printed large and proudly displayed. and some of SYLVIA in boudoir poses. HENRY puts the suitcase and extra stuff on the couch and turns to FEN FEN, smiling.

HENRY

What would you have done if I told you?

FEN FEN (CAUGHT OFF GUARD)

I don't know...

HENRY

Would you have changed anything that you did?

FEN FEN

Well, it would have been good to know...

HENRY (SOFTER, KINDER)

Would you have gone back to Singapore? Or not come? Knowing someone else was able to be here?

FEN FEN (HESITATES)

I... I have several important projects... it... wouldn't be efficient for two of us to be here. And Clementine...

HENRY (INTERRUPTS)

Your mom so loves having you here. Fen Fen. I haven't seen her this happy and excited for months. I... didn't want you to leave. So... if you want to be angry about that, I can understand. Just don't be angry too long, okay? Your mom needs you. And so do I!

FEN FEN sighs and nods, looking away at the pictures of her mother all over the wall. she looks at the couch, at stuff of hers still there. She tuts and goes over to gather it up.

FEN FEN

What about Clementine? She's not even your real daughter!

HENRY (LAUGHS AND TURNS OUT OF THE ROOM)

Clementine... well, I haven't seen Clementine for 6 years! You really think I'm gonna send *her* away?

HENRY goes back up the hall, calling for MEL.

FADE OUT

### **Act 1 – Scene 11 – Day 7**

FADE IN EXTERIOR VERANDA NIGHT

CLEMENTINE has returned triumphant from the shoot where she has straightened everyone out, at least for the time being, and she has brought a couple bottles of wine to celebrate. she and MEL have re-aquainted with genuine delight and the three adult children are in the sitting room after HENRY and SYLVIA have gone to bed.

FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE are both drinking wine, cross-legged on the floor and are loosening up, while MEL is looking through photo albums on the couch with peuhr tea. FEN FEN is digging through a box of paper files with CLEMENTINE, trying to figure out their insurance situation while CLEMENTINE has been relating her day's events.

CLEMENTINE

...so really it was just some misunderstandings about decisions that had been made. Bruised egos, etc.

MEL

But it stopped the whole production?

CLEMENTINE (ABSENTLY, SHE'S FOUND SOMETHING INTERSTING)

Dead in its tracks...

There's a pause while they all are looking at their separate documents.

MEL

So... what are you guys doing here? Just out of curiosity, it's obvious you both have other things you could be doing.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

My mom call me because she broke the stove. She said it was an emergency. They need full-time help.

CLEMENTINE

I just happened to be here on that shoot. My mom said I should come and visit.

And they *do* need full-time help!

FEN FEN (A BIT AGGRESSIVE)

But you not really related?

CLEMENTINE (TAKEN ABACK)

What? Well...no, technically... but...  
he was an important part of my  
life for a number of years...

MEL

True; you got more of him than I  
did...

CLEMENTINE opens her mouth to answer then reconsiders, feeling  
compassion.

CLEMENTINE (SYMPATHETIC)

That's true... I'm sorry, Mel? Not  
in my control? I understand...

FEN FEN

Wait, I don't understand. Your  
mother divorce Henry when you very  
young?

MEL (SIGHS)

My mother was never married to  
Henry. My mother was 18 when  
Henry... anyway he left before I was  
born. Then he got married in  
California.

FEN FEN (TO CLEMENTINE)

To your mom?

CLEMENTINE (SNORTS)

Hell no, that was long before my  
mom. That was the 80s.

MEL

Doreen. Dory. She was chubby and  
talked baby talk at him.

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHS)

Omigod!

MEL (LOOKING THRU THE ALBUMS)

Yeah, there's a picture here  
somewhere... Here we are.

CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN lean in to look. a slightly chubby 20 something in bare feet and long skirt and what looks like a men's pullover on a rocky beach, carrying a duffle bag and looking down.

CLEMENTINE (STILL GIGGLING)

Okay...

FEN FEN laughs a little too.

FEN FEN (LOOKS CLOSER)

Does she have freckle?

MEL

Yeah, she did. She was alright I guess, but they separated after 5 years. Divorced a year later. Then he moved to Portland with Candee.

FEN FEN (TO CLEMENTINE)

Your mom?

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHS)

Oh no, no, no, nooooo!

MEL

He didn't marry Candee. She wouldn't marry him, he said. They broke up at the end of 1999 and she's in New York City now, producing documentaries.

CLEMENTINE

That's right! I remember now! He tried to arrange for me to have an interview with her when I was in film school! I never followed up..

MEL

Here she is!

MEL holds up a black & White photo of a black woman with braids, wearing a kente cloth in heavily shadowed sunlight. She does not look comfortably at the camera. FEN FEN is caught off guard and starts laughing in spurts she tries to suppress, but both CLEMENTINE and MEL are laughing too and they all relax a bit.

MEL (DEFENSIVELY)

She was pretty! Didn't like kids, though. Used to joke about kicking toddlers in the supermarket..

FEN FEN (TO CLEMENTINE)

So, when did he get together with *your* mom?

CLEMENTINE (FINISHES LAUGHING AND SIGHS)

That would have been... hmm... 25 years ago? Yeah, I was 9...

MEL

And here's you and here's your mom! And you still haven't told me why you're staying here? Don't you both have things to do?

CLEMENTINE

Oh, we're trying to find a care home for them..

FEN FEN (A LITTLE MIFFED)

Or a live-in care person. They can't stay by themselves anymore.

CLEMENTINE (TO FEN FEN)

Yeah, they are dangerous! Henry left a pot on the stove again last night and it burnt black, did I tell you?

FEN FEN (TO MEL)

But some of us are not actually related to Henry or my mom.

This causes another uncomfortable silence, as some mutual resentment is obviously going on. MEL watches as if at a wrestling match.

CLEMENTINE's jaw works a little, then she sighs

CLEMENTINE

Henry was very important to me at a particularly hard time of my life, when my father disappeared on an alcohol binge. Henry stepped in and kept me sane for years until my dad came back.

MEL (LAUGHS)

You had him wrapped around your finger, Clem. I remember. He would do anything for you.

CLEMENTINE is not sure how to answer this, so she takes a sip of her wine. She's a little miffed at being called Clem, but MEL has a history with her when she was often called that for short. FEN FEN shoots a look at her.

FEN FEN (TO MEL)

So, you never lived with HENRY?

MEL (A BIT DEFENSIVE)

Only the one year. Fourth grade. When I was 9... and 10, I turned 10 there.

FEN FEN

And he was married to...?

MEL

Candee. Not married, living with.

MEL LAUGHS

She said he was a shitty parent. I heard her talking to her sister on the phone. The day Slash died.

FEN FEN

Slash?

MEL

The rat.

CLEMENTINE (HAPPY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT)

You had a rat?

MEL

Yeah, it died one night and Henry was watching TV with Candee and he was not sympathetic. Then the next day I wanted to dig a grave and he gave me a shovel and showed me where but the ground was too hard, so he took over and I went inside to pee and that's when I heard Candee on the phone in the other room. "He's such a shitty parent." She said.

CLEMENTINE

Oh Mel...

MEL (BUILDING INTENSITY)

So yeah, you got him when he was free and playful with you all summer and sends you to horse camp and then you got him AND your real dad after that for 10 more years, And I got him for 1 crappy year and then had to go home to live with my suicidal abused mom and the abuser that raised her and can we please stop talking about this now?!?

Thank you!!

Silence. FEN FEN's eyes are wide open moving back and forth a little and CLEMENTINE is looking down at her glass, lips pursed. She waits a few more seconds, takes a breath and looks up.

CLEMENTINE (QUIET AND CALM AND REASONABLE)

Well, I think we really pretty  
much have to talk about it now,  
don't you?

FEN FEN didn't expect this and raises her eyebrows even further. no one speaks for a number of beats until MEL drops the tension in their shoulders.

MEL (SIGHING)

It was a long time ago, and people  
have died. No one is left from  
that time... Except Henry... I've  
moved on...

CLEMENTINE

I still hear a lot of resentment  
in there, Mel. I don't think  
you've really moved on.

MEL gives her a look but says nothing

CLEMENTINE (EARNESTLY)

Even if you think you have, it  
still wouldn't hurt to talk about  
it. With someone. Someone who can  
really listen.

They are eye to eye for several seconds. MEL smirks.

MEL

But... that... wouldn't be you, right?

CLEMENTINE

Oh god no, I'm a terrible  
listener! I meant someone  
professional!

They laugh. FEN FEN smiles. MEL has finished her tea and gets up to go to the kitchen.

MEL

You know you sound just like your mom...

CLEMENTINE (POURING MORE WINE FOR HERSELF AND FEN FEN

Oh, shut up!

FADE OUT

FADE IN EXTERIOR VERANDA LATER NIGHT

MEL comes from the kitchen with glass and a bottle of beer and FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE are pointing stuff out to each other on a care home website. MEL comes in pouring beer into a mug. stands watching them. MEL blows out a long breath.

MEL (SIGHING)

You know guys, there's really only one good solution.

FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE look up, not quite paying attention.

CLEMENTINE

To what?

MEL

To this. To Henry and Sylvia, how to take care of them. They need to come to Arizona and live with me.

FEN FEN (LOOKS UP IN HORROR)

What? Where is Azirona?

CLEMENTINE (CONSIDERING)

In the states. You mean you'd be willing to do that? Didn't you just get done taking care of your grandmother for like 20 years?

MEL

22 years, but yeah. I guess I have an affinity for it. Like having a pet really.

FEN FEN

A pet?

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHS)

Yeah, I bet you're right! They can't really take care of themselves, right? They need someone to make sure they get fed and... and...

MEL (LAUGHING TOO)

And wear clothes!

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHING HARDER)

Omigod!

MEL

Yeah, I get home one day and there's Grammy out in the backyard naked as a jaybird watering the grass!

They both start laughing at the idea and FEN FEN can't help getting caught up.

FEN FEN

This is your grandmother? What about the neighbors?

MEL

She said it was National Naked Gardening day. I looked it up...

CLEMENTINE

Wait, that's a thing? Naked gardening?

MEL

Apparently!!

Everyone is laughing hard at this. FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE almost spill their wine. MEL sobers first.

MEL

Okay, so... what do you say? Should we do that?

CLEMENTINE

What, they go live with you? I don't know, Mel, that's a lot of work! Are you sure? There's two of them...

FEN FEN (TORN)

Where is Azizona? Is it hard to visit there?

CLEMENTINE

Not especially..

MEL

It's about a two-hour drive from Albuquerque. That's the closest international airport..

FEN FEN

Okay, I don't know... are you sure you want to do that? There are a lot of responsibility. A lot of technical issue...

MEL

I've been doing it for 22 years. The whole bit; health care, physical therapy, bills, banking, shopping, power of attorney... I kinda got it down...

FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE look at each other, considering. they speak at the same time.

CLEMENTINE

I can't see any reason why not...

FEN FEN

I can't keep spending my time here, I have to get back to Singapore...

They look at each other some more. MEL sits down patiently and sips their tea, not looking at them. The two women nod.

CLEMENTINE (SINGING)

Okay!

FEN FEN (SMILING)

There will be some detail to work out. But I think that is the best plan. I approve!

MEL

Okay! Here's to the plan!

They raise their glasses and toast.

ALL

The Plan!

They all drink and then sit a minute thinking about that and what that means. FEN FEN perks up.

FEN FEN (QUIET TO CLEMENTINE)

You got to tell her about the massage.

CLEMENTINE (SLAPS HAND TO MOUTH TO STOP A LAUGH)

Omigod you're right!

FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE are both giggling and shaking around with suppressed laughter. it goes on a bit. MEL notices.

MEL

What is this, middle school? What already?

CLEMENTINE (CONTAINING LAUGHTER)

Henry... get a massage every week.

MEL

Okay...

FEN FEN (SPARKLE IN HER EYES)

It cost 2000 baht!

MEL

Okay... so what is that in real money? We have masseuses in Arizona you know, it's not a complete backwater...

CLEMENTINE

Oh, you might have trouble finding *this* kind of massage...

FEN FEN

About 60-dollar US! It is very special massage!

CLEMENTINE

Veeeery special!

MEL (STRETCHING IT OUT)

Okay.....

CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN stop talking, looking at MEL with suppressed delight in their eyes, giggling with each other, little shrieks of laughter. MEL waits for them to go on... gives up and takes a sip of beer. CLEMENTINE's been waiting for this.

CLEMENTINE (WITH DELIGHT)

Two girls Happy Ending Massage!

MEL spits beer foam

CLEMENTINE & FEN FEN TOGETHER

He get discount!!!

they are rolling on the floor and MEL is looking for a towel, shaking their head.

FADE OUT

## Act 2 – Scene 1 – Day 8

FADE IN INTERIOR TAXI DAY

MEL is taking HENRY to the massage place. HENRY is looking out the side window and moving his shoulders around in a happy way like he's listening to music and he has a variable smile on his face. MEL is giving him sideeye

MEL (WITH A SOFT SARCASM)

Let me guess. Are... you... happy?

HENRY (HUMS OUT LOUD A FEW NOTES)

Massage Day!

HENRY hasn't stopped humming bouncing. They pull up to the massage place and HENRY opens the door. Several of the girls smile and call his name. They get up to help him out of the car.

HENRY

Sawa dee krab! Sawa dee krab!

At the counter BOO the owner is smiling and doing prayer hands. HENRY puts his hands together and bows smoothly while walking up. MEL behind him feeling clumsy tries to emulate.

MEL (UNSURE)

Sawa dee kaa...

BOO OWNER AND SEVERAL GIRLS IN CHORUS

Sawa dee kaaaaaah!

HENRY (TO OWNER)

Boo, this is my beautiful child  
Mel. Mel, this is Boo!

OWNER BOO (HEAVY ACCENT)

Hello Mel. Welcome.

MEL

Nice to meet you. Um, Henry, I...

HENRY (TO OWNER)

Mel would like the special  
Pleasure Peach massage today!

MEL

Wait? What? What's the Pleasure  
Peach...

MEL looks up and finds the description of the Pleasure Peach for  
Women. HENRY reaches for his wallet and starts looking for cash.

HENRY

And I'll have the usual! Here you  
go!

MEL (UNCOMFORTABLE)

I'm not... Um...

HENRY (PUTS HIS HAND ON THEIR ARM FOR  
EMPHASIS)

Mel. It's therapeutic. Just  
remember that, close your eyes and  
let your body feel. Therapy!

They go into the darkness of the shop.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR TAXI DAY -

SYLVIA and CLEMENTINE are going to SYLVIA's massage parlor.  
SYLVIA is not sure she wants to go to Arizona.

SYLVIA

...and where is this Aziroda? Is it  
close to Pasadena? Are there  
lizards?

CLEMENTINE (HANGOVER IMPATIENT)

No, I'm sorry, it's not near Pasadena. Arizona is the next state to the east, south of Nevada...

SYLVIA

I know Nevada. Las Vegas! They have good shopping... is it close to Las Vegas?

CLEMENTINE (RUBS HER TEMPLES, EYES SQUEEZED SHUT)

I don't really know, it could be. Is this it?

CUT TO EXTERIOR MASSAGE PARLOR DAY -

CLEMENTINE and SYLVIA are getting out of the cab. the owner of this shop [AMEE] speaks Chinese. They all say hello in Thai and Chinese and take off their shoes, put on their slippers, go inside for foot washing.

Cut to interior massage parlor day - SYLVIA and the owner chatting in Chinese while CLEMENTINE follows, looking around hiding her distaste.

AMEE OWNER (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Hello! Hello! Good to see you! Who is this white girl with you today?

SYLVIA (CHINSE W/ ENG SUB)

Hello! She is stepdaughter of Henry, she is here visiting! She needs a massage.

An older woman motions them onto a bench behind a low concrete basis full of river rock. she kneels down and washes their feet, first SYLVIA then CLEMENTINE.

SYLVIA (ENGLISH TO CLEM)

What kind massage you want? Thai massage? Oil massage?

CLEMENTINE realizes she is now in the process and it would be awkward to back out, plus it might be good to get a massage. she looks at the menu board

CLEMENTINE

Oh wow, they do pedicures here too? Hmm... I'll take a Thai massage and a pedicure. And a manicure too!

AMEE The owner says okay and bows a little and goes to the phone, speaking Chinese to SYLVIA.

AMEE OWNER (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

She can get the massage first? I have to call the nails woman. Hope she is free!

SYLVIA (NODDING, CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

She is very tense! She needs a very good massage. Can you get Aoy?

AMEE OWNER (THAI INTO PHONE)

Can you come over in half an hour? I have a white girl here wants her nails done. Okay. Thanks. Bye bye.

Owner hangs up the phone continues speaking.

AMEE OWNER (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

She will be here in half an hour. We can do the massage first then the nails. You get one hour half today.

AMEE OWNER (BROKEN ENGLISH)

Okay. We do Thai massage first. Then, half hour, we do nails? Okay?

CLEMENTINE

Perfect!

SYLVIA (ENGLISH TO CLEM)

She had to call the nail lady.

They finish up the feet washing and are guided toward the back of the shop.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR TAXI DAY -

HENRY and MEL are riding home from the massage. they are each looking out their respective windows, lost in thought. Both have little smiles. MEL shifts a little.

MEL (QUIET ALMOST TO SELF)

Wow, that really *is* therapeutic!

HENRY (QUIET TO HIMSELF)

God's honest truth.

FADE OUT

### Act 2 – Scene 2 – Day 9

FADE IN INTERIOR H&S HOUSE DAY -

Montage of scenes of sorting and arguing with HENRY & SYLVIA over everything. it is Saturday and neither FEN FEN nor CLEMENTINE have work obligations. In the evening while HENRY & SYLVIA are preparing for bed FEN FEN, CLEMENTINE and MEL are in the sitting room again. FEN FEN & CLEMENTINE with wine on the couch and MEL with tea in a chair across the room. FEN FEN is looking through her old family albums. CLEMENTINE is close-by looking on interested but not wanting to impose, idly turning through another album. FEN FEN is aware of CLEMENTINE's interest, but not sure what is appropriate in their mix of cultural norms. MEL is sorting through another box of negatives and proof sheets on the lounge chair across the room, not really paying attention to the other two.

FEN FEN (STIFFLY ENGLISH)

This is my great great  
grandparents. My mom's mom's mom  
and dad.

CLEMENTINE (FRIENDLY)

Wow, what a great pic! Look at her  
clothes!

FEN FEN (LOOSENS A BIT)

Yes... and her feet are bound, can you see how small they are?

CLEMENTINE (LEANS FORWARD TO LOOK)

Oh, my goodness! Really? They still did that? When was this?

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

1902. One hundred twenty five years...

They look at the photo a bit longer, FEN FEN turns the page, then almost shyly angles the book so CLEMENTINE can see better.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

See, that my mom's mom and dad. They were in the army. The Long March. They fight Chiang Kai-shek.

She keeps turning the pages, slowly, giving a quick run-down of the history of their family & the CCP.

CLEMENTINE

Wow, this is fascinating! I never knew!

CLEMENTINE finishes her wine, reaches over for the bottle and pours more in her glass, offers to FEN FEN, who relents.

CLEMENTINE

So, Fen Fen, you never had any brothers or sisters?

FEN FEN (STILL TURNING PAGES)

No... Here's my dad. He's still in Chengdu. There's me, omigod!

She gives a little shriek of laughter and straightens up

FEN FEN

I remember that day! I wanted to pet the geese at the zoo but my mom was afraid to get close so I went by myself and she made a fuss the whole time saying the geese

would bite me! I was like, five years old!

CLEMENTINE looks closer then sits back and swirls her glass. takes a sip.

CLEMENTINE (THOUGHTFUL)

I always wanted a sister. Or a brother... no... really just a sister. I remember I had a fantasy that you would be my big sister, Mel, and we'd go shopping and share secrets and talk about boys...

MEL (A BIT OF SNIDE)

Sorry to disappoint you...

CLEMENTINE

No, no! You were fine! I just had to change my expectations, and then we did fine, right? I mean... we were good, weren't we?

MEL

Yeah, we were fine. I'm sorry, in those days I wasn't able to put on the normal person act as good as now.

CLEMENTINE

Yah, my mom was not happy, though! Social aptitude is very important to her. If you're not Socially Apt then you're not trying!

MEL (LAUGHING)

Your mom was always an uptight...

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHING)

Bitch? Is that what you were going to say? She certainly could be.

MEL

They had a huge fight the night of their wedding, her and Henry. The second wedding.

CLEMENTINE

Omigod...

MEL

Yeah, and I was sleeping out on the couch in that TV room outside their bedroom because I wasn't ALLOWED to sleep in your room, even though you were living in SoCal at the time and spending the night at your dad's house to boot.

CLEMENTINE (TRYING NOT TO LAUGH)

Oh Mel!

MEL

Slamming doors and running up and down the stairs and all this quiet yelling at each other. I swear she hit him once...

MEL stops, not sure if they've gone too far. CLEMENTINE is looking down at her glass and FEN FEN is watching them both with interest. CLEMENTINE swallows and nods a little. sighs.

CLEMENTINE (SOFTLY)

She used to hit him... sometimes... slap his face... when they were into it and screaming at each other. She could never let anything go... Always had to escalate... I used to hide under my covers and put the pillow over my head...

She stops, pouts a little and sips her wine, remembering. FEN FEN looks at MEL, her eyes questioning. MEL nods. Takes a breath.

MEL

Yah, well, it's amazing we all survived our childhoods.

CLEMENTINE

I'll say... [LOOKS AT FEN FEN] So... what's your childhood trauma story? She said, shifting the focus away from herself.

FEN FEN (CHEWS HER LIP, RELUCTANT)

When I was 12-year-old, my father took me to meet his mistress.

CLEMENTINE PERKS UP, SHOOTS A GLANCE AT MEL WHO IS ALSO INTERESTED, AND AMUSED.

CLEMENTINE (GASPS)

No, Really? Wow, what was... that like?

FEN FEN

It was strange. She was not pretty, she was very plain. She didn't like me but had to be polite because of my father. But when he left the room she told me I was in the way and that I should never come back.

My dad thought my mom was stupid... sometimes I thought so too...

CLEMENTINE

She certainly has her own way of looking at things...

FEN FEN (NODS, LOST IN THOUGHT)

Yes, that's true... he said everyone was stupid. He said I was stupid too, anytime I wanted to do something he didn't like...

CLEMENTINE

When did they divorce? Your mom & dad? Were you still living at home?

FEN FEN

No, I was in London at university. Final year...

CLEMENTINE

Sounds familiar...

They sit quiet for a while, looking at pictures, thinking their own thoughts.

FEN FEN (BUBBLY LAUGH, NUDGES CLEMENTINE)

So now we have a big sister!

CLEMENTINE (INTERRUPTS SIPPING)

Eldest Sibling!

MEL

You know we're not really related at all...

FEN FEN (INTERRUPTING, TO CLEMENTINE)

Not Big Sister? Eldest Sister?

CLEMENTINE

Oh, Eldest for sure! But nowadays we try not to assign gender roles to non-binary people.

FEN FEN

Non-Binary, CIS-Normal. I don't get it, what does that mean?

MEL (CALLS OUT, AS IF FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME)

Non-Binary means doesn't identify as either male or female.

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHING INTO HER HAND, SAYING ASIDE TO FEN FEN)

Big Sis lays down the law!

They both are giggling, hands over their mouths and laughing.

CLEMENTINE (TO FEN FEN)

Hey! That makes you the  
Troublesome Middle Child and me  
the youngest who can do no wrong!

FEN FEN (TO CLEMENTINE)

We have to team up to defeat Big  
Sister!

MEL

What, are we 12 now?

CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN are both laughing almost uncontrollably.  
CLEMENTINE lays back on the floor and looks up at the ceiling.  
FEN FEN likes that idea and does the same.

CLEMENTINE

We need a break!

FEN FEN

Shopping!

CLEMENTINE (ROLLS OVER TO LOOK AT MEL)

Oh, that's a great idea! Hey big  
sis! Can we go shopping tomorrow?  
Please oh please!?

FEN FEN TURNS HER HEAD

Please Big Sister? Will you let us  
go play one day?

MEL

You guys can do whatever you want,  
I'm not...

CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN cheer and sit back up. clink their  
glasses together.

FEN FEN & CLEMENTINE TOGETHER

Shopping!!!

FADE OUT

**Act 2 – Scene 3 – Day 10**

FADE IN INTERIOR/EXTERIOR MONTAGE OF SCENES

Shopping fun interspersed with no dialogue scenes of HENRY and MEL pulling down all the music equipment. they bring it all out onto the veranda and rearrange the furniture and as the sun is going down a lot of local musicians show up and there's a jam session. FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE get back just as this is starting and join in the fun. HENRY sings a song for SYLVIA. SYLVIA goes to bed early and the rest play into the night. the musicians pack up all the gear and take it away with them, leaving only HENRY's guitar. There are hugs and goodbyes and smiles all around.

FADE OUT

**Act 2 – Scene 4 – Day 11**

FADE IN INTERIOR EXTERIOR MONTAGE

MEL and HENRY working on things outside. FEN FEN in zoom meetings and CLEMENTINE at the shooting location during the day. FEN FEN's projects are all finally back on track and she's feeling good about that, a little more relaxed. CLEMENTINE's film is going well too, so they both are happy and smug.

DISSOLVE TO INTERIOR SITTING ROOM NIGHT -

They are going through boxes and sorting things. MEL has put aside several piles of items for FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE to go through. They are drinking wine and HENRY and SYLVIA are getting ready for bed.

A sudden blood-curdling scream comes from SYLVIA's bathroom and the three all jump up, CLEMENTINE spilling her wine, FEN FEN a little slower, knowing her mom. HENRY comes out of his room wearing a towel around his waist.

CLEMENTINE

What is it? Sylvia! Are you  
alright?

SYLVIA (BABBLING IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH)

Fen Fen! The lizard! Mi Amor! Oh!  
it is going to bite me! The  
lizard! Fen Fen!

The three are crowded at the door, FEN FEN moves in to comfort SYLVIA who is again in a towel, wet and with a shower cap. Everyone is talking at once, SYLVIA is gasping little frightened shrieks

HENRY

It's a lizard? I'll save you my  
love!

HENRY hurries back to his room, reappears a moment later with a cat toy fishing rod.

MEL

A lizard? You mean one of those  
geckos?

CLEMENTINE (LOOKING IN THE BATHROOM)

Oh, there it is, wow, it is kinda  
big!

SYLVIA SHRIEKS

HENRY (CHUCKLING)

I'll get it! I'll slay the dragon  
my princess!

MEL

Uh, dad? Why don't you let me get  
it? You could put some clothes on.

HENRY (SMILING, HANDS OVER THE FISHING ROD)

You open the screen and use this  
as a cattle prod. Sometimes you  
have to pick them up.

MEL (TAKES THE ROD)

I've dealt with a few lizards in  
my day, don't worry.

MEL goes in and gets the gecko outside while FEN FEN comforts SYLVIA and gets her dressed. HENRY comes back with his pajamas on and helps SYLVIA into bed, then sits down on a little chair beside the bed, holding her hand and leaning in close. whispering and smiling. Their 8:30 date. MEL and FEN FEN go back to the sitting room, where CLEMENTINE is cleaning up her spilled wine and pouring more.

FEN FEN

You guys, I am so sorry about my  
mom. She is so frightened of  
everything!

MEL

Oh, that was nothing...

CLEMENTINE

She certainly has healthy lungs!  
My god what a scream! I thought  
there would be blood and body  
parts!

MEL

Yeah, that sounded like a 60s  
slasher film with Jamie Lee  
Curtis!

CLEMENTINE

It's okay! She's just getting old,  
right?

FEN FEN

Yah, I guess so. So, Mel, are  
there lizards in Arizona?

MEL

Afraid so. Quite a few, actually.  
And snakes...

CLEMENTINE

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!

FEN FEN

Oh. Is this really a good idea?  
For them to go to Arizona? She  
would really rather be in a condo.

MEL

In China?

FEN FEN (CONSIDERS)

No, I guess not...

CLEMENTINE

Henry would hate it at some old-  
folk factory where they process  
'em through like cattle. You don't  
want that for your mom, do you?

FEN FEN

No... no! I just wish she were  
closer.

CLEMENTINE and MEL nod about that, as they drift off into their  
own thoughts. they work quietly for a while. then

CLEMENTINE (BRIGHTLY)

At least we're almost done here!  
Not much left to be gone through,  
right?

HENRY comes out of SYLVIA's room and pulls her door almost shut.  
He smiles and shuffles over.

HENRY

You guys are doing so much work!  
It's late, you should go to bed!

CLEMENTINE

It's only 8:45, HENRY!

HENRY (YAWNS)

Past my bedtime! Goodnight all.

HENRY starts to turn away, waving a hand.

MEL

Hey dad? So, this is it right? You showed us where all the stuff is? You don't have any hidden basements or secret attics with more stuff, right?

HENRY (PAUSES)

No, that's it... oh, except for the storage unit.

FEN FEN & MEL

The what?!

CLEMENTINE

Holy mother of god...

HENRY smiles and waves and turns toward bed.

MEL

Wait wait wait wait! How much stuff is in the storage unit? WHERE is the storage unit?

HENRY (OVER HIS SHOULDER)

Not much, more of SYLVIA's clothes. And not too far. They'll deliver here! Goodnight!

He shuts his door.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR SITTING ROOM LATER THAT NIGHT -

The three are still going over stuff and are getting cranky, arguing over minutiae that with clear heads they'd have no problem resolving. FEN FEN drops her head into her hands.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

This is going to drive me crazy.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

Can we please stop for tonight? My head is hurt. I am so sick of this house! Can we get out, please? Tomorrow? Go somewhere... ANYWHERE away from packing and decisions and... here!

CLEMENTINE

Oh, thank god you said it first! I didn't want to be the weakling who couldn't cut it! Yes, PLEASE big sister, can we go do something fun tomorrow?

MEL

Like where? You have some place in mind?

CLEMENTINE

Adventure Park!

FEN FEN

Which one, there a lot. Some are not so good.

MEL (RESIGNED AND A LITTLE PLEASED)

We can find a good one, I'm sure.

FEN FEN AND CLEMENTINE

Hooray! Thanks, Big Sis!

FEN FEN

I thought it was Elder Sibling...

CLEMENTINE (DIGS IN PURSE)

I have the card of a very nice driver with a very large and comfortable van who would love to drive us around all day at short notice.

MEL

Um, what about Henry and Sylvia?

CLEMENTINE

I'm sure Henry would love to go.

FEN FEN (THINKING)

If we make sure my mom has enough snacks and hot water and a comfortable seat to sleep in while driving..

CLEMENTINE

Oh, and fast access to a bathroom for Henry, right? I think it can work!

They straighten out the sorted piles and FEN FEN & CLEMENTINE leave for the big room in the back. MEL gets ready for bed on the couch, watching themself in the mirror, interested in the movement. Strikes a Cosplay Pose with fist up in the air.

FADE OUT

### **Act 2 – Scene 5 – Day 12**

FADE IN INTERIOR VAN EARLY DAY -

The five of them are in the van dissolve to montage of adventure park fun, zip lines, washing the elephants, petting the tigers, water slides, junk food, etc. many cuts to HENRY and SYLVIA sleeping in the van under the watchful eye of the driver, going to and from the restrooms, having lunch, mostly sleeping. when they stop for a meal on the way home, we see SYLVIA faint and HENRY catch her, help her to a chair. This puts a somber end on what has been a very fun day. they ride home each in their own thoughts.

FADE OUT

### **Act 2 – Scene 6 – Day 13**

FADE IN INTERIOR KITCHEN EARLY MORNING -

HENRY is doing his "praycersize" on the yoga mat out on the veranda, he is mostly a silhouette doing contortions. MEL is

looking out through the screen watching him. She makes a 'whatever' face and starts making coffee. HENRY shuffles in shortly.

HENRY

Oh, hi! Good morning! You're up!

MEL

Yah, finally got past the jet lag. I'm usually up this time of day. So... what kind of yoga is that you're doing out there?

HENRY (CHUCKLES)

Oh, that's my pray-cersize. Morning prayers to the universe while stretching all the stiff joints in my body. At the same time. More efficient that way. But sometimes I zone out like in a trance and forget where I am... in the rounds, I mean.

MEL

Okay... Sylvia still asleep?

HENRY

Oh, yeah, she won't be up until 9 or so. What is it, only 7 now?

MEL

Uh huh. Oh, hey dad. So... this storage unit? What the heck is in there?

HENRY (POURING WATER FOR COFFEE, LAUGHS)

As I recall, it's mostly Sylvia's clothes she wanted to ship back to China and like 4 huge boxes of moxibustion.

MEL

Moxibustion? Oh, like... you were showing me the other day? How much

of that do you have? Aren't there like a couple dozen boxes here?

HENRY (STOPS TO LOOK AT MEL)

I would venture to guess there are at least 50 of those boxes in each of the big boxes, so maybe 200 boxes, 60 pieces per box... I run out of fingers and toes...

MEL (WHISPERING LOUDLY)

Holy crap! What... where did you get all that?

HENRY

Sylvia ordered it from China. Before we moved in together. Um... 12 years ago? Maybe 15? Time goes by so fast...

MEL

And how long has it been in the storage unit?

HENRY

Um... since we moved here...

MEL

So... TEN years? Have you even looked at this stuff in 10 years?

HENRY (LAUGHING)

Well, it was Sylvia's idea. To keep it, I mean. We didn't have room for it here. Cheaper just to keep it in storage than try to ship back to China. I'd have prolly given it all away...

MEL

So... dad. Urgghh. You haven't looked at this stuff for over 10 years and you don't really even know what's in there. And you

haven't needed it for 10 years and  
you haven't MISSED it for 10  
years. Do I have this right?

HENRY

That is a fine description of the  
situation, young Skywalker!

MEL sits and fumes a little, looking annoyed and calculating.  
MEL's face becomes questioning.

MEL

So... what would happen if you  
stopped paying the storage rent? I  
assume you've been paying all this  
time.

HENRY

Every month! Right on time! 500  
Baht! Um... well... I guess they would  
impound the stuff and eventually  
auction it off for back rent?

MEL

But they wouldn't send police  
after you, or arrest warrants or  
anything, right? You wouldn't  
suffer any legal backlash? They  
wouldn't stop you from going in or  
out of the country?

HENRY

Most likely no. So, you're  
thinking we just abandon it?  
Hmmm... I like your reasoning,  
grasshopper! Now see if you can  
snatch the stone from my hand.

HENRY holds out a chocolate candy he just took out of the  
freezer. MEL snatches it off his hand and HENRY laughs.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR HOUSE LATER THAT MORNING.

MEL is moving through the house with the landlord and they have clipboards and pens and are making notes of stuff that will need to be done after HENRY & SYLVIA move out. CLEMENTINE is on the phone with the location crew, they are close to finishing and need some hands-on interaction from her. She is pacing the house as well, which is how we hear her side of the conversation. SYLVIA has remained in bed, and FEN FEN is concerned about her mom, and keeps bringing her soup and noodles and porridge, but SYLVIA just tries a few bites and then turns up her nose. she only gets out of bed to use the bathroom, and that is with FEN FEN's help. HENRY is mostly fumbling around being in the way.

CLEMENTINE finishes her call and then

CUT TO EXTERIOR BACK OF HOUSE DAY

finds MEL in back of the house with the landlord looking at the now mostly empty storage racks. they are just finishing up and the landlord leaves.

CLEMENTINE

So, have you figured out the storage unit yet? When are we going to go through that stuff?

MEL

What storage unit? There is no storage unit! I know nothing about any storage unit.

CLEMENTINE (EYEBROWS RAISED)

So...

MEL (SMILING)

The storage unit which we never knew about has ceased to exist in our reality!

CLEMENTINE (AMUSED)

What is this storage unit of which you speak?

MEL

Zackly! Let's go order lunch. Hong Kong Lucky!

They head toward the front of the house.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR SITTING ROOM EARLY NIGHT

The three are sitting again, looking through a last box or two. MEL has brought in HENRY's second laptop and hooked it up to the TV and its screen saver is going in the background. The screen saver has many pictures of SYLVIA, including boudoir photos that HENRY has taken. The rest seem to be very random people and places. They are not really paying attention to it. CLEMENTINE is talking.

CLEMENTINE

... so yeah, I have to go out to the set day after tomorrow, and we're just about done here, how about you guys come with me and I'll show you around, introduce you to people.

MEL

Um, sounds good to me, we still have what, 4-5 days before the flights?

FEN FEN (CHECKING A LIST)

5 days. But we're still waiting for the visa for my mom. I will check on that. I have never been to a movie set! A real one, not Universal Studios.

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHS)

They're really not as exciting or exotic as they sound. They spend a lot of time getting camera angles set up and lighting, and it just takes hours to shoot even one scene. Not as glamorous as I'd thought back in film school! That's why I decided to go into

producing. I get to make decisions  
and they have to do all the  
standing around and waiting  
between takes!

MEL

So, what's this movie about, then?

CLEMENTINE

Oh, it's a crime syndicate movie,  
an action drama as we say. Mostly  
Asian cast and crew. It's really  
just a vanity piece for the star.  
His family's money is funding the  
majority of it. They're very rich  
people from Singapore...

FEN FEN (CURIOUS)

What is his name?

CLEMENTINE

Lawrence Wong? Have you heard of  
him? I know he's big in China...

FEN FEN

Are you kidding?!?! Lawrence Wong  
is in your movie? He is at the  
location now?!?

CLEMENTINE (SURPRISED)

Oh, so you've heard of him?

FEN FEN

He is from Singapore! He went to  
China where he could get in more  
movies! [swears in Chinese]. I  
would kill somebody to meet him!

CLEMENTINE

Okay! Well... please don't kill  
anybody. We can all go! Day after  
tomorrow, okay? Wow, I didn't know  
you were such a fan!

FEN FEN

He is just so handsome! And he has a great body!

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHS)

Oh, he shows the body off in this movie, for sure!

MEL

But if he's so popular in China, why are you even making this movie for him?

CLEMENTINE

Well, like I said, it's a vanity project. He wanted to make a Thai Western, like a Spaghetti Western only with Asians, and he wanted it to be like Reservoir Dogs or Once Upon A Time In The West, you know, gritty and surreal. I'm... not quite sure they can pull it off, to be honest with you. But it's been fun and we're getting paid well. Always good experience to have...

FEN FEN (VERY EXCITED)

I got to tell my friends! They won't believe it!

FEN FEN turns on WeChat and dictates rapid-fire Chinese messages to her best friends. she is very excited and very pleased.

FEN FEN (ENGLISH)

This is day after tomorrow? Oh, I have to get so much work done so I can take the day off!

FEN FEN PACES QUICKLY TO THE BACK OF THE HOUSE, TALKING LOUDLY IN CHINESE INTO HER PHONE. HER VOICE FADES. CLEMENTINE LOOKS AFTER HER, THEN CHUCKLES AND TURNS TO MEL.

CLEMENTINE

I didn't think he was *that* handsome. And he's kind of a jerk,

y'know? Thinks women are toys for him. We had at least two incidents between him and the female lead. And I'm not counting the times he's messed around with the other crew.

MEL (LOOKING ON THEIR SMART PHONE, SHOWS RESULT TO CLEMENTINE)

This him?

CLEMENTINE

Yup, that's him! I don't know, do you think he's handsome? He looks kinda... wussy to me. I prefer bigger guys, like Mel Gibson maybe...

MEL

Partial to Keanu Reeves myself, or Robert Downey Jr.

CLEMENTINE

Intellectual types, then. Deep thinkers...

MEL (SNORTS)

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR HOUSE EVENING -

HENRY is sitting with SYLVIA in her room, trying to coax her into eating some porridge. She's acting pouty and keeps turning her head away, then taking little bites and swallowing. FEN FEN comes in, sits down on the edge of the bed and fusses with the covers.

FEN FEN (QUIET, CHINESE WITH ENG SUBTITLES)

Mama, how are you doing? Did you have your meal? You need to eat to keep up your strength, you have a big trip ahead of you soon!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

I'm so tired. I don't want to go.  
Henry says I don't have to go if I  
don't want to.

FEN FEN (ENG TO HENRY)

You told her she does not have to  
go?

HENRY LOWERS HIS EYES AND SHAKES HIS HEAD A LITTLE, PURSING HIS  
LIPS.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama we can talk about that  
tomorrow. You have to eat more  
porridge! So you can sleep well  
and be better tomorrow!

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

You need a husband, Fen Fen, to  
take care of. Don't you want kids?

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

We already talked about this,  
mama. Not until after you are  
settled in your new home. I will  
come and visit you.

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Not going! I am staying with  
Henry!

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Mi Amor! I want to stay with you!  
Will you stay with me tonight?

HENRY

You mean sleep with you? Of  
course, my love! Let me go pee and  
brush my teeth and I will be right  
back. FEN FEN will stay with you  
til then, right?

FEN FEN NODS, HENRY GETS UP AND GOES INTO THE BATHROOM

SYLVIA (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Fen Fen, I need to tell you something. I'm sorry. I was not a good mom.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama, of course you were. We won't talk about this now. Tomorrow when you are stronger. Now you just sleeping, okay?

SYLVIA (ENGLISH)

Where's my Mi Amor? Mi Amor! Where are you?

HENRY (COMING BACK IN)

Here I am, my sweet pie! My beautiful sexy girl! You don't think I would miss a chance to sleep with the sexiest girl on the planet, do you?

SYLVIA (PLEASED AND TRYING TO HIDE IT)

Nooooo! Not sexy girl... I am old woman!

HENRY shifts SYLVIA forward with FEN FEN's help and slides behind her on the bed. He props a bunch of pillows up around him and SYLVIA, and FEN FEN helps tuck SYLVIA into place, her face resting on his chest, hand on his stomach, his arm around her shoulder holding her in place. HENRY is still saying sweet nothings. After they are settled, FEN FEN gets up, still watching them. HENRY nods at her and smiles. HENRY & SYLVIA voices fade as camera follows FEN FEN back to sitting room.

HENRY

Well, you're the sexiest old woman girl I have ever seen in my life and I want to get naked with you.

SYLVIA (PLEASED AND SCOWLING)

Nooooo.... are you blind? I am old woman!

HENRY

Never seen clearer in my life,  
love. The first time I saw your  
picture I fell in love...

CUT TO SITTING ROOM

CLEMENTINE and MEL are looking expectantly at FEN FEN when she arrives. FEN FEN is a little embarrassed because she has been affected emotionally by HENRY and SYLVIA's love.

MEL

You think she's okay? Should we be  
calling the ambulance?

FEN FEN

No, I think she'll be okay. Henry  
is with her, he take good care of  
her.

CLEMENTINE (NODS)

Okay, well, we're all set to visit  
the location on Friday, and my  
understanding is that Lawrence  
Wong will be there!

FEN FEN (NODS, NOT REALLY LISTENING)

CLEMENTINE understands and is quiet. they drink their drinks and watch the slideshow on the screen for a while, each in their own thoughts. a series of pictures of SYLVIA in a white shiny wig and wearing a man's shirt and tie and little else, in various come hither poses on a red couch.

CLEMENTINE

Y'know? It just doesn't seem fair  
sometimes! I mean, look at your  
mom! How old was she there?

FEN FEN

That's Pasadena, so she was 63, 64  
maybe.

CLEMENTINE

And she's fucking sexy as hell!  
She's absolutely beautiful! Even  
with the wrinkles around her eyes  
and the saggy belly and... she  
doesn't really have much ass does  
she?

FEN FEN

Never did, really, but it was  
mostly gone by this time.

CLEMENTINE

Yes, with all that, she still is a  
knock-out!

MEL

Kinda reminds me of Carol  
Channing...

CLEMENTINE

Yeah with a little Audrey Hepburn  
maybe? I'm seeing 1960s movies...

They sip and watch a few more

CLEMENTINE

I mean, how is it that some women  
get more beautiful as they get  
older? Happens in men all the  
time, but women? Usually, we peak  
at like 30 and then it's all  
downhill from there...

FEN FEN

My mom was never pretty when she  
was young. My dad used to tell her  
she was plain, not pretty at all.

I didn't used to think she was  
pretty, either. But she suddenly  
got really pretty when she met  
Henry.

MEL

I guess they've been good for each other. I never knew dad to be so happy, upbeat all the time.

CLEMENTINE (NODS AT THE SCREEN)

Oh, who's that?

MEL

That would be Renee. She was like 5 years older than me. Big mistake. What a nutcase.

CLEMENTINE

I heard about her. Boy Henry sure likes butts, doesn't he!

FEN FEN

How did he get all these pictures of butts?

MEL

It was a parade, I think. In San Francisco. He had a long lens and...

MEL is interrupted by a large white naked woman's butt and vagina showing, a sign saying Perfect Fit projected across it.

ALL THREE (CRINGING)

Woah!!! Omigod...

FEN FEN (LOOKING AWAY)

I did not really want to see that.

MEL

Pretty sure that's Renee too. I remember in art school he was doing some projection projects.

The slide changes and they all say woah!! again.

CLEMENTINE starts coughing.

FEN FEN

Is that the same woman?

CLEMENTINE (CHOKING ON HER WINE)

Actually, I think that's *my* mom.  
Going by the hair... and the nose...

FEN FEN

Your mom pose for this picture?

CLEMENTINE

My mom was very racy when she was younger. Mel, is that you? What a great picture! How old were you?

MEL

I think I was 8. That was the year before I came out to live with them. We were at some friend of their's house...

CLEMENTINE

Oh, and there is us! When you came out for the first wedding. I thought you'd be my big sister!

FEN FEN (LAUGHING)

Eldest Sibling!

They all laugh, then continue exclaiming and talking about the slides as the scene and audio fade.

MEL

Oh, and that's Ida. Queen Ida. She got hit by a car when I was visiting...

FEN FEN

She on a Filene's bag?

MEL

Yeah, Henry called this "Cats Can't Spell"

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR BEDROOM NIGHT

HENRY and SYLVIA are snuggled in bed, they look like they're sleeping. SYLVIA startles and then HENRY. SYLVIA blinks her eyes looking around but not seeing anything.

SYLVIA

Mi Amor! Are you back?

HENRY

I've been right here the whole time, love.

SYLVIA

I dream I could not find you... I look everywhere...

HENRY

I'm staying with you, my love. I'll always be with you.

SYLVIA is quiet for a while. She pats HENRY's belly and nods to herself.

SYLVIA

I can't find my list. Someone stole it I think.

HENRY

I have your list, love. Right now, the only thing on your list is getting better.

SYLVIA

Mi Amor, I am sorry. I think it is time for me to go...

HENRY (TEARING UP)

Oh, my love, please don't go. You just need to rest up a little more

and eat some porridge. Do you want  
some porridge?

SYLVIA

You said you would not make me  
stay if I want to go. You promise.

HENRY

I did promise that yes...

SYLVIA

I'm sorry Mi Amor, I really think  
it is time for me to go. I love  
you. Can we say goodnight together  
one more time?

HENRY

Oh... Ok...

TOGETHER, SYLVIA FADING TO SILENCE

I wish you have a nice sleep,  
sweet dreams, sleep like a rock.  
Wake up refreshed tomorrow morning  
feeling healthy and happy and  
loved.

HENRY cries silently, rocking her in his arms.

FADE OUT

### **Act 3 – Scene 1 – Day 14**

FADE IN INTERIOR HOUSE THE NEXT MORNING

MEL is up and looking for HENRY because he is usually up and making coffee. MEL looks in HENRY's room, then goes to the front of the house, calling out softly for him. When MEL goes by SYLVIA's room they hear their name from within, quiet. MEL pushes open the door to SYLVIA's room a little wider to find HENRY still in bed holding SYLVIA, his face with dried tears. He finds it very hard to speak.

HENRY

She's gone, Mel...

MEL

Oh dad...

MEL goes into the room and sits on one of SYLVIA's little plastic stools next to the bed. MEL scoots a little closer and puts a hand on HENRY's arm. HENRY just nods, looking lost.

Outside in the hallway CLEMENTINE walks past the room, listening to someone telling her something on her cell phone, she is doing a lot of 'uh-huh' and 'okay'. She goes into the kitchen and we hear her opening the refrigerator and pouring stuff out. She comes back around the corner holding a cup and talking, She sees MEL and HENRY and SYLVIA through the open bedroom door and her voice runs out.

CLEMENTINE

...okay so what I want you to do is  
write out a scene for it *that is*  
*no longer than 45 seconds* and  
bring it to me tomorrow on  
location. I'll look it over and...

Look Sven, I'll call you back.

CLEMENTINE hangs up the phone and comes in hand over her mouth, she sits on the end of the bed and puts her hand on HENRY's lower leg.

CLEMENTINE (WHISPERING)

Oh no! Henry! When...?

HENRY (STILL NOT TALKING WELL)

Couple hours ago, I think. I might  
have fallen asleep...

CLEMENTINE

Does Fen Fen know?

FEN FEN's voice has risen in the back of the house,

CUT TO BACK HALLWAY

Rear bedroom door opens as she finishes yelling in Chinese. Camera backtracks her coming up the hall and talking, a scowl on her face.

FEN FEN (CALLING IN CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama, I can't believe what that  
idiot Li Peng is doing! He is not  
following my direction...

FEN FEN turns the corner into SYLVIA's room and finds them all.  
Stops talking abruptly.

FEN FEN (CHINESE W/ ENG SUB)

Mama... no...

FEN FEN kneels on the floor by the bed and folds up over her  
knees, hands over her face. Her shoulders are shaking. HENRY  
looks up at CLEMENTINE, at MEL.

HENRY (SOFTLY)

I can't get up. I don't know how.  
Can you help me get up?

FEN FEN looks up, face wet. The three stand and shuffle  
awkwardly around while they figure out how to do it. FEN FEN  
takes SYLVIA's body into her arms out of HENRY's, MEL and  
CLEMENTINE help HENRY out of bed and FEN FEN (all focus on  
SYLVIA) lays SYLVIA back down, arranging her mother comfortably  
and tenderly packing the bedclothes around, tucking her in,  
while HENRY motions for the others to come out to the kitchen  
with him. In the kitchen they have a three-way hug that lasts a  
little while. Then HENRY lets go and steps back. His voice still  
not under full control but getting there.

HENRY (TURNING TO GO DOWN THE HALL)

I gotta pee so bad. Can you order  
something for breakfast?

MEL (TO HIS RETREATING BACK)

Sure, what do you want?

CLEMENTINE (GETS OUT HER PHONE)

Oh, I'll take care of it. I know  
where he always orders from. You  
go make sure he's okay.

MEL (SIGHS AND TURNS TO FOLLOW HENRY)

Uh-huh. That's prolly best...

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR HENRY'S ROOM MINUTES LATER

HENRY is sitting on his couch watching the slideshow, looking lost. MEL taps on the slightly open door and calls for him softly. They push open the door and come up behind HENRY on the couch, sits next to him, hand out. He takes their hand, then squeezes it. He looks at them fiercely.

HENRY (VOICE TREMBLING)

No tubes, Mel! No wires. No extraordinary measures. If I'm unconscious, you tell them! Promise me.

MEL (HESITATES...)

I... I w...

HENRY (SQUEEZES MEL'S HAND AND FIERCE)

*Promise!*

MEL

I promise, dad. No extraordinary measures. None. I promise!

HENRY (LOOKING AWAY, LETTING THE HAND GO)

She made me promise her that. She made me promise her, that when it was her time to go, I wouldn't try to make her stay.

Last night she said it was time...

I couldn't convince her otherwise...

MEL

I'm sorry, dad.

HENRY nods, looking away and sighing.

MEL

Is there anything you need? Anything you want? Water? Coffee? Breakfast? Clem is ordering breakfast from Gravity.

HENRY (LIPS CRUMPLING)

Our favorite...

MEL

Dad? I'm just gonna go check on  
Clem, and Fen Fen. You'll be okay?  
You want me to bring you anything?

HENRY

Some water maybe...?

MEL

Sure, water... I'll be right out  
here, okay?

HENRY nods and MEL goes out. HENRY staring lost into the middle  
distance.

FADE OUT

CUT TO INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY -

FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE are in the kitchen, arguing quietly. MEL  
enters in the middle; CLEMENTINE has her hand on FEN FEN's arm.

CLEMENTINE

... I'm just saying let's wait a few  
minutes before we make that kind  
of decision. Let's talk to Henry,  
at least?

FEN FEN

I know what is best for my mother!  
It is not good to wait too long,  
she is already stiff!

MEL

Look, there's a living will. Henry  
sent it to me last year. Let's  
take a look, I think she wanted to  
be cremated.

We should call a mortuary, or  
funeral home, though. We'll have  
to find out what the protocol is  
here.

CLEMENTINE

I'll go next door and ask Pao or Mind, they'll help.

CLEMENTINE TO FEN FEN

Look, we'll make sure it gets done right, okay? You don't have to worry about it, really.

FEN FEN

I need to do something..

CLEMENTINE

What about your work? Better call them and let them know. Maybe get some time off..

FEN FEN (CURSES UNDER BREATH)

Yes, that... I will do that.

FEN FEN heads to the back room. CLEMENTINE turns to go out through the screen.

CLEMENTINE (OVER HER SHOULDER)

Maybe you can find that document?  
Be good to have it sooner than later.

MEL nods and goes to get their laptop.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY - MINUTES LATER

MEL and FEN FEN are looking at the document on MEL's laptop. FEN FEN is nodding. CLEMENTINE comes back in followed by MIND, who is Thai and speaks English and works at the hotel next door. She has been a constant resource for HENRY and SYLVIA over the years and considers them almost family.

FEN FEN

So, Clementine, Mel has found the will and it seem very clear here. Cremation, burial beside Henry.

MEL

Looks like they expected Henry to die first. He owns a plot in Portland for the two of them. Has a stone with both their names already.

CLEMENTINE (LOOKS BEMUSED)

When did he get that? He hasn't lived in Portland for over 30 years...

MEL

When he was with your mom. Originally it was for him and her, but after they divorced he bought her out. Must have got the stone later...

FEN FEN (TO MIND)

So, Mind, what is the process here? Who do we call? Someone has to issue a death certificate, no?

CLEMENTINE (TO MEL)

We got this Mel, thanks. How's Henry doing?

MEL

I'll go check on him.

MEL exits to the hallway, camera following. The voices in the kitchen fade.

FADE OUT

CUT TO INTERIOR HENRY'S BEDROOM DAY

HENRY is still sitting on the couch. He is watching some short videos of SYLVIA that have been shot over the years on the phones and cameras. He is laughing and crying. On the screen, SYLVIA is sitting in one of her plastic children's chairs sorting out her shoes. There are so many, and she is both pleased and embarrassed by them. She is giggling a lot.

HENRY (GLANCES AT MEL)

That was right after we moved in together. We got those shoe cubby boxes and we had to buy a dozen to fit all her shoes...

HENRY sighs and turns off the TV. He pushes himself up to standing.

HENRY

Oooof. So I suppose there are things to take care of...

MEL

I think we have it covered, but we could prolly use your input. Are you feeling up to it?

HENRY (NODDING)

I suppose this changes the whole visa thing...

HENRY goes toward the door and MEL follows. They exit and their voices fade.

MEL

I'm sure you're right. Is there a US Embassy or something?

HENRY

Consulate. It's in a new building on the other side of the Ping River. Very secure. Like a frickin' fortress...

CUT TO

INTERIOR KITCHEN DAY - MINUTES LATER

HENRY and MEL come out of the hallway. MIND stands up and gives HENRY a big hug. She whispers something to him while the focus is on FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE. FEN FEN is looking a little lost, while CLEMENTINE is researching Buddhist funeral rites. They both watch HENRY hugging MIND. MEL speaks to CLEMENTINE.

MEL (QUIETLY)

So, how's it going.

CLEMENTINE

Mind has helped make the arrangements. She is really very good at her job!

The ambulance will be here soon. They have to use an ambulance to take the body to the morgue where they'll do a cursory autopsy and issue a death certificate. FEN FEN will go with them, and HENRY will follow to sign paperwork. Can you go with him?

MEL

Sure. What's... what's the plan for the cremation?

CLEMENTINE (SIGHS)

Soonest that can happen is day after tomorrow. We can all be there in a little chapel where they roll the coffin into the furnace...

she runs out of voice at this, has to re-gather.

CLEMENTINE

After that we can wait or come back for the urn...

HENRY and MIND have finished hugging and they are holding hands. HENRY is smiling at her and talking low.

HENRY

... and I want to thank you for all your help all these years! Sylvia was so happy to know you were right next door and always willing to help us. And I will always be grateful to you and Pao for your help over the years!

MIND

We will miss her! And you, too,  
are going back to US?

HENRY

Yes... that is the plan...

Through the screen we see an ambulance pull up in front of the gate. MEL and CLEMENTINE go out to open the gate for them, while HENRY and FEN FEN head back to SYLVIA'S room and MIND goes back to the hotel.

CUT TO

INTERIOR SYLVIA'S ROOM

HENRY and FEN FEN stand holding hands for a few minutes. She drops his hand self-consciously.

HENRY

You're going with her? In the  
ambulance?

FEN FEN (WHISPERS)

Yes...

HENRY

That's good. I will follow. Let's  
clear some space here.

HENRY brushes some hair off of SYLVIA'S face, pulls the sheet up to cover her face. He helps FEN FEN move the furniture away, clear a path for the morticians. She smooths the sheet over her mom's arm.

FADE OUT

FADE IN EXTERIOR HOUSE LATER THAT DAY

They are coming back from the morgue. HENRY looks tired, FEN FEN is in her own universe and CLEMENTINE and MEL are hungry and thinking about food. They are spread out on the veranda and at the front door.

CLEMENTINE

I think we should order food,  
don't you? Just something simple...

HENRY

Um, hey you guys? Look, I need  
some time...

CLEMENTINE

Sure, HENRY, take all the time you  
need. We'll order enough for all  
of us and you can come out and eat  
when you...

HENRY (INTERRUPTS)

No..., I mean like... I need a whole  
day. Just to myself here. Just me.  
Here...

So... so I can say goodbye? Just  
have one last day with her in the  
house? even if it's just her  
spirit? While her spirit's still  
here? Tomorrow? Please?

HENRY's voice is broken while he's talking, FEN FEN is biting  
her lip.

HENRY

And then the next day we'll have  
our little gathering and the... and  
all that, okay?

HENRY walks past them and through the screen. FEN FEN starts to  
say something.

FEN FEN

Um... I don't know...

CLEMENTINE (SOFTLY TO FEN FEN)

I think this is really important  
for Henry, you know how close they  
were. Why don't you come with us?  
Tomorrow? I still have to go visit  
the location. We've got the big  
van already reserved. You can just

stay in the van if you want  
privacy. Or maybe the distraction  
would be good...?

FEN FEN IS RESISTANT

CLEMENTINE

Look, she may have been your mom,  
but for the last 15 years they've  
been lovers, and you saw how close  
they were. She was his world and  
now his world is crumbling. Let's  
give him the time, okay? You don't  
have to come with us if you don't  
want to, you can do anything you  
want. But... there's nothing else  
that needs to be done here  
tomorrow...

FEN FEN relents, nods. They go inside as scene fades.

FADE OUT

### **Act 3 – Scene 2 – Day 15**

FADE IN ALTERNATING MONTAGE OF SCENES

CLEMENTINE takes MEL and FEN FEN in the van to the filming location, alternating with HENRY moving around the house, lighting incense in various rooms, touching things of SYLVIA's and packing them lovingly up.

MEL, FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE go explore the set. MEL gets into conversation with the CGI team. They watch a tricky bit of action that looks totally klutzy in real life but will be transformed into a magical fighting sequence once back at the CGI studio.

FEN FEN has gone with CLEMENTINE and MEL to the location shoot but is struggling with keeping her emotions in check. She goes back to the van and sits, staring out the window, biting her lip. FEN FEN, really alone for the first time since her mom dying, curls up into a fetal position on the back seat and cries.

More montage scenes that dissolve into a dialogue scene at the end.

DISSOLVE TO

FADE IN INTERIOR VAN LATE AFTERNOON.

the van door is open and the driver has stepped away. a motion occurs by the open door and Lawrence Wong appears, looking concerned. FEN FEN straightens up quickly, embarrassed, caught so far off guard she's a bit lost. They speak in Chinese w/ Eng Sub - FEN FEN finds the relief of speaking Chinese with someone is enough to open the emotional floodgates.

FEN FEN (A LITTLE RUDELY)

What are you doing here? Did she send you?

WONG (DEFENSIVE)

No! No! she didn't...

FEN FEN

I think she sent you.

WONG

No... yes, okay she did.

FEN FEN (LIP CRUMBLING)

My mama just died.

WONG

I heard, I'm so sorry!

FEN FEN (BREAKS DOWN)

She just died yesterday and I've been here for two weeks trying to figure out how to care for her and my projects are all falling through and I'm this ugly mess with no makeup and snot and I'm meeting Lawrence Wong... I don't know what to do. I'm sorry...

WONG (REACHES A HAND OUT, CLOSE TO HER SHOULDER BUT NOT TOUCHING)

It's okay. You are doing what you should be doing.

FEN FEN (LOOKS UP THROUGH TEARS)

What's that?

WONG

Grieving. It's not supposed to make sense. Or be pretty. Doesn't have a plan. You have to let it play out.

FEN FEN (ABSENTLY, NODDING)

Thank you...

WONG

So, I'm gonna go back to work, and you're going to grieve a while, and I'll leave my email with Clementine, and sometime when we're both back in Singapore, we'll have a drink, okay?

FEN FEN, breaking down even more, just nods.

FADE OUT

### **Act 3 – Scene 3 – Day 15**

FADE IN EXTERIOR VERANDA NIGHT

HENRY is burning little papers on a tiny brazier. His lips are mouthing prayers, he sprinkles sage and pine resin on the small charcoal glowing in the brazier's center. Then he sits back and just watches the glowing coal, thoughtful.

Dissolve to later, the coal is out. The van pulls up in front of the gate and the three adventurers get out. HENRY gets up and welcomes them all home, hugging each in turn. They go in through the screen.

FADE OUT

FADE IN INTERIOR SITTING ROOM AN HOUR LATER.

MEL, CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN are in the sitting room, each with wine or whiskey. CLEMENTINE is giving FEN FEN people management tips after MEL says something about how good she was at it.

CLEMENTINE (LAUGHING)

...so yeah, it can be hard sometimes, because you just want to laugh at some of the idiot things these guys say. But if you want to get their cooperation, you need to make them feel like you appreciate them! Maybe it's different in the financial sector, I don't know.

FEN FEN

So what do...

CLEMENTINE (CHANGING THE SUBJECT)

SO, what's with this big mirror anyway? What's the deal with this?

CLEMENTINE stands up and strikes a pose for them with her wineglass. They are all reflected in the mirror, it is so big.

HENRY (SHUFFLES IN, STARTLING THEM)

She had it put in years ago so she could dance in here. Do Tai Chi and things like that. She used it for a while, then, like all the other gadgets and gizmos and whims, she let it go after a while.

CLEMENTINE tries a little dance step. HENRY sits on the couch and looks over at MEL who has the scotch bottle at hand.

HENRY (QUIETLY)

Could I have some of that?

MEL pours him a 3 fingers in a whiskey glass while CLEMENTINE strikes another pose, like one that might open a Broadway dance number.

CLEMENTINE

I just wanna bust out into some tap! Did you guys take tap dancing in school?

MEL (SNORTS)

I'm too uncoordinated...

FEN FEN finishes her wine and stands up next to CLEMENTINE. They stand with their hands on their hips, in First position.

FEN FEN

Two years. Mr. Ling. Best in Chengdu.

HENRY is sipping his scotch and smiling. MEL is looking at them like they are crazy and checking to see what HENRY is thinking. CLEMENTINE tries a simple shuffle with bare feet. She stumbles a little.

FEN FEN laughs and tries it with her flip flops on, one goes flying.

CLEMENTINE

We need proper shoes!

HENRY

SYLVIA had some soft dance slippers in that shoe cubby, did we pack them up?

FEN FEN (LOOKING FLUSTERED)

SYLVIA has more shoes?

CLEMENTINE looks and tugs out two pairs of dance slippers. She tests a sole with her thumb. Hands a pair to FEN FEN.

CLEMENTINE

Hmm...these could work. Not like we're professionals or anything.

FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE put on the shoes, trying out a step or two

CLEMENTINE (ABSENTLY)

Music would be good. Hey MEL, can you find...

FEN FEN (STRETCHING HER CALF MUSCLES)

Chat anoga chu...

CLEMENTINE

Huh?

FEN FEN

Andrew Sisters?

MEL

Maybe Chattanooga Choo Choo?

FEN FEN

Yes, that is the one!

MEL find it on Youtube and starts up the music, then turns up the volume. CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN line up, side by side, hands on hips ready to go, facing the mirror. They are getting the beat.

CLEMENTINE

Okay, so Shuffle? Right foot? And five six seven eight...

They start doing the step, getting together on it. FEN FEN calls left foot and then they go back and forth.

CLEMENTINE

Now Ball Step five six seven  
eight... And Smile!

They do this for a bit, then FEN FEN calls out the next step

FEN FEN

Heel-Step! Step Heel! 1, 2, 3,  
and!

CLEMENTINE (AFTER A MINUTE, LOSING BREATH)

Single Buffalo!

After doing these steps together, CLEMENTINE and FEN FEN start making their own changes, taking turns trying out harder steps, clapping for each other. the song ends and they whoop and fall into a hug, laughing. MEL stops the next song before it can start.

Closeup Fen Fen, laughter turning to tears. Then she pulls away, embarrassed.

FEN FEN

I'm sorry...

CLEMENTINE

Oh, honey, no... There's no reason  
to be sorry... I hope I didn't...

FEN FEN

No, no... it was good. It felt so  
good. Like a celebration of life.  
Her life.

HENRY stands up and clears his throat. Holds up his glass.

HENRY

I would like to make a toast.

They turn, then look for their own glasses. CLEMENTINE fills FEN FEN's glass then her own. They all stand and hold up their glasses.

HENRY lets his arm comes down, changing his mind about what he was going to say, the pause drags a little and the others' arms come down too.

HENRY

Y'know? These last two weeks? With you here, Fen Fen, and Clementine and Mel? These were wonderful days. Sylvia was so happy to have you all here, fussing over her, especially you, Fen Fen. And, somehow, in two weeks, we... kinda became a family, right? I mean... a family doesn't have to mean physically together all the time, right? Or blood relatives? All it takes is connection and love, I think. So... first, I want to toast to us. To this family. For coming together to show Sylvia, and me... some love. So... To us... To Family Let's keep it going, okay?

They all clink glasses and repeat

ALL

To Family!

HENRY

And now, here's to the love of my life! Thank you for everything Mi Amor! You were always the most beautiful girl in the room! To Sylvia!

ALL

To Sylvia!

FADE OUT

### **Act 3 – Scene 4 – Day 16**

FADE IN INTERIOR MORTUARY DAY

No dialogue scene of them all with the coffin, coffin moving into flames.

DISSOLVE TO

FADE IN INTERIOR TAXI DAY

No dialogue scene of them riding back to the house in a taxi, HENRY holding the urn in his lap.

FADE OUT

### **Act 3 – Scene 4 – Day 18**

FADE IN EXTERIOR HOUSE DAY

The moving truck is heading out with what's left to be shipped and they are preparing to leave the house for the last time. There are lots of goodbyes and thank yous to the landlord and the hotel staff who have helped SYLVIA and HENRY over the years. FEN FEN and CLEMENTINE are heading to the airport tonight, while HENRY and MEL's flight is in the morning, so they will stay in a hotel this evening. They are all saying goodbye while waiting for the taxi. HENRY and FEN FEN are talking together, while CLEMENTINE and MEL have their own little chat.

HENRY (HOLDING FEN FEN'S SHOULDERS)

...And you're still my step-daughter, y'know! You're part of my family now. Always will be. Keep in touch? Even just a WeChat

now and then? Let me know how  
you're doing?

FEN FEN

Ok, I will. You too!

They hug.

CUT TO MEL AND CLEMENTINE

CLEMENTINE

...so, keep in touch, okay? Let me  
know how you're doing?

MEL

I will, Clem. You too, okay? Come  
down to visit once in a while?

CLEMENTINE

You know I hate it when you call  
me Clem, right?

MEL (NODDING)

Yah, I do. But you also kinda like  
it, too, huh? In a way.. little  
sis?

CLEMENTINE (TEARING UP)

Ooohhh! You!

They hug, the taxi comes. FEN FEN is having the driver load  
luggage while HENRY and CLEMENTINE say goodbye.

HENRY

Oh, my pumpkin girl! I wish I  
could see you more often!

CLEMENTINE

Well, you'll be closer now, right?  
We can visit. Take care Henry, I  
love you!

HENRY

Love you too, darlin'! Say hi to  
your mom & dad for me, okay?

CLEMENTINE (WHISPERS)

Okay.

They get in the taxi and drive away, HENRY stands with arm  
around MEL's shoulder, they both wave a few times. Then they  
turn to walk slowly back to the house to get their own suitcases  
and go to the hotel. The audio starts to fade while the camera  
pulls back and up.

HENRY

So, what are we doing this  
afternoon?

MEL

Huh? We're going to the hotel...

HENRY (INTERRUPTS)

How about massage? One last time?

MEL thinks about that and nods

MEL

Sounds good...

FADE OUT

THE END

FADE IN ON CREDITS. PICTURE FRAME SCENES WITH THE REST OF THE  
DIALOGUE FROM THE FADE OUT DIALOGUE SCENES WHILE CREDITS ROLL  
PERHAPS THE OCCASIONAL BLOOPER SCENE