

THE HOUSE OF WU

by

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THE HOUSE OF WU

FADE IN:

"Super: "CHINA - 1937"

EXT. MOB SCENE -- EVENING

Raging horde of Chinese, uniformed, in rags, wave red flags, banners. The horde flows through the business district of a city, torches, loots, kill captured store owners, employees. Bodies hung by the neck are evident, beheading rampant. A large portion of the horde separates, flows into the wealthy estates of the upper class.

The Mansion of LAI KIOU WU stands in the path of the on coming raging crowd.

INT. WU MANSION -- EVENING

Scene of panic. Servants rush to vacate the premises. Father LAI KIOU WU hastens room to room, gathers his family, wife SIOU LEE WU, #1 son AH HEN WU, #2 son TCHAN LO WU, daughter MAI LEE WU.

INT. BEDROOM SIOU LEE WU -- EVENING

SIOU LEE WU stands in the middle of the room, clothed in a elegant silk robe, silk house slippers, long ebony black hair done with care. Both hands held to her panicked face. The door bursts open. LAI KIOU WU enters, rushes to her side.

LAI KIOU WU  
Hurry wife. We must move quickly.  
No time for emotions now. We get  
the children, then leave fast.

SIOU LEE WU  
Where to?

LAI KIOU WU  
Later, not now. Come!

Lai Kiou Wu takes his wife by the arm, ushers her out into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

Panic reigns, servants take all they can carry. #1 son AH HEN WU, early twenties, richly robed, elbows his way through the thieving crowd of servants up to his mother, father.

AH HEN WU  
(excited)  
The city is burning!  
(MORE)

AH HEN WU (CONT'D)

There is an army of rag tags on our property, and will be at our front door in minutes!

LAI KIOU WU

(reserved)

Calm, we must remain calm. Gather your brother, and sister.

Lai Kiou Wu places his hand on his son's shoulder.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

I will take your mother out of the house and meet the three of you at the gardens, rear of the house.

AH HEN WU

(nods)

Yes.

LAI KIOU WU

Be quick about it. If we are taken we will surely be killed. They have no mercy for our kind.

Ah Hen Wu turns, pushes/shoves his way back back down the hallway. Lai Kiou Wu takes his wife by the arm, brushes people roughly aside, leads her out the hallway, descends an elegant stairway, exits the Mansion through an open door.

EXT. WU MANSION -- MOMENTS LATER

A large door opens onto a courtyard, well manicured gardens. Lai Kiou Wu exits with his wife, hurries to the extreme rear of the gardens, halts.

Siou Lee Wu follows behind, hampered by her hobble skirts. Lai Kiou Wu walks back to his wife, reaches down, rips the stitching that restricts her stride.

Moments pass, his two sons TCHAN LO WU, late teens, Ah Hen Wu, daughter MAI LEE WU, early teens, all luxuriously robed, exit the door, hurry to their parents side.

TCHAN LO WU

(very agitated)

Those servant pigs of ours are stealing everything that moves. If it does not move they break it.

LAI KIOU WU

(nods)

It is of no consequence. The on coming scum will burn our house anyway.

AH HEN WU

Good! I would hate to think of anyone of them in my bed.

LAI KIOU WU

Enough of this idle conversation. Come now, we must put as much distance between us and that mob of rabble as we can before daylight.

Lai Kiou Wu turns to his daughter.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

You see to the care of your mother.

The family sets out on foot, disappears into the night.

EXT. WOODED HILLSIDE -- MORNING

The first light of dawn shows the Wu family struggling through the brush on a sparsely wooded hillside.

The mother, aided by her daughter, is having difficulty making her way through the brush.

MAI LEE WU

(quietly)

Father.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes?

MAI LEE WU

Regard, mother is having a difficult time.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes, I know.

MAI LEE WU

She is not prepared for this type of life.

(pause)

Regard her feet.

Lai Kiou looks down at his wife's feet. She stands there stoic. Her once majestic hairdo unraveled.

LAI KIOU WU

Those are not her shoes.

MAI LEE WU

Yes, that is so. I gave her mine. Tchan Lo tore off a piece of his robe to wrap around my feet.

Lai Kiou regards his daughter's feet wrapped in cloth. He lets out a long sigh.

LAI KIOU WU

I see that we are experiencing problems early in our escape.

(silence)

Let us rest a moment. We must determine where we are going, and how to get there safely.

The exhausted family seats themselves on the ground. Ah Hen puts his jacket down for his mother. All but the mother lean back on the dirt to relax.

Moments pass, Lai Kiou sits up.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

We are all fatigued, and hungry. However we cannot afford ourselves the luxury of prolonged rest periods until we are further away from these parts.

One by one the other three sit up.

AH HEN WU

I believe nutrition is our first consideration. It will assist in fighting off fatigue.

LAI KIOU WU

Ideal, but what provisions have we made for our meals?

TCHAN LO WU

As I exited our home I did so through the kitchen.

Tchan Lo opens his robes, displays two small sacks of rice, one small cooking utensil.

AH HEN WU

I did likewise.

Ah Hen opens his robes, displays eight tins of preserved foods stuffed in his pockets. He smiles,

AH HEN WU (CONT'D)

Plus these.

Ah Hen displays a handful of chop sticks.

Mai Lee disgorges five tins of preserved foods from the folds of her gown.

MAI LEE WU

I was able to beat the thieving crowd to these.

LAI KIOU WU

This will stave off starvation for a while. Now water, what must be done for water?

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, we do not even have containers.

LAI KIOU WU

Finances. What is our net worth?  
(smiles)  
Dig deep in your pockets.

AH HEN WU

I have two hundred fifty yuan.

TCHAN LO WU

I have one hundred seventy five.

MAI LEE WU

I have no money, but I did bring all the precious jewelry father gave me.

SIOU LEE WU

I too have no money, however I wear in my hair more than a thousand times those scum people make in their lifetime.

Siou Lee looks up surprised, stands, walks to the edge of the clearing, points.

SIOU LEE WU (CONT'D)

Look, over there, smoke! That is where our home is.

All look in the direction.

LAI KIOU WU

That smoke is from our home. It exists no more.

SIOU LEE WU

It is an abrupt realization that all we have left of our prior lives is what we have here.

Shock shows on the faces of the Wu family.

LAI KIOU WU

Under the circumstances we have the most important...our lives.

Siou Lee returns to the circle of the family.

SIOU LEE

It is obvious we cannot travel by land. The very clothes we wear will betray us.

AH HEN WU

Then by water. The river that runs through our city can carry us away.

TCHAN LO WU

(nods)

Yes, but where to?

LAI KIOU WU

As close as it can take us to Nanking. We will walk the rest of the way. I have business contacts in Nanking.

AH HEN WU

Fine! That does it. We have a small supply of food on hand, some money, and a line of direction to our destination.

LAI KIOU WU

We will now leave this spot and travel until the sun is high, share one tin of preserves. You all will rest while I walk to the river.

All stand, begin their trek through the brush.

EXT. WOODED HILLSIDE -- AFTERNOON

The sun shines high in the sky.

The Wu family arrive at a secluded niche under a large rock overhang. The once elegant garb of the family is beginning to tatter, fatigue shows on all. Lai Kiou Wu regards the area, calls for a halt.

LAI KIOU WU

This looks like a sheltered place in the event of rain. We shall halt here.

Each, excepting the mother, picks a spot, lies down, stretches out. Siou Lee Wu picks a low smooth surfaced rock, sits. Lai Kiou Wu sits beside his wife, addresses the rest of the family.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

I will rest here momentarily then continue my walk down to the river.  
(MORE)

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

I shall be gone for the night as I will never be able to find this spot after dark. Under no circumstances will any of you light a match, much less make a fire.

AH HEN WU

And if you do not return by the following night?

LAI KIOU WU

You are the eldest son, and will carry on in my absence.

Siou Lee turns to her husband.

SIOU LEE WU

The concubine I purchased for you, did you release her from the bondage to our family?

Lai Kiou looks away, replies.

LAI KIOU WU

No, I did not have time.

Lai Kiou stands, momentarily regards his resting family, turns, walks off into the brush.

EXT. RIVERSIDE -- EVENING

A decrepit river barge is tied to the branch of a tree overhanging the river bank. A Chinese couple, the man, YUT, gray hair, wrinkles, his wife AH MING, as ancient as her husband, live aboard.

Lai Kiou observes the couple from the cover of brush as they prepare their evening meal. His gaze travels from left to right. No other humanity in sight Lai Kiou exits his cover, walks up to the barge, stops within several feet of the old couple.

Ah Ming quickly disappears into the interior of the barge. Yut stands his ground, eye balls Lai Kiou Wu from head to toe several times.

YUT

You are fortunate to be alive.

LAI KIOU WU

My family also.

YUT

You stand before me because you want something from me.



LAI KIOU WU

That is correct.

YUT

Let me guess. It is the use of my barge.

LAI KIOU WU

That is correct.

YUT

Hmmm. And how many in your family?

LAI KIOU WU

Myself, wife, and three children aged seventeen years to twenty four years.

YUT

You must tell me your real name, do not lie to me.

LAI KIOU WU

I am from the family Wu, My name is Lai Kiou Wu.

YUT

Hmmm. Yes, I have heard of you. You had a metal business making plow shares, and things like that.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes.

YUT

Those days are over Mr. Lai Kiou Wu.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes, for the present anyway.

Short break in the conversation.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

Is it possible for me to employ you, and your barge, to float us down river as close to Nanking as possible?

YUT

Yes, I have no love for the others, but I warn you it will be expensive. I will be putting both my, and my wife's lives at stake just for your well being.

Lai Kiou Wu relaxes, a look of relief on his face.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes, I expected it would. What is the amount you wish?

YUT

I will accept seventy-five per cent of the money, and valuables, you escaped with. For meals you may share rice with my wife and me.

Lai Kiou is visibly shaken.

LAI KIOU WU

(shocked)

Seventy-five per cent!

YUT

Yes, and that is a fairer deal than you gave those that worked for you. I have heard of you.

LAI KIOU WU

How close can you take us to Nanking?

YUT

To the small village of Chintse. No further. You will have to walk the rest of the way.

LAI KIOU WU

How far would that be?

YUT

About fifty miles. A dangerous fifty miles.

Lai Kiou buries his face in his hands for a moment, looks up at Yut.

LAI KIOU WU

Very well I accept your terms. When can we leave?

YUT

As soon as you can move your family here. Be very careful.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes, it is best we move during the twilight hours.

YUT

When you do arrive I will expect payment in advance. You will all strip.

(MORE)

YUT (CONT'D)

My wife, and I, will gather our seventy-five per cent before allowing you on board. Once on board all of you must remain below decks during the daylight hours.

LAI KIOU WU

You do not fear us overpowering you, and take the barge?

YUT

Not in the least. Everyone knows this barge, and me. A stranger seen poling it along the river would be suspect, and boarded.

LAI KIOU WU

And why should I trust that you will not turn us in.

YUT

The two most important things to a man. Money and his life. Should I get political and turn all of you over I would certainly lose both things most important to me.

LAI KIOU WU

(nods)

I will return with my family.

Lai Kiou turns, walks back into the brush.

EXT. HILLSIDE NICHE -- MORNING

The family Wu huddles together in a corner of the hillside niche. A noise from the surrounding brush abruptly brings all to attention. The brush parts, Lai Kiou walks out.

It is a very tired and bedraggled Lai Kiou Wu exiting the brush. Both Siou Lee's hands cover her mouth at the sight. Ah Hen quickly goes to aid his father, helps him to the shelter of the overhanging rock.

Mai Lee brings an opened tin of preserves to her father.

MAI LEE WU

You must eat. This is your share of our last meal. You left before eating with us.

Mai Lee uses chop sticks to feed her father from the tin. The contents of the tin emptied Lai Kiou lays back against the stone wall of the niche, his eyes close.

LAI KIOU WU

(feeble)

Let me rest some moments before I  
tell you of my adventure.

Lai Kiou falls fast asleep. His family recedes to the  
opposite side of the niche.

INT. HILLSIDE NICHE -- DAY

Lai Kiou awakens, regards his family sitting quietly waiting  
for him. He raises himself to a sitting position.

LAI KIOU WU

I do feel much better, and I have  
some good, as well as some bad, to  
tell you.

Siou Lee comes over, sits by his side.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

I did locate river transportation.  
A elderly couple live on board a  
very decrepit barge. They agreed  
for a fee to float us to a small  
village some fifty miles from Nanking.  
We must walk the balance of the  
distance. He warned me it will be a  
dangerous fifty miles.

TCHAN LO WU

Wonderful, absolutely wonderful.  
Anything to escape this area.

LAI KIOU WU

(nods)

Yes, I have no doubt that at this  
very moment they are searching for  
us. The severed heads of the Wu  
Family would be a prize package for  
them to display.

SIOU LEE WU

Of course your barge people wish to  
be paid.

LAI KIOU WU

Now comes the bad part. Yes, of  
course they want payment.

SIOU LEE WU

And?

LAI KIOU WU

Seventy-five per cent of all the  
money, and valuables, we escaped  
with.

Tchan Lo leaps to his feet.

TCHAN LO WU  
The thieving bastards!

LAI KIOU WU  
That was also my first thought.  
However they are putting both their  
lives on the block if we are found  
on board their barge.

TCHAN LO WU  
We can over take the old couple once  
we are on the river. Toss them over  
board, continue the journey ourselves.

LAI KIOU WU  
No, no. The old man and myself  
discussed all possibilities of mutual  
trust. It remains as he says, seventy-  
five per cent from here to the village  
of Chintse, we eat their rice.

SIOU LEE WU  
So be it. They can have my jewels,  
I will keep my head attached to my  
shoulders.

Lai Kiou regards his wife, smiles.

MAI LEE WU  
I will repack our meager belongings,  
then we can be on our way to an  
exciting river voyage.

Mai Lee smiles, goes about her chores.

LAI KIOU WU  
We leave here single file, no talking  
unless emergency. When we arrive at  
the river I will leave all of you  
and go ahead to make certain all is  
clear.

Lai Kiou exits the area followed by his two sons, then his  
wife. Mai Lee regards the area, sees all is proper, follows  
her mother into the brush.

EXT. BRUSH OVERLOOKING RIVERSIDE -- EVENING

Lai Kiou raises his hand for all to halt, gathers his family  
around him.

LAI KIOU WU  
All of you rest here. I must talk  
with Yut and be certain all is well.  
(MORE)

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

That done I will return and we will  
make our entry after dark.

Lai Kiou leaves his family, enters the brush in a crouching position.

EXT. BARGE -- LATER

Yut is standing on the shore repairing nets.

LAI KIOU WU (O.S.)

Hiss.

Yut looks up in the direction of the noise, nods his head once, returns to his work.

EXT. BRUSH OVERLOOKING RIVERSIDE -- CONTINUOUS

Lai Kiou sees Yut look in his direction, nod his head. He smiles, returns to the waiting family.

EXT. BARGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Yut beckons his wife to him.

YUT

(softly)

We will take the family on board  
tonight.

Ah Ming nods her agreement.

EXT. BARGE -- NIGHT

In the light of a crescent moon the brush parts, Lai Kiou exits, his family follows single file. He leads them to the barge, Yut emerges out of the dark, points to a ladder placed up against the hull.

YUT

Send your family onto the barge, you  
and I last. We will lie here tonight  
quietly. Early tomorrow you will  
pay me and we may begin our voyage.

Lai Kiou indicates with his forefinger to his family "use the ladder and enter the barge". The family wade through the shallow water, enter the barge.

LAI KIOU WU

How long should our voyage take?

YUT

If all goes well two weeks, or so.  
(MORE)

YUT (CONT'D)

I must warn you again all must remain below decks during daylight hours. Should there be sea sickness you must use your own hats. All toilets must be done after dark.

LAI KIOU WU

I understand.

YUT

Also very important, no talking at night while outside on the deck. Sound carries far on the river after dark.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes.

The two men climb the ladder, enter the barge. Yut hauls the ladder on board.

EXT. ON BOARD THE BARGE -- CONTINUOUS

YUT

It is dark below. Your family will have to feel it's way. Tonight my wife and I will sleep on the deck. Tomorrow after we leave the shore better arrangement can be made.

Lai Kiou descends the companionway into the barge. Complete darkness.

INT. BARGE -- MOMENTS LATER

MAI LEE WU (O.S.)

Father, The stench in here is sickening, and rats are scurrying all over.

LAI KIOU WU

These accommodations are not what we are used to, but we are fortunate to have them.

INT. BARGE -- MORNING

The morning sun shines into the barge interior.

Yut descends the companionway, regards the occupants.

YUT

We should leave within the hour, but first my payment.

(MORE)

YUT (CONT'D)

My wife and I shall go through all your wearing apparel, as well as your body openings. I believe you are aware the consequences of any attempt to cheat me.

LAI KIOU WU

I am fully aware. I ask you to eliminate the women in my family from the necessity of a body search.

Yut ponders momentarily.

YUT

Place all your valuables and money on the floor between us. If I am satisfied I will forgo body searches.

The Wu family proceed to disgorge and place on the floor all valuables, monies.

Yut squats, counts the money, sets aside the jewelry. He takes from the money pile what he deems is his share, does the same with the jewelry pile.

Ah Hen gives his father a hurried horrified look. Lai Kiou returns a brief negative nod.

YUT (CONT'D)

I am satisfied. And you?

LAI KIOU WU

Yes, you have kept your end of our bargain and I trust you will take us to the destination we discussed.

Lai Kiou glances at his two boys.

YUT

I will, but you must do exactly as I say or we all will be in danger.

Yut stands.

YUT (CONT'D)

I will have Ah Ming bring you your morning rice, and tea.

A sigh of gratitude rises from the Wu family.

YUT (CONT'D)

I will now go above, cast us off from the shore, and we will be on our way.



EXT. BARGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Yut exits the barge interior, begins breaking the barge loose from it's moorings. Ah Ming disappears into the barge carrying a large amount of cooked rice, pot of tea.

Yut hauls the last of the land lines on board, poles the barge out into the river. The barge moves with the current.

INT. BARGE -- MOMENTS LATER

The movement of the barge in the current is felt by it's passengers. Lai Kiou looks up at Siou Lee.

LAI KIOU WU

We are on our way. We are leaving  
this area for good, never to return.

SIOU LEE WU

(nods)  
We will reestablish the House of Wu  
elsewhere.

INT. BARGE -- NIGHT

Yut clambers down the companionway into the unlit interior.

YUT

Night has fallen. You may all go  
top side now, however I caution no  
conversation over a whisper. Sound  
travels far after dark.

The sounds of the Wu family getting ready to move topside.

YUT (CONT'D)

I have made up some fishing lines  
you may use. The river fish is good  
and will help augment your diet of  
rice.

Yut returns topside. The Wu family follow.

EXT. BARGE -- MOONLIT NIGHT, MOMENTS LATER

Each of the Wu family stretch as they exit, deeply inhale the fresh air. Mai Lee places a folded robe on the deck, seats her mother leaning against a tackle box.

Yut gives Ah Hen, Tchan Lo, each a fishing line, chopped up bait, and a knife they can share.

YUT

(whisper)  
You may clean your own fish with  
this knife, and return it to me when  
you go back down below.

Yut turns to Lai Kiou.

YUT (CONT'D)

Ah Ming will cook your fish top side  
and bring it to you with your rice.  
We will take out our share of the  
fish first.

LAI KIOU WU

(whisper)

That is a good arrangement.

AH HEN WU (O.S.)

(loud whisper)

Look! I got my first one!

SUPERIMPOSE: 'ONE WEEK LATER'

EXT. BARGE -- NIGHT

Yut, Lai Kiou, sit together on the deck in conversation.

YUT

It has been one week now since we  
set out. How is your family settling  
in? Any problems?

LAI KIOU WU

In general no. My wife is the  
frailest among us. I fear she cannot  
take this kind of life for too long.

YUT

(nods)

Yes, I noticed that. We have perhaps  
over one more week ahead of us.

LAI KIOU WU

Is there any possibility of stopping  
along the shore for a day or two?

YUT

Not if you want to keep your head.

LAI KIOU WU

I guess that would apply to all of  
us.

YUT

Yes it would, and equally dangerous  
are the bands of robbers roaming  
shore lines, as well as the inland  
roads.

LAI KIOU WU

Would it be possible she could spend  
some time topside during the day?

YUT

No. You are not aware of it but we have been surveyed by two check points during the past week. They do it from a distance by very high powered binoculars. I am known, and they do not bother to come out to my barge.

LAI KIOU WU

I see. My wife will understand also.

Yut stands, walks over to his wife who is steering the barge.

AH MING

Is all well with our passengers?

YUT

Yes, with the exception of the mother. She is too frail for this life.

AH MING

I noticed that the moment I set eyes on her. We have about ten more days. I hope she is able to get off this barge under her own power.

YUT

Doubtful.

INT. BARGE -- MORNING - DAYS LATER

The weather has shifted for the worse. The down pour rain pounds on the barge.

Yut descends the companionway with the morning meal, fish, rice, tea. No tables, chairs. Yut sets all on the decking (cabin floor).

YUT

It is I, Yut, who brings you your morning meal today. We have things to discuss.

The Wu family attack the food. None pay attention to Yut, until...

YUT (CONT'D)

Tomorrow is your last day with us, so you must hear what I have to say. It will be for your benefit.

The Wu family halt, look up at Yut.

LAI KIOU WU

So tomorrow our journey on foot begins.

YUT

Yes, and as you are not familiar with the area you must listen closely to the few words I have to say.

The Wu family put down their chop sticks, draw up close to Yut.

YUT (CONT'D)

There are many lakes in the area. I will put you on the most eastern shore of lake Honze Hu. That is as far as I can safely go. You will be about fifty miles east-north-east of Nanking. I suggest you stay away of all lake shores, and roads.

LAI KIOU WU

Are all the people in this area hostile?

YUT

(nods a slow 'no')

No, not all. As a rule those still alive are, but those who can supply their daily diet they let live, for now.

Yut stands, prepares to leave.

YUT (CONT'D)

The nearer you get to Nanking the safer you are.

LAI KIOU WU

I can possibly purchase food along the way?

YUT

Yes, go alone, and be wary.

A brief silence.

YUT (CONT'D)

I will enter lake Honze Hu after dark, place all of you on shore, then leave immediately.

LAI KIOU WU

It is teeming rain. Could you hold us on board until it passes?

YUT

No, I am not well known here. If we are seen it could spell the end of all of us.

Yut turns, leaves.

EXT. LAKE SHORE HONZE HU -- NIGHT

The barge appears silently out of the rain, Yut poles it to shore. The barge comes to a halt in shallow water. Yut puts the ladder overboard, the family Wu descend one by one, wade to the land in water waist high.

They watch Yut pole the barge back out into the darkness of night. The only sound is the rain.

LAI KIOU WU

We will go inland, find suitable shelter to spend the night, possibly longer. My wife, your mother, needs to gain her strength before we move on.

The family follow Lai Kiou into the brush. The finery they wear is not holding up to the rigors of travel.

EXT. INLAND FROM LAKE HONZE HU -- MORNING

The rain has abated.

The Wu family huddle together on the bare ground to keep warm. The sun rises, the family arouse one by one.

Mai Lee is the first to rise, regards the area.

MAI LEE WU

I miss Ah Ming and her tea pot.

Tchan Lo gives a short laugh.

TCHAN LO WU

Already it seems like she was the good old days. No more room service, or tea pot.

AH HEN WU

Yes, I hope we all like sun dried fish

(pause)  
while it lasts.

One by one the family stand, stretch. Siou Lee remains prone. Mai Lee goes to her side, bends down, listens to her mother's breathing.

MAI LEE WU

(worried)  
Mother is breathing with much difficulty.

The family gather around Siou Lee. Lai Kiou puts his ear to his wife's chest. Looks up.

LAI KIOU WU

I fear for the worst. Her breathing is very irregular.

AH HEN WU

All our clothes are soaking wet from last night's rain. There is no way for us to get her into something dry.

LAI KIOU WU

The rigors of the journey have been too much for her. We must remain here until she regains her strength.

The family all nod, utter sounds of agreement. Lai Kiou looks up at Mai Lee.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

Your mother needs nourishment, feed her from the tins of food we brought with us.

Mai Lee nods, gets a tin from it's place in their possessions.

Lai Kiou turns to his two sons.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

Yut informed us we are now East North East of Nanking. It is important that we are aware of what lies between us and Nanking.

AH HEN WU

Tchan Lo and I can search ahead of us.

LAI KIOU WU

Exactly. You both will travel on a West South West direction, and return well before dark. Do not be seen, and do not steal anything, yet.

The two boys nod, leave the campsite.

EXT. WU CAMPSITE -- EVENING

Lai Kiou sits on the ground, head in his hands. A noise brings him alert, the two boys step out of the surrounding shrubbery, look very fatigued.

AH HEN WU

Could we rest a moment, and have something to eat?

Lai Kiou stands, nods, hands Ah Hen an opened tin, one set of chop sticks.

LAI KIOU WU

Share this between you. You can relate to me your experiences of the day while you eat.

Ah Hen takes a morsel of food from the tin, passes it to his brother.

AH HEN WU

Really not too much between us and the next five or six miles. A shack or two, with families that look worse than we do.

LAI KIOU WU

Very good, fine. The next leg of our journey seems to be unobstructed. We must do this prior to each leg.

Tchan Lo removes a morsel from the tin, passes it back to his brother.

TCHAN LO WU

How is mother?

LAI KIOU WU

Worse.

EXT. WU CAMPSITE -- NIGHT

The Wu family huddle together on the bare ground, await sleep to arrive. Siou Lee is placed in the center.

EXT. WU CAMPSITE -- NIGHT LATER

Mai Lee awakens Lai Kiou.

MAI LEE WU

(between sobs)

Mother is not breathing anymore.

Lai Kiou places his ear to his wife's chest. Looks up.

LAI KIOU WU

(slowly)

My wife is dead.

Lai Kiou glances over at the two sleeping boys. Looks at Mai Lee.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

Do not waken the boys, they need their rest. The morrow will be difficult for all of us.

Mai Lee nods, kneels next to her mother.

EXT. WU CAMPSITE -- MORNING

Lai Kiou, Mai Lee, remain kneeling next to Siou Lee. Tchan Lo wakens, looks over at his father, sister.

TCHAN LO WU  
(startled)  
What is wrong? What has happened?

MAI LEE WU  
(serene)  
Our mother is dead. She died during  
the night, in her sleep.

Ah Hen awakens as Mai Lee speaks. Bolts upright.

AH HEN WU  
Our mother is dead!?

LAI KIOU WU  
Yes. During the night. The voyage  
was just too much for her.

Ah Hen buries his face in his hands.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)  
Come now, we must make haste to bury  
her, and be gone from this place.

Lai Kiou stands, addresses Mai Lee.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)  
Place what is left of her jewelry  
with our belongings, tidy up her  
robes for the burial.

Lai Kiou ponders momentarily,

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)  
Tear off a strip about two feet wide  
from the bottom of her robes. We  
will need it to bind our feet.

Lai Kiou turns to the two boys.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)  
Go now and bring back all rocks big  
and small to cover your mother.

The two boys leave the campsite in different directions.

EXT. WU CAMPSITE -- LATER

The dead body of Siou Lee Wu is buried under a neat mound of rock.



The Wu family are gathered around it, heads bowed in reverence. Lai Kiou breaks the silence.

LAI KIOU WU  
Come now. It is time we leave here  
and gain our next campsite before  
dark.

The Wu family pick up their meager belongings, file out into the bushes behind Lai Kiou.

EXT. BRUSH COVERED HILLSIDE -- LATER

The Wu family slowly make way through the brush. Tchan Lo taps Lai Kiou on the shoulder, points to a thatched shack below, small animal pen.

Lai Kiou raises his hand, all halt, peer through the brush at the shack.

LAI KIOU WU  
I see fowl running loose in the yard.  
The house is in bad disrepair.

Tchan Lo peers through the bushes next to his father.

TCHAN LO WU  
Yes, the place is a mess. I do not  
see any sign of human activity.

The two men quit their surveillance of the shack. Lai Kiou looks directly at Tchan Lo.

LAI KIOU WU  
Take some money, go down to that  
shack, see if it possible to purchase  
anything for us to eat.

TCHAN LO WU  
Excellent! I shall be very cautious  
before I approach the structure.

LAI KIOU WU  
Extremely cautious. If all looks  
well to you, proceed. I will take  
the rest of the family just over  
(points)  
that rise and await your return.

Mai Lee places some money in Tchan Lo's hand, he turns, begins his descent down the hillside to the shack. Lai Kiou, with the others, continue the slow progress through the heavy under growth.

EXT. BRUSH COVERED HILLSIDE -- LATER

Tchan Lo makes a slow, low, approach to a vantage point close to the shack, observes left to right, no sign of occupants. The door to the shack is ajar. He stands, walks to the open doorway, peers inside.

INT. SHACK -- CONTINUOUS

Tchan Lo stands outlined in the open doorway, peers inside. In the middle of a littered room a small table with a MAN, early thirties, attire in tatters, hair in disarray, his head placed in his folded arms on the table top.

TCHAN LO WU

Psst.

No response.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

Psst.

No response. Tchan Lo enters the room, gently shakes the man by the shoulder. The man awakens from a deep slumber, wide eyed, leans back in his chair.

The front of the man's filthy shirt is blood spattered. Tchan Lo takes a step back from him.

The man regards Tchan Lo's once elegant robes from head to toe. He leaps out of his chair sending it sliding across the room, draws a blood stained knife from his belt.

MAN

You scum of this earth! You all  
will die! The Red Revolution will  
lead us on!

The man makes a lunge at Tchan Lo baring his drawn knife. Tchan Lo, taken by complete surprise, stumbles backwards, falls over the discarded chair, breaks it into pieces. The man in his haste stumbles over the broken chair, falls to his knees, drops his knife to the floor.

Tchan Lo quickly retrieves the dropped knife, rams it into the man's neck.

Tchan Lo stands, looks down at the dead man, withdraws the knife, wipes it off on the man's shirt, places it under his robes. He proceeds to search the premises, putting what is needed in his robe pockets.

Satisfied, Tchan Lo steps outside the shack,

EXT. SHACK -- CONTINUOUS

kills a chicken, starts his return through the bush to the others.

EXT. BRUSH COVERED HILLSIDE -- LATER

The Wu family sit in a huddle anticipate the return of Tchan Lo. A noise from the brush alerts all, the brush quivers, Tchan Lo steps out.

Ah Hen gives his brother an assist with the load he is carrying.

MAI LEE WU

(glee)

My goodness! Those people were very generous.

TCHAN LO WU

(smiles)

No, not really.

Lai Kiou regards Tchan Lo's blood spattered robe.

LAI KIOU WU

You had problems?

TCHAN LO WU

Very much so. I was attacked because of the clothes I wear.

LAI KIOU WU

And?

TCHAN LO WU

There was a lone man in the shack. His clothes were filthy, and blood spattered. There is no doubt he had taken part in the riots.

Tchan Lo removes the bloody knife from under his robes, tosses it on the ground.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

He took one look at me, and attacked with this knife, shouting all like me should die.

AH HEN WU

How is it you come home with this knife?

Tchan Lo turns to his brother.

TCHAN LO WU  
 Because I killed him with his own  
 knife.

Mai Lee displays shock.

MAI LEE WU  
 Have you no remorse that you have  
 killed a man?

Tchan Lo addresses his answer to all.

TCHAN LO WU  
 No, not in the least. It was a matter  
 of self defense, plus the scum I  
 killed was of the kind that burned  
 us out, and stole our belongings.

Short lull.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)  
 In fact I enjoyed it. The House of  
 Wu was at stake, and I no doubt will  
 be called upon to do it again.

Tchan Lo reaches into the sack he carries, pulls out the  
 dead chicken, tosses it on the ground.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)  
 Yes, I killed this chicken also.  
 Should I feel bad?

Lai Kiou smiles, stands.

LAI KIOU WU  
 Come now, we must put as much distance  
 away from this event as we can by  
 night fall.

Each carry a portion of Tchan Lo's new found supplies,  
 disappear into the brush.

SUPERIMPOSE: SIX DAYS LATER

EXT. OUTSKIRTS NANKING -- DAY

Scattered structures, people go about their daily chores.

The Wu family walk openly on the country road. Passersby  
 pay little or no heed to them, all seem to be of like ilk.  
 The attire of the Wu family is now of tattered robes, with  
 sleeves torn off to make for feet wrappings.

Ah Hen approaches a fellow TRAVELER headed in the opposite  
 direction.

AH HEN WU

Excuse please. Could you tell me  
how much further to the City of  
Nanking?

The traveler stops, regards Ah Hen.

TRAVELER

You will be there before dark. Better  
for you if you do not get your hopes  
up.

The traveler continues on.

EXT. NANKING -- EVENING

The Wu family hobble into the City of Nanking on cloth wrapped  
feet. The city teems with people, most all clothed in common  
with the Wu family.

The Wu family wander down once active business areas, doorways  
have become residences for wayward families.

Lai Kiou pauses in front of a large store window, sees his  
reflection. Looks down at his wrapped feet, extends his  
arms, regards himself head to toe in the reflection. He  
turns to his family.

LAI KIOU WU

(sadly)

So this is what we have come to.  
Look around, we have become one of  
them.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes. I have already realized that,  
but more important is that we locate  
our own doorway, for the night at  
least.

The Wu family amble on, locate a small opening not yet  
occupied, place their belongings down, sit with sighs that  
only extreme fatigue brings out.

INT. DOORWAY -- LATER

Mai Lee rustles through their belongings, comes up with two  
tins of food.

MAI LEE WU

We must have nourishment, and tonight  
we will celebrate our Nanking arrival  
with TWO tins!

Mai Lee holds up the two tins. The two brothers clap, Lai  
Kiou remains silent.

INT. DOORWAY -- MORNING

The two brothers sleep closest to the doorway opening, Lai Kiou, Mai Lee, sleep far back from the opening. The Wu family awakens with the dawn light.

AH HEN WU

I still miss Ah Ming with her pot of tea.

LAI KIOU WU

Room service is a thing of the past.

TCHAN LO WU

For now only. The future is what we make of it.

Tchan Lo stands.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I will make an early morning reconnoiter and see what Nanking has to offer.

MAI LEE WU

When you return I will have something for you to eat from what is left of the supplies you brought back.

LAI KIOU WU

I will rest today. Tomorrow I will get an early start and go see an old business friend of mine. I know where he lives as I have been invited into his home on several occasions.

Tchan Lo steps out onto the front side walk, disappears into the gathering crowd of ragged travelers.

INT. DOORWAY -- MORNING

The Wu family are all awake, partaking of breakfast out of a tin.

MAI LEE WU

Today I shall collect some wood to burn, and tonight we will have rice that Tchan Lo came by.

Mai Lee passes a quick glance at her brother. Lai Kiou is busy wrapping his feet.

LAI KIOU WU

I shall finish wrapping these tired feet in a few moments, then I will be on my way to my friend FU KWONG's home.

MAI LEE WU  
Will you be long?

LAI KIOU WU  
I have no idea. In any event I will  
return well before dark. I have no  
doubt he will offer us accommodations  
until I reestablish myself.

Lai Kiou puts the last tie on his foot bindings, stands,  
walks out of the doorway into the milling crowd.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK -- CONTINUOUS

He continues his walk, sees a small group of people stand at  
a Bus Stop sign. Lai Kiou approaches one MAN in the group.

LAI KIOU WU  
Excuse me. Is this the bus to take...

Lai Kiou does not get to finish his question. The man shows  
surprise, steps away from Lai Kiou.

MAN  
Get away from me you bum. Go back  
to where you came from.

Lai Kiou steps back in shock. A FEMALE voice from the small  
crowd offers.

FEMALE (O.S.)  
This bus will deliver you to the  
South East part of the city.

Lai Kiou steps back a few paces from the crowd, awaits the  
bus. Upon the arrival of the bus the small crowd push/shove  
their way through the open door. Lai Kiou awaits his turn,  
attempts to enter.

The DRIVER gets up out of his seat, takes Lai Kiou by his  
rags, flings him out of the bus.

DRIVER  
No place in this bus for the likes  
of you. Do not try to mingle with  
honest people, go back to where you  
came from.

The Driver reseats himself, closes the bus door, drives off.  
Lai Kiou stands dazed as he regards the bus disappear in the  
traffic, begins his trek on foot to the house of Fu Kwong.

EXT. HOUSE OF FU KWONG -- LATER

It is a fatigued Lai Kiou that walks through the entry gate,  
up the winding driveway to the stately residence of Fu Kwong.

Part way up the driveway a panicked HOUSE SERVANT runs down the driveway, accosts him, blocks any further progress.

HOUSE SERVANT

You there! Scum that you are take yourself elsewhere!

LAI KIOU WU

Yes, I do appear to be scum, but do tell the master of this house, Fu Kwong, that his friend Lai Kiou Wu is here.

The house servant hesitates.

HOUSE SERVANT

I will do as you request, however you must remove yourself to the front gate, and remain there. If not I will turn the dogs loose on you.

Lai Kiou nods, turns, begins his walk back to the front gate. The house servant returns to the residence.

EXT. FRONT GATE FU KWONG RESIDENCE -- LATER

The shadows are longer, Lai Kiou leans against the rock wall, stands erect as a car comes down the driveway.

The chauffeur driven automobile stops at the entrance before entering the traffic. Neither driver nor the passenger in the rear seat acknowledge the presence of Lai Kiou.

Lai Kiou hobbles up to the open rear window of the automobile, speaks to the lone passenger.

LAI KIOU WU

Fu Kwong! It is I,  
(pause)  
Lai Kiou Wu.

The lone passenger, driver, stare straight ahead.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

Regard! It is me, your old friend,  
and business acquaintance.

There is a break in the passing traffic, the driver pulls out onto the street, drives off.

Shock registers on Lai Kiou as he staggers back against the rock wall, slides down upon his haunches, puts his hands to his face, begins sobbing.



INT. DOORWAY -- NIGHT

Lai Kiou joins his family well after dark. He shuffles into the doorway, says nothing, lays down on the cement, sleeps.

INT. DOORWAY -- EARLY MORNING

Lai Kiou awakens to find his family awake seated in a small circle drinking tea Mai Lee made over a small fire of twigs. Mai Lee offers her father a bowl of steaming tea.

MAI LEE WU

And how was your friend?

LAI KIOU WU

He is away and will not be in the area for a month, or so.

MAI LEE WU

It is a shame you went all that distance just to find he was not there.

Lai Kiou Wu turns his head away.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes.

Tchan Lo, Ah Hen, finish their meager meal, stand.

TCHAN LO WU

There is a road under construction outside of the city. I was successful in getting my, and Ah Hen's name, on a new employee list.

Lai Kiou looks up, smiles.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

We are to get two yuan, plus one meal per day.

LAI KIOU WU

It all helps.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, we must be there early. First in line gets work.

Tchan Lo, Ah Hen, depart their doorway residence.

INT. DOORWAY -- EVENING

Tchan Lo, Ah Hen, arrive, dirty, dog tired. Both flop themselves down on the cement, lean back against the wall. Each carry a small bag.

MAI LEE WU

Oh! You both look so tired! I will open one of our tins for you.

AH HEN WU

No, not necessary. We learned how to buy food on the job.

Ah Hen opens his bag, exposes cooked rice. Tchan Lo does likewise.

MAI LEE WU

Oh! How wonderful.

AH HEN WU

You think so?

TCHAN LO WU

The man at the window that ladles out rice on the workers plates will give you this extra bag of rice for one yuan.

AH HEN WU

Yes, that bag of rice cost one half day's labor.

LAI KIOU WU

That server is getting rich.

TCHAN LO WU

Not really. He has to give most of it to the Military Police that stand there and guard against theft.

LAI KIOU WU

(nods)

Yes, of course. That is normal.

INT. DOORWAY -- NIGHT

The Wu family, huddled together, is awakened by an intruder rifling through their belongings. Tchan Lo quick to his feet attacks the intruder. A knife flashes, the intruder stabs the left forearm of Tchan Lo, dashes out of the doorway, flees.

TCHAN LO WU

(holding his arm)

I've been stabbed in my arm!

MAI LEE WU

Quick now, let me see.

Tchan Lo peels back a bloody sleeve, exposes a gash.

MAI LEE WU (CONT'D)

We do not have medication.

Lai Kiou looks at his son's wounded arm.

LAI KIOU WU

At day break you and I must go to the American Red Cross. It's but a thirty minute walk from here.

TCHAN LO WU

No, I must show up for work or my place will be given to someone else. Let us all forget this incident and go back to sleep.

INT. DOORWAY -- DAY BREAK

Tchan Lo, Ah Hen, depart their doorway residence for work.

INT. DOORWAY -- EVENING

Tchan Lo, Ah Hen, return from work, bag of rice in hand. They each place their bag in front of Mai Lee, Ah Hen sits, leans back against the wall. Tchan Lo stretches out prone on the cement, his injured arm out to the side, his good arm over his face.

TCHAN LO WU

My arm is throbbing something fierce.

Lai Kiou moves over closer to Tchan Lo.

LAI KIOU WU

I want to see it.

Lai Kiou peels back the bloody sleeve, gasps.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

Tomorrow for sure we go to the Red Cross. We have absolutely nothing here to repair your arm wound.

Tchan Lo attempts to sit up. Lai Kiou pushes him back down.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

Stay as you are. Mai Lee will wash your arm with what she can. Tomorrow, no work for you.

Ah Hen goes to his brother's side.

AH HEN WU

Don't worry. I will continue to bring home what I can.

INT. DOORWAY -- EARLY MORNING

Tchan Lo, Lai Kiou, finish a cup of tea, set their bowls down, silently leave the doorway. Tchan Lo holds his injured forearm with his good hand.

EXT. AMERICAN RED CROSS BUILDING -- LATER

Tchan Lo, Lai Kiou, are among a line of people that wait their turn to enter the Red Cross building. Injured enter by the pairs, triples, exit bandaged. Others enter. Tchan Lo, Lai Kiou, are ushered in, led to a well equipped room, met by a young CHINESE DOCTOR.

CHINESE DOCTOR

Please relate your problem to me.

Tchan Lo reveals his wound.

TCHAN LO WU

I was stabbed by an intruder two days ago.

The Doctor washes down the arm with a cotton ball, disposes of the filthy ball. Regards the wound.

CHINESE DOCTOR

I will be blunt. Your wound is badly infected, gangrene to be exact. It will have to be taken off below the elbow.

TCHAN LO WU

(aghast)

Oh no! I can't...

The Doctor interrupts.

CHINESE DOCTOR

Any more delay on your part and it will come off above the elbow.

Lai Kiou steps back, seats himself on a stool. In a voice barely audible.

LAI KIOU WU

Do it now if possible Doctor.

Tchan Lo looks at his father horrified. The Doctor walks to his desk, pushes a button on the intercom.

CHINESE DOCTOR

Hello Anna...I need a operating room immediately, amputation.

(pause)

O-R number four, fine. Thank you.

The Doctor turns to his two patients.

CHINESE DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Follow me please.

INT. DOORWAY -- LATER AFTERNOON

Lai Kiou, alone, shuffles into his doorway residence, squats in the middle of the area, cups his face in his folded hands.

MAI LEE WU  
(alarmed)  
Father what is the matter? Are you  
OK? Where is Tchan Lo?

Lai Kiou does not look up as he replies.

LAI KIOU WU  
They are amputating Tchan Lo's arm  
below the elbow. He will not be  
home for several days.

Mai Lee sits beside her father, they both bow their heads, sob.

INT. RED CROSS HOSPITAL WARD -- DAY

Large dorm, cots placed very close together, no empty cots. Nurses in white uniforms tending patients.

Tchan Lo lays on his back, stares at the ceiling. The man in the next cot over, MU SI YAN, in his twenties, head wrapped in bandages, reaches over, taps Tchan Lo.

MU SI YAN  
Hey there!

Tchan Lo breaks his reverie, turns his head to his neighbor.

TCHAN LO WU  
Yes? What is it you want?

Mu Si Yan grins, points to Tchan Lo's amputated arm.

MU SI YAN  
You only lost part of your arm,  
(points to his head)  
I lost my whole ear.  
(laughs)

TCHAN LO WU  
Why would they amputate your ear?

MU SI YAN  
Oh, they didn't do it here. My  
employer did it.

TCHAN LO WU  
 (surprised)  
 Why should he do that?

MU SI YAN  
 Long story. What are you going to  
 do when they toss you out of that  
 bed?

TCHAN LO WU  
 I don't know.

INT. DOORWAY -- MORNING

Tchan Lo sits apart from the rest of his family, hones the blade of his knife with a smooth rock. He is withdrawn, morose. While the others sip morning tea he practices throwing his knife into a piece of scrap wood he has placed at the back of the doorway.

MAI LEE WU  
 He sits there all day with that knife.

LAI KIOU WU  
 Yes, I believe we should bring him  
 closer to us, have a family talk.

AH HEN WU  
 Yes, I agree. I must leave now for  
 my road job.  
 (smiles)  
 I'm afraid they could not get along  
 without me. I make little rocks out  
 of big ones.

LAI KIOU WU  
 We will talk with Tchan Lo this  
 evening.

INT. DOORWAY -- EVENING

Ah Hen enters the family doorway, sits, leans back against the wall. He gazes around the area, the only occupant is Lai Kiou.

AH HEN WU  
 Where is Mai Lee?

LAI KIOU WU  
 She found work washing dishes at a  
 local hotel.

Ah Hen continues his gaze.

AH HEN WU  
 Where is Tchan Lo?

LAI KIOU WU

As soon as it got dark he left, said  
he is going to look for work.

AH HEN WU

I hope he finds something. It will  
do him good.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK NIGHT CLUB AREA-- NIGHT

Tchan Lo ambles through the crowd. The street is lit by  
flashing neon signs. As he passes an alley a neon flash  
exposes a man with one ear missing being mugged by two men.

The man with one ear is held from behind by an assailant,  
knife at the throat. The other assailant attempts to grab  
from his hand a small satchel he carries.

Without hesitation Tchan Lo removes a knife from his robes,  
makes a throw into the back of the assailant with the knife.

The other assailant releases his hold, makes good his escape.

Tchan Lo ambles back into the alley, removes his knife from  
the dead assailant, wipes it off on the man's clothes. Tchan  
Lo picks up the dead man's knife, places both under his robes.

Tchan Lo looks up at the man with one ear.

TCHAN LO WU

So we meet again Mu Si Yan.

Mu Si Yan displays a large grin.

MU SI YAN

Yes, and very much to my benefit.

Mu Si Yan's head turns from left to right quickly. He takes  
Tchan Lo by his good arm.

MU SI YAN (CONT'D)

Come with me. We must leave here  
quickly. No talk now, later.

The two men exit the alley, disappear in the night crowd.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK -- LATER

Tchan Lo walks beside Mu Si Yan, no conversation. The two  
men enter

INT. TEA HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

a run down, low class, tea house, sit at an empty table, rear of the room.

MU SI YAN

I did not realize you were so good  
with a blade.

(pause)

Have you found work yet?

A waitress sets a small pot of tea, two bowls, on the table. Without looking at her Mu Si Yan puts money in her hand, she departs leaving no change.

Tchan Lo nods negative. Mu Si Yan pours each a small bowl of tea, regards Tchan Lo as he sips.

MU SI YAN (CONT'D)

Well you did tonight. Come with me.

Both stand, the two men exit the tea house.

EXT. EXTREMELY RUN DOWN PART OF THE CITY -- LATER

The two men walk on a side street with no street lights. They turn into a multistory building with dim lights shown through pulled down shades. Other windows in the area show the same.

INT. BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Two tough looking men sit at a small table playing a game of GO. The stocky man with a long scar on his face called CRAZY looks up from his game.

CRAZY

Who is your new friend Mu?

MU SI YAN

Got a new runner.

Crazy beckons to Tchan Lo.

CRAZY

Come on over here, I want a look  
see.

Tchan Lo does as asked. Crazy eye balls him from head to toe, opens his robes, sees the two knives. Takes the one out that still has blood on it, smiles, returns the knife. Looks up at Tchan Lo standing there.

CRAZY (CONT'D)

OK.



Tchan Lo follows Mu Si Yan up a set of rickety stairs to the third floor. They walk down a short hallway, stop before a door with light showing under it.

MU SI YAN

From now on I'm Mu to you. What do I call you?

TCHAN LO WU

Tchan Lo.

MU SI YAN

Oh yeah, best I tell you, the man below called Crazy is the one who separated me from my ear. He's the enforcer, be careful.

Mu gives two rapid raps on the door, pause, then a single rap. The door is opened by a gorgeous boy/girl dressed as a female.

Tchan Lo follows Mu into the room,

INT. OFFICE OF RANDY -- CONTINUOUS

is met by over lavish furnishings, subdued lighting, mauve walls, purple carpeting, an immense desk against the far wall. Seated on one corner of the desk is a feminine young lad clad in next to nothing, sporting an outlandish hairdo.

Seated behind the desk sits RANDY, in his thirties, shirtless, weight lifter's build, a foot long cigarette holder held between two dainty fingers.

RANDY

Well hello, what do we have here Mu?  
Who Is your one armed friend?

MU SI YAN

He's Tchan Lo. I met him while I was in the hospital.

RANDY

Oh?

MU SI YAN

He not only saved my life tonight he saved a delivery I was making. Stuck a blade in the neck of one of your competitors.

RANDY

Hmmm, yes I was just informed of an incident in an alley. So this is he who did it?

MU SI YAN

Yes, it's him.

RANDY

If I put him on you'll stand for him?

Mu nods.

RANDY (CONT'D)

OK, I'll take him on. You tell him what is expected of him, and how he is to be paid.

Randy looks directly at Tchan Lo, smiles.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Don't fuck me around sweetie pie, or you'll loose the other arm.

The office door is held open by the transvestite, Mu, Tchan Lo, exit the room.

INT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

The two men walk down the hallway, Tchan Lo turns to Mu.

TCHAN LO WU

By the way what are we doing? What business is this Randy guy in?

Mu stops, looks up at Tchan Lo.

MU SI YAN

You just met the biggest drug dealer on the coast for five hundred miles each way. Deals mostly in Opium.

TCHAN LO WU

(ponders)

Well why not. Sounds good to me.

MU SI YAN

One thing for sure if you want to stay in one piece. Never ever try out what you are selling. Randy won't tolerate it.

INT. DOORWAY -- MORNING

Tchan Lo awakens in his doorway home. He, Lai Kiou, are the only occupants.

LAI KIOU WU

You came home late last night. Were you successful in finding work?

Tchan Lo digs into the left over rice.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, yes I was. The man I met while I was in the hospital was good enough to get me employed.

Tchan Lo continues through a mouthful of rice.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I met him quite by accident last night.

LAI KIOU WU

How fortunate. What will you be doing?

Tchan Lo places his rice bowl on the concrete floor.

TCHAN LO WU

I will be making deliveries, mostly at night.

LAI KIOU WU

Ahh, mostly at night. I hope you are making a wise decision, and not putting money ahead of common sense.

TCHAN LO WU

Common sense will not get us out of the gutter.

Tchan Lo stands, exits the doorway home.

EXT. EXTREMELY RUN DOWN PART OF THE CITY -- EVENING

Mu walks on the sidewalk fronting Randy's 'office' building. He enters the building.

INT. BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

Crazy is at his post, playing solitaire. He does not look up at Mu.

CRAZY

Randy wants to see you.

MU SI YAN

OK, I'm on my way.

Mu takes the stairs two at a time, walks to Randy's door, gives the knock, is admitted.

INT. RANDY'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Randy motions Mu over to his desk with his cigarette holder.

RANDY

You've been with Tchan Lo for over a month now. Tell me about him.

MU SI YAN

Well first off he's not a run of the mill guy. He's had a good education, speaks English too. I heard him on occasions using it.

RANDY

Yes, I figured him for that.

Randy waves his cigarette holder at Mu.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Continue.

MU SI YAN

His family was burned out by a Maoist crowd. They escaped out the rear door with only what was on their back. He harbors a deep hatred for Maoism.

(pause)

His mother died on the journey here.

RANDY

He is close to his family?

MU SI YAN

Very.

Randy puffs on his cigarette holder while pondering.

RANDY

Tell him to be here tomorrow morning, eight o'clock. I want to see him.

MU SI YAN

OK, will do.

Mu leaves the room.

INT. RANDY'S 'OFFICE' BUILDING -- NEXT MORNING

The front door opens, Tchan Lo enters. Crazy looks up from his game of GO, his game partner pays no attention. Crazy motions up stairs.

CRAZY

Go on up, he's waiting for you.

Tchan Lo climbs the stairs, walks to the door. Before he can knock the door opens, held by the transvestite it exposes Randy sitting at his desk.

RANDY  
Come in Tchan Lo,

Motions to a chair with his cigarette holder.

RANDY (CONT'D)  
take a chair.

Tchan Lo enters,

INT. RANDY'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

seats himself.

RANDY  
You've been with me for over a month.  
Like it?

TCHAN LO WU  
Fits me like a glove.

RANDY  
Good. As of yet you are not well  
known in the business and I want to  
take advantage of that.

(pause)

I have a delivery, and pick up to be  
made. Very important, and I want  
you to see how it works. You may be  
doing it all for me at a later date.

Tchan Lo remains silent, nods.

RANDY (CONT'D)  
If you perform well you will be  
handsomely paid, and I will get better  
living quarters for you  
(pause)  
and your family.

Tchan Lo leans forward.

TCHAN LO WU  
You will include my family?

RANDY  
Yes, certainly. Your new duties are  
extremely important to me. There is  
a Greek ship arriving Shanghai next  
week. I want you to be there and  
meet it.

TCHAN LO WU  
I will be accompanied?

RANDY

Yes, Crazy and his friend will take you there, and bring you back. When I am certain all arrangements are made I will sit with you. I will not send you out until I am certain you have complete knowledge of the transaction.

TCHAN LO WU

Good, I look forward to it.

Randy opens a desk drawer, rifles through some keys, picks one out, lays it on the desk top, displays the tag on the key showing one Chinese character.

RANDY

Take this key, go down to the next floor, walk to the end of the hallway. This key opens that door.

Tchan Lo takes the key from Randy, exits the office.

EXT. OFFICE OF RANDY -- CONTINUOUS

Tchan Lo descends the stairs to the floor below, walks to the end of the hallway, keys open the door, enters a small furnished apartment.

INT. APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

He stands in the middle of the room, regards his surroundings.

Four small beds with covers, kitchenette, windows shades only, no curtains. Tchan Lo ambles over to the kitchenette, peers into the small wall hung cabinet containing several pots/pans, bowls. He tries the faucet sticking out of the wall over the sink, running water!

A smile crosses his face as he walks across the room to a curtain closed opening. A toilet and sink, both with running water.

He smiles as he tosses the key up into the air, catches it with his only hand, walks out of the apartment, climbs the stairs to Randy's office.

INT. RANDY'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Tchan Lo enters the room, walks over to Randy's desk, attempts to return the key to Randy. Randy does not make any attempt to receive it.

RANDY

Does it meet with your liking?

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, yes it does. I have been living in a doorway for so long it looks like a palace to me.

RANDY

Good. It's your apartment for as long you are working for me.

TCHAN LO WU

What are the finances involved?

RANDY

None, I do not expect your money, but I do expect your complete and absolute loyalty to me.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, of course.

RANDY

It is very important to me, and I may add,  
(pause)  
to you too.

Tchan Lo gives a quick bow of his head.

RANDY (CONT'D)

If all goes well you will be doing tasks for me that nobody need know about. I must have complete trust in you.

Tchan Lo remains standing, head bowed.

RANDY (CONT'D)

You may go now. Occupy your apartment as you please.

Tchan Lo exits Randy's office.

INT. DOORWAY -- EVENING

The Wu family sit on the cement in a tight circle, pass a bowl of rice, each taking a share.

TCHAN LO WU

This is the last night we will be eating here like this.

Lai Kiou looks up from his rice.

LAI KIOU WU

Oh?

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, I have made other arrangements for our living quarters. From tomorrow on we will have our own apartment.

MAI LEE WU

How wonderful! Is it nice?

TCHAN LO WU

It is a palace compared to here.

AH HEN WU

When do we move?

TCHAN LO WU

Tomorrow at day break.

Ah Hen nods his head negative.

AH HEN WU

I cannot. I will lose my job at the road construction.

TCHAN LO WU

You will never see that job again. I will have better things for you to do.

Tchan Lo takes a deep breath, exhales.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I want you to know that my work is not one hundred percent legal. In fact it is entirely illegal, but it will get us out of the gutter, and back up on our feet.

(pause)

Any comments?

LAI KIOU WU

We need not know the details, but it is obvious we cannot last like this

Lai Kiou waves his hand indicating the doorway.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

much longer.

The family all make sounds of agreement.

INT. DOORWAY -- MORNING

The Wu family collect their meager belongings, prepare to move out of the doorway.



TCHAN LO WU

It is a fairly long walk from here,  
and through some unfriendly areas.  
I will lead, Lai Kiou next, Mai Lee  
in the middle, and Ah Hen last.

EXT. DOORWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

The family carry all their belongings out of the doorway  
onto the city street, begin their march to the apartment.

INT. RANDY'S 'OFFICE' BUILDING -- AFTERNOON

The door off the street opens, Tchan Lo enters. Crazy walks  
out of a door opening to the entry hall.

CRAZY

Randy wants you in his office, ten  
o'clock tonight. Get some rest, you  
and I are going to be busy for the  
next couple of days.

Tchan Lo starts up the stairs.

CRAZY (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, don't you or any of your  
family leave the building.

Tchan Lo nods, continues on up the stairs to his apartment,  
enters.

INT. APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Tchan Lo enters the family apartment, closes the door behind  
him. The family all halt what they are doing, look over at  
Tchan Lo.

TCHAN LO WU

Well, this is our first order of the  
day. I leave tonight at ten o'clock  
and will be gone for a while. While  
I am gone none of you are to leave  
this building.

LAI KIOU WU

Hostages are we?

TCHAN LO WU

Probably, plus for your own safety  
too. Randy's playmates are not very  
nice people.

LAI KIOU WU

Your Mr. Randy is a very good  
businessman. As long as he has us  
he owns you.

AH HEN WU

All this sitting, I should be doing something.

TCHAN LO WU

Easy does it. When the time is right I'll talk with Randy and bring you up.

Mai Lee stands, walks over to an unmade bed, begins making ready.

MAI LEE WU

You are going to need your rest. Lie down, I will prepare a meal for you to eat before you leave tonight.

Tchan Lo smiles at his sister, walks over to the bed, lies down, falls fast asleep.

INT. RANDY'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Randy, sitting behind his desk, looks up as the door opens, Tchan Lo enters. Randy looks at his watch, smiles.

RANDY

Ten exact. I like that.

Randy gives the young lad seated on the corner of his desk a gentle shove, puts some money in his pocket.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Here's some money. Go on out, buy yourself some bubble gum, don't return until after midnight.

The transvestite walks over, extends his hand. Randy puts money into the extended open palm.

RANDY (CONT'D)

You too.

The two join hands as they exit the office.

Randy turns to Tchan Lo, indicates an overstuffed chair with his cigarette holder.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Sit down, and be comfortable. We have things to discuss. I do not want you to yes me to death when you do not really understand what I am describing to you.

Tchan Lo seats himself.

TCHAN LO WU

Before we begin I have a point I wish cleared.

RANDY

Yes, I can imagine what that point is. The position of you, and your family, here in my building.

TCHAN LO WU

Exactly.

RANDY

I have mentioned to you several times that I demand complete loyalty from those that work for me. You in particular as you will be learning of my innermost business connections, and dealings.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes I do remember those instances, and thought at the time you are making a strong point for a reason. That reason is now apparent.

RANDY

I knew you would grasp it. I am a businessman and never move without security.

TCHAN LO WU

My family.

RANDY

Yes. I know the last thing in your life you would do is be the cause of the death of your family, and with that knowledge I feel complete trust in you.

TCHAN LO WU

(nods)

Justifiably so.

Randy clears his desk, opens a file drawer, removes a handful of files.

RANDY

Now that we understand each other let us talk about what I expect you to do for me starting tonight.

(pause)

Do not discuss with either of your two partners tonight any of our conversation.

Tchan Lo nods.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Surprise is ninety percent of the battle, but it must be used to it's best advantage.

TCHAN LO WU

It sounds like you are leading me up to something.

RANDY

(smile)

Yes of course. You are being set up to be killed tonight. Crazy, and the driver, have big ideas of taking both your lorry cargo, plus the cash that pays for it.

(pause)

Do not bother to ask me how I know.

TCHAN LO WU

You have just enlightened me on the element of surprise.

RANDY

You are safe while taking on cargo from the Greek. Your drive from the ship to the exit gate will be uneventful, and your passage through Customs is insured by the pay off in this envelope.

Randy delivers a fat sealed envelope to Tchan Lo.

RANDY (CONT'D)

You deliver this envelope to the Customs Officer who comes to the cab window on the passenger side, and no one else.

Tchan Lo receives the envelope, tucks it inside his robe behind him.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Your danger period starts when you depart the Customs gate onto the highway.

Randy opens a drawer in his desk, removes a pistol, hands it to Tchan Lo. Tchan Lo tucks it under his robe.

RANDY (CONT'D)

You must be both swift, and unexpected. Do not dump the bodies out of the lorry.

(MORE)

RANDY (CONT'D)

You drive the lorry on the same highway until you see a lorry exactly like yours, license plate number same.

Tchan Lo nods.

RANDY (CONT'D)

It will be parked, and unoccupied, in the parking area of a roadside cafe. You park alongside, get into it, drive it home.

TCHAN LO WU

You talk of a large cash payment.

RANDY

No worry, it is in the lorry you are driving home.

(smile)

You know what to expect, now go, the lorry, and your two friends await you.

INT. FRONT SEAT LORRY -- NIGHT

YEE HUNG, slight build, missing part of his right index finger, drives. Tchan Lo seated in the middle, Crazy seated by the door. Crazy turns to Tchan Lo.

CRAZY

First time to Shanghai?

TCHAN LO WU

Yes.

CRAZY

You have much to learn. Our business tonight can be dangerous.

TCHAN LO WU

Randy instructed me what I am to do,

Tchan Lo indicates a briefcase on his lap.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

and I have all the necessary documentation in here. He told me to listen to you and nobody else should trouble arise.

CRAZY

Remember that.

Unnoticed Tchan Lo emits a small smile.

The lorry rumbles on, arrives at a Customs check point with a large '5' in a circle painted on the small building. Two armed guards stand before a locked chain link gate. Yee Hung stops the lorry, the guards stand in the head lights.

Tchan Lo looks down, watches as Crazy pulls a full automatic weapon out from under the seat.

YEE HUNG

OK. All's well.

Crazy leaves the weapon exposed on the floor boards.

CRAZY

I know the one on the right.

YEE HUNG

The other one is his son.

CRAZY

OK, pay them, and let's be on our way.

Yee Hung extends his hand out the window with a wad of money in his fist. The son walks over, takes the money without a word spoken, nods to the other man, the gate swings open, Yee Hung drives the lorry inside.

YEE HUNG

Where to?

CRAZY

Old side of the port, pier three.

The lorry rumbles on toward a not too distant clump of lights.

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF -- NIGHT

Side tied to the wharf a rust bucket freighter flies a Greek flag. Barely visible on the bow is the name 'DELTA AJAX'.

The lorry comes to a stop beside the freighter. Several heavily armed deck hands from the freighter come down the Jacobs ladder to the wharf, walk over to the lorry, look into the cab.

Crazy nudges Tchan Lo.

CRAZY

OK, these are our watch dogs.

TCHAN LO WU

No fear leaving the load we carry?

CRAZY

None at all.

(MORE)

CRAZY (CONT'D)

The Greek knows he is in a port under the control of Mr. Randy. No funny stuff allowed.

(pause)

It's not the Greek we worry about, it's Mr. Randy's competitors.

Crazy opens the cab door, exits the lorry, turns to Tchan Lo, nods Tchan Lo out of the cab.

EXT. LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

CRAZY

Follow me. It's time you go on board, meet the Greek.

Tchan Lo exits the cab, follows Crazy up the Jacobs ladder, goes on board the freighter.

EXT. DECK OF GREEK FREIGHTER -- CONTINUOUS

Crazy makes his way up to the wheel house, enters, Tchan Lo follows.

INT. WHEEL HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Seated at a small chart table sits the GREEK, large black handlebar moustache, grease stained captain hat, rumped cloths, sporting a large smile, stained teeth.

The Greek stands, extends his hand to Crazy. Turns to Tchan Lo.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Ah, so this is going to be my local contact from now on?

The two men shake hands. The Greek motions a chair to Tchan Lo. Tchan Lo seats himself.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, I have here the necessary documentation

He opens a small briefcase, removes a file, places it on the table.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

for the Customs to clear you for departure. They will do so upon authorization from Randy.

The Greek reaches over, pulls the file across the table to him, places both hands on top, nods.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Very good. By now the cargo your lorry brings me is in my hold, and we begin off loading the items on this Bill of Lading

The Greek pushes across the table to Tchan Lo a sheaf of papers.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

onto your lorry. All should be finished within the hour. You will have plenty of time to cross check your order against my Bill of Lading.

Tchan Lo places the Greek's papers into his briefcase, snaps it shut.

TCHAN LO WU

When I return home Randy will inspect the load, and make the clearance for your departure from the port. We leave here the moment you inform me that all has been transferred.

Tchan Lo stands.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

We will await your word by the lorry.

Tchan Lo, Crazy, exit the wheel house,

EXT. DECK OF GREEK FREIGHTER -- CONTINUOUS

continue on down to the dock,

EXT. LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

and wait.

The noise of the ship's cranes break the still of the night.

EXT. LORRY -- LATER

The ship's cranes fall silent. The Greek shouts down from the bridge.

GREEK CAPTAIN

It's all yours.

Tchan Lo, Crazy, enter the lorry.

INT. FRONT SEAT LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

Yee Hung is asleep, his head on the steering wheel. Tchan Lo enters the lorry first, Crazy enters taking the seat by the window.



Crazy reaches across Tchan Lo, gives Yee Hung a hard shove.

CRAZY

Wake up bum, it's time we get back  
on the road. All done here.

Yee Hung's head comes up off the steering wheel, he back hand wipes his eyes, keys the motor to a start, puts the lorry in gear, departs the Greek ship.

The lorry rolls past other ships loading, unloading, up to a well lit Customs building, a large '1' inside a circle painted on the building. Crazy rolls down the window on the passenger side.

A Customs officer walks up to the open window, papers in one hand, other hand outstretched. Tchan Lo reaches across Crazy, places the envelope in the out stretched hand, receives the papers from the other hand.

The Customs officer turns to the two uniformed men at the gate, nods. The gate opens, Yee Hung puts the lorry in gear, drives out onto the highway. The gate closes behind them.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- CONTINUOUS

Crazy turns, looks back as the guards close the gate, Yee Hung is occupied as he shifts the lorry's gears.

Tchan Lo seizes the opportunity, pulls a double edged knife from under his robes, runs it into Crazy's neck. The abrupt movement takes Yee Hung by surprise. Tchan Lo has the knife out of Crazy, across Yee Hung's throat all in the same movement. The two cadavers bleed profusely.

Tchan Lo kicks the lorry out of gear, lets it coast to a stop off the roadside, exits the lorry,

EXT. LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

pushes the two bodies together on the passenger side, reaches under the seat, removes the automatic weapon, enters the lorry on the driver's side,

INT. LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

seats himself behind the wheel, looks over at the two cadavers,

TCHAN LO WU (V.O.)

Surprised?

pulls the lorry back onto the highway, continues on.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- LATER

Tchan Lo peers into the dark through the lorry windshield. A neon sign ahead blinks 'CAFE'. The headlights pick up a twin lorry parked on the lot.

Tchan Lo pulls into the parking lot, stops beside the twin lorry, turns off lights, engine, exits the cab, closes the cab door, walks over to the twin lorry, looks in through a rolled up window, observes keys in the ignition, walks to the rear, checks numbers on the license plate, nods, walks over to his lorry retrieves the automatic weapon.

He returns to the twin lorry, climbs into the cab, starts the engine, turns on the headlights, drives out onto the highway, continues his journey back to Randy.

EXT. STREET FRONTING RANDY'S 'OFFICE' BUILDING -- MORNING

Tchan Lo slowly drives the lorry on the side street front of Randy's 'office' building. He looks from side to side. A large closure is swung open by two men.

They indicate he turn the lorry into the building.

INT. LARGE ATELIER -- CONTINUOUS

Tchan Lo enters through the opening. Workers are occupied stacking cartons, packaging drugs, repairing equipment.

Tchan Lo halts the lorry in the center of the atelier, shuts the engine down, opens the cab door, steps out onto the atelier floor, regards the activity. Randy detaches from the crowd, approaches Tchan Lo.

Randy eyes Tchan Lo's bloody attire from head to toe.

RANDY

My goodness, but aren't you a sight!

Tchan Lo glances down at himself, makes no comment.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Come with me, I have a small office down here, we can sit and talk.

Randy gives Tchan Lo another look over.

RANDY (CONT'D)

We will have to get you a change of clothes. You cannot appear before your family looking like that!

Randy calls one of his workmen aside.

RANDY (CONT'D)

You!  
(points)

A worker detaches from the others. Randy reaches into his pocket, hands the worker some money. Points to Tchan Lo.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Go out and get this man a decent change of clothes. He cannot be seen like this.

The worker eye balls Tchan Lo, gives a quick nod, departs. Randy turns, starts the short walk to a small office at the rear of the atelier.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Come along.

Tchan Lo follows after.

INT. RANDY'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

The door opens, Randy enters, Tchan Lo follows. The office is small but efficient, telephone, desk, chairs, lighting, files.

Randy takes his place behind the desk, Tchan Lo a chair. Tchan Lo lays a sheaf of documents on the desk, Randy pulls them to him, places in a drawer without looking at them.

RANDY

You have had not only a successful but eventful trip. For your first time out I am duly impressed.

TCHAN LO WU

So am I.

Tchan Lo reaches under his robe, retrieves Randy's pistol, places it on the desk. Randy picks it up, inspects it prior to placing it in the desk drawer.

RANDY

I see you did not need my fire arm.

Tchan Lo nods negative.

TCHAN LO WU

It was not necessary, but I do appreciate having it there, in case.  
(pause)  
As it was my first time out you must have had a back up.

Randy nods, smiles.

RANDY

Two things on my mind. First is a bonus for a job well done.

Randy pushes an envelope on the desk over to Tchan Lo. Tchan Lo places it under his robe.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Secondly...since Crazy is no longer with us we need a replacement.

(smile)

Any suggestions?

TCHAN LO WU

(smile)

My brother, of course.

RANDY

Yes, of course. Bring him by my office tomorrow morning, early. I want to assure myself he is of the type we need.

Randy glances out the office window. The man with the new clothes approaches.

RANDY (CONT'D)

I see your new clothes have arrived. Best you change into them, and go to your family. We have done enough for today.

Tchan Lo exits the office,

INT. ATELIER -- CONTINUOUS

walks past the lorry, notices the workmen stripping the entire upholstery from the cab, removing well wrapped packets.

The workman hands Tchan Lo his new ensemble, he dons them on the spot, throws his bloody clothes in a corner, leaves via a door at the rear,

INT. BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

steps into the hallway of the adjoining building. An OLD LADY awaits him, gives a quick bow of the head.

OLD LADY

I am here to show you through the way between this building and your front door. Please follow me.

The Old Lady turns, starts off at a quick pace. Tchan Lo follows. She leads Tchan Lo up stairs, down stairs, hallways, never outside on the street, to his front door. She halts, turns to Tchan Lo.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Here you are at your door. There are three buildings between your door and the atelier.

With a quick bow, she turns, leaves. Tchan Lo enters the family apartment. Ah Hen, Lai Kiou, Mai Lee, all look up surprised.

TCHAN LO WU

Hello everybody. I am back, and still in one piece.

Mai Lee clasps both hands to her chest.

MAI LEE WU

Ohh, I was so worried!

Tchan Lo walks over to his sister, places his hand on her head.

TCHAN LO WU

No need to worry when I am away.

He walks over to his father. Takes the envelope that Randy gave him, hands it to his father. Lai Kiou reaches up takes the envelope, opens it, exposing a large amount of currency.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

This is the first building block on the reestablishment of the House of Wu.

LAI KIOU WU

Yes.

TCHAN LO WU

We will never let up until we have reached the position we once held. That I promise you.

Tchan Lo walks over to his brother.

AH HEN WU

You have a surprise for me also?

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, from this moment on you and I will be working as a team for Randy, and be paid accordingly.

AH HEN WU

Wonderful, I have been waiting for this moment.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, we all have. Tomorrow morning, six o'clock, you and I will stand before Randy. He wants to know you better.

Tchan Lo looks over at his sister.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I am hungry, and very tired. I would like to eat, and sleep undisturbed.

CUT TO:

EXT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

The twin lorry Tchan Lo left behind in the parking lot moves slowly along a rutted road fronting deserted commercial buildings.

The driver FENWICK, Australian, unshaven, forties, brings the lorry to a halt before the double doors of a warehouse, one honk, turns his lights out. The doors open to a dark interior.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Fenwick steers the lorry into the dark interior, the doors close, lights go on.

Fenwick looks out the cab window sees JACK, Australian, skinny, needs a bath and haircut, fifties, unlit cigar butt stuck between stained teeth, standing in the lit room, grinning, surrounded by several Chinese in overalls.

FENWICK

What ya grinnin' at Jack?

No answer, the grin continues.

FENWICK (CONT'D)

Well ya won't be fuckin' grinnin' when ya see what I brung ya.

Fenwick reaches over, opens the door on the passenger side, pushes the dead bodies of Crazy, Yee Hung, out onto the dirt floor.

FENWICK (CONT'D)

How about them apples!

Jack whips the cigar butt out of his mouth, stands gaping at the bodies. Looks up at Fenwick.

JACK

Geezuzz mate, look at that!

FENWICK

Yeah, but they left the stuff we paid for in the lorry. It's all there.

Jack points to the the body of Crazy.

JACK

Hey, I know this one. He was Randy's strong arm.

FENWICK

Yeah, 'was' is right!

JACK

Yeah, yeah, OK, I get it. These two were plannin' on running off with both loads, and the cash. This lets us know best we behave.

FENWICK

We're getting peanuts...

Jack interrupts.

JACK

We ain't doin' too bad for a couple of lugs like us. You wanna go back home and finish the twenty they laid on ya?

Fenwick slowly nods negative.

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE OF RANDY -- EARLY MORNING

Randy, seated behind his desk, looks up as the transvestite opens the office door, admits Tchan Lo, Ah Hen.

Randy smiles, motions to two empty chairs by is desk. The two brothers seat themselves. Randy studies Ah Hen.

RAN

So  
(pause)  
this is your brother.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes.

RANDY

He looks older than you.

TCHAN LO WU

He is.

RANDY  
Have you confided in him?

TCHAN LO WU  
No. I leave you to open that door.

Randy nods, smiles.

RANDY  
I, we, are in the Opium, gun running trade. How does that settle with you?

AH HEN WU  
Just fine. I did not think you were selling Bibles.

RANDY  
It is a dangerous business. Your very life can be in danger if all does not go well.

AH HEN WU  
(nods)  
I would rather be dead than return to living in a doorway.

Randy ponders momentarily.

RANDY  
Fine, but remember I trust you on the same basis as I trust your brother.

AH HEN WU  
I understand.

RANDY  
Good. Consider yourself hired. Tchan Lo will fill you in on the finer points.

Randy remains seated as he waves the two brothers out with his cigarette holder. The door is held open by the transvestite as they exit the office.

EXT. HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

The brothers amble down the hallway in silence. Tchan Lo glances behind them, turns to Ah Hen.

TCHAN LO WU  
Best we return to the apartment, and make plans for our future. I am hearing rumbles of the Sou Tong making a move against Randy.



INT. APARTMENT -- MOMENTS LATER

The door opens, Tchan Lo, Ah Hen, enter, bolt the door closed. Each take a chair at the table. Mai Lee places a pot of tea, three cups before them. Lai Kiou takes a place at the table. Ah Hen looks over at his brother.

AH HEN WU

You have had warnings of the Sou Tong making a move on Randy?

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, not too healthy for us.

Lai Kiou removes a well worn newspaper from his lap, holds it up before the brothers. The headlines blare of the Japanese intrusion into China.

LAI KIOU WU

The Sou Tong is dangerous but not nearly as devastating as this.

Lai Kiou points to the headlines.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

The Maoist forces are but a pimple on the ass of the world compared to the might of the Japanese military.

TCHAN LO WU

The Sou Tong is a political arm. Most of their profits are diverted to the Mao movement. They will not have a liaison with the invader.

LAI KIOU WU

Japanese troops will be in Nanking shortly.

AH HEN WU

If we are fortunate, and last through the Sou Tong effort to wipe out Randy's empire, it is quite possible the invading Generals will cleanse the area of Sou Tong for us.

Ah Hen smiles as he looks around the table.

AH HEN WU (CONT'D)

After all their Generals are just as corrupt as ours, maybe even more so.

LAI KIOU WU

The crux of the matter is the establishing, in advance of their arrival here, of an acceptable agreement.

TCHAN LO WU  
Exactly, and that is why we are now  
plotting our future.

LAI KIOU WU  
And?

TCHAN LO WU  
I today received a Radiogram from  
our contact, the Greek sea captain.

LAI KIOU WU  
And?

TCHAN LO WU  
He has on board an American with  
sufficient cash to front any operation  
we may set up.

LAI KIOU WU  
I do not have to ask any further.  
You will be at the head of this  
operation.

Tchan Lo nods.

TCHAN LO WU  
Of Course.

Lai Kiou smiles.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)  
Let us not count our chickens before  
they hatch. We await the arrival of  
the American. In the meantime we  
prepare for the worst.

AH HEN WU  
The arrival of the Sou Tong.

TCHAN LO WU  
If, and when, they do make a move I  
believe it will be right here in our  
building. They will want to cut the  
head off the dragon.

The other two at the table nod agreement.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)  
As we are confined to this apartment  
we must make provisions for security.

AH HEN WU  
Doors, windows. Shut off all possible  
entries.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, also remember automatic weapons, plus explosives, will be used in the event of an attack.

LAI KIOU WU

I would think the main thrust would be directed against Randy. With him gone the dragon dies.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, but they would be very interested in obtaining the person who has knowledge of the entire operation.

(pause)

Me.

AH HEN WU

Should that take place we would become their slaves as we are of Randy.

LAI KIOU WU

What do you suggest?

TCHAN LO WU

We must hand Randy to the Sou Tong on a plate, and work with them until the American can arrange with his Japanese contacts a complete extermination of the Sou Tong.

LAI KIOU WU

If you are successful all will be yours, as long as the American remains alive, and in good stead with his Japanese friends.

Lai Kiou leans back in his chair.

LAI KIOU WU (CONT'D)

And that will not last forever. Japan and America will be at war during our lifetimes.

CUT TO:

INT. WHEEL HOUSE GREEK FREIGHTER 'DELTA AJAX' AT SEA-- DAY

The GREEK captain, cigar stuck between teeth under a large black moustache, man's the wheel. KEVIN, American, in his late twenties, rough looking, stands next to him, gazing out the windshield. The freighter is plowing it's way slowly through medium seas, rising fore and aft.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Well Kevin you're a short timer now. Week or so and we berth Shanghai.

KEVIN

Can't be soon enough for me. I'd  
screw a knot hole.

The Greek laughs.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Won't have to once we're ashore. A  
word to the wise, don't be flashing  
a wad of cash.

KEVIN

Won't have a wad to flash. First  
stop for me is the nearest British  
Bank in town.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Best to spread it between several  
banks. Talk is the Japanese are due  
in Shanghai soon. Your liaison with  
the Japanese Military will be good  
up to the time the U.S.A. and Japan  
go to war.

Kevin turns to the Greek, raises his eye brows.

KEVIN

War? You believe the two countries  
will go to war?

The Greek takes his eyes off the course, turns to Kevin.

GREEK CAPTAIN

No, I don't believe it, I know it.

Kevin ponders momentarily.

KEVIN

And then? Us, everything?

The Greek stares straight ahead while talking.

GREEK CAPTAIN

There is nothing more corruptible,  
or unreliable, than a victorious  
Japanese General.

KEVIN

And our position?

GREEK CAPTAIN

Our position would be too nebulous to  
continue here.

The Greek turns to Kevin, removes the cigar butt, smiles.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Best we be prepared to pick up our marbles and run at any given instant.

Kevin nods.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

I contacted our one-arm Chinese friend via Radiogram today, and informed him of your pending arrival.

KEVIN

Did you get a reply?

The Greek nods.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Yes, he is anxious to meet with you, said he had some cleanup work to do first.

KEVIN

Cleanup?

GREEK CAPTAIN

Yeah, I didn't like the sound of that either.

KEVIN

I am going to need some men to work with me. Men who know the language.

GREEK CAPTAIN

I have just the two that will be able to do it. A couple of derelict Aussie jail birds. Each has a price on his head and can't go home. They're all yours.

KEVIN

(laughs)

And I thought Boston was bad! A Gypsy taught me how to deal with guys like that.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Right now they're in a position of a buffer between Randy and the Sou Tong. Play them right and when the shit hits the fan it'll be them that can pull your fat outta the fire.

(pause)

By the way our one armed Chinaman's name is Tchan Lo.

Kevin gazes out the windshield, the Greek mans the helm.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET FRONTING RANDY'S 'OFFICE' BUILDING -- DAY

Tchan Lo, Ah Hen, walk amongst trash that fronts the buildings on the street. Tchan Lo indicates with a nod of his head the disguised opening to Randy's atelier.

TCHAN LO WU

It is impossible to tell from the outside but that is a steel door to the entrance of Randy's atelier, store room.

Ah Hen takes a quick glance.

AH HEN WU

That's three or four doors down from Randy's building. I've never seen anyone entering or leaving.

TCHAN LO WU

You never will. All these buildings are interconnected by a labyrinth of hallways. I know, I was guided through them when I returned from my first outing for Randy.

AH HEN WU

Are you thinking of an escape route for the family?

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, we must cut a hole in the bathroom floor. It will drop us down to the room below which is the final room to enter our building from the atelier.

AH HEN WU

The last place we want to go is the atelier.

TCHAN LO WU

We will follow the labyrinth down to a ground floor, enter a doorway that takes us to the rear of the building, then out a window we go.

AH HEN WU

We must be very careful cutting the escape hole not to disturb the ceiling of the room below.

TCHAN LO WU

(nods)

Yes, that would give us away. I  
fear none of us would ever see the  
light of day again.

The two brothers continue their walk in silence, arrive at the building of the family apartment. As they turn in on the short walk up to the entry door a curtain is pulled aside, exposes a set of eyes watch their progress. Tchan Lo keys open the door, the brothers enter,

INT. RANDY'S 'OFFICE' BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

nod to the new door guard, continue on the stairway up to their apartment, enter.

INT. APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Lai Kiou naps, Mai Lee does house chores. The two brothers walk into the small bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

Ah Hen points to an area inside a small hanging closet.

AH HEN WU

We can cut our escape hole here.  
Keeps it small, and out of sight.

Tchan Lo nods. The brothers exit the bathroom.

INT. APARTMENT

The brothers each take a chair at the table.

TCHAN LO WU

Now comes the most dangerous, and  
difficult part. I must contact the  
Sou Tong and make the arrangements  
to hand them Randy's head, plus his  
two playmates.

AH HEN WU

Not an easy task. I witnessed his  
two playmates take out a threat to  
Randy. They are not just his  
playmates, they are body guards first.

TCHAN LO WU

We must realize we will be in the  
Sou Tong's hands until the American  
has the Japanese invaders clean out  
the Sou Tong for us.

AH HEN WU

Father is of the belief that war is brewing between Japan and America.

TCHAN LO WU

That would put us in a very bad position.

Tchan Lo strums his finger tips on the table top in thought. He nods.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

Positive arrangements must be made between the American and me prior to our handing Randy to the Sou Tong.

AH HEN WU

That necessitates a meeting immediately upon the American's arrival Shanghai.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes. The Radiogram also informed me the Greek's ship docks midnight to night. I will be meeting the ship with Randy's lorry as normal, and be able to talk with the American.

AH HEN WU

Do you wish me to come with you?

TCHAN LO WU

No, best you remain at home. You have work to do. Best you finish our escape hole tonight.

INT. ATELIER -- NIGHT

Tchan Lo, Randy, stand detached from a group of workmen. The lorry is being readied for Tchan Lo's departure.

RANDY

I do not see your brother. No company for you tonight?

TCHAN LO WU

No, he's not necessary on this run. Give him a night with the family, but I would like a driver.

RANDY

(quizzical)  
Anyone special?



TCHAN LO WU

No, just pick one out of the crowd  
that can handel a lorry, and any  
trouble that might arise.

Tchan Lo walks over to the passenger side of the lorry, gets  
in.

Randy walks over to a workman, points to the lorry, nods his  
head in the same direction. The DRIVER detaches himself  
from the others, walks to the lorry, enters the drivers side,  
starts the motor, puts it into gear, starts moving forward.

The atelier lights go out, the steel door opens, the lorry  
quits the atelier in the dark,

EXT. STREET FRONTING RANDY'S 'OFFICE' BUILDING -- MOMENTS  
LATER

travels half a block before the headlights are turned on.

INT. LORRY -- LATER

The driver looks over at Tchan Lo.

DRIVER

This is my first night run. You'll  
have to tell me where we're going.

TCHAN LO WU

Are you familiar with Shanghai?

DRIVER

Yes, that's where I'm from.

Tchan Lo smiles, nods.

TCHAN LO WU

Do you know where the North gate  
number '5' to the Port is?

DRIVER

Yes.

TCHAN LO WU

Fine, take us there. We stay in the  
lorry, leave the engine running. We  
make a normal pay off before entering  
the Port area.

Tchan Lo reaches under the seat, removes the automatic weapon.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

If everything doesn't go our way we  
use this, turn around and come home.

The lorry rumbles on into the night.

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF -- NIGHT

The Greek tramp freighter 'DELTA AJAX' is side tied to the wharf. The lorry pulls alongside, stops. Two deck hands from the freighter descend to the wharf, walk over to the lorry, peer inside.

INT. FRONT SEAT LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

Tchan Lo, Driver, roll down the cab windows. One deck hand looks over at Tchan Lo, nods. Tchan Lo turns to the Driver.

TCHAN LO WU

No worry, these are our safety guards.  
They will stay with the lorry while  
all cargo transfers go on.

Tchan Lo opens the cab door, picks up his briefcase, exits the lorry,

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF -- CONTINUOUS

looks back into the cab at the Driver,

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

You stay behind the wheel in the  
lorry while I go meet with the Captain  
of the ship.

closes the door, walks over to the ships Jacobs ladder, takes it up to the first deck of the freighter,

EXT. DECK OF GREEK FREIGHTER -- CONTINUOUS

continues on to the ships bridge. He enters the wheel house without a knock,

INT. WHEEL HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

is met by two men sitting at the chart table, Greek Captain, Kevin.

The Greek breaks out in a big moustached smile, points a grimy finger at Kevin.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Well hello Tchan Lo. Meet your new  
partner, Kevin.

Tchan Lo, Kevin, regard each other momentarily. Tchan Lo walks up to Kevin, extends his hand.

TCHAN LO WU

I am Tchan Lo Wu.

KEVIN

(stands)

I am Kevin.

The two men shake hands, Tchan Lo seats himself at the chart table.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

We have much to discuss. I am glad you speak English well.

TCHAN LO WU

I learned it at school in an earlier part of my life. Times have changed.

The Greek turns to Kevin.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Tchan Lo and I have some work to be done while his lorry is on loading cargo. Only a few minutes and then we have the rest of the night to talk.

Kevin nods, sits back in his chair, waits while the Greek, Tchan Lo, finish paper work. The sound of the ship cranes at work is interspersed by the sounds of distant artillery.

Moments pass, the two men shuffle papers back and forth. Tchan Lo places all his papers inside his briefcase, closes it. The Captain pushes all his papers over to a corner of the chart table.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

OK, that does it. Now lets the three of us get down to business. This meeting can be very beneficial to all of us.

The three men each take stand up places at the chart table.

KEVIN

I am well aware of what the Captain's function is, and would like to know from Tchan Lo exactly what I can expect him to do, and how he expects me to fit in.

Tchan Lo nods several times.

TCHAN LO WU

I am on the front line, so to speak. I arrange the purchase of the Opium as well as the sale of the arms. Those who supply the Opium want cash at time of sale.

KEVIN

Yes, I imagine they would. The sale of arms is made to who, and terms, if any.

TCHAN LO WU

The arms sale is made to several warring factions. We are in essence arming both sides, plus several smaller local bandit groups.

KEVIN

And?

TCHAN LO WU

Not all transactions involve payment, rather safe passage in and out, plus protection while in their territory.

KEVIN

Do you trust them?

TCHAN LO WU

(smiles)

I trust the bandit parties more than I do the political warring armies. The bandits honor my presence because they are well aware if anything happens their line of supply is gone.

The Captain breaks his silence.

GREEK CAPTAIN

I say there Tchan Lo you're walking on the razor's edge.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes that is true, I must walk quietly.

KEVIN

You look to me to finance your Opium purchases.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes.

KEVIN

And?

TCHAN LO WU

That will be all for the time being, until the Japanese over run the area. We will then expand into areas you are more familiar with.

KEVIN

Meaning?

TCHAN LO WU

Amongst other things Comfort Stations for the troops. The Japanese like American Bourbon, even if they don't like Americans.

KEVIN

Well that goes both ways, but you and I are going to do business. I want to start small, spend time with you on one transaction from beginning to end. I will release my money when I am certain.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, and that brings up the subject of what you expect in the way of return.

KEVIN

I expect the usual return of seventy-five percent for this type of risk money.

TCHAN LO WU

(a quick bow of his head)

Yes.

The Captain stands.

GREEK CAPTAIN

OK Tchan Lo he's all yours. He'll stay on board with me until the day I sail. He has some errands to run and you can come by the ship and pick him up on departure day.

KEVIN

Am I hearing the sound of artillery in the distance?

GREEK CAPTAIN

Yes, the Japanese are not that far off,

The Greek passes a quick glance at Tchan Lo.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

and will enter Nanking shortly.

Kevin, Tchan Lo stand, shake hands. Tchan Lo leaves the wheel house.

INT. APARTMENT -- EARLY MORNING

The door opens, a tired Tchan Lo enters. Ah Hen sleeps at the kitchen table, his head rests on folded arms. The opening/closing of the door awakens him, he looks up at his brother.

AH HEN WU  
Are you still in one piece?

Tchan Lo smiles.

TCHAN LO WU  
Yes, still in one piece.

Tchan Lo places his forefinger up to his lips.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)  
Nothing unusual. I'd like some rice  
and tea.

AH HEN WU  
No problem, sit down, I'll bring it  
to you.

Tchan Lo seats himself, Ah Hen places a bowl of rice, pot of tea on the table. Tchan Lo beckons him over by crooking a finger. Ah Hen comes close, bends over to hear Tchan Lo whisper.

TCHAN LO WU  
(nods negative)  
No talk here. Tomorrow morning at  
our old doorway, eight o'clock.

Ah Hen nods, lies down on his bed, pulls the covers over him. Tchan Lo finishes his rice, turns off the lights.

EXT. OLD DOORWAY LIVING QUARTERS-- MORNING

Ah Hen sits on a wood crate, far rear of the doorway entrance. Tchan Lo enters the doorway.

AH HEN WU  
You're late. I was just about to  
give up and leave.

TCHAN LO WU  
No, I'm not late. I got here long  
before you did. I've been across  
the street watching people. I wanted  
to see if I saw the same person twice,  
once before you arrived, and again  
after you got here.

AH HEN WU  
And?

TCHAN LO WU

All clear, but we won't push our luck. We talk, leave one at a time.

Ah Hen makes room for Tchan Lo on the crate. Tchan lo seats himself.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I did meet the American. He's not much older than you, but displays a mean streak. We must always be on guard. He will finance us, but wants the lion's share.

AH HEN WU

What is the lion's share to him?

TCHAN LO WU

Seventy-five percent. Sound familiar?

AH HEN WU

He has us over a barrel and knows it.

TCHAN LO WU

Exactly, but a piece of the pie is better than no pie at all. We need him now, but our time will come, so I accepted his terms.

AH HEN WU

What's to do with Randy?

TCHAN LO WU

Ahh, big to do with Randy. Seems as though the Greek is better connected here than we know. He tells me that the Sou Tong plans on taking Randy out four nights from tonight.

(emphatic)

We must vacate the area prior to midnight because the three buildings from the atelier on down to our apartment are due to be leveled, including those inside.

AH HEN WU

Why did the Greek make you aware of this?

TCHAN LO WU

I asked him this. Said he was told to do it by the Sou Tong.

AH HEN WU

Then that means we now work for the Sou Tong.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, they will keep us alive until they feel they know all that I know of the Opium trade.

Tchan Lo reaches into a pocket, removes a slip of paper, key, places both into Ah Hen's hand.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

This is the address of a small apartment I rented this morning before coming here. All is paid for.

Ah Hen glances at the writing on the paper, looks up.

AH HEN WU

This is quite a distance on the other side of the city.

TCHAN LO WU

The farther away the better. The night we vacate our present apartment you are to take our family to this address.

Tchan Lo takes his brother by the arm.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

While on board the Greek freighter I heard the sounds of artillery in the distance. The Greek said Japanese troops will be in Nanking soon.

AH HEN WU

And you, where will you be?

TCHAN LO WU

When we vacate the building I will separate myself from you. The Sou Tong is to have a car waiting for me. They will take me to my new quarters.

AH HEN WU

(concerned)

My brother, is all this worth it?

TCHAN LO WU

(bitter)

Yes, I will never go back to living like an animal in the street gutter.

Tchan Lo holds up the stump of his left arm.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

So help me God, I won't ever go back!



INT. APARTMENT -- NIGHT

The Wu family are not sleeping. All belongings to be carried are packed and ready. The silence is broken by Tchan Lo.

TCHAN LO WU

The proper time has arrived. We must vacate now. No talking, and no noise.

Ah Hen walks into the bathroom, pulls up the closet flooring, motions to the family to start the exit. Tchan Lo is the first out followed by Mai Lee, Lai Kiou, Ah Hen.

The family each take a hand of another, follow Tchan Lo through the maze of hallways, halt at a window on the ground floor. Tchan Lo raises the window, exits, helps his family one by one to exit the doomed building.

Tchan Lo waves to his family, walks off into the night. Ah Hen starts off, at a fast walk in a different direction, with the rest of the family.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK -- LATER NIGHT

Tchan Lo, walks through piles of rubble, exits onto a sidewalk, walks to a parked car, motor running, rear door held open, enters the car.

INT. CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

As the car pulls away from the curb the night sky is lit up, followed by several large explosions.

A man in the front passenger seat turns to Tchan Lo in the rear seat, smiles, head motions toward the explosions.

SOU TONG #1

Your timing was very good. A few minutes more and you would have been a part of that.

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF -- NIGHT

The Greek tramp freighter 'DELTA AJAX' sits side tied to the wharf. No deck activity, a lone light shines from the wheel house.

A car pulls into view, parks a short distance away. Driver's side door opens, Tchan Lo exits, walks to the Jacob's ladder hanging from the freighter rail, climbs, boards the freighter, makes his way to the wheel house, enters.

INT. WHEEL HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

The Greek, Kevin, look up, Tchan Lo enters.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Ahh, I see you still get my Radiograms.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, I pay the man, we do business out the back door. I never go inside his office. He's happy, I'm happy.

GREEK CAPTAIN

How are you getting along with the Sou Tong?

TCHAN LO WU

Like two cats in a sack. We never take our eyes off each other.

GREEK CAPTAIN

I have leased a decent apartment, in a good part of Nanking, for Kevin. He has yet to see it. You take him there.

The Greek Captain tears a piece off the bottom of a file, scribbles on it, passes it to Tchan Lo. Tchan Lo regards the paper.

TCHAN LO WU

(alert)

Does he intend to carry his bags, alone, on the streets of Nanking at night time?

Kevin nods negative.

KEVIN

The important contents of my luggage have been placed in secure places. All my personal possessions are some dirty shirts, and socks.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Now that Randy is no longer amongst us how do I get clearance to exit the port?

TCHAN LO WU

I can take care of that. I will have the proper documentation delivered to you. But first the Port Authorities must be satisfied.

The Greek raises his eyebrows.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Ahh yes, and how might that happen?

TCHAN LO WU

You must pay them the usual five hundred dollars American first.

The Greek sits up straight in his chair.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Randy always took care of that.

TCHAN LO WU

Randy is no longer with us, and it is your ship. It is money well spent. I will deliver it to the proper people, as I did for Randy.

The Greek stands, leaves the wheel house via an interior door, returns moments later, counts out five one hundred dollar bills on the table.

Tchan Lo watches as each bill hits the table top, reaches over, pulls the money to him, places all in a jacket pocket.

GREEK CAPTAIN

I trust this will get me out the port soon.

TCHAN LO WU

Your Departure Documentation will be delivered to you tomorrow, before noon.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Fine, this delay is putting me behind a tight schedule. You will be in contact with me by Radiogram for our next consignment?

Tchan Lo stands.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, and I do believe your next shipment to us will be quite large, and varied.

Tchan Lo directs full attention towards Kevin.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I trust that our American partner is financially capable.

Kevin remains seated.

KEVIN

When am I to be made aware of my Japanese contact. The streets are full of troops, and they are not behaving very well.

TCHAN LO WU  
Invading armies never do.

The Greek turns to Kevin.

GREEK CAPTAIN  
I will be able to furnish the both  
of you the contact when Tchan Lo and  
I make our arrangements for the next  
delivery.  
(smiles)  
Until then you will find idle time,  
do not get to be famous.

Kevin stands, stretches, turns to Tchan Lo.

KEVIN  
OK fella, let's get on the road.

TCHAN LO WU  
(smiles)  
I see I am going to have to get used  
to Americanese slang.

The three men shake hands. Tchan Lo, Kevin, exit the wheel house,

EXT. WHEEL HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

continue on to the Jacob's ladder, descend it to the wharf,

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF -- CONTINUOUS

walk over to the parked car, enter, drive off.

INT. CAR -- MOMENTS LATER

Kevin gazes at the port from his side window.

KEVIN  
Where to now?

TCHAN LO WU  
We must stop at the Captain of the  
Port Office, and pay our respect.

Kevin looks over at Tchan Lo, grins.

KEVIN  
And how much does that cost?

TCHAN LO WU  
You heard it, same as the Captain  
did.

Kevin continues looking at Tchan Lo, the grin remains.

The car carrying Tchan Lo, Kevin, pulls up to the curb in front the 'Captain Of The Port' building. Tchan Lo exits the car,

EXT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS

turns, talks to Kevin through the open window.

TCHAN LO WU  
I will not be long.

Tchan Lo walks up the steps, enters the building.

INT. BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

The Chinese receptionist looks up, smiles in recognition, motions her head to an office door with 'Port Captain' embossed on frosted glass.

Tchan Lo goes behind the counter, walks to the office door, enters.

INT. OFFICE

The man seated behind the desk looks up as Tchan Lo enters.

PORT CAPTAIN  
For the Greek freighter?

Tchan Lo nods affirmative.

PORT CAPTAIN (CONT'D)  
Very well. Just lay the usual amount on the desk, he will have his clearance tomorrow before noon.

Tchan Lo reaches into his jacket pocket, withdraws the five hundred dollars, peels off three of the five bills, lays them on the desk, puts the remaining two bills back into his pocket.

TCHAN LO WU  
That will be fine, thank you.

He gives a quick bow of the head, turns, exits the office.

EXT. BUILDING -- MOMENTS LATER

The door opens, Tchan Lo exits the building, walks to his car, gets in,

INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS

seats himself, starts the car. As he pulls away from the curb Kevin addresses him.

KEVIN  
Everything go OK?

Tchan Lo looks straight ahead.

TCHAN LO WU  
Yes, nothing unusual.

Kevin glances down at Tchan Lo's jacket pocket, the corner of two one hundred dollar bills protrude. He looks out his side window, nods, smiles.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)  
I will drive you to your apartment  
and leave you. I have work to do.

EXT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

The 'twin' lorry once driven by Tchan Lo rumbles down the pot holed road, lights out. Australian Jack at the wheel, pulls the lorry up to the dilapidated warehouse, toots, waits for the doors to be opened.

The cab door on the passenger side abruptly opens, Tchan Lo jumps into the empty seat.

INT. LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

JACK  
Yikes mate! Where'd you come from?

TCHAN LO WU  
Don't get upset, I come as a friend.  
Now just settle down and drive on  
inside.

JACK  
And if I decide not to?

Tchan Lo flashes a knife, Jack puts the lorry in gear, enters the warehouse.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Four Chinese workmen stand staring at the two men in the cab. Fenwick walks over to the lorry, looks up at Jack in the drivers seat.

FENWICK  
What ya doin' there mate, pickin' up  
'itch 'ikiers?

JACK  
Not on purpose. He was 'iding in  
the weeds just outside our door.  
Pulled a knife on me he did, then  
told me he was our friend.

Tchan Lo exits the cab,

EXT. LORRY -- CONTINUOUS

returns his knife under his robe folds, walks up to Fenwick. Fenwick takes one look at the missing arm, takes three steps backwards.

FENWICK

I've heard about this cob, and he ain't got any friends.

TCHAN LO WU

I may not be your friend, but if you listen to me I may be your savior. The well being of we three is going to depend on our coordinated acts over the next months.

Tchan Lo looks up at Jack in the lorry cab. Beckons him out.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

Climb down out of the cab, we three must sit down and realize our present position. Time is short.

Jack descends the cab, stands with Tchan Lo, Fenwick. Fenwick motions to a small table in a corner of the atelier where meager living quarters exist.

FENWICK

Got a table, some chairs. Might as well get a load off our feet.

The three men walk over to the table, each pulls up a chair, sits down. Jack looks directly at Tchan lo.

JACK

Well mate this is your show, let's 'ear it.

Tchan Lo takes his time as he looks at both men.

TCHAN LO WU

The operation you once worked for exists no more. Randy and his entire operation went up in smoke just under one hour ago.

The two Aussies look at each other, surprise, doubt show on their face.

FENWICK

Aw come on now mate. Are we supposed to buy that?

Tchan Lo sits, looks silently at the two men. Silence is pregnant. Moments pass. Jack elbows Fenwick in the ribs.

JACK

Yeah Fenwick I think we ought'a buy what he says.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes it is best as what I just related to you is true. The Sou Tong leveled the entire block occupied by Randy.

The two Aussies sit up straight in their chairs.

FENWICK

(aghast)

Geezuzz, Where does that put us?

Points to Jack.

TCHAN LO WU

That puts you working for me, if you wish to see day light. You will be paid by me. I pay better than Randy.

Jack turns, looks at Fenwick, both nod.

JACK

Well then you it is.

TCHAN LO WU

A good decision. I demand obedience, and complete loyalty. You will take no orders from anyone else. You give me that and you will be well paid.

Tchan Lo stands, the two Aussies remain seated.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

As I have no more to say, and you have no questions I would answer, this meeting is over.

Tchan Lo turns, walks over to the four workmen standing idle, takes a gun from under his robes, kills all four.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

You will have four new workmen I know, and can trust. I pay them, you do not. They will be here by six AM.

Tchan Lo replaces his gun, walks over to the side door.



TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

Get rid of these four. I will be in touch with you soon with new orders for you.

Let's himself out. The two Aussies sit agape.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS NANKING -- NIGHT

A lorry driven by Jack, with Fenwick as passenger, pulls into a well filled trucker's parking lot. Parks.

INT. LORRY

The two occupants scan the area through the windshield.

JACK

(points)

There ya be mate, right over there. Just like the gimp arm said. Let's get a move on.

The two occupants descend the lorry,

EXT. PARKING LOT

walk over to an unoccupied lorry, look inside.

FENWICK

This is it alright, keys and all.

Both men enter the lorry, drive it off the lot.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

The warehouse is empty of previously stacked crates. Tchan Lo sits at the table. Four Chinese workmen go about their chores.

An engine noise is heard, the horn code sounds, the door is opened, the lorry with Jack, Fenwick, rolls inside. Both men descend from the cab, walk over to the table.

TCHAN LO WU

Everything go OK?

JACK

Smooth as cat poop.

TCHAN LO WU

Good, go fix yourselves something to eat.

INT. KEVIN'S APARTMENT -- AFTERNOON

Kevin sits in a recliner chair, regards the city through a large bay window. The apartment is large, well furnished.

The telephone rings, Kevin rises, walks over, answers the ring.

KEVIN

Yes?

Pause as Kevin listens.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Australian you say. Eight PM parking lot of Tea House two blocks south.

Pause as Kevin listens.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

OK, eight o'clock it is, anything after eight and I'm gone.

Kevin places the phone in it's cradle, dons a jacket over his shirt, exits the front door,

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

walks the hallway to the elevators, enters the first elevator going down.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

An elevator door opens, Kevin is among the exiting passengers, separates from them, walks to the front desk, is met by the desk CLERK.

CLERK

Good day sir. May I help you?

Kevin places his room key on the counter.

KEVIN

Yes, I would like to rent a car for the week.

CLERK

Very well. Would you be driving it now or later in the evening?

The clerk takes Kevin's room key, notes the room number, begins filling out a contract form.

KEVIN

I will pick up the car key shortly after seven.

CLERK

Stop by the desk, I will have your key, and the lease agreement for your signature. Your car will be at your convenience.

KEVIN

That will be fine, thank you.

Kevin picks up his room key, returns to the elevators, enters the first elevator going up.

INT. TEA HOUSE -- EVENING

Kevin sits alone at a small table by the front window, drinks from a mug. The tea house is busy. He glances up at a clock on the wall indicating 7:45 PM. He turns his attention to the view out the front window.

Kevin watches as a lorry driven by a well worn white man parks by the curb. He stands, leaves some money on the table, exits the tea house,

EXT. TEA HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

walks over to the passenger side of the lorry, addresses the driver through the open window.

KEVIN

Evening there. You're Jack?

The driver turns, smiles.

FENWICK

No mate, I'm Fenwick. You the Yank I'm to deliver?

KEVIN

Yeah, sorta. I'll deliver myself. You give me five minutes then pull this thing out into the traffic. I'll follow about two to three cars behind you.

FENWICK

(nods)

OK by me, but how'm I supposed to know you're behind me?

KEVIN

I'll blink my lights three times.

FENWICK

OK Yank, fair dinkum. I'll move out in five minutes and you follow.

Kevin steps away from the lorry, gets lost in the sidewalk foot traffic.

EXT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

The lorry driven by Fenwick, the car driven by Kevin, pull up to the front entrance, lights out.

Kevin hastily turns off his car's motor, exits, locks the car, enters Fenwick's lorry on the passenger side.

INT. LORRY

KEVIN

OK, we go on from here together.

Fenwick eyes Kevin momentarily.

FENWICK

I say mate, you're a cagey one.

Fenwick gives the horn honks, the doors open, he drives in, lights out.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE

KEVIN

Speaking of cagey that's an unusual way of putting a car in the garage.

Fenwick breaks out in a big smile.

FENWICK

You ain't seen nothin' yet mate. Best keep an eye on the guy with the gimp arm.

Fenwick brings the lorry to a halt next to a look alike sister lorry, both men exit.

EXT. LORRY

Tchan Lo walks over to Kevin, pays no attention to Fenwick.

TCHAN LO WU

Welcome to our present place of business. Basic, but functional.

Kevin eyeballs the surroundings.

KEVIN

Yes, I like it. A work place, not a play pen.

Tchan Lo nods in agreement, indicates the small table, two chairs.

TCHAN LO WU

Let us be as comfortable as this place can offer and discuss our immediate position.

The two men walk over to the table, seat themselves.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

In this day and age things happen rapidly. The Japanese are no longer knocking on the door, they have entered. The group I was previously working with exists no longer, they are all dead.

Pause.

KEVIN

And?

TCHAN LO WU

Chang Kai Shek and his Republican troops will be locating themselves on Formosa.

Pause.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I will remain on the mainland as I now work with the Sou Tong, the Communist arm of a man called Mao Tse Tung.

Kevin holds Tchan Lo's stare, stays silent.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

Does that bother you?

KEVIN

I have yet to hear anything that disturbs me, but I believe there is more to come. I reserve comment until all has been put on the table.

TCHAN LO WU

The Sou Tong is the natural enemy of both the Japanese as well as Chang Kai Shek.

KEVIN

I see the first evidence of a problem. Where does the Sou Tong get it's financing to prolong their efforts?

TCHAN LO WU

A good portion comes from several international countries that share their beliefs.

KEVIN

(nods)

We are to fill that gap with armament.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, exactly. At a very nice profit.

KEVIN

How paid?

TCHAN LO WU

Some part in cash, some part in high grade Opium, and the most profitable is the transfer of first class commercial properties. Hotels, business districts, resorts.

KEVIN

We must remember all that glitters isn't gold. The properties you mention are only going to be available if the Sou Tong side wins, and they do not decide they want to keep them.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, what you say is true, however the cash received plus the sale of the Opium is more than enough to return our investment and a tidy profit.

Kevin reflects momentarily, nods, smiles.

KEVIN

Well Mr. Tchan Lo it seems we do have a workable deal. I will only pay out through a bank. I must be certain your party gets all monies as demanded.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, of course.

KEVIN

Also, I must be certain of all my costs of goods, and peripheral expenses, if any.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, the cost figure I give to you will be the total outlay you face.

KEVIN

All well and good, so far.

Tchan Lo looks direct at Kevin, breaks out in a large smile.

TCHAN LO WU

Let us inspect our first goods to be.

Tchan Lo stands, Kevin does likewise. Both men walk over to the twin lorry.

Tchan Lo orders, in Chinese, two of the workers to remove the tarp. As the tarp is being removed wrapped blocks of raw Opium is displayed.

Kevin removes one block from the load, opens it. Turns to Tchan Lo.

KEVIN  
(raises his eyebrows)

This is raw stuff, yet to be cut.

TCHAN LO WU  
(nods)  
Yes, absolutely pure.

KEVIN  
What is it doing here? Is it paid for, if so by who?

TCHAN LO WU  
(smiling)  
Not paid for yet. This is where your check book goes to work. It only becomes ours when the proper amount is deposited to their account.

KEVIN  
And what might that be?

TCHAN LO WU  
One payment of fifty thousand Yuan. Not some now, the rest later.

Kevin does some finger counting, looks up.

KEVIN  
They'll get their fifty thousand. This load goes to the Greek and he pays some cash, some in arms, yes?

Tchan Lo nods.

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
We in turn sell the arms to your people.

TCHAN LO WU  
Exactly. You control the money flow from the Greek, and I control the money flow from the Sou Tong.  
(MORE)

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

We split as agreed knowing there are more deals in the offing to be had.

KEVIN

Good logic.

TCHAN LO WU

I must be very careful in my movements. The streets belong to the Japanese now, and I just might end up on the end of a bayonet.

Tchan Lo reaches under his robes, brings out a filled in deposit slip, lays it on the table.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

You will transfer the required sum of fifty thousand yuan to this account. When it is received we will be free to move our merchandise without worry as they are in control in this area.

Kevin takes the deposit slip, reads it, looks over at Tchan Lo.

KEVIN

The Wan Sun Pacific Trading Ltd. I see the amount is filled in, no chance for negotiations?

Tchan Lo slowly nods 'no'.

TCHAN LO WU

No. One does not negotiate with these people. In fact the least we know the better it is for all of us. Should they wish us to be involved in anything they do they will contact us.

Tchan Lo points to the load of Opium blocks.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

They feel perfectly safe leaving their goods here unpaid. You are in China now and the threat of families being wiped out down to first cousins keeps you honest.

INT. DOORWAY -- MORNING

Th first rays of the new morning show Ah Hen Wu seated on a large block of wood. Tchan Lo enters their old homestead doorway, seats himself next to his brother.



TCHAN LO WU

I am pleased to see you received my message.

AH HEN WU

(smiles)

Yes, I was very relieved to hear from you. We have not met as often as I would like. Are you all right?

Tchan Lo returns the smile, puts his arm on his brother's shoulder.

TCHAN LO WU

Yes, I am fine, in fact better than fine. Things are falling into place faster than I hoped for. The resurrection of The House of Wu is well under way.

AH HEN WU

(intent)

Wonderful, please explain.

Tchan Lo removes his arm, reaches into a fold of his robes, brings out several bank documents, hands them to his brother.

TCHAN LO WU

I have made financial arrangements with an American who is obviously escaping the law. If necessary that will give us a good grip on his behavior.

Ah Hen nods approvingly.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

Furthermore I have opened an account with The East Asian Trust Ltd. under the fictitious name of Wan Sun Pacific Trading Ltd. You are on as a signature also.

Tchan Lo rests momentarily.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I will deposit the American's investment money here, pay out what must be paid on each transaction, and the rest of his investment money becomes ours. This is on top of the agreed share of the profits the American and I make together.

AH HEN WU

Yes, I see you have been very busy.

TCHAN LO WU

(smile)

Not done yet. I have deposited fifty thousand yuan of the American's money, and have made the necessary pay outs for all costs of goods. That leaves a little over thirty three thousand yuan of the American's money for The House of Wu.

Ah Hen gasps, leans back against the boarded up door.

TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

(guttural- emphatic)

No more gutter living on two yuan per day and a bowl of rice. I will not stop until The House of Wu reaches its' proper station.

AH HEN WU

How long do you think this American is good for?

TCHAN LO WU

Until I have squeezed his last yuan from him, and deem we do not need him anymore. Then he meets his not too Honorable Ancestors, and we walk away clean.

INT. KEVIN'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Kevin sits in deep thought, gazes out through the open sliding glass doors to the balcony. The fingers on his right hand beat softly on the arm rest, he bobs his head several times, stands, closes the sliding glass doors, exits the apartment.

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT PARKING -- LATER

Elevator doors open, Kevin exits, walks over to his rental car, gets in, drives off.

EXT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- LATER

Kevin drives his car up to the doorway of his new place of business, gives the required horn honks, the doors are opened by Jack. Kevin drives inside.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE

Kevin parks at the rear of the building, exits the car. Jack ambles back to greet him.

JACK

Morning mate, what brings you 'ere this time of day?

KEVIN

(smiles)

Not a whole bunch, just thought as we're working together best we know each other.

(pause)

Got a pot of coffee going?

JACK

(smiles)

Nah! Not that stuff, we're Aussies it's either tea, or Fosters. What'll it be ?

KEVIN

(still smiling)

In that case I'll go for a cold Fosters.

JACK

No ya won't Yank, we drink ours warm.

KEVIN

(laughs)

Then warm it is.

The two men walk over to the dilapidated table that serves for dining as well as business. Fenwick is seated, watches as the two men join him.

JACK

Well get up ya lazy bugger 'n grab us all a Fosters.

Fenwick leaps off his chair, hastens to an open case of Fosters beer sitting on a counter, pulls three out, uncaps, returns to the table, sets one in front of each, sits down, grins.

FENWICK

Tips around 'ere are lousy.

Jack turns to Kevin.

JACK

You don't have to tell me, I can guess why you're 'ere.

Kevin nods.

KEVIN

I bet you can, the both of you are as uncomfortable as I am. When we're not needed it's good bye.

FENWICK

Just like that too! The night the gimp took over he put down our four workmen as he went out the door.

JACK

Yeah, and told us to clean up the mess. Said he'd have four new ones for us in the morning.

Kevin shifts in his chair, leans forward on the table.

KEVIN

Best we make some arrangements of our own. Any suggestions?

FENWICK

Yeah, sure, but arrangements take money and if it cost a yuan to go around the world we couldn't get out of sight.

JACK

That's for true. The gimp has us nailed in 'ere but good.

Kevin relaxes, leans back in his chair.

KEVIN

My guess is you two can't go back to Australia.

(smiles)

But don't feel alone, seems we're all in the same boat on several things.

JACK

Aw mate, you're a breath of fresh air!

FENWICK

Ain't 'erd better words in years.

Kevin stands.

KEVIN

OK, we now know where we stand. Keep your eyes and ears open. I'll come by often and compare notes. We can plan a way out with full pockets.

(pause)

The Greek's bringing a load in tonight. I'll be spending some time with him, then we'll talk further.

Kevin picks up his Fosters, downs it, wipes his mouth on the back of his hand.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

And when it comes time we need money  
it'll be there.

Kevin walks over to his car, gets in, starts it. Jack opens the doors, Kevin drives out.

Fenwick walks up to Jack.

FENWICK

(awe)

Geezuzz Jack, did ya see the way he  
downed that Fosters!

CUT TO:

INT. AT SEA-WHEEL HOUSE DELTA AJAX -- NIGHT

The Greek captain talks on the ship's Radio Phone.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Kevin, be advised I will be docking  
two hours ahead of schedule. Be  
there. End of call.

INT. KEVIN'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Kevin nods, silently cradles his phone.

FADE OUT:

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF--NIGHT

Kevin sits in his car, watches as the ship Delta Ajax pulls alongside the wharf, land lines thrown down to dock crew who place them over the dock bolards, leave. A Jasons ladder is tossed down. Kevin exits his car,

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF -- CONTINUOUS

walks to the Jasons ladder, climbs to the cap rail of the ship, let's himself down on the deck,

EXT. DECK OF GREEK FREIGHTER -- CONTINUOUS

continues on to the wheel house, enters.

INT. WHEEL HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The Greek captain sits at the chart table, looks up as Kevin enters, smiles.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Well, I am glad to see you. Events  
are taking place fast that demand we  
alter our original plans as soon as  
possible.

Kevin walks over to the chart table, seats himself.

KEVIN

I can certainly believe that. Nanking is becoming a very dangerous place. The invaders do not respect the presence of anyone not of their own kind.

GREEK CAPTAIN

(nods)

It is just the early stages. Japan will throw in with Germany shortly and take military action against the USA.

Kevin strums his fingers on the chart table, looks up at the Greek.

KEVIN

That for sure puts a monkey wrench in our operation. How do you come by this information?

GREEK CAPTAIN

I also do business in South America and am privy with some in high power who like money.

(pause)

Which is good for us as they will keep their country neutral, and be dealing with both sides.

KEVIN

Same type of operation?

GREEK CAPTAIN

Basically the same, and there is a place for you there. I am able to procure for you citizenship in a neutral country.

(pause)

At a cost, of course.

KEVIN

Yes, of course. But I don't mind paying for benefits received. When do think it prudent for me to vacate this place?

GREEK CAPTAIN

Best you leave with me on my next, and possibly last, voyage here. Once the shooting starts the East Pacific Ocean will not be a safe place to be afloat.

Kevin stands.

KEVIN

Very well, then next voyage it is.  
That will give me time to clean up  
some matters,  
(smile)  
and leave all behind me.

Kevin exits the wheel house.

EXT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- LATER

Kevin's car pulls up to the doors of the warehouse, give the necessary horn honks. The doors are opened by the two Aussies. Kevin drives in,

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The Aussies close, bolt the doors. Kevin parks his car, exits, walks over to the table, sits, is joined by Jack and Fenwick.

JACK

Blimey mate! What brings you 'ere  
this time of night?

The two Aussies seat themselves.

KEVIN

No use beating around the bush.  
Seems as though our tits are in a  
wringer, and if we don't move quick  
we'll lose more than our tits.

FENWICK

Yeah, I ain't let on that I've picked  
up the Chinese lingo and from what's  
being said the shit's about to hit  
the fan.

KEVIN

Right, and I need to get some bank  
papers out of the gimp's pocket

Jack smiles, points to Fenwick.

JACK

Fenwick 'ere is a dip, one of the  
best. He can scoop your watch just  
by shakin' 'ands.

KEVIN

It's not just me now, it's we. Got  
to have those papers to move some  
money.

FENWICK

No problem mate. I can have them out and back. He won't know the diff.

KEVIN

What if he does and gets with it?

Fenwick looks over at Jack, winks. Jack nods.

FENWICK

Back 'ome Jack was known as Jack the Ripper. Not the real one of course, but you get the idea.

KEVIN

Yeah I do. Get those papers at any cost. If you have to do him waste his four stooges too. We're leaving here on the next boat so plan your move well.

Kevin stands, tosses a loaded pistol on the table.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

When you're ready for me call my hotel room 407 and when I answer just say 'done', no more.

Kevin walks over to his car, gets in, the two Aussies open the doors, Kevin drives out into the night. Jack, Fenwick, close the doors, walk back to their table, sit, look each other in the eye, break out in laughter.

JACK

The next load we keep!

FENWICK

Right-O mate! You, me, the Yank, and a truck load of raw hash float outta here on that Greek rust bucket!

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

Jack, Fenwick, hold open the doors to the warehouse, Tchan Lo drives a lorry in, parks. Jack, Fenwick, close the doors, cross bar them, walk over to the lorry, Tchan Lo exits the cab. The four workmen walk up to the lorry, take positions.

Tchan Lo turns to the two Aussies.

TCHAN LO WU

What is on that load is very important to me. It must be protected at all costs.

Tchan Lo starts to walk over to the table.



TCHAN LO WU (CONT'D)

I am tired and hungry. Fix me some tea and a large bowl of rice.

Fenwick walks alongside Tchan Lo, they reach the table at the same moment. Fenwick pulls a chair out with one hand, the other hand smooths off a place on the table.

FENWICK

'Ere ya go. Sit, and relax.

Tchan Lo seats himself, Fenwick's hand comes off the table, brushes Tchan Lo's robes. Fenwick ambles off to the kitchen area, winks as he passes Jack. Jack follows to the kitchen area.

With a flick of a hand movement Fenwick passes some papers into Jack's pocket. Jack wanders off into the sleeping area, picks up the phone, dials a number.

JACK

Room 407 please.

(pause)

Done.

INT. KEVIN'S APARTMENT

Kevin stands, phone held close to his ear.

KEVIN

Good. If they are bank documents waste the gimp and his men. I'll be there shortly.

Kevin hangs up the phone, dials the front desk.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Good evening, Front Desk?

(pause)

This is room 407, would you please prepare my bill, I will be checking out within the next fifteen minutes.

(pause)

Thank you.

Kevin walks into the bedroom, straps on a holstered gun, dons a jacket, walks over to the bed, picks up two large pieces of hand luggage, turns off the lights, exits the apartment.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- LATER

Horn honks are heard. Jack walks over, opens the warehouse doors, Kevin drives in, Jack closes, bars the doors. Fenwick is seated at the table, Fosters beer in one hand.

The floor area is littered with the bodies of Tchan Lo, his four henchmen.

Fenwick walks up to Kevin, hands him some papers.

FENWICK

This what you're lookin' for mate?

Kevin glances through the papers, looks up at Fenwick, smiles.

KEVIN

This is them all right. I got some bank errands to run tomorrow, then the three of us  
(points)  
and that lorry are going for a sea voyage.

FENWICK

Fair dinkum mate!

KEVIN

I'll be bunking with you guys tonight, checked out of my room before coming here.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- MORNING

Kevin stands before a broken mirror, shaves. The two Aussies sit at the table each with a Fosters beer in hand. Kevin finishes, dips into a pan of water, rinses his face.

KEVIN

OK you two I'm outta here, should be back before noon. Don't open those doors for anyone but me.

Kevin walks to his car, steps over a body on the way, gets in, starts the motor, backs out the door held open by Fenwick.

FENWICK

What'll we do with all these things on the floor?

Points to the cadavers.

KEVIN

Leave'em for the flies. We'll be gone soon after dark.

Kevin drives off.

EXT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE -- AFTERNOON

Kevin walks along the water front, a suitcase in each hand, stops at the warehouse doors, gives some knocks.

A slot opens, Fenwick peers out, opens the doors just enough to admit Kevin. Kevin steps in.

INT. WATER FRONT WAREHOUSE

FENWICK

Ya had me fooled, thought you'd be in your car.

KEVIN

No, I left it a mile or so back and walked. Best they get their car there than in here.

Kevin nods towards all the bodies on the floor.

Walks over to the lorry, places his two suitcases inside, goes over to the table, sits, motions the two Aussies to do the same.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

Took a little longer than I expected, but got done what I wanted done.

(pause)

Talked to the Greek. He will have his ship alongside the dock by about eight o'clock, pay off to the Port Captain has been made. The Delta Ajax is cleared to depart the port anytime after midnight and before six AM.

The two Aussies look at each other, break out in a big smiles.

JACK

Yank, you can't believe how glad we be gettin' outta this place.

KEVIN

Yeah I can. Makes three of us glad to see the last of this fuckin' place.

(pause)

Now let's get busy and load onboard the lorry all that goes with us this evening.

FENWICK

Done in a blink of an eye. We ain't got much more than what we got on, and I seen you put your gear inta' the lorry.

KEVIN

You two will ride under the tarp until we get to the dock.

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm going to have the Greek pick up the lorry with his ship's crane and place it onboard, in the hold.

JACK

Ya expectin' any funny play from the Greek?

KEVIN

(smiles)

You never can tell. But if they do start funny things watch my attitude and copy best you can. No gun play, unless they ask for it. Stand close to the man you want out first.

Jack, Fenwick, fling their meager belongings on the lorry, Jack climbs on, Fenwick opens the warehouse door. Kevin takes his place behind the wheel, starts the motor, drives outside, waits for Fenwick to climb under the tarp, drives off into the night.

EXT. SHANGHAI PORT WHARF -- NIGHT

'Delta Ajax' sits side tied to the wharf in darkness. The lorry pulls alongside, stops. Kevin exits the lorry.

A Jacob's ladder is thrown over the Cap rail down to the wharf. Kevin walks over, climbs the ladder to the Cap rail, steps onto the deck,

EXT. DECK OF GREEK FREIGHTER 'DELTA AJAX'

nods to several crew members, walks to wheel house door, enters.

INT. WHEEL HOUSE

The Greek captain stands by the wheel, smiles at Kevin, the two men shake hands.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Gettin' your fill of Chinese girls yet?

KEVIN

Yeah, guess so, turn 'em upside down and they all look alike.

GREEK CAPTAIN

(chuckles)

Sure beats that knot hole you were talking about.

KEVIN

Yeah, I guess so but that knot hole  
doesn't have it's hand out.

GREEK CAPTAIN

How are we fixed with the Port  
Authority?

KEVIN

I paid our dues to the head man and  
'Delta Ajax' can clear port any time  
after midnight until six AM, no  
problem.

GREEK CAPTAIN

I see you brought a lorry. Any goods  
in it?

KEVIN

Loaded to the gills, plus I got two  
Aussies stashed under the tarp.  
They saved my hide and I pay anything  
extra for their ride with us.

GREEK CAPTAIN

Sounds like they might not be welcome  
back home.

KEVIN

Amen.

GREEK CAPTAIN

I'll have my crew throw lashings  
around, and under, the lorry. Put  
it inside the hold with the ship's  
crane.

KEVIN

Right out of the text book.

The Greek walks over, opens the door, yells down to the crew  
on deck.

GREEK CAPTAIN

OK, come alive you guys. Get that  
lorry into the fore'ard hold, lash  
it down good. We depart in an hour.

Turns to Kevin.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

(grins)

We'll dump your Aussies out on the  
deck before the lorry goes below.

KEVIN  
 (grins back)  
 Fair dinkum, mate.

EXT. AT SEA -- DAY

The 'Delta Ajax' plows through a heavy sea. Spray comes over the bow. A cabin door opens, the two Aussies exit, bow their heads into the wind/spray as they make their way up to the wheel house, open the door, enter.

INT. AT SEA-WHEEL HOUSE DELTA AJAX

The Greek, Kevin, sit at the chart table, a crew member mans the wheel.

GREEK CAPTAIN  
 'Morning gents. How's sea life  
 treating you?

The two Aussies are holding on to anything stationary.

JACK  
 (nods)  
 Well Cap'n we ain't quite got our  
 sea legs yet, but a couple more  
 days'll do it.

The Greek points over to a small gimbaled stove holding level in the rolling sea.

GREEK CAPTAIN  
 Coffee's made.

The two Aussies look at each other.

KEVIN  
 (grins)  
 Yeah, it's coffee until we make land,  
 galley's outta tea.

The Aussies grope their way over to the stove, pour their coffee, stumble over to the chart table, sit.

GREEK CAPTAIN  
 We been at sea now for three days  
 and are probably out of the danger  
 zone. The Japanese have been raising  
 hell with shipping headed in toward  
 the mainland.

KEVIN  
 It's probably a good thing we're  
 headed the other way.

GREEK CAPTAIN

No doubt. Now about the four of us. I hope you like South America because that's where we're headed. The USA entering the war at this time has put our China operation off limits, but I have business contacts elsewhere.

The Greek turns to Kevin.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

You and I will continue on our original agreement of fifty-fifty. What ever split of your fifty percent you make with Jack and Fenwick is between the three of you, and does not involve me.

The Greek looks directly at Kevin.

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

All your cash belongs to you, all goods we split fifty-fifty, including the goods on the lorry below.

(pause)

What say you?

KEVIN

(nods)

Sounds fair enough to me. I'll go along with that.

The Greek turns to Jack.

GREEK CAPTAIN

And you?

JACK

Fair enough, couldn't ask for better.

The Greek turns to Fenwick.

GREEK CAPTAIN

And you?

FENWICK

More than fair. Me 'n Jack will do you both right, you'll see.

The Greek looks at each of the three.

GREEK CAPTAIN

It's a good thing we all agree, there won't be any changes made once on shore.

(MORE)

GREEK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)  
Your word at this table is your bond,  
and we stay healthy if we are well  
aware of that.

KEVIN  
What's our destination?

GREEK CAPTAIN  
Next stop Galapagos.

**POSSIBLE    END**