

CHINA BEARS
MAO AND MY LOVE

By
JOHN BANKS

"The panda, a tear of blood on his face gives them a clear look of betrayal, and dies."

SYNOPSIS

A Chinese-American Dr. Zivago.
Before the world was on fire.
Adventurers in the thirties treated
China as a dark place, open to
discovery and claim. Ze, at Tiananmen
Square, sheds light on a woman
explorer, pandas that attack, love
and war, and Mao. Shanghai, the
Yangze, mountain trails and New York,
all burn. Themes include
ecofeminism, facilitation, peace and
war. Pandas and dragons and China.

BLACK

EXT. OVERVIEW TIANANMEN SQUARE, JUNE 4, 1989 -NIGHT

Two lay murmuring together, in the blackness. Student MARTYR, is resting in the arms of his LOVE.

MARTYR

My grandmother, with her feet bound, she never ever stood, she always was carried.

LOVE

My tiny peasant granny never rode once. And she always carried her heavy yoke.

SUPER:TIANANMEN SQUARE- MASSACRE/UPRISING-
RIOT/DEMONSTRATION
-JUNE 4, 1989

We see entering headlights of armored units, tanks and trucks; searchlights reveal sleeping rows of demonstrators as squads of foot soldiers approach.

MARTYR

They're here. I am going to stand up for my grandmother.

LOVE

I shall sit, for granny. She'd want...

Tanks bear down on the crowds. People scramble out of the way of the crackdown, some too late. Their screams begin a panic that fills the square. Martyr leaps to his feet and runs in a panic at first, then regains his bearings. He runs to assist his Love to her feet.

MARTYR

Freedom

His Love grabs him tight, kissing his face. She is dressed in bright silk of traditional blue willow scenes. She attempts to pull him away from the conflict. He pushes her down. He tries to stop some that are fleeing. He runs with others toward the tanks. Some are shot confronting the military. Love sobs.

MARTYR

Democracy!

He tries to get the army to notice him, then his fellow demonstrators. He is ignored. His Love comes running to him. Heedless, he pushes her back, then throws himself into the path of a tank. His determined sacrificial look changes into intense shock as he is crushed.

MARTYR

China lives...

Love is horrified. We see her face splattered with blood. Love fights going into shock, would like to join Martyr, yet chokes.

LOVE

(Whispers)

De..., Demo Free...

Freedom

She joins the fleeing, screaming mob, rushing toward the buildings at the edge of the square exits. As they pass an imposing edifice, an very old man, ZE SONG, comes to the edge of the top steps and waves them up. Love does as beckoned, five OTHERS follow her up the stairs and through a door that the old man holds open.

INT. MUSEUM LARGE STOREROOM. NIGHT

ZE

Up against the wall. Will the dragon
protect you?

The group press behind an enormous rustling mass of red, it flickers. Did we really see a great red dragon? They listen to screams from the crackdown. The locked door is pushed at, then pounded on.

EXT. MUSEUM DOOR, NIGHT

A BOY, who looks too young to have a AK47, is at the door. His voice and face are younger still.

BOY

I seen you.

Ze cracks the door, and the Boy looks into the dark room.

ZE

We are just watchers. We are not involved in the demonstration.

BOY

Riot. Rioters ran into here.

ZE

We are only women and children here, we were awakened by all the killing, is all.

BOY

Killing? You saw killing?

The Boy uses his firearm to push Ze backwards.

INT. MUSEUM LARGE STOREROOM -NIGHT

ZE

Grandson, child. This is not a riot. We are getting ready for the Dragon parade. Look, everyone get your dragon on.

They slip under a red Parade silk Dragon, which lights up. Panicked panting echoes and steams from inside the dragon. Their spacing as they stand up, causes the dragon to resemble a sea serpent. The three foot high head, lays shining by the old man.

BOY

Out, get out. The real dragon will chew rioters and spew them up.

The Boy takes his gun and pushes at the closest person to him inside the dragon. Those in the dragon shuffle and sound as if they might panic. Ze advances on the Boy, and stares him down.

ZE

My name is Ze Song, Captain in the Red Army on the Long March. General in the Civil War, and World War. You know who wrote my commission?

BOY

Who?

ZE

Mao, Chairman Mao. Party Secretary, on the long march. Mao Ze-tung. Very day his fifth baby son joined his others in death.

BOY

Grandfather General, please, I must make sure that no rioters are in here.

A girl in the tail of the dragon comes rushing across the room, knocks the Boy over and escapes, into the darkness. The Boy, still on the ground, fires after the girl.

ZE

You have frightened my timid girls. You make the proverb true that if the Dragon stirs, the three Rivers turn to blood?

BOY

I'll shoot your Dragon.

ZE

The great red dragon is making you angry. Everyone pull off the dragon. Change to the bears at your feet. The peaceful bears.

As they remove it, the room goes dark.

BOY

Stop, no.

ZE

Patience, be calm. Quiet will come.

A paper Panda Bear costume is pulled on, it flickers, the batteries are almost dead. Another lights. The Boy seems to notice Love's face has bloodstains. She goes into his face, crying.

LOVE
Leave us in peace.

He backs into Ze, who slips the rifle away.

ZE
Young grandson, you may not make or keep
peace, but you can find peace and
nurture it here.

Ze takes the rifle point and lays it on the boy's heart.

ZE
We will stay here in safety. We will
hide here during the tempest, and then
slip away when it is quiet. Listen...

Outside the continuing screams and cannons fade.

ZE
I killed the peace of millions when I
was General. But my greatest sin, was
that... me, I... was The Panda Killer.

Love picks up a panda that lights up brightly and listens
intently.

EXT. USS PITTSBURGH, HONG KONG PORT, 1929 -DAY

ZE (V.O.)
I never knew what I was doing was wrong.
I thought it was; was even... great.

EXT, SHIP'S DECK OVERLOOKING WHARF -DAY

A young Ze dressed in galley whites, is carrying a dinner
on the deck, he wanders around looking overboard, goes to
the rail, below he sees a CROWD. He starts up the stairs
then listens and returns to look over the wharf. CAPTAIN
STAM, comes out of his stateroom door, looking around.

CAPTAIN STAM
I guess I can find my cook and lost
dinner on my own.

The Captain comes up beside Ze, at the rail of the ship. Before them on the wharf, there is the Crowd of sailors in dress whites, enthusiastically listening to the sons of Teddy Roosevelt. THEODORE and KERMIT ROOSEVELT, are on a stage, dressed as we would expect Teddy himself to be when on safari. Racks of rifles, and skins of a polar bear and a Kodiak grizzly are hung as backdrop over American and English colors. The skins look much too large to be real.

CAPTAIN STAM

Ze Song, you and my food lost?

ZE

I'm not educated to be a cook, Captain.

CAPTAIN STAM

And yet you stand here holding my cold supper. I understand the navy accepting you by mistake, but...whatever possessed you, that you joined the navy?

ZE

The park signs in California, No Chinese allowed... if I had a uniform; I might vote... different. . .

Captain Stam almost rolls his eyes, at the naïveté.

CAPTAIN STAM

No signs when you joined up?

ZE

I filled out and sent the paper in.

CAPTAIN STAM

Cold dinners will not get you shore leave, even if you speak every Chinese language.

ZE

Three or more, I was a baby in China.

We may not realize it but we will understand all the languages as Ze understands them.

CAPTAIN STAM
(points at the stage)
They are going into China. Did they tell
about the Pandar yet?

Ze looks puzzled.

THEODORE
Our father Teddy ...

CROWD
Bully, Bully. Yuzzah, Yuzzah.

KERMIT
Yuzzah indeed!

THEODORE
Our father Teddy ...

CROWD
Bully, Bully.

THEODORE
Our father Teddy Roosevelt, the
conservation President, would return
from a hunting trip with a thousand
trophies.

KERMIT
Almost all that he shot and I had to
skin and tan.

THEODORE
Kermit did the work because he was his
son, but our father did this for the
betterment of man, to make the U.S. of
America stronger.

CROWD
America, HURRAH, HURRAH.

THEODORE
Kermit and I have returned from the
greatest, most successful trip to the
frozen North that mankind has ever
accomplished, especially if size be a
measurement of the works of man.

KERMIT

Theodore killed the polar bear and I lay claim to this monster Kodiak. These you see today are by far the largest specimens ever seen by White eyes, and are on their way to be stuffed and mounted for the future wonder of all America. Never forget, boys, that the world is filled with the unlimited wonders of all creation. Awaiting only the brave to conquer them.

THEODORE

That includes that fifty foot anaconda, that our father Teddy...

CROWD

Bully, Bully

THEODORE

Teddy, ... put up a five thousand dollar reward for. Having received his own final reward, other pandemoniums need located. Ha!

CROWD

Champ, YAH Yah.

KERMIT

See our own thirty-six foot trophy anaconda at the Chicago museum of Natural Science. The self-same, first-rate gentlemen who are offering the grand sum of twenty thousands of dollars for the first skin of the Pandar Bear, to be brought out of China in this hundred years.

THEODORE

Pandars are as rare as Chinese Dragons, but we are making the most complete hunting trip ever taken through southern Asia and China and India. No Whites have been able to even so much as see one yet. But we will. We will succeed, where all others have failed. Wish us well, boys.

KERMIT

Men. Here thousands of miles from home,
it is if you are on the adventure with
us. Imagine it. The great Pandar will be
half polar, half black bear.

CROWD

Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah.

ZE

Captain, the bear! I can get the bear
for them! My family is from Szechwan
mountains.

EXT. STAGE ON DOCK -DAY

The brothers and their Indian hunting guides, the Captain,
and Ze have a map out. Explorer, 'Bring 'em back alive',
ROY HASP, is trying to push in to talk to the brothers.
Roy's explorer partner ED WOOP, is in striped overalls.
Roy's fiancée, socialite and New York designer ROSSI, (Her
stare, her dress, her nose and chin are all a trifle too
strong) is in a brazenly chic white silk sailor suit with
flared arms and legs.

KERMIT

You are a stroke of providence. Your
family actually told you about Pandars?

ZE

A black and white bear, the bamboo bear.

THEODORE

The Great Bear Cat.

ZE

High in the mountains above the
villages...

KERMIT

It will work out perfectly. You bring
our re-supplies up the Yangtze,
afterwards you see all our specimens
back to Shanghai, then to the museum.

THEODORE

If you could grow a big yellow mustache,
like the rest of us, you could go with
us all the way up the Burma trail,
through China and way into India.

KERMIT

Theodore is making a poor rag at you. We
should need your linguistics in the
China Mountains. Locating the pandars is
prime.

CAPTAIN STAM

Now pup, write me a splendid report,
about the civil wars near Chunking, and
I'll have hot franks tonight.

THEODORE

Champ, champion. Off we go to Siam. Ze,
you on my steamship to Shanghai. Three
months till we meet again.

ROY

Theodore, Theodore, I'm 'bring 'm back
alive', Hasp. About the sun and moon
bear. I think that you could bring 'em
to a California zoo...

Rossi stands smoking as Ze is pushed aside, they look each
other in the eye.

EXT. PORT OF SHANGHAI -DAY

The docked Roosevelt steamboat, a hundred feet long, is
surrounded by gunboats of the English, Chinese, Americans,
and the Japanese. In the distance, Chinese junks and
sampans ply the waters of the river.

MAO (VO)

White mountain supports rainbow heaven,
Great river flows green to the
sunrise,
Red rays shall bathe away Chinese lies.

EXT. TOP DECK - DAY

This Shanghai wharf is fronted by shabby wood warehouses so old they are black. The ships are unloaded by coolies. There are no machines to be seen. One coolie is carrying a person on his back. Chinese wheelbarrows carry the largest loads. The only hint of women is a curtained sedan chair carried by coolies. Ze is on the upper deck, the sole Chinese among the Whites. Young men on the docks are fighting giant kites. A great red dragon kite that is more than six foot across plus a fifty foot tail, comes swooping down at Ze, almost catching him. The ship's MASTER TIFF comes scurrying over.

TIFF

Ze, I need you to meet the Japanese before they get on the lower deck, right now.

ZE

No problem, Master Tiff. Japanese?

TIFF

I think that they want you for dinner. Do not let them eat you, hay?

In the distance we see the dragon kite pull it's flyers into the water.

INT. JAPANESE DINNER TABLE, -NIGHT

At a Japanese officer, JEMI GO's family home. He has a uniform and holster on. Ze is in dress Whites. A Chinese NATIONALIST, a FRENCH MAN, a RUSSIAN, are all in suits. They are on their knees to eat, as a Chinese boy, LU, serves. Jemi stands.

JEMI GO

So sorry you are here for business, our industrialist and imperialist meeting. We better than the French and Russians here in China's north. China is much benefited.

Jemi points out each race of them as they scowl.

NATIONALIST

(To Jemi)

The White Devils are only stealing trade, you are cutting China up. Making us bleed.

FRENCH MAN

(Giggling)

Mercy, mer ci. Accounting this meeting as this: The Japanese owe we French eighteen, deferred, Russians owe the Japanese forty, the Chinese owe we French eighty thousand, Russians ten, Japanese sixty, and in order for project completed, eighty thousands workers now.

NATIONALIST

Not possible, the Westerners want coolies also. I am done explaining, you need pay more. You want more.

Jemi shoots the Nationalist in the head. Small round black dot.

JEMI GO

You are done.

Ze, I need southern report, there-too.

ZE

I do not think that I can do that. My Captain wants the report for himself.

JEMI GO

Instead what, I'll match sum Prince Roosevelts paying you. Three masters. Master Roosevelts, Master American Captain, Master Shanghai Japanese Navy. You there-with paid three times over, Hot Damn yes. There Hot hell yes.

Lu enters from one side, and begins backing out the other.

JEMI

Lu, take dead Chinese away. Far, in bay.

Lu, turns to retreat. Jemi takes aim at him. Ze reaches out

and snares the ankle of Lu.

ZE

Wait. Stop. We can work something out here. Are you going to shoot two Chinese at one dinner? Give me your gun, I will solve the problem.

He reaches over and pulls at the gun. Jemi resists, then gives it up in a gamble. Bad idea.

Ze aims the gun towards the men at the table.

ZE

A solution. I suggest you not try anything by the gunboats. I see you maybe, when I return.

Ze and Lu back out.

EXT. SHANGHAI ST. NO LIGHTS. -NIGHT

ZE

Run like the wind, Lu.

LU

(Over his shoulder)
You run like the sun, take all day.

Lu races down a black alley. Ze trotting, tosses the gun.

EXT. STEAMBOAT, YANGTZE RIVER -DAY

The river is so wide we can not see the banks, the junks appear aimless. We pass a large island that appears to be a 'blue willow' paradise with a castle. Ze is on the upper deck, with the Whites, including Tiff. As a junk sails close, the boys on it begin to chant. A MISSIONARY on deck shouts back retorts.

MISSIONARY

Yellow scamps... Why do they insist on calling us White devils? Look at you, are you White?

ZE

Foreign devils. They mean you.

MISSIONARY

We would never think of them as devils. There is no excuse for them to believe in spirits and devils, yet insist they don't believe in the creator.

ZE

They see the devils. And they see no beauty.

MISSIONARY

Famines and wars are ever more reason to believe.

ZE

Why?

MISSIONARY

The Apocalypse; "They gnawed their tongues in pain, refusing to give glory to God, so that the sun was given to burn men with fire."

ZE

You teach the god of their hell.

TIFF

(To missionary)

They believe in devils, more than even you do. Ghosts, steam, they are one and the same thing. Believe in steam, two weeks, Chunking. Ten days to the Gorges.

EXT. THE GORGES, YANGZI- DAY

The Gorges. The river is several hundred feet wide, running fast and high. Lots of white water. When the winds die down, the junks are pulled upstream by coolies. The very large junks, big as the steamboat, are pulled by ropes a thousand feet long using a hundred coolies; TRACKERS. Often the trails along the river are narrow and high. On deck Captian Tiff, Ze the Missionary and others are watching. Downstream, there is fighting going on between a gunboat and a large junk. The junk is on fire.

MISSIONARY

If they had seen this place, the word
gorgeous may very well come from gorges.

ZE

That gunboat set a junk on fire.

MISSIONARY

Who are they? It is not an English
gunboat. Italian?

ZE

Japanese gunboats could not be this far
up. Right?

Ze's steamboat narrowly misses a large rock in the center
of the river.

TIFF

Port! Port! PORT!!!

All the passengers and crew are watching the close call,
meanwhile their steamboat has snagged on one of the ropes
from a medium sized junk. Ze is the only one to notice.

ZE

Help. Repel the rope.

He climbs up on the roof and pries the thick rope loose. It
snaps up, only to catch again on the smokestack. We watch
as the long rope ripples toward the TRACKERS, where six of
them are whipped off the riverbank and tossed high into the
air, landing in the swift current. The rope, dropped by the
rest of the trackers, flaps at Ze so that he is knocked off
of the roof. He catches himself but is hanging over the
water.

ZE

Help.

In the water, a COOLIE is screaming to be saved. He quickly
floats on. In the distance the junk with the lost rope
overturns against rocks.

ZE

Help.

TIFF

Save the Chinese.

On the lower deck a number of the crew and Chinese passengers move to save a TRACKER. The Missionary watches them.

TRACKER

Please, please.

TIFF

Not the coolie. Save the Roosevelt Chinese. Leave the coolie. They drown all the time.

Ze is saved by the Missionary. The coolie bobs away.

EXT. CHUNGDU, DOCKS, -DAY

The crates are loaded by coolies between poles. There are no beasts of burden. The city is plain but busy. CONG and Ze talk.

ZE

Two silver dollars a day.

CONG

Chinese dollars and opium, and food?

ZE

Food from hunting, and opium. We go up the mountain, to search until we find the black and white bear cat.

CONG

And then?

ZE

I will need you to port down.

INT. BAMBOO HUT SUCHAN MT.-NIGHT

Ze is sleeping and DREAMING in an empty cabin. His children and young wife wake him. Love is the theme but also peace in a mountain paradise, we see the children playing with a

tame panda. At sunset only his wife is there, she has grown old. Then he wakes again, this time to darkness. He regrets that it was only a DREAM, perhaps he sleeps, sounds in the darkness cause him to check outside. There is a white winged dragon landing on the mountain peak in the moonlight. He shoots at it. It might be hit. It flies away. He returns to sleep.

EXT. BAMBOO HUT SUCHAN MOUNTAIN-SUNRISE

In the morning he awakes with a look of clear wonder. He sees that the landscape is the same as in the night when he shot at the dragon. He goes to his rifle to check the smell and looks to see if it was really shot.

ZE

What... How could?

We do not know if the gun was really used or not, but Ze is amazed and bewildered by whatever it was that he discovered.

EXT. SZECHWAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL -DAY

Bamboo is sparse and small. Rhododendrons are in bloom. We hear a marching version of the Battle hymn of the Republic.

MARCH

"Marching on, marching on.
watch-fires of a hundred camps,
buidled in the evening dews and damps,
righteous in the dim and flaring lamps."
Glory, glory hunting lu lu.
These boots are marching on.

Up the trail come at least fifty porters carrying all the supplies of the hunt and hounds. Ze has a dozen coolies also. The brothers and their Indian guides are in sedan chairs each carried by four coolies. Which they exit as they greet Ze.

THEODORE

Bang, local ways are best, but just there, on the roof of the Himalayas, Tibet has good horses, all the way to India.

He points up the mountain.

KERMIT

Horseback, until the Indian Elephants. I will be glad to see a real train again.

THEODORE

Everything come up all right with you? Our porters have a ship full of exhibits to go right back to Chicago with you.

ZE

Swift. Food is in short supply, but a local scout once saw a bamboo bear.

THEODORE

We had some close Burma Shaves on the Burma trail, if I say so, boys.

KERMIT

We made good military time. Are the bears on our route to the north?

ZE

Scouts say when we find new bamboo sprouts we might find bamboo bears. Right season.

THEODORE

Champion, champion. We'll "put the stars to flight, we hunters of the East".

EXT. SIX WEEKS LATER- VALLEY OF PASTEL POPPIES -DAY

The BROTHERS are tramping through a wash of blooming poppies, followed by supply PORTERS. The poppies are filled with tiny attacking vipers, causing the porters to jump and scream, now and again. Scouts and hounds are high up over the valley. We hear their faint echoes. Theodore is chanting to the tune of the Battle Hymn, Kermit to a different tune.

THEODORE

"Charging on... charging on...
Trumpets shall never call retreat,
Be swift, be fast my feet...
Glory, glory," shoe-how-do-ya?

KERMIT

Sweet poppy pastels.
Keen morphine, king, queen morphine.
On opium the hero dreamed...

A sheep horn blows.

THEODORE

There, there, they've found a pandar.
Listen!

The brothers carrying their rifles and packs race straight up a steep hillside.

EXT. BAMBOO FOREST, -DAY

The panda sits quietly, smiling, waving stocks of bamboo. As if to show off his thumbs. Ze stands with his rifle aimed at the head. Scouts hold the hounds back. The brothers push at each other. Kermit pushes Theodore's rifle down.

KERMIT

You, always you.

THEODORE

All trophies are equal, are they?

Kermit shoots without aiming. The Panda is shot in the hand. He looks amazed, bewildered, sad.

ZE

Quickly!

KERMIT

Together?

THEODORE

Together... but Ze too. Ze. Rifles up.
Between the eyes. Now.

The panda, a tear of blood on his face, gives them a clear look of betrayal, and dies.

EXT. CAMPFIRE -NIGHT

The brothers sit without their shirts on before an enormous fire. Kermit is almost done skinning the panda. Ze holds the head by the ears. Kermit and the panda are eye to eye. The men are covered in blood.

KERMIT

"I have read a fiery gospel writ in steel. The truth marches on". Two missed... only one bullet in him.

THEODORE

What say?

KERMIT

One hit.

They laugh, they roar.

KERMIT

This damned pandar is still grinning at me.

THEODORE

Once during the war, father gave his preservation speech, at the dinner table. "The day is over for bloody butchery", he screamed. Cook dropped the entire pork.

KERMIT

I am not the man I should have been, I followed too long his way. And here I am the bloody soldier he made me.

By the red fire light we see tears on Kermit's face over the blood.

THEODORE

Buck up, brother. A Depression is a snap to fix. Only thing needed is a good joke.

KERMIT

It would have to be a really, really

good joke.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK NORTH, NEW YORK, MODEL A TRUCK -DAY

Through the windshield of a new 1930 truck. We see world explorer, Roy Hasp, he is driving with his right hand and has something long, grey and pointed in his left. Rossi in the center. Ed Woop hangs out the passenger window holding something.

ROY

(He pokes Rossi in a private place with the tip, and sings)

Me and my flivver,
tail and fender, seat and tender,
you love... my flivver...

ROSSI

(Sings)

Love happy, in my Merry Oldsmobile
You're the 'old'
I'll be the wife
and be you 'Mobile.
over all earth
I'll follow you.

ROY

Hear that Ed, next month and I'll be
flat bust married.

He pokes at Rossi's breast.

ROY

Rossi, give me a buss.

They kiss.

ROSSI

That's two weeks, brother. Tuesday.
We're married.

ED

At the zoo, I'll inquire if they can
keep me off the soup line.

We see it is an enormous tail that comes from out of the bed of the truck, tied on the head lamps and back into the

drivers side window.

ROSSI

Explore Club, next? You have your speech?

ROY HASP

They'll n't be listening to me. I'll rub their faces in'it and we'll go right on to the zoo.

ROSSI

Have you got the statement for the press?

ROY HASP

Pictures. They'll get it all, in the pictures. Ed, can we manage the beast? I want to give the old blowholes a start, but leave'em all breathing.

ED WOOP

Rossi will have to manage the tail, you and I at the head. One rope each, is enough.

The truck has the largest ever Komodo Dragon on it's flatbed. The head is muzzled and tied against the floor. The truck comes up to the Explore Club, passes it, then backs up to the high steps. The sidewalk is full of JOURNALISTS. The trio unties the dragon.

ROY

(Muttering)

Busted beast, dang broke hobbles.

ED

Pulling with all we got.

It pulls the men at it's head on up the steps and to the open front double doors. Rossi pulled by the long tail rope. A couple DOORMEN stand aside, incredulous.

ROY

Roy Hasp. The two o'clock speech? Komodo Dragon? 'Bring 'em back alive', Hasp.

The Dragon and men are far inside before the Doormen get

their senses. Rossi comes up holding the rope.

DOORMAN

(screaming)

No women, Never... No.. No. Women.

Rossi hands one of them the rope, he is ripped inside, we see the bottom of his feet. Through the front windows we see OLD MEN on tables and chairs, some toppling over, a STOUT ONE tries to crawl out of a window that will not open far enough. The press is in an uproar. Rossi comes to the top step, both arms out.

ROSSI

My husband, Roy Hasp, the greatest animal man, has captured, no conquered, the true meaning of our times. The dragon is alive. The end of killing is here. The Explore club is finished. Their day is done.

No women allowed! The great hunters, the cream of masculinity, leaders of all killers, are frightened of women. From this day on the domination of the world is going to be peaceful. Gargantuan, the Komodo Dragon, Pandas, all beasts and sea monsters are to be tamed for the sake of little children in zoos. What women represent scares the old gun men. The new way... Warriors from the War to end all Wars gave us peace. Women will lead the world from this point on. Peace will fill the earth.

As to my wedding... I have named the style I have designed Komodo off white...

EXT. SHANGHAI WHARF, SUNSET, -DAY

Even as a small war is raging, ships are being loaded. ZE is hiding behind trunks, the COOLIES work on. Bullets fly overhead. One of the CHINESE, doing a check off list, is bravely indifferent.

ZE

I need to see that the trunks get into the hole, then I will slip on. You have no idea how valuable they are.

CHINESE

One time. Ten dollars, we load them next.

ZE

You have no fear of the guns?

CHINESE

Long life is through movement, Jesus and Confucius. May the bullets not be for me.

ZE

May Chang Kei-chek protect you, with his mix, of Jesus and Confucius.

The shooting stops. Up the dock comes a JAPANESE PATROL, JEMI GO in charge. They walk up unseen by Ze. Jemi Go puts his rifle against Ze's head.

JEMI

Yes. At the boats, you said. Report there-so. I tell you, much there changed while you are gone. America dollar fall, America warships leave to be cut up. America Marines most away. So I not need so much report as I said. Change also I need to pay. You there-here, pay me.

ZE

I am getting on this ship to America.

JEMI

I am your master. I buy you like a sing-song girl. No America. You my agent, now.

ZE

You China warlord now, are you?

JEMI

Shanghai Prince, hereto there-fore. There-three, you tell me about the war forces at the gorges. There-two, you to be Japanese Spy. There-one, I make you corporal in my Dragons.

Jemi takes paper and pencil out of his coat.

ZE

Captain. You'll make me Captain.

JEMI

So...Hot hell, you Black Dragon Spy
Captain.

ZE

Give me the pencil.

Ze takes the paper and walks to the edge of the dock to
use a trunk for a table. He signs the paper.

JEMI

I there-be hard and good Master.

Ze steps back, off of the dock and disappears into the dark
water far below.

JEMI

Kill. Shoot!

The patrol shoot laying down and looking over the edge. We
think that ZE is under them. Jemi Go shoots right through
the dock.

JEMI

Spy. You are here to stay, we will kill
you. You dragon spy. You never leave
alive.

Damn hot, got by poison water snake I
hope.

EXT. MIDDLE OF RIVER; SIDE OF JUNK -NIGHT

Ze is slipping onto a medium sized junk.

ZE

Upriver? How far? How fast? How much?

MAO(V.O.)

Swimming end to end the finite Yantze,
a hundred junks, the jaded water ride.
Wind, wave pounding to the highest sky,

we flow as the river, unfurled and free.

INT. NEW YORK ROSSI'S OFFICE- DAY

Rossi sits at a designers work desk covered with society clippings of her wedding. Her helper ALICE is drawing patterns.

NEW YORK SOCIETY PAGES- HASP WEDDING- KOMODO GRAY- SERPENT CHIC MATRIMONY- BRIDE WORE LIZARD SKIN WHITE...

ROSSI

It was like a dream. Our gowns were perfection.

ALICE

You're a beauty. Bonny fair, tis to stare.

ROSSI

We had to get married you know.

ALICE

Nooo, arride, oh gloryful gay. Mommy at last.

They hug. But Rossi takes a cigarette from her 10 inch ashtray and grinds it out, on a newspaper picture of herself.

ROSSI

Roy is obsessed with leaving, vamoose. We spent twenty years getting ready and our whole world is to be wrought right now. Our baby, the marriage, his biggest...

ALICE

Piffle on him, I'll do the business with you. I'll change the baby, as necessary.

EXT. SZECHWAN MOUNTAIN TRAIL, -DAY

Bamboo is flowering, yellow fills the forest six feet high. Walnut size bamboo nuts cover the ground. ZE and CONG are

standing in a trail running with panda blood.

ZE

When we send the skeletons every single bone has to be included.

CONG

I know, especially the thumb. I have the bones all numbered.

ZE

In Chinese? The whole hands need to be dried. Spend some time there in Chengdu, get the hands dried. Complete so the museums can see the thumbs. I'll get the telegraphs sent, answer some old ones.

CONG

Are the hands mine? Do I get part of the money?

ZE

No, the organs only, what the museums do not want. Anything they ask for they get.

CONG

I'll have the paws dried where I have the liver and gallbladder dried. I been selling the heart and balls wet, more that way.

ZE

When you start getting too much yourself I'll have you pay the porters.

CONG

Better I put some organs into your soup. Inspire you, invigorate you.

Ze looks through tattered telegrams.

TELEGRAM- \$2000 ONLY! BOTH SKINS-

TELEGRAM- \$1200 GIANT PANDA SKIN, \$500-SKELETON.

TELEGRAM- PLEASE GUIDE EXPEDITIONARY,

MAY-JUNE

EXT. A PLANE CHINA CLIPPER NEW YORK-DAY

ROY and ROSSI are saying goodbye. ED is in the plane window. Roy looks very haggard and infirm.

ROY

I'm so sorry that I've got to do it now. I feel as if... if I don't go now... They've killed the last marsupial tiger in Tasmania. There's such a thing as the exact moment. Tomorrow's too late.

ROSSI

No, I'm sorry I have to stay and let you go alone. Don't let Ed be the buffoon.

ROY

This's my twelve o'clock. My delicate touch. A live panda. They want one so bad. To kill's 'ems easy, quick. But alive, is fragile, an egg, an omelet, a soufflé, less'an that. It's as if, only I, right now, can 'bring 'm back'... Ya' know a dozen have failed, now. Clumsy bums, wouldn't have got the reward, even if. Even if. I'm sorry that it must be now, this week, but... Plus, what with civil wars.

ROSSI

I will delicately keep us alive, our marriage, the baby safe. You keep my big baby well, alright? When you return with the panda, King Kong and Gargantuan will look tiny. We'll parade in the streets.

ROY

Life's all there is. There's no such thing as a dead panda. If 'em believe in'em 're dead. When the marsupial tiger died... Australia shrunk. Australia the man's now only four foot tall and I'm supposed to look'm in the eye. I refuse.

ROSSI

Roy, Roy, you will be making speeches

all too soon. When you get back.
EXT. BASE OF SNOWY MOUNTAINS- THE LONG MARCH-DAY

MAO (V.O.)
Asking the green hills of gray earth,
as all nature kills for their freedom,
who will give birth, amidst planet's
worst?

ZE is overlooking a mountain trail with stragglng TROOPS
from one distant peak to another.

TROOPS
(chant)
We convoy...we run away...we could
stay... they we delay...we can
annoy...till we destroy...

He is on a HORSE, with two TAKIN with him, strapped on
their backs are SKINNED PANDAS. Headless and pawless. He
has on black bear fur. A human hand lays on the ground. He
starts towards the ragged lines of TROOPS. Men come running
to Ze taking the animals away. The skinned pandas look as
if they might be human, the men consider this possibility.

TROOP
Is this to eat?

ZE
Do they look like people?

The soldier looks puzzled and worn.

ZE
It's meat.

The meat and pack animals are gone immediately.

EXT. CAMPFIRE, NIGHT

MAO ZETUNG stands by a fire, he is sick, and behind him
his wife lays in a sedan bed on the ground. A DOZEN MEN,
including LU, are listening to him. WANG, is in charge of
the tired men. YE looks the worst. TAO an ordinary soldier
takes away Ze's horse eagerly.

ZE

General Mao?

MAO

His horse is not to eat. Tao, take my wife's old horse forward, as high up on Snowy Mountain... feed it to the men.

Mao goes over to where his wife lays.

MAO

Kiss old comrade horse goodbye, he is going to serve forward on up the line, you have a new fresh horse to keep you.

The wife is carried off by her bearers in her litter. There is a litter for Mao, also

Mao turns back to Ze.

MAO

Leader Mao, teacher Mao Zetung. This is evening instruction in the communist way.
Meat will give life, better than bark and leaves. "Respect for women" teaching may take away a life. Who is the rapist?

WANG

It is Ye.

Ye a young boy, stands in misery with his head bowed.

MAO

Why, why? Did you not know we would know?

YE

The girl knew I am dying of starvation and cold. She said she wanted to make me feel better before I die, but she would not even kiss me.

MAO

You have been to, "Women, our equal comrades", meetings?

YE

Yes.

MAO

And if this was your sister?

YE

My five sisters were each drowned when
born, we were starving.

Mao has been in automatic, surfacing now his eyes grow wet.

MAO

(Beat)

Five, five. Lord, lord.

(Beat)

MAO

I have killed my five also. Sons, not
daughters, sons. I left my fifth son by
the trail today.

He has much more to say, but cannot.

WANG

Teacher? I have a reason to believe that
real rape never took place.

MAO

Why?

WANG

I don't believe that he knows how.

MAO

Ye, do you know how? Did you do the act
completely?

YE

I... maybe not?

MAO

How old are you Wang?

WANG

Eighteen.

MAO

Do you know how, Wang?

WANG

Well... no.

MAO

And the girl, how old is she.

WANG

Ten or twelve. Five dollars.

MAO

No, we are not solving problems with enslavement, women or otherwise. Execution deferred for a time perhaps... No, do it at the sunrise. Now as to the Bamboo bear rapist. Is that true? Do you rape the Bamboo bears just as the women are raped?

ZE

Like him, I am not sure. But you are saved because of events greater than myself. The pandas are dying not because of me but because the bamboos have flowered and died.

MAO

I have heard that. All the bamboos?

ZE

Every kind of our mountain bamboos, it's said, over all the earth. Flowered and died.

MAO

It is a sign. Flowering. Death. This is the end, you know. The extermination is on us. But new bamboo will be growing soon.

ZE

Not for the Bamboo bears to eat, not for years. They are all dying.

LU

Comrade Mao?

MAO

Lu?

LU

This man once saved me from the Japanese.

Ze turns in surprise.

ZE

Right. And now here I am a Japanese.

MAO

What?

ZE

I was forced to join the Japanese Marines. They are the reason... No. I am here because I believe in China.

MAO

The emperors, the Japanese, the nationalists, all believe in China.

ZE

Themselves, they believe in themselves. I believe in China before myself.

MAO

Are you a spy? It's true that I have killed many more of my own men than I have the enemy. It's my job. To clean the insides.

ZE

I am a spy in Shanghai. Like everyone else in Shanghai. A agent. I want to be your spy. I can tell you everything happening in the Szechwan.

MAO

We are going on. When we cross the Snowy Mountain, we... those that survive are going on to the Wall. Can you tell me what is on the other side of the mountain?

ZE

No. I want to join, I want to be an officer in the Red Army, in return I will tell the Japanese, the Nationalists, all Shanghai, what you want me to tell them.

MAO

The truth is fine. Tell them I kill our own. For that one, ten are willing to join us. Soon all China will follow us. To join means to give up everything. Tell them, that yes it is true, my wife rode on shoulders in a sedan today. But she gave birth last night. And lost her son today. Tell them I have sacrificed my sons with my soldiers.

ZE

I've left everything behind and come to these mountains, for the sake of China.

MAO

You understand that if you are not with us you are against us?

ZE

I'll say what you want me to.

MAO

You will give your life for the comrades.

ZE

Yes.

MAO

So then you will be a double agent.

ZE

Triple. American navy. Maybe still.

MAO

Lord, you see why it is wiser to just cut off heads.

ZE

Will you write out a commission for me?

MAO

Not everyone can be an officer.

ZE

I was made a Captain in the Japanese Marines and I didn't even want to join.

MAO

We have no paper. If I do this you must burn every poppy field.

Ze cuts off a piece of his leather shirttail and Mao writes on it with a ink brush.

ZE

The fields are dry and ready to harvest.

MAO

So our lesson today was more about spying and rape than about respect for women. Reading lesson next.

Ze takes his leather scrap and slips away, hiking off, while the soldiers learn to read around the fire, using sticks in the dirt.

INT. ROSSI'S DESIGN STUDIO, - NEW YORK -DAY

ROSSI has drawings everywhere. From simple 30's dresses to Komodo inspired gowns to black and white extravagances. Her helper, ALICE is at a world globe.

ALICE

Gawd, gawd, they're trapped in Shanghai, til Roy is better.

ROSSI

I needed to go the moment he hinted. I have to go to him right now. Ed will be out on the town, worthless. Roy is all alone.

ALICE

The cashed checks, are already for half the money. A lot for guides. A guide from the mountains, a river guide, an English guide for every town. Only one is on the map.

ROSSI

God dang, whoring Ed. I have to get there. Flying is too dangerous, let's put me on the largest cargo ship to Shanghai. Within two months, we might hope? That will mean I'll have the baby in Shanghai.

ALICE

Oh, lord.

INT. SHANGHAI PRISON CELL.-NIGHT

ZE looks close to death. He is being scrubbed down. JEMI and LIN are in good suits. JAPANESE SOLDIERS are in uniforms.

ZE

You know more then I know.

JEMI GO

Few weeks soften up prisoners. Like tofu smell, ripe and rot. Everyone there to know he's Black Dragon.

LIN

We get him on the town. We use his money, we shoot him if he tries anything, and we and he shall meet every important person in Shanghai; French, English, Japanese, each quarter.

JEMI

Ze, you pay swell for what we find tonight.

EXT. RIVERFRONT; THE BUNN- NIGHT

Against the river, Western civilization in Asia has a full

nightlife. Ze is in a Blue Japanese Captain uniform, noted by all. Jemi and Lin drag him along. Talking to everyone they see.

LIN

What is new for five dollars? Five dollars for ship locations. Ten? Ten dollars for ship schedules. Twenty?

Ze is still not cognizant really. His face begins bleeding again. They go from the English to the French to the Russian hotels and bars, where Lin and Jemi publicly make offers to anyone that will listen for information of intrigues.

JEMI

Japanese Marines, fastest fighters in Shanghai. Our fast man. Punch him, he quick duck.

JEMI holds Ze, and pours a bottle of liquor over Ze's head. An AMERICAN slugs Ze a haymaker in the jaw.

AMERICAN

He don't even flinch.

INT. SHANGHAI BAR,- NIGHT

At an American hotel bar the BARTENDER is throwing them out. SAILORS and SING SONG girls are the clients.

BARTENDER

Dirty Black Dragon spies, you stay away from Americans. Leave my boys alone.

JEMI

A-k, but remember our face.

Lin pushes Ze into the man's face. They knock over a pitcher of beer.

LIN

Sorry, Ze here make you sorry, someday.

A sailor grabs Lin.

SAILOR

Why did you do that?

LIN
Accident. Accident...

SAILOR
Accidents!? No one thinks you boys kill
so many by mistakes.

JEMI
We are Black Dragons. No one knows if we
will kill you or pay you.

That is the last straw they are ejected through the doors,
as Rossi staggers up towards them. Clad in an outrageous
costume that might have made for the Macado Operetta. Ze is
close to passing out. Jemi and Lin try to hold him up.

JEMI
Help a Black Dragon?

She reaches out to help Ze. They look straight at each
other. The Japanese drop Ze. He slips, goes over a hand
rail into the grass. His face into mud. The spies kick at
him.

JEMI
Black Dragon spies did good in Shanghai
tonight.

Rossi comes inside.

ROSSI
(Slurring)
Free beer for any American here in
Shanghai longer than three months.

That seems to be everyone. Rossi is waving a snapshot.

ROSSI
You have to look at my picture to get
the beer.

SAILOR
Le'me see, doll.

EXT. SHANGHAI STREET, AMERICAN QUARTER-NIGHT

The Japanese are gone. The ENGLISH POLICE are cleaning drunks up off of the street. A small fenced park is in the background, posted on the gate is the sign in five languages, Chinese on top:

NO CHINEE ALLOWED. OR DOGS!

Rossi staggers out the club. As Ze is dropped on top of a four foot high pile of drunks awaiting the paddy wagon. He focuses as their eyes meet.

ROSSI

Here is to the misery of humanity. I with nothing, no husband, no baby. A toast to those of you who go to meet death halfway. "And Rachel cried out because her children were no more."

As Rossi toasts with a beer bottle, a enormous thirties limo roars towards her. Hands reach out and pull her into the car.

VOICE(O.S.)

Are you bonkers, woman? You're not to be alone hereabout. Your death'll catch you unawares.

INT. TAILOR SHOP, -DAY

Ze is huddled on a tiny stool in a far corner of the tailor shop. Still bleeding in his Japanese uniform covered with stains and vomit. Rossi comes in clad in regalia.

ROSSI

I have brought you just a few more designs. I must just gush over your work, the execution is so exquisite. I imagine you have a suit or two ready for me.

TAILOR

So sorry Rossi. We are working on rush order. This gentleman has important need.

ROSSI

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't... Bubby, it's you!

ZE

I am getting a complete city wardrobe. And sets of hunting togs. Only one suit today.

TAILOR

We do have one design ready to fit, Rossi.

Rossi goes behind the counter and before she reaches the back room she pulls off her substantial gown, and then goes behind a door. Ze has quietly jumped up to stand on the stool to get a good view. Rossi comes out in a bare shoulder gown.

TAILOR

You the lady. The Ling Long lady,! Ha!

ROSSI

I let Ling Long women and sing song girls hold my hand when I set up my designs.

(Looking down her nose,
over her bare shoulder)

You know, some spies disguise their smells as well as their costumes.

ZE

I have an involved plan to do just that in a secret hotel room.

ROSSI

How goes the spying job today?

ZE

Worse for wear.

ROSSI

Your English is hep on the mark, brother.

ZE

California.

ROSSI
Japanese spy from America?

ZE
Complications upon convolutions.

ROSSI
My new dress is one sweet honey, thank
you.

ZE
Much better.

ROSSI
What?

ZE
Better, looks, style. The new thing...

ROSSI
Better than what I had on?

ZE
Yes, oh I mean...

ROSSI
Better than what I had on last night?

ZE
Well, neither of us...

ROSSI
You look as last night. Less drool equal
froth.

ZE
No, no. I mean that you look better than
me. Me?

ROSSI
Too late. Too little, you.

Rossi gathers up her large gown she was wearing and leaves.

INT. AMERICAN HOTEL DESK, -SHANGHAI- NIGHT

Ze in his new tux, comes down from his room looking much rested and clean.

ZE

I should have a draft in my name here?

CLERK

Yes sir.

The clerk pulls out the mail, and hands Ze a letter.

ZE

Sharp. I'll need to cash it. And see this name signed there, is that Ed Wiip, Ed Wiilp, any one? Ed Woop?

CLERK

There was an Ed Woop here, the explorer. but he has gone missing this month.

ZE

Is that right? Well, if you see him.

Ze is putting a lot of money in his pocket, as Rossi comes in well dressed in a self designed 24 inch hat, ready for dinner.

ZE

You are stunning today. Your clothes also.

ROSSI

Coming from you that means so much.

ZE

I have disguised my smell and rank, somewhat. Would you have dinner with...

ROSSI

Bud, I can endure anyone's company for dinner. Try to wheedle my secrets, you.

ZE

I need to warn you I have been in prison for three weeks, and I'm near starved. I will most likely eat like an animal. I'll do my best to eat slow, but the

drool, foam and froth will continue.

They take a table by the window. The very rich watching the rabble rushing by outside.

ROSSI

I, myself have lost all traces of civilized manners, herein this depth of despair in darkest China.

ZE

Shanghai is China at it's shiniest.

ROSSI

In my last three months I have lost my husband, buried in a hole in China, lost my baby, I imagine thrown overboard in the odious China Sea. Oh my god.

She looks about in despair. We wonder at her soundness of mind. She sees a MOTHER and sleeping BABY. The baby holds a bottle.

ROSSI

(crying)

A baby, oh, I need the bottle.

To the mother.

ROSSI

She is the most precious baby. Do you have other bottles? Sell me the bottle? Five dollars? Ten American?

The woman comes and holds her.

MOTHER

It will be ok, its ok.

ROSSI

I have lost my baby! Please, I need a bottle. Twenty...

MOTHER

Think nothing about it. It is my gift to you.

The Mother places the bottle onto Rossi's shoulder, as if to comfort her.

ROSSI

(Brightens)

Thank you, thank you, you do not know how much I need this.

Rossi clears up and quickly puts the bottle into her bag.

ZE

Proper conduct is not easy. I have been in the mountains with the bandits and beasts for years. The last proper missionary lady I talked to was three years ago in Fukien.

ROSSI

What?

ZE

What?

ROSSI

What? Where did you say?

ZE

Where? Oh, Fukien province.

ROSSI

What?

She looks out the window and sees Ed Woop.

ROSSI

Whoa, whoa, it's damn Ed Woop.

Up she goes and with her huge dress clearing her way, runs out the door. Ze follows.

EXT. STREET OF HOTEL, -NIGHT

The street is filled with RUNNING SCREAMING MOB. Bombers are overhead. Ze is behind Rossi. In the distance Ed Woop waves jauntily, runs on, and then is lost in the crowd.

ROSSI

Dang, dang, god dang Woop..

ZE

Woop? Did you say Ed Woop? The come to China, big American explorer?

ROSSI

You know Woop, too?

ZE

I have a cable from him. I just cashed his retainer.

QUIET, crowds gone.

ROSSI

My retainer. That's my money.

ZE

He was very generous.

ROSSI

He hired you for a Japanese guide?

ZE

Oh, no. I am not Japanese.

ROSSI

You seem to find their uniforms attractive.

ZE

They think I am their spy.

ROSSI

So does everyone.

ZE

They do don't they?

ROSSI

Why- did- you- get- my- money- from- Ed?

ZE

He hired me to get an animal for him. Have you ever heard of a Panda?

ROSSI

You are the Panda guide? Are you Ze Song? I thought it was the, all look alike thing.

ZE

(Nodding)

I need to eat badly, and a drink.

ROSSI

Not just a drooling, Zongy.

SILENCE, however the sky turns white. The hotel loses one wall. Then EXPLOSIONS are followed by the patter of falling building parts. The street holds flaming autos and dead bodies. (A Life magazine picture of a stalwart baby in the rubble.) Rossi does not see the baby, she is looking up at the opened rooms in the hotel.

ROSSI

That is where my room was.

There are burning clothes floating down, her huge gowns.

ROSSI

These are Roy's.

She picks up a pair of army boots. Puts them on.

ROSSI

(Matter-of-factly,
but addressing heaven)

And now I have nothing, no one. Do you ever feel as if you are above it all? Like you are on some other plane, from the others?

A coolie lies dying a few feet away.

ROSSI

This is it. I have to go on one way or back the other. How about if we do not take the four cages, six tons of supplies, twenty four coolies, som' bitch Woop. All his expeditionary truck, even if I paid for it all. Could I go

with you?

ZE

Twelve days to my camp. If we hurry, the boats are all going to be leaving. Just the clothes on our backs.

ROSSI

You think the tailor is awake? Ho!

EXT. THE STEAM BOAT, SHANGHAI DOCK- NIGHT

Ze still wears his tux. Rossi is in a tight silk dragon lady dress, with hiking boots and self designed hat. Master Tiff is scratching his head.

TIFF

Oh, yes. We are hastening alright.

ROSSI

Have you got good cabins for us?

TIFF

For you.

ROSSI

And for the Japanese spy?

EXT. SHIP STAIR, -DAY

Rossi sits on the top step dressed in the China slit dress, slit about half way. Ze at the bottom looking up.

ROSSI

Well, it is ok by me if you sneak up to my cabin, to use the bed.

ZE

I am easy with the Chinese deck. You know I can see all the way to Shangri-La.

ROSSI

So you do admit a desire to assent to paradise?

TIFF

The Japanese are saying the bombing was

a mistake.

ROSSI

Are they very sorry?

Boys on a junk are chanting at the boat.

ZE

The 'white devil' chant.

ROSSI

Poor beasties, poor devils themselves.
Look here.

The 'blue willow' island we have seen once before comes out
of the mist.

ROSSI

Oh perfection, simply the end of the
world. What must it be like to live
there?—

TIFF

Come see for yourself, I'm leaving
supplies for the missionary home there.

Ze in his tux, Rossi in her huge city gown, come onto the
dock. They are met by MOST WORSHIPFUL RIGHT REVEREND who
leaves with COOLIES taking away supplies and the MISTRESS
that is glad to see them.

ROSSI

Oh your home is so perfect. We simply
must meet the proprietors of Eden.

MISTRESS

I am so glad that you have called in, my
husband the Most Right Worshipful
Reverend, invites such a few of the
Americans that I feel most alone.

ROSSI

I surely feel that I must know you. Have
you been to the parties in New York?

MISTRESS

I'm afraid it seems to me sometimes, as
if the only parties I have ever

attended are my own tea parties. We do have the most wonderful selection of the best of the world's teas. Nevertheless, our sweets are horrid, sugar and flour so scarce, of late.

ROSSI

Yet your world be so exquisite, so happy.

MISTRESS

I suppose... I am really. My appreciation is so inferior, what with the unrest.

ROSSI

Have you opium tea? I have been told it is the wonderment of the poppies.

MISTRESS

Oh no, the weed might even be illegal. The heathens, you should know.

ROSSI

I'm surprised. I quite did fancy they'd be commingling within your florid Eden.

MISTRESS

Forbidden, indeed.

ROSSI

We are on to the mountains ourselves. After the wild giant panda. Still choosing our routes, it seems that they all died away in the last few years. The great panda famine.

MISTRESS

The Most Right has often excursed to the mountains hunting, I could inquire?

ROSSI

(Pulls out hand
drawn map)

So kind. I do not know even the language. My guide is half American, you see.

MISTRESS

Oh my, how sad.

ROSSI

I was wondering as to the places I have heard of. Fo ling, fa ling, do you? Say Peking p ging? So much to learn... I know we are going to come to the city Fooking soon, so. Is this fa, or fe? Foo or Fa? Ling or king? If this is Foo king, then is this?

The conversation fades away. Tea has been consumed, Ze is standing in the corner, helping the servants. The Most Right arrives, from the garden. With fruit and flowers.

MISTRESS

This is the New York Social Designer, just widowed Rossi Hasp, with her servant.

ROSSI

Oh great, holy, most, right, best Rev...

MOST RIGHT

Oh, no, noo, no... Right Reverend is most sufficient. We are only here. China is not a place to be formal.

MISTRESS

They are thinking about going on to what now?... Fu king fa king, I told them you might know it. Fa king

ROSSI

Is it fucking, Fukien, fooling? It's a village with pandas?

MOST RIGHT

(Bright red, sweating)

What, where oh the map. Oh no! Say fooling ah, much better, fooling, foo-ling about the pondas. Dear.

(Whispers in his wife's ear)

ROSSI

(Very nonchalantly,
staring into his eyes)
So what do you think of fu-c-king, a
good idea? Shall we do it?

MOST RIGHT
(Sweating nervous,
almost suspicious)
The province is south, the mountain town
is west through the civil war likely.
One Foo Jink. One Fa ling. Oh, no. Your
boat is leaving, hurry to get your. Ah.
Boat.

Rossi and Ze stroll hand in hand to the boat.

ZE
I see evil in your eye. Do you play the
viper in Eden?

ROSSI
To them, you mean. Oh, no. I felt better
than them, and I still do. So superior
to them yet inferior to the servants. I
think I am having a cultural attack of
some kind. Where I am dizzy and might
just fall on my cultural ass. Did I come
close, in there?

That this is all very sexual hits Ze, he grins, and puts
his arm around her waist, then his hand on her bottom.

ZE
Cultured ass? Yep... They would throw me
in the rapids if they caught me on the
upper deck.

ROSSI
Right.

EXT. STEAMBOAT AT THE GORGES-DAY

Rossi, Ze, and Tiff on upper deck.

TIFF
We will be going back down river, the
fighting is over.

ROSSI
So what do we do?

ZE
I think a junk would be best, if anyone was watching us. We can get whatever at the gorges.

ROSSI
I understand there is nothing to buy.

ZE
The famine means there is nothing for sale, or else anything and everything.

ROSSI
I am going to try trading. I'll meet you at the junk in a bit.

EXT. INT. GORGES,-RAIN- JUNK PULLED BY TRACKERS.-SUNSET

The crowd inside the boat push Ze and Rossi together. Rossi has gone native, Chinese clothes and straw sandals, her original hat, in hand. It is so crowded they are cheek to cheek intertwined. Not kissing, but thrustingly aroused.

ROSSI
The boat rocks, you like a rock, enough talk. Ah, comfort as comfortable as can be.

Ze and Rossi sleep. Rossi dreams. She is at the 'blue willow' castle island, Ze and their children play. It is a perfect world. She drinks opium tea as she watches. A panda sits in the yard. She looks at a snapshot, of herself when she is quite old! The sound of bombers causes herself in the picture to grow younger. She looks up, the bombers are gray dragons, she awakes.

EXT. SMALL JUNK, SMALL RIVER BANK.-DAY

Ze and Rossi sit on the boat, their feet in the water. The boat is tied to the bank. A number of families are on the bank begging. For food not money.

ROSSI

Could you ask those folk on the bank what they want? They disturb me. They are so frantic, will you go ask them. I think I'll go back to the boat and bribe the cook to sell me something to eat.

The thin father and mother on the bank are in rags, their naked brown boy is playing in the water. He is a very small nine.

ZE

Oh, they are trying to sell their son. I looked at him.

ROSSI

My god... the boy? why? What possible...

ZE

A famine. They've no food. They're sure he'll die.

ROSSI

Do they think he will better off as a slave?

ZE

Sure. I'll ask how much. How much?

We understand their answer, even though they are far away. Only a few words reach us. Rossi does not understand the language.

ZE

Token amount, four half dollars. They say that they will give the money to the Party. Not too much the sacrifice, what with there being no food to buy. They ask also a fix.

ROSSI

Fix?

ZE

For the wife, opium for her misery.

ROSSI

I will buy him for you. Then when I buy food from the cook, you steal rice from him. For them.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL-DAY

They come up the bamboo trail, with plenty of coolies and supplies. KEEN, the slave boy, has a rifle. The coolies and Cong have muskets. The coolies carry a sedan chair loaded with ropes. Ze's tux is the worse for wear. Rossi is in Chinese clothes and straw sandals, her odd hat. They pass an entire Tibetan tribe, women and children and yaks. The two groups stop and intermingle.

ROSSI

What are they? Tibetans? From Shangri-La.

ZE

I can not make out why they are here. The tribal slave woman there, is for sale.

The slave girl has on a fancy embroidered Tibetan costume dress that leaves one ruddy breast uncovered but framed.

ROSSI

Her husband must be dead. They want to negotiate a high price, I imagine.

ZE

I think that they'll want twenty silver half Chinese dollars.

ROSSI

And you are not going to buy her?

ZE

It takes all my time taking care of my one slave that I own. Keen, hold that rifle correctly or stow it.

Keen, the slave boy, is pretending to shoot the Tibetans with the real rifle. Cong comes over to deal with him. Keen has on Rossi's silk slit dress.

ROSSI

But a woman, you don't want to own a woman?

ZE

I would feed her forever? I would never buy a woman. Keen, I'll only feed a few years.

ROSSI

So, a slave costs too much, but I am free. A free, White and right here woman.

ZE

If there is no food then the unmarried women and girls will all be for sale. Perhaps the old women as servants.

ROSSI

And they are only five or ten dollars. What if I bought them and set them free.

ZE

Trouble! Like the Communists.

ROSSI

How's that?

ZE

If Communists set the peasants free, next, either the old landlord is killed or the peasants. If you bought these women and set them free, likely they would have to sell themselves to someone who would feed them. The singsong girls of Shanghai.

ROSSI

Give me all your, my, silver. I'll do it my way.

EXT. BAMBOO HUT, SUSHAN MOUNTAINS, -DAY

The Tibetan slave girl's dress fits Rossi after a fashion, it is short and tight on her.

ROSSI

I left the girl, I only took her dress.

ZE

(Agasp)

Busting free! Did any coolie see you?

ROSSI

I gave them a fair price for the girl. I think that they understood they are to save her for you. You are to get her someday.

ZE

Are you serious?

ROSSI

I think they got that idea.

ZE

They might save her for years, she might never be married?

ROSSI

You are going to go back to America, then?

ZE

You treated her like the Japanese treat China.

ROSSI

I got the dress without the girl, eh? You love it. You liked my silk Shanghai - all the way to Shangri-La, ha?

ZE

I never ate apple pie in America or learned to ride a bike.

ROSSI

I feel life inside me. First time in ages.

ZE

Life up here is sparse but that makes it

more intense.

ROSSI

A spark of life but strong like a electric spark. Are all small lives weak, do you think?

ZE

You really feel life?

ROSSI

I do. I feel a New World beginning.

ZE

I think that I would appreciate a beautiful new life.

ROSSI

Will the panda eat the opium?

ZE

I doubt it. They are picky eaters.

ROSSI

We'll tie him to a tree, he gets hungry, we feed him opium, he sleeps, we truss him into a ball, carry him home in the chair!

That rhododendron bush looks so homey. Come home to me, my Rhododendron heaven.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL- DAY

Late spring is in full abundance in the hills. Rhododendrons blooming. The six scouts are carrying muskets, powder loads on their belts. They have a sedan being carried by two coolies, but everyone is walking. The sedan is filled with ropes.

ROSSI

I can't go on. Huff, Huff. Can't get my breath.

ZE

Thin air. Go with it.

ROSSI

Go? I think I am getting a headache.

ZE

Do what I suggest?

ROSSI

Ok?

ZE

Run, run with all you have. Keep up with me.

ROSSI

I'll try.

ZE

Like the wind. Wind in your gorges. Wind in your pipes.

ROSSI

God, I can't.

ZE

More, little more.

ROSSI

My head, throbbing. I'm stopping.

ZE

Just to the glade, make it to the glade.

ROSSI

Oh, oh, the pain.

They throw themselves down on thick wild strawberry plants.

ZE

Where's the hurt?

ROSSI

The outside of the inside of my head. I see black, flashes of black. Blind strips of time.

ZE

Right, right that's it. You got it. The black is it. You got altitude. You are

into too high, air.

ROSSI
That's it? That is your point?

ZE
Still got the black?

ROSSI
Still just like black hell.

ZE
All right roll over, see the
strawberries?

ROSSI
Plants, I see black, then plants, then
black.

ZE
Tiny tiny dots or red.

ROSSI
Ok, flashes of black turning to red,
looks like it might be blood inside my
eyeball or brain, maybe.

ZE
No, nooo, in the real world, see the
strawberries by your nose.

ROSSI
They are too small to be strawberries,
they are moving still also, bugs?

ZE
They're berries. Eat one.
No, no hands, eat it like a animal.

ROSSI
Wow, God the taste. The taste is so
strong.

ZE
You are there, the altitude pleasure.
Pain and no oxygen brings you right up
against sharp realness. The hard

mountain. The hard real taste of purity.

ROSSI

The best strawberry I've even tasted,
the strongest, smallest ever.

ZE

No hands, you are a creature of the thin
air. You are floating thousands of feet
above sea level while on the ground.
Mountain ground is as thin as mountain
air is, you know. Can you still feel it?

ROSSI

Across the top of my brain, down into
the top of my belly. About the same spot
where I feel for you.

ZE

Kidneys, when I feel real happiness it
is in my kidneys, in the small of my
back.

ROSSI

Do you feel me somewhere?

ZE

In our hut. No, serious?

ROSSI

Serious.

ZE

I most often feel you in your butt.

ROSSI

No, no do you feel me somewhere in your
self?

ZE

Yes, yes. Kidding. It starts in the back
walls of my lower stomach... and moves.

ROSSI

Moves?

ZE

Moves down... down here!
He grabs his crotch. Rossi puts her hands up to cover her mouth. And then Ze grabs her crotch.

ZE

Then it moves to here!

ROSSI

Careful, be careful. Do not do that!

ZE

You have been liking it.

ROSSI

Things have changed. I have been feeling something new.

ZE

You don't love me anymore?

ROSSI

More than that.

ZE

More than loving me?

ROSSI

Yes. More than that.

ZE

We are just business partners? It is just business?

ROSSI

Love, it is still love. I feel something not for you, but from you. Growing not in my heart, in my hearth. I can feel a...

ZE

What? You know what? Yet.

ROSSI

You showed me your inside world. The dizzy heights and blackout tastes?

ZE

Sure.

ROSSI

Let me show you mine. The sun is so bright, it will work well. Lean into my eyes. Not in my shadow, look in my eye. Look until you see yourself. Can you see your reflection in my pupil? Focus close.

Ze leans in close then back, his eyes focusing. ROSSI's eye fills the screen. Her pupil holds a beautiful image of Ze. Her iris holds a thousand bright metallic glints and striations. The pupil blows up and down according to her pleasures.

ROSSI

Can you see your own face?

ZE

Yes.

ROSSI

Are you beautiful?

ZE

I am.

ROSSI

That is how I see you, you know, all nose. No does your nose look big? Too close. Back away, till your nose looks straight. Now wink at me. See it? I feel it , I feel it in my stomach. You tell me when I feel it, ok?

Her pupil responds to his breath. It trembles with her own heartbeat, but also it opens in time to the sound of Ze's breathing. His lips open and framing them, her black pupil keeps time to the lips movements, the tip of his pink tongue shows and Rossi's pupil expands beyond the screen edges.

ROSSI

Think about your eye now. Your pupil.

Ze's eye is browns and golds, the black is deep velvet that reflects. We see shadows flicker far inside. On the reflective surface, Ze's pupil throbs as each image of

Rossi's cheekbone, breasts, and legs display.

ZE

I respond to... your skin. Your touch.
Your hands.

His pupil explodes like waves, big, bigger, bigger again.

ZE

What I like best is the flared eyes. The
eyes big, showing white.

Rossi flares her eyes, tossing her hair and Ze's SCREAM
fills the forest.

ROSSI

One last time.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLIFF-DAY

The panda is cornered against a cliff. She charges like a tiger, then back away, she is serious, she would kill if she could. The scouts all have their old muskets swung back like clubs. The Panda seems to move and growl more like a lion than a bear. Ze takes the rope and throws it at it. Misses, again misses. The rope is going right over the neck when the bear bats it away and comes at Ze very fast, bats him eight feet into the air. Turns to bite him in the head when several muskets go off, one two three, four, the Panda lies dying, five, dead. Keen comes running up, shoots, almost hits Ze.

ROSSI

Oh, hell-god, oh dang.

The panda is being skinned down the trail. Ze is also down there swabbing at his bloody spots, Rossi in the foreground sobbing, against a Rhododendron.

ZE

(Yelling)

I am going to be fine... They can carry
me back... In a few months... I'll be
able to walk again... most likely. I'll
hunt again.

ROSSI
Sob... Sob... Sob...

We hear a tiny meow.

ROSSI
Sob...

RHODODENDRON
meow

ROSSI
Sob... Are there cats up here? Cats?

RHODODENDRON
meow, meow

ROSSI
Ze, Ze I've found a baby. look, look.
It's wonderful. Another baby, another.

With one breath it is as if Rossi climaxes and then goes into the state of repose. With eyes closed, she knows how the mother of all the earth feels.

ZE
What did ... do you mean?

Ze is able to hobble over. The panda baby is smaller than we would imagine a panda baby should be. Yet real and active. It has an expression of loss and sorrow but expects to be taken care of. Ze is indifferent to the common baby panda. It is of no value to him. However Rossi knows something that he does not.

ROSSI
I have the solution, no ropes, no cages,
no hell-god slow boat from China, back
home. I am flying out of here. I am
taking my two babies and I will be home
by...

ZE
Are you asking me to come?

ROSSI

(Batting eyes)

Are you willing? Tickets are twelve hundred? Plus Chungdu to Shanghai, San Francisco to New York. We will spare no expense.

ZE

(Beat)

Am I your baby?

ROSSI

(Beat)

No... I... did not mean... you.

They softly stare at each other. Rossi unblinking. Ze blank until he blinks. Rossi starts rocking the baby in her arms. She rolls her hips, she spreads her breasts. Ze breathes very slowly and thoughtfully. She slowly pulls the baby bottle out from somewhere and places the bottle in the bears mouth, he gulps. Ze gulps. Then the pain hits, he grimaces and turns away.

ROSSI

Yours... You did it all.

ZE

I won't be coming, my place is in China. What no matters. But sure, let's put you on the litter.

EXT, DOWNHILL TRAIL, -DAY

Cong and Keen walk hand in hand. Rossi is being carried in the litter, absorbed with her baby. Ze is hardly able to keep up, limping and injured. His tux is shredded rags. Rossi holds out the bottle. Both are kind of pouting.

ZE

(Referring to himself)

The Panda is here because he wants to be, in order to live here he has to put up with bamboo, this place is what made the panda, not the food.

ROSSI

They need to get out, travel, meet people, try new foods.

ZE

I've been made by this place. What keeps me alive is the panda, they are my food. I eat what is here, rather than leave.

ROSSI

Goose... Wild geese, they mate for life, and stay together, to stay together you best be able to fly. Birds can. You can not stay together living like a panda. Mate once a year if that. You could fly, you could join me. Pandas sit in the dirt. For life.

ZE

(Limps, stumbles)

The new planes often do not make it over the mountains, the bi-planes are safer.

ROSSI

You are better than this place. Better than being a hunter in these mountains. You could do so much better.

ZE

Are you better? You think that you are too good for this place.

ROSSI

I am. I have never met a time and place I am not superior to.

ZE

I am less than these mountains. I think that the bears are less than this place. I think that they chose life here. In order to stay here they had to eat bamboo. They could eat much better elsewhere but to stay here they made sacrifices. Well so do I.

ROSSI

The bears are trapped here. They can never leave now.

ZE

Pandas, they must live alone. There is not enough food, for them to live in the same valley. In order to live here they have to give up everything but the place. The proof is that they can eat other things if they want to, but they stay here. Even when the bamboo is gone they stay, and starve. They die rather than leave their hillsides. Even without the bamboo they stay.

ROSSI

Alright then, here! Get this filled, ok?

Rossi has held the bottle towards Ze's face, as the coolies take steps the bottle came ever closer. Rossi thrusts the bottle, finally to his lips.

EXT. ROUGH AIR STRIP, CHUNGDU, -DAY BREAK

The plane seems the same as the China Clipper. Ze and Rossi are in a large covered tube on two poles, it is filled with pillows. They are carried by four coolies. Light is coming, yet it is still too early to see what Ze and Rossi are doing.

ZE

One more time.

ROSSI

You've had too much 'bill and coo', bud.

ZE

So solid like, horse hind.

ROSSI

Hey?

ZE

Hold still. Oh god so soft and warm like yak butter with a skin on it. Warm yak butter.

ROSSI

Poetry.

ZE

Let me.

ROSSI

Enough, we are there.

ZE

I can't quit, I have to have more. Don't leave.

ROSSI

A good soldier does his job.

ZE

One more time.

ROSSI

You can hold me, That is enough.

ZE

No, It is not enough. Let me feel again. God, it's not enough.

ROSSI

One last...

It grows lighter so we can make out the panda sleeping, Ze and Rossi separating as they are put down by the coolies.

ROSSI

I will be back, I get there this week. I'll see if I can get back here before the winter.

ZE

The war is heating up, all three groups wanting war. No telling about the Russians, the French, the English, even the Americans. I can see anything happening. I will not be easy to find, if I am wrong, if there is no war send telegrams to me in Chunking. If the war gets bad I am thinking of either Tibet

or Peking.

EXT. SHANGHAI AIRPORT, CHINA CLIPPER-DAY

Rossi is at a table in front of the plane. The Japanese are in charge. Rossi holds the Panda in one arm as she is filling out papers. An officer watches. There are a few more passengers, including a motherly NEW YORKER. For some reason Rossi is hardly able to contain her fury.

CLERK

It is a what?

ROSSI

A dog

CLERK

Yes, a dog. The airplane is ok?

ROSSI

Yes they are happy for me.

CLERK

What is it?

ROSSI

A dog.

CLERK

I think you do not know what dog...

ROSSI

I know. Dogs come in all sorts. This is a puppy. It is a shit- is - you-. All right.

CLERK

What is it?

ROSSI

Shit-is -you!

OFFICER

Is there a problem?

NEW YORKER

She has a rare dog. The sort once owned by the emperor. She has already paid the

tariff for the puppy.

OFFICER

Get her on the plane.

They walk to the plane as Rossi holds the cubby like a baby and the woman has her arm around Rossi. As they enter the plane Rossi turns back and under the roar of the engines she insults the Japanese.

ROSSI

(Screaming)

You, yes you. My question is do you cut the breasts off before you have sex with them or after? Or do you kill them before you have sex with them or after? You love it in blood, do you?

Rossi goes into a full blown hysteria. She is strapped into the seat by force.

NEW YORKER

Come along dear. You are fine. It is just war. Nanking is not your concern. Your Panda is all that matters, now. We will be in New York in a week.

The plane is taxiing off

NEW YORK, PHOTO SHOOTS. KEYS TO THE CITY.

INT. EXPLORE CLUB-DAY

Journalists swarm around outside, calling out to speak to Miss Hasp. Rossi comes on in armed with only a sawdust bear. Her black and white suit is inspired. She is not thin around the waist. The ceiling is fifteen feet high, the stuffed polar bear and Kodiak that look to be attacking her from both sides are touching that ceiling. Stuffed animal heads line the dark walls. Stuffed OLD COOTS and CURMUDGEONS, with big white handlebar mustaches line the chairs and tables.

ROSSI

Who on the earth rules the mountain tops? Birds? God on Zion? Zeus on Olympus? We have found only two. Thirty

years ago the Mountain Gorilla was discovered and less than ten years ago the Panda was located for sure. Hunters and explorers are only tourists in the mountain realms of the

CURMUDGEON 1

Excuse me. No Panda?

ROSSI

Ah... Mountain peaks. Pandas are the king of their heights. The strongest

CURMUDGEON 1

You brought us a sawdust panda?

ROSSI

Pandas chose to live over the clouds, chose to live above the meat eaters

CURMUDGEON 2

You were not invited. Your panda was sent the invitation.

ROSSI

(dazzling smile)

I would not bring life into these hallowed halls. I knew that the only animals here have been dead for years, if not decades.

(points to the giant stuffed bears and heads on the walls but means the old men)

That being the case, I brought

CURMUDGEON 2

Your panda was invited.

ROSSI

Think about it, you do not really want a live woman here, you would rather have a

(Smile)

sawdust one. You know you are frightened.

(Curmudgeons sputter, talks right over them)

You can not shoot me, skin me, cage me.

You are correct to fear us, it is not only I that am your better. All, all women do you better. Men once brought in the food.

Small laughter begins, in the audience

ROSSI

(Exudes smiles and charm)

Women took that over so that the food was grown, and better prepared. Men once got the clothing, or furs, I should say. But women did clothing, so superior. They fit, you could move. Clothes now are pretty.

(Twirls)

Pandas do not wear their colors for camouflage, but to be seen. Their black and white contrast is. It's their lions mane, their tigers strips, their women's Designs. Plumage is the sign they have power enough for wonder and magic in their own selves. Self pride.

CURMUDGEON 2

You're to tell us about panda clothes?

ROSSI

(Glittering smile)

Cain was a hunter, and found wanting, Able was the good farmer.

(Flustered)

No... rather it was Nimrod the hunter. Hunters and herdsman are not brothers. Now the day of the hunter is over. From now on the explorers to 'the ends of the earth' need to be the good animal keepers. Hunters are too careless, too foolish to be entrusted with the treasures that are to be found in the most

CURMUDGEON 1

No one but hunt

Rossi interrupts, but the audience has had enough of her, some are getting up, some are looking around for a solution.

ROSSI

(almost shouting now)

Hunters can find the hunt in their back yards. You can shoot sparrows. You adventurers can find adventure in the nearest river, or hill. The 'ends of the earth' need to be saved for those that are searching for the meaning of life. Life at the top. Where life is too hard, too high, too thin, for mortal men. That is where the meaning of life is being put on trial. You. You small men are on trial right now, right here. Trial by fire, by your peers, by those watching you. Every thing hidden is being exposed. And you are not ready.

Rossi goes to open her bodice. Her dress is designed for this.

ROSSI

I am here to lay bare my soul, but you are too scared of a real woman. I'd open my heart but you are too evil. To expose the

(bares breast)

hidden. But you are too

Drowned out by UPROAR.

ROSSI

Heaven help your wives and daughters.

EXT. EXPLORE CLUB -DAY

The scene is about the same as when the Komodo was in there. We see a portly old chap on a tabletop waving his sword. Through the open doors we see half a dozen men throwing the struggling Rossi out. Several gentlemen are leaning out the windows shouting to the press. Or just shouting club slogans.

COOT

Real men, reel 'em 'n gut 'm.

COOT

No women, no whine.

COOT

Shoot the head, trail the end.

Paddy wagon backs up to the same place the dragon truck was last time. Flash bulbs and reporters shouting.

EXT. POPPY FIELD, CHINA MOUNTAINS- DAY

Ze is in the center of a brown dry poppy field. The poppies are four feet high, ready for harvest. Ze in rags, pops a pod in his mouth to chew. He sits in the field sparking rocks, until he gets a flame going. He pulls a few plants into his tiny fire. They explode in flame. By the time he stands, the flames have spread in all directions. He races for a tree in the center of the field, the flames covering him as he climbs the tree. He sits high in the branches, burned and miserable watching the field burn below him. Vipers climb up his tree. He brushes them into the fire with a branch. However, the hot smoke is choking him, yet the icy calmness of the poppies is inside of him, bestowing ecstatic sleep, which he fights.

NEW YORK, PARADES AND MAGAZINE COVERS.

INT. TINY ZOO CAGES, -DAY

The animals are all sleeping or the cages are empty. In one cage a odd sheep is dying. Several helpers are concerned. Mr BOSCO is the zoo director. Rossi waits with her panda in her arms.

BOSCO

You are a chip off of the old block. Roy would be so proud of you.

ROSSI

I came about the deal that you had with Roy. I know that he turned down more money for baby here, elsewhere.

BOSCO

Well the problem is the baby. You know our deal was for some Giant Panda. Full grown, you know. Healthy. See how hard even the simplest animals are to keep alive. This rare sheep...

ROSSI

No deal?

BOSCO

I've promised the money now to the paleontologist. You would not believe the difference in upkeep. A museum is so much cheaper than keeping animals alive twenty-four hour a day. If the little tike dies I could buy the body.

ROSSI

Zoo morality?

BOSCO

Do you want to be his permanent keeper? If you were part of the deal, I might find some money somewhere.

ROSSI

Not me Bosco. You are part of this dying world. Death is all you want. All you are going to get. I'm alive, you don't get me.

BOSCO

Dinosaurs bones are more interesting then some rare animal, who knows were from? That is going to die someday, anyhow.

ROSSI

Me, I know where from. Your dead. I'm alive.

A piece of meat lays in the back of a cage, a keeper comes along and sticks it, throwing it into a cage where it will be eaten. As he does this we see the bottom side was covered in maggots. They fly towards us as the meat is thrown.

MAO (VO)

maggots world against their niche,
civilized ants stick in pitch,
autumn gnats seek life in winter,
oceans boil, continents shiver,
populations pontificate.

EXT. HOT SPRINGS SIAN,-DAY

Winter. The Hot Springs are from Song Dynasty. Red Dragons are the motif. Ze is barefoot, sick, dirty and destitute. A warplane is landing in the distance.

ZE

Where are the nationalists?

WOMAN

They have disappeared. Young Warlord has kidnapped Generalissimo, Chang Kai-Chek.

ZE

And the Communists?

WOMAN

They are few here. You're sick. You need to get in the springs, they'll make you well.

EXT. SIAN HOT SPRINGS- DAY

Ze lays in the pool with other BATHERS. His cuts and bruises show up against his gauntness. Lu rises from a distant pool.

LU

Ze? Ze Song?

Ze looks around too tired to respond.

LU

Oh! What happened to you? Are you alright?

ZE

Lu, I'm glad to see you. No, I was robbed by bandits. They took everything. I have not been eating. They even took my clothes.

LU

You are ok now. I am here at the caves with the troops. Come with me. We will get you all fixed.

A enormous car from the teens or twenties comes roaring up. MADAME CHANG, the ex-movie star, gets out. She is dressed in mink and jewelry. She is with OFFICERS and BANKERS.

MADAME

Any real men here? How much for an officer to face the Young Warlord? Who will save my husband? Are there no loyal Nationals here?

A naked WARRIOR stands.

WARRIOR

I am loyal.

Madame gives him an appraising look.

MADAME

I will need you. Take me to my husband.

INT. CAVES. -DAY

Ze has on a Nationalist uniform. Ze and Lu are eating at a pot of rice, at the mouth of the caves, there are a few SOLDIERS. The YUNG WARLORD, little more than a boy, and CHANG KAI-CHEK, are arguing.

CHANG

Kill me now. I might as well be dead as to be in this cave. Who's running the country? Who is directing the fight against the Communists?

YUNG

That is my point. No one needs to be fighting the Communists. If they are left alone nothing bad will happen.

MADAME

I'm here to offer whatever it takes to free my husband. I brought men who can write any size of drafts you can imagine.

YUNG

Can you buy back my northern provinces, my inheritance my father left to me? All

my people that Chang let the Japanese
take from me?

MADAME

That was not Chang's fault. He was
protecting the heartland of China, from
the Communists.

YUNG

The Communists were in the mountains!

CHANG

I am not going to do what you want, just
kill me.

MADAME

If you hurt my husband the Americans
will stop all money coming in. Stalin
will kill Mao's little boy and he might
kill my child also. You have to take
Stalin's will into account.

YUNG

I have won, I am the winner here. China
is all mine, excepting my provinces you
gave over. If you tell your commanders
to obey me I will let you live.

CHANG

Never.

MADAME

Never.

Ze comes up quickly nodding his head and smiling. He almost
takes Yung by putting his arm around him. Lu moving along
with him.

ZE

What is needed here is a meeting with
the Americans, the Communists, Russia,
and yourselves. I can make it happen. I
can get them all here, except perhaps, a
Russian.

CHANG

Do I know you?

YUNG
(To Lu)
You're the Communist.

ZE
Let's find a place to talk this over.

As Yung takes them toward benches, Ze goes between Chang and Madame.

ZE
You need to send a plane to Yen-an for a communist spokesman.

MADAM
How much will you pay? No, I am not going to send for the enemy.

ZE
The Communists will not want Chang dead, they are ready for peace.

LU
We are tired of war, all we want is a place to live without war.

MADAME
We all want that, Chang wants them erased.

EXT. CAVES ENTRANCE -DAY

Torches are inside the cave. A large table is at the cave entrance. Chang and CHOW EN LIE are at the table heads. Next to Chow is Lu then Ze then Madame is next to Chang. Facing them is WELLMOUNT, the American, with a thick white mustache. Centered, Yung is across from Ze and in the Russian corner is a old tube wireless set and it's OPERATOR. They are all talking.

CHANG
Let me speak. Look I'll be honest. I'm scared.

MADAME
(Kissing Chang's hand)
Let him live.

LU

He kills the peasants without mercy.

MADAME

Chang is the tree in the center of China, without him, the country has no skeleton. No place for the army to look, no...

CHANG

I am the only hope for the factories and railroads,

(Sobbing)

the cities.

MADAME

Only Chang can keep the banks working.

WELLMOUNT

Americans are not going to recognize any Warlord or Communist as leaders of China. We will give support to fight Japan.

There are squawks from the wireless, the operator yells into it, more noises from the box.

OPERATOR

(YELLING)

Stalin says...

(Quietly)

Oh, I'm sorry, got carried away.

No money for Mao, no help for Manchuria if you kill Chang.

ZE

Bamboo Bears, Pandas, eat only bamboo. Black Bears eat everything else. They should be able to live in the same place, in peace. Communists believe only in peasants and land, Chang believes only in cities and machinery. You can exist alongside of each other.

CHOW

We would need our own territory.

LU

And we need to be able to fight
alongside Nationalists, against Japan.

WELLMOUNT

America has to insist that you let Chang
live. And China stand up against Japan.

MADAME

The Young Warlord has no belief in money
nor territory, only in sacrifice.

YUNG

True.

MADAME

Sacrifice yourself, not Chang.

YUNG

I will, I would do that for China.

CHANG

Were I to give all these things, I need
to know from Stalin that my son will not
die.

Everyone looks to the noisy radio.

CHOW

Mao's son must be allowed to live also.

Radio squawks.

ZE

We are all agreed? We will all fight the
Japanese in peace?

(To Chang)

We will live today to fight tomorrow?

CHANG

What is your rank? Have you been a
Nationalist long?

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM, -DAY

The classroom is classic Thirties Dick and Jane. Children blond and blue eyed are in bright pure colors. They sit in a circle around Rossi. She holds a sawdust Panda, and has a picture book of Lady and the Panda almost three feet high.

ROSSI

Thank-you very much for allowing me to come to see all you so very clean and proper children. The world still has no end of wonders. There might be Leviathans in the oceans. Giants may very well be in the ends of the earth. In the Himalayas.

CHILD

Is that where the Pandas are?

ROSSI

Very close, in the hills. Natives there wear bearskins in the high snow. Sometimes the furs are blue, so although no White man has ever seen one, we know that there are blue bears in Tibet, it is said that some of the furs have ape faces on them. So we think that there might be abominable snowmen there also. Perhaps snow apes. In the Andes Mountains there is a mystery bear no one has ever brought to North America. So I have no end of adventures ahead.

CHILD

Can you find Amelia Erheart?

ROSSI

Amelia Erheart not withstanding, and perhaps she needs rescuing as we speak, there is no end of adventures that are available. Yes, that are required of us.

CHILD

I worry about Amelia.

ROSSI

Certainly dear. You may put your pennies

into the cup for the Baby Panda Bear.
The zoo wishes for us all to give such
help as we may.

CHILD

Three pennies.

ROSSI

Before I tell the story, of the dark
forest where I found my baby hiding. May
I ask you a question?

CHILDREN

What?

ROSSI

Please tell me, do you want a stuffed
bear at home...

CHILDREN

Yes, yes, we do.

ROSSI

No, no not yet. My question is, or a
live Bear at your zoo you could go and
visit?

Silence, many of the children consider the question with
pursed lips or open mouth, some look around to others and
the teacher to get the right answer. After a time...

CHILD

Both.

ROSSI

Very good! I hope we all get what we
wish for.

EXT. SIMPLE CHINA PLANE FIELD, -DAY

A small army of boys all less than four feet tall are armed
with knives and sticks. They are in formation, looking
brave and like warriors. Some may have been shot. Chang and
Ze are with other Nationalist officers.

CHANG

I want them shot. They attacked us,
shoot them all.

ZE

They didn't know better. They are not up
on politics. Let me talk to them.

CHANG

There are holes in my plane.

ZE

We can fix it. Think of your boy Stalin
is returning to you.

CHANG

Very well.

INT. NEW YORK THIRTIES INTELLECTUAL COCKTAIL PARTY-NIGHT

AS if the world is on fire. Alice is against the piano with
several YOUNG BLADES around her fighting to be the center
of attention. Including the famous Mr Nass. Rossi is the
guest of honor. She wears glasses that are very reflective
in the dim lighting. She is covered in a formal black
velvet dress, with white cording. Black velvet gloves.

ALICE

(to the rhythm,
tune? of What a swell
party this is.)

Have you heard?

What a swell party this is,
the ensconced men and the socialite
were in a horrible fight, Did you ever?

BLADE 1

What a morose party this is. Here's my
plate. I'll've mo' roast, Miss.

ALICE

Did you know... in the rain and desert
Noah and Moses said quit it, Rossi said
I'll quit it when I get it.

BLADE 2

What'a hellagnt party this's. Did you
ever?
Go to China
take a nap
as the Jap- anese bombed you?
The A-bombs just the ticket,
to nip and tuck the wicked.

ALICE

Have I ever? No I'll never, climb the
Himalayas for a young man to be lay me.
Have you heard? The explore club,
gave my Rossi a terrible snub.

BLADE 1

What a mellow party this is, fellows
Frost and Mr Nass have all the cash,
Have you ever? Seen any one so clever?

ALICE

I have heard, I think it's said,
they won't let Rossi leave the country,
so here we are, the common and the
sundry.

BLADE 2

(Spoken)

There wasn't a depression don't you
know. What it was mostly, was that for
the first time in history people knew
they didn't have cars. They never had
cars before, but they didn't know it!
Magic has changed. It was once found in
old men with pointed hats, women with
warts. In modern times it's in machines.
There is more magic in a new toaster
than in all of England in the twelfth
century!
Women have now lost the race. Men do not
need wives anymore all they need are new
appliances!

ROSSI

(Soused)

Poppycock, dribble. Lives and lies of
men!

ALICE

What a squelched party this is.
Mr Nass and the giant baby had no
involved young lady.

NASS

I am the very unclubable man, or I could
have been a proper plore myself, im-
plore, ex-plore. Or or Or. Or implorer
and explorer business. E's and I's, so
close. I've had X's over my I's. before
M, M, Mmmmm.

About this time Blade 2 has set a martini glass on fire,
with his cigarette, on top of the piano. The flames are a
foot high.

NASS

Here, here. Stop that B. M.

Blade 1 crowding in causes Alice to get her dress drenched
in alcohol.

NASS

Me in the unclubable men. Not even
into the Kiwanis club, oh, the A-bomb
club.
Told "the Three Stooges club is full",
Moe meant us. Momentous.

Mr Nass pokes Blade 1 in the chest with his finger, who
thinks that it is his cue.

BLADE 1

There are those that say the medic gave
the panda the pandemic, some say the
way, was the zoo men, they were not the
pandas friend.
This pundit pondered the Panda problem,
and was bamboozled to death himself,
place me on the shelf, of the confuse-
ism museum.

Rossi discomforted and starting to grow very upset.

BLADE 2

If liquor is quicker, I can lick any

woman in the place.
"And will later at my place."
(As Groucho Marx. He does a
Groucho cigar duck walk.)

BLADE 1

I see a flicker of interest in the
liquor, what a drunk gent party this is.
(Flicks ash on Alice's dress)
Have you heard? As we were walking here,
Rossi swerved her car to hit us.
that was not a fair get, thus,
cause she rejected my service-s,
I t'was only desiring to help her.
Now I'm nervous. It all started=

Alice's dress is on fire. We watch the scene in Rossi's
glasses. Two images of the dark room and the flames, Rossi
in misery.

BLADE 1 (VO)

when she said to me she'd lost her panda
baby again, and I said "How very
careless.
That baby makes three, does it not?"

Rossi is sweating, simply dying. Alice in panic has knocked
over the drink, still with flames a foot high. The piano
and Alice each go up together.

SCREAMS

FIRE, FIRE, FIRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRE.

We know only Rossi's fear. It is a buzzing not unlike a
broken projector. The buzzing gets louder and louder,
softens but continues. Screen goes black. Beat.

ROSSI (VO)

Let it all burn down.

ALICE (VO)

(Beat)

Zipper, my zipper!

EXT. BLACKNESS OUTSIDE THE PARTY-NIGHT

We see only a dim window lit by flame, the flame comes out the window in the form of Alice's dress. It begins to float as a burning piece of paper does. There is an outside creoline lace shell on the dress that burns quickly and violently then extinguishes.

NASS (VO)

Alright, Ok, The world is safe again for cocktails.

BLADE 1 (VO)

Alice you have your good points too.
Perhaps you might hide them?

NASS (VO)

To stop the boys from panting it is time to put on pants.

ALICE (VO)

Me hide? I'll show ye a good hiding.

The bra begins burning. The front points are the last of it to fiercely burn away. We can only imagine that the sounds that we hear must be Alice, in underwear or lacking same, socking the Blades in the face.

ALICE (VO)

Take that, and that.

Sounds like a good thrashing. The bra must have a steel framework, wire is left glowing red hot, the skirt continues to burn leaving a steel winding. That is all that hits the ground. The spring goes 'bong', bounces and goes black. Still some buzzing.

ZE (VO)

I saw the war as if in black and white,
especially blood. Even when I shot
someone, I don't recall it red, the
blood was white.

Buzzing fades away.

EXT. A-DAY-THE ATOM BOMB- SUNRISE

A tiny A-bomb on a tiny island, grows brighter until the screen turns white.

INT. ZE'S BEDROOM, CHANG'S CASTLE, 3 AM -NIGHT

We see Ze sleeping. Ze's dream. The geography of China is the size of a big room. He sees FOUR YEAR OLD MAO sitting on sharp mountain peaks with his bare feet in the Yellow River. SIX YEAR OLD CHANG, sits amidst a pile of toys, that he is hoarding. He has on cloth sandals. A KID JEMI GO, in army boots stands with one foot on Japan one foot in Manchuria. Mao is writing with his ink brush, Chang comes to rip the paper away. Meanwhile Jemi takes many of Chang's toys, breaking a lot of them. When Chang goes to defend his toys, Jemi kicks him in the balls, and takes more. Chang attacks Mao. Mao fights back. An ADOLESCENT ROOSEVELT is standing in the water to the east, Jemi/Japan whips him on the back, drawing white blood, with a bamboo cane. They fight each other with canes, Mao hiding behind Chang, with Japan by far the most aggressive. Japan has the others bleeding white. In time, the U.S. pulls out a baseball bat and delivers a blow to Jemi's side, a crack, and crash, that grows louder. Jemi is on the ground as again the bat reconnects...

ORDERLY

Wake up... Wake up.

The orderly slaps Ze again in the face.

ZE

What, what, oh. I was having a nightmare.

ORDERLY

Chang want's you. A rush mission.

ZE

Hell, oh. The nightmare is not much worse than what I wake up to.

ORDERLY

What?

ZE

Nothing, early morning. What time?

ORDERLY

Just after three.

INT. CHANG'S OFFICE, -NIGHT

CHANG

A lot happens as we sleep. The Russians began moving towards Manchuria, before the bomb went off. They've Declared War against Japan.

ZE

I'm sorry I still am sleepy. They want Japan's territory after the war is over? Without fighting? I like that.

CHANG

Manchuria. You think they are going to turn it over to us any time soon?

ZE

The Communists. They will give it to the Communists and we will be there beside them.

CHANG

Or not. You need to fly down now, and tell Mao to get to the countryside to help the people, and explain in terms that are clear that I am going to go retake the North. And see if you can get a few Generals back. I want the traitors back first, before the captured Generals, right? Get. Now.

INT. HALLWAY- NIGHT

ORDERLY

Madame Chang, wants you. In her room.

INT. BEDROOM- NIGHT

Madame Chang has on a night gown, no robe. Coffee is served.

MADAME

I need a huge favor. My cousin has a problem in Yen-an where Mao is. I am sending a squad up to do my favor for my cousin, but you know how hard it is to trust anyone. Excepting you, you are so trustworthy.

Madame comes up against Ze.

ZE

I'll do the right thing if I can.

MADAME

It's a banking problem, really. Only a couple planes of money need removed from the Communists grasp. Paper Money is so worthless anymore, it might just be a waste of time, governments changing. Nevertheless. If they decide to...

ZE

Right, I understand. I keep check on the guards.

MADAME

My cousin will be so grateful. If you can just swing down to Shanghai, to get the planes and make sure they get into Yen-an safely, then Canton or even Hong Kong. I'll...

EXT. SHANGHAI, AMERICAN AIRPORT POST, -DAY

A small jubilant crowd of Americans; military ex-advisors, and intelligence are horsing around by the planes. We don't notice him especially, but a gray Captain Bunn, is among them.

AMERICAN 1

Well, where can we go? Let us out of here. If we are fired let us go home. They fired us. They fired Nagasaki.

AMERICAN 2

The Communists are going to take over you know. They fired us because we told

them, now they are going to keep us here. So that we won't know about the bomb.

AMERICAN 3

Shuu.. shush up, there is no bomb. There is no losers everyone wins when the war is over.

The Captain comes rushing over, first he spots Ze, and then recognizes him for sure.

CAPTAIN BUNN

Ze! Ze! where the hell is my report? I heard you were still alive. I can hardly believe my eyes.

ZE

Captain. So good to see you.

CAPTAIN BUNN

I am up over my head in messes. Our Communist support advisors are still trapped here. I've given every extra plane we had to Chang. I still have to fly all you Nationalists to Manchuria. Are you going?

ZE

I'm flying down to Mao.

CAPTAIN BUNN

You're going for the money! My god, you are intelligence. I'm not supposed to know about it you know? How much is it worth? Do you think?

ZE

Some more than others. Try to buy a slave with paper money. The old is giving way to the new. I am not really part of it, just going along.

CAPTAIN BUNN

Sure, and I am drinking the days away. I can still get you out of here. It is not too late. You might be a big fish, but

the war for you is only beginning. We'll give support but our advisers say the Communists will win. Another decade of war.

ZE

You believe that?

CAPTAIN BUNN

Sure. Let me return you to the states, no war crimes, no desertion... Twenty years? Tisk. Can you?... I sent you away. I've been sorry many times over the years.

ZE

No, it wasn't you who sent me away. I'm more like the salmon going home. Death in front of me all the time, but no matter. I have to do what I must do. So good to see you, Captain.

CAPTAIN BUNN

Give my regards to old Moose Dung. Stay a long way from the Communists. Stay alive, right? You have done well, till now.

INT, MOUTH OF CAVES AT YENAN, MAO'S HEADQUARTERS.-DAY

Lu is glad to see Ze, Mao not so much.

ZE

Chang is determined to take all the north. The Americans are giving everything to him.

MAO

He gave the north away. All he wants, is to make sure the Communists do not have it.

ZE

Be that as it may. He will show no mercy. The planes are going even now.

MAO

I should have chopped off your head.
Hurry, Lu, tell the men to move north on
the railroads, right now.

Lu hurries off.

ZE

I am not sorry I let slip that the place
to be is the north. You know.

MAO

You are not so evil as you could be,
still learning from the rest of us. If
you wish, take Generals back with you.

ZE

The Americans are threatening to bring
the A-bomb into China.

MAO

Paper tiger, the bomb is not threat to
China. What'd it kill fifty, seventy
thousand? Not much compared to the 'Rape
of Nanking'. And less to Communists. We
are not in the cities. You Americans are
frightened of us!

INT, CAVES, HOMES AND ROOMS, AND GUARDED CELLS. -DAY

ZE

Eight years, I have been at war for
eight years. Some of these men will
fight for twenty.

LU

Eight, eighty, nothing in terms of
history.

ZE

If none of the Generals want to go back
to Chang, are there any others?

LU

These caves are full of marginal men,
captured or deserters. Comrade, take us

to anyone you think wants to go on to
the American or Nationalist side.

They travel through accommodations and also cells with men
shackled to rocks. Lu stops at one of these, shines a
flashlight on a sleeping man.

LU

Look Can you believe? Hey, do you want
to go to the Americans?

Lu kicks him.

LU

Get up. Who do you see, Ze?

ZE

No idea... could it be Jemi Go? No, too
old.

LU

It has been twenty years since I've seen
him. And I know it is him. Jemi Go,
Jemi.

Kicks him again.

JAPANESE

Are you? What?

LU

I am. Do you remember me? "You are done"
you said. You Jemi, are done.

Lu pulls his revolver and shoots the prisoner in the head.
The echoes continue, and echo again. Guards come running.

ZE

I do not think that was him. That was
not him.

LU

Nothing man, nothing at all. No one will
ever know now.

ZE

I have to get out, now. Now. Out.

EXT. MAO'S CAVES. -NIGHT

LU

There is a letter that has been here for you for almost a year. I wish us well.

LETTER: OLD BLUE CARBON COPY.

I am so sorry I never knew you. Rossi loved you so hard, she'd be always about sending letters and cables hither to China places, in hopes, you'd bobbed up. When I heard that the Communists had a headquarters, I thought maybe. Have you heard- Kermit Roosevelt has died- Alaska. They say accident, they say suicide, it was the war. The fact he was trapped. And if you are reading this, you have guessed by now, Rossi Hasp is dead-my bonny Rossi. Died of drink and loss, in New York. Died because she was trapped. Died like her Panda baby in the zoo died, because she was caged... What else can I say?

Love Alice.

EXT. INT. PLANE-RUNWAY, THREE PLANES- NIGHT.

We might recognize the WARRIOR from the Hot springs.

WARRIOR

There are changes. There is plenty of money. There have been a few deaths, seeing how there were so few volunteers to stay behind.

Warrior begins to look over Ze's plane.

WARRIOR

I'll be flying with you. I'll need you until Hong Kong.

Ze's small plane is full of crates of money, paper cash. It over flows out of the crates, out of the plane. Ze pulls out his revolver.

ZE

Get away, the plane is overloaded now.
This money is not worth that much.

Ze goes to the front of the plane.

ZE

The plane is over weight!

PILOT

Yeah but the gamble is worth it. See
what it is. I will get you to Canton,
you get me on from there.

ZE

Try it! Go!

Ze in the rear of the plane, the Warrior fires into the plane hoping to hit Ze. The plane taxis in a circle, Ze pushes out crates. Paper money floats everywhere. The Warrior scoops up handfuls while he tries to shoot Ze. The plane slowly begins to lift, it might make it. Another loaded plane tries to follow the first. It crashes, we see an entire plane load of money burn. Ze begins pouring money out of the plane. He continues until the plane is half empty.

The plane is high over mountains. In the windshield, on the right, a large sun comes over the peaks, on the left, we see a smaller brighter light in the shape of a A-bomb. The plane is not going to clear the highest rocks, Ze pushes out a crate at a time to gain lift, it clears.

ZE

Land at the Yangze, I am to get off at
the Great River and the Gorges.

PILOT

Oh yeah, right. No way. You going to
shoot me, the pilot?

EXT. POV THE PLANE OVERHEAD-DAY

Money comes streaming out of the plane like a black cloud, looking like smoke. In the valley some of the peasants ignore it, some run collecting the evenly dispersed money from rice paddies and terraced fields. The river approaches. A black dot comes out of the plane. It hurls

swiftly toward earth. No, the river. A parachute! Ze floats into the Yangze like a leaf.

EXT. BAMBOO HUT. -DAY

We see him with a wife, the Tibetan slave girl, Keen and Cong are there.

ZE (VO)

I had a family. I had forgotten them but they waited for me.

Years pass as we watch. Children play as in his dream but this time the lens is true and cruel. All flaws shown, Ze is old, the children are sick. They eat well. A mob arrives; an old woman in charge.

ZE (VO)

We were not found by the Communists until my children were raised. But when they came they still remembered my sins. I have said I welcomed the judgment that came on me so many times I do not know if I really believe it or not.

Ze is flogged, his wife is tied to a yoke moving dirt. The mob finds buried paper money, they burn it. We watch the flames.

ZE (VO)

The foreign currency would, I imagine, have bought their valley hundreds of times over.

Black charred ash.

ZE (VO)

In the end we came to the city. I asked old friends to grant me favors.

Black silence. Screen goes white. Beat.

MAO (VO)

In a white-out blinding blizzard,
raging red pennants rip unfurled,
Can troops calm the promenade?

EXT. OVERVIEW OF MODERN CHINA, SUNRISE.

EXT. TIANANMEN SQUARE, JUNE 4TH, 2004-DAY

SUPER, FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN SQUARE

Orderly lines of Chinese women, the square is almost full. Also crowds of women tourists taking pictures of the fifteenth anniversary of Tiananmen Square. The demonstration leaders are being politely handcuffed, and put in wagons, as others continue to line up. Ze Song the very old man is much the same but a great deal smaller, Love comes up to him as he stands on the same steps where he called out to her fifteen years before.

LOVE

Ze Song, is that you?

ZE

My name is Ze Song.

LOVE

I have looked for you every few years since that night.

ZE

Eh?

LOVE

Do you remember me?... My name is Love?...

I was here with you on the awful night?... You saved my life?

ZE

Eh... The dragon... You stayed inside...

LOVE

And was saved. My lover died in the demonstration. I came back to remember him. I do not think I should go to jail this time...

We see she is pregnant, and is slipping away from the rest of the demonstrators.

ZE

Yes, yes... best. Can you come with me?

LOVE

It was well worth it before.

ZE

I go to my granddaughter for lunch, you
may meet her.

They get on a Disney sort of people mover, a long line of benches pulled by a tiny tractor. With their feet hanging close to the ground they cross the square and travel to the zoo in a few moments. The zoo is a zoo, crowds are unbelievable. One line stretches into the distance. The tram lets all others but them off and continues up a private trail until they over look the back of the panda shed, the focus point of all the crowds. There is a tiny panda held in the arms of a Chinese young woman. The baby panda smiles and waves, it seems, to Ze.

ZE

My great granddaughter.

LOVE

Beautiful.

ZE

(To driver)

Go farther on, I'll come back later.

The tram goes around the corner to where an unassuming Komodo Dragon is being fed by his keeper, a very old man himself. There is no one there to see the dragon.

ZE

My son, Keen. I had a friend once who
bought him and gave him to me.

THE END

