

A DIET OF CHOICE

written by

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FADE IN:

CREDIT SHOW: "Appetizer".

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

A narrow, small and dimly-lit apartment with stained and molded walls. Furniture like chair and bed is made of cheap wood and bamboo, all old and torn. A dirty stove and a small fridge stands beside the bed; a pot is left cooking in a medium fire and steam puffs out. A hand with only one finger sticks out the pot, dripping blood. A plate of chop-suey is ready on a small foldable table. The light looks dim.

CHANG opens the fridge and inside of it, the audience sees that there is a severed human leg neatly preserved in a vacuum bag. Chang's hand sticks in and grabs the bag and a bottle of soy sauce, some garlic, and chili. With the yellow light coming from the fridge, we see a small, satisfying grin.

Chang happily stirs the pot. Beside the sink is the severed leg, half sliced.

INT. RESTAURANT OF HOTEL LUX, KITCHEN - NIGHT

A clean, bright kitchen with chefs busy cooking and preparing the food: Slicing red and yellow peppers, removing fish scales, flipping a burning pan with green vegetables, sautéing scallops, etc.. Everyone focus on their work; no one chats with other people or shout over the kitchen. The waiters come in and go out frequently with trays of exquisite delicacy.

Chang stands in the middle. He holds a big piece of pork leg that was just taken from the fridge and starts slicing it with a sharp knife. A pan is heated with oil and garlic, and then a slice of beautiful pork chop is put into the pan. The meat sizzles and quickly turns golden brown. A hand pours in some wine and adds some asparagus. The whole dish is put into a plate, and a WAITER takes out and serves onto a table.

INT. RESTAURANT, HOTEL LUX - NIGHT

A GASTRONOMER's mouth chews the pork. He has a big satisfying look. He raises his hand - he has long, elegant fingers - and calls the waiter.

GASTRONOMER

I'd like to see the chef, please.

Chang stands in front of the customer who lifts his head and we finally see what Chang looks like: an average-height man in his early 30s, healthy-built body, dark eyes with eyebrows like two black arrows, straight nose, and thin lips.

GSTRONOMER

It's so delicious. Would it be possible that you tell me where the pork comes from?

CHANG

My own personal fridge, sir.

Chang slightly bows to the gastronomer and grins politely.

EXT. GUTTER ALLEY, WANHUA, TAIPEI CITY - NIGHT

Along the gutter alley are torn and abandoned relics and houses that glow under erotic neon lights. Prostitutes, aged from 20 to 50, dressed in cheap and exposing costumes, stand besides the wall or under the arcades, smoking or talking. Some loud karaoke music comes behind from those neon-lighted doors.

Chang takes a turn and steps into the gutter alley. It just stops raining a few hours ago so the ground is wet and sticky. He kicks a condom away. An obese PROSTITUTE around her 40s with ridiculously heavy make up comes up to him, grabbing his wrist.

PROSTITUTE

Where are you going, my darling? Would you like to relax? Chatting is free, you know.

Chang stops and looks into her eyes. He sees the wrinkles under the cheap makeup.

CHANG

What's your name?

PROSTITUTE

Whatever you like, my young darling?

Chang weighs her hips with a bold snatch. He signs.

CHANG

OK. You come with me.

PROSTITUTE

Where are we going, love?

CHANG

We're doing it in my place.

PROSTITUTE
That's 2000 NTD more per hour.

CHANG
Deal.

Chang and the prostitute disappear in the fainting neon lights.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chang lies in the small bed naked with a dirty rag covering his belly and private parts. The prostitute lies naked beside him, her head tilted aside unnaturally. He gets up and drags the body into the bathroom.

The bathroom is an even smaller place with a tub stuffed on one end. The gastronome from the hotel restaurant is lying in the tub with his suit still on, but the white shirt stained with blood drying. Chang starts ripping the suit off from the gastronome.

He raises a butcher knife and chops off the gastronome's hand from the elbows, then his ears, and finally his lips. As to the prostitute, he slices her breast, abdomen, and hips, and he vacuum-bags them all. The big leftover chunks of bodies are stuffed inside the tub.

Chang stands up with blood covering his whole torso and some on the face. He takes out a role of big plastic bags and starts packing the leftover chunks.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

The pot on the stove is slowly boiling. A radio is playing classical music. Chang leans against the balcony railing and smokes.

CHANG
(O.S.)
I can tell you my name, my birth place, and how old I am, but I cannot explain who I really am. What am I? A monster? A human? I don't know. The only thing I understand is that I've been like this for my entire life. It's a horrible crime or sin to others, but to me, I see this as-

Chang puts out the cigarette. He lights another.

CHANG
I see this as my nature.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - DAWN

It's the typical raining day of a gloomy early morning. When Chang wakes up he can't find JOJO, the man he laid with last night. Then he heard toilet flushing. Jojo, a young man of early 30s, skinny, with hair dyed sand yellow, is smiling at him.

JOJO
Want breakfast?

CHANG
Yeah, sure.

JOJO
What do you want?

Jojo wanders beside the small stove and fridge as he jokingly asks.

JOJO
(cont'd)
Egg rolls? Toast? Burger? Sandwiches?

Chang slowly gets dressed.

JOJO
(cont'd)
Or me?

Jojo gets naked in front of Chang, who grins briefly.

CHANG
Food's in the fridge. Help yourself.

Jojo opens the fridge.

JOJO
Let's see, you have eggs, some ham...oh you have some toast. What are these vacuum bags? Something good and -

Jojo stops talking suddenly. He turns and sees Chang, already in his usual black shirt for killing and is putting up a goggle. There's a small box on the table.

CHANG
Something good and tasty. Yes.

JOJO
Who are you?

CHANG
I'm so sorry.

Chang approaches Jojo with a knife.

 JOJO
Please, you don't have to do this.

 CHANG
I do.

 JOJO
Please! I've been clean for half year!

 CHANG
Again, I'm so sorry. I actually like you...

Chang slits Jojo's throat and put a bucket to catch the blood when the body collapses. Before Jojo finally breathes the last breath, he grabs Chang's hand, a watch on his wrist catches Chang's eye. He takes off the watch and tosses it into the little box.

EXT. NIGHT MARKET - NIGHT

Chang passes through the streets of vendors. It's getting late and most of the vendors are packing up. There's a mini van with a sign that says "Pig Blood Cake", and Chang stops in front of it. THE VENDOR gets up.

 THE VENDOR
30 NTD for one piece! It's still warm!

 CHANG
I'll have one.

 THE VENDOR
With peanut powder and coriander?

 CHANG
No, neither.

Chang pays the money. On the wrist is the watch of Jojo. His hand takes the pig blood cake on a stick.

INT. MRT STATION - NIGHT

Chang throws the stick into the trash can and walks into the MRT station. The broadcast announces that the last train back to Wanhua is leaving soon. A young woman (FAITH) follows him.

The train arrives. There are only two of them who get in.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Chang and the woman (Faith) sits across. He notices her stare and turns away, but couldn't stop glancing her from the reflection on the window.

EXT. IN FRONT OF SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chang turns the key and is ready to step inside his apartment. He feels someone is at his back. It's Faith.

CHANG

Yes?

FAITH

Hi...well, I don't think we've met before.

CHANG

No, we haven't.

FAITH

I often see you on the balcony.

CHANG

Yes, I live upstairs.

FAITH

I'm sorry, you must've thought I'm rude. I mean...I just wanna say hi.

CHANG

It's fine.

FAITH

Well, I live across to you. Second floor, like you, too.

Chang nods slightly.

FAITH

I...well, goodnight.

Faith stops abruptly and turns to get upstairs.

CHANG

What's your name?

FAITH

Faith. You? What's your name?

No answer. Faith realizes Chang has already left.

INT. FAITH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Faith has just taken a shower and now she's putting a bracelet back on wrist. There's a cross pendant on the bracelet. She looks up, and sees the lighted window across the street.

EXT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chang lies in his dirty bed, puts on Jojo's watch and takes it off for many times.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Chang is waiting for the green light in his car when he sees Faith standing at the roadside, ready to hail a taxi. He pulls over and rolls down the window.

CHANG

Hey. Going somewhere?

FAITH

Oh hi! Well, yeah, I'm heading to Hotel Lux for a meeting but I'm almost late...

An occupied taxi passes.

CHANG

I can take you there.

FAITH

Really? Wouldn't that be too much trouble?

INT. CHANG'S CAR - DAY

Faith sits next to Chang, who's driving.

FAITH

Thank you so much.

Chang nods. He doesn't turn his head.

FAITH

Well, I didn't know your name, actually, I mean, from the mailbox I know you're Mr. Chang, and now I know you work in Hotel Lux, right?

CHANG

Yes.

A moment of silence.

CHANG
Mailbox?

FAITH
Yeah...the other day, I remember the
mailman calling your address, an expressed
letter, I guess.

CHANG
Yes.

FAITH
Mr. Something CHANG?

Chang turns his head and looks at Faith. He smiles briefly.

CHANG
Just Chang.

FAITH
So Chang, what exactly do you do in Hotel
Lux?

CHANG
I work in the kitchen.

FAITH
That must be tough and tiring, right?

CHANG
Well, I do enjoying the cooking part.
Nothing brings more joy.

Chang turns on the CD player. A sad, melancholy orchestral
music piece plays.

FAITH
You like music? Classical music?

CHANG
I'm not allowed to play CD while I work,
but yes, I do enjoy classical music. Where
should I drop you? In front of the hotel?

FAITH
Here would be fine. Thank you so much!

Faith gets out Chang's car.

INT. RESTAURANT IN HOTEL LUX - DAY

Faith, along with MR. LIN, her BOSS, and two CLIENTS are sitting at a table, facing the window and a balcony. Views are great. There are some more people having lunch in the restaurant.

WAITER #1 brings on a bottle of wine and serves the table.

CLIENT #1

As I mentioned in the e-mail, Mr. Lin, that I'd consider your proposal about joining business in our branch in Japan. However, I can't make any promise.

MR. LIN

I understand, but let's not talk about business now. Enjoy the food! This is the best restaurant in Taipei.

WAITER #2 brings on their food order. Mr. Lin and the two clients order chicken and steak, but Faith's order hasn't arrived.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Chang is busy cooking. The kitchen is chaotic as usual: everyone is on their position dealing with lots of food order. The CAPTAIN comes in to Chang.

CHANG

Do they like the food?

CAPTAIN

Yes, Chef.

Chang nods and smiles briefly.

EXT. BUSINESS TOWER - DUSK

It's off-work time and the roads start being overwhelmed with traffic jam. The stores along side the road are lighting up the windows. Chang stands at the entrance of a business tower and smokes.

Faith steps out with a handbag; she sees Chang.

FAITH

Hi!

Chang throws the cigarette away. He smiles at waves.

FAITH

Why...I mean how... Are you going home as well?

CHANG

Yes. I'm not in charge for dinner today. Off.

EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

Chang and Faith walk on the sidewalk.

CHANG

So you work as a secretary?

FAITH

Yes. It might not be as interesting as you, a cook, but it's stable, and the pay is alright, you know.

CHANG

Stable is good.

FAITH

So what do you do when you're not working? Like tonight, you're off?

CHANG

I don't know yet.

They are pass by the gutter alley that Chang once hooked up with a prostitute. The neon lights aren't fully lit yet.

FAITH

But you don't have other appointments tonight, right?

CHANG

No, I don't.

FAITH

Would you like to go to the church with me?

CHANG

Church?

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

It's an old yet solemn catholic church: exquisite statues of Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus, with long wooden benches and a beautiful organ in front of the auditorium. There is no one but an OLD LADY.

OLD LADY
Peace with you, sister.

FAITH
Peace with you, A-Ma*.

*A-Ma in Taiwanese means "grandma" or "elder woman".

OLD LADY
The praying time will be over in 30
minutes.

FAITH
Yes, I understand.

Chang nods to the old lady and comes into the auditorium.

FAITH
I come here almost everyday...gives me
peace and moment of silence.

CHANG
Everyday?

FAITH
Everyday after work, and Sunday morning for
the mass.

Faith sits on the bench and crosses her fingers. Chang stands
in her back and looks up to the big wooden cross on the wall.

FAITH
...and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. Amen.

Faith stands up.

CHANG
It's a beautiful place.

FAITH
Yes, it is. Sacred and pure.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chang closes the door and sees someone sitting on his chair.
LEE, same age as CHANG, is wearing full military uniform with
a black duffle bag.

LEE
Hello, brother.

Chang puts down his working knives and takes off the jacket.

CHANG
I'm not your brother.

LEE
Who is that woman?

CHANG
No one, but none of your business.

Lee stands up and opens the fridge. He looks into it and turns to see Chang sharpening a knife.

CHANG
When did you leave the camp?

LEE
Three hours ago. I headed straight here and waited, for you.

CHANG
You didn't help yourself to the fridge?

LEE
Why don't you see it yourself?

Chang looks into the fridge and sees a vacuum bag of someone's belly, and another vacuum bag of a young woman's leg.

Chang turns around, Lee is smiling heartedly at him. Then they laugh together.

LEE
You can thank me later.

Chang points at Lee's duffle bag with the knife.

CHANG
Get your knives...brother.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Chang and Lee sit across the table where food is served nicely in dishes. Chang opens a can of beer.

LEE
How's the leg?

CHANG
Much better than the belly.

LEE
What about the belly?

CHANG
Too greasy. Too much fat.

LEE
Modern sin.

CHANG
When are you heading back?

LEE
Tomorrow night, but this is the last time.
Honorable discharge in one month.

CHANG
Yeah? What you gonna do after then?

LEE
Don't know yet. Get married I guess.

CHANG
Got someone already?

LEE
No, not yet.

A moment of silence.

CHANG
Yeah, who would marry people like us?

LEE
Well, I ain't you, you've got a girl across
the street, am I right?

CHANG
We just met.

LEE
Wo, "we just met"? Well, at least she's
not...you haven't taken her yet.

Chang stares at Lee.

LEE
This one is different, right?

Chang doesn't answer but drinks up the beer.

Across the street, the window of Faith's room is lighten up.
Faith's shadow looks like she's praying.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY

Chang looks out from the bathroom while brushing teeth, and sees that Lee is still sleeping. Chang picks up the clothes he scatters around last night and throws them on him. Lee opens his eyes and looks frightened.

CHANG

Get up. You need to go.

LEE

What? Wait...it's nine o'clock only.

Chang spits the toothpaste and sits on the bed.

CHANG

Look...last night was great. But we can't keep seeing each other. I told you in the last killing, remember? If you want to be a monster, then there can't be two monsters in the same place.

Lee sits up.

LEE

I'm a monster, just like you. You built me, and trained me.

CHANG

And I could destroy you, too. Remember, I'm a natural one, but you're just a student, always. Now get up and get out. I don't care where you go, just leave.

Lee hurries putting on the military uniform and leaves.

EXT. DIRTY LIVING DISTRICT - NIGHT

It's late night, the streets are emptying. Chang, with a keg of beer, is in his usual black shirt of killing, and he's walking toward a deserted area. The road gets narrower and narrower, piles of garbage start showing up on the sidewalk, and unlike the gutter alley where erotic neon lights are on, this area is dim and dark.

INT. RUBBISH HOUSE - NIGHT

Chang goes into a rubbish house. Several YOUNG RUNAWAYS, aged around 14 to 16, are squatting on the ground, smoking and drinking. There is not light, except a barrel of fire in the corner.

Note: The dialogue below is spoken in Thai.

CHANG
May I join you?

YOUNG RUNAWAY #1
Where are you from?

CHANG
Near Chiangmai.

YOUNG RUNAWAY #2
Where did you work? You don't look like
from Chiangmai.

CHANG
I was working in a factory in Keelung, I
ran yesterday.

YOUNG RUNAWAY #1
You got any beer?

CHANG
Yes. A Thai cigarettes, too.

YOUNG RUNAWAY #1
Ok, you can sit with us.

INT. RUBBISH HOUSE - NIGHT

The young runaway Thais are sleeping sound, except one THAI YOUNG MAN is tied up and gagged, looking petrified. Chang drinks alone as he sharpens a long knife.

CHANG
(in Thai)
This is going to be quick.

The Thai young man keeps struggling. Chang points the knife to his belly.

CHANG
(in Thai)
Stop.

Chang finally finishes sharpening the knife. He looks at the scared about-to-be victim, who has tears all over his face.

THAI YOUNG MAN
(gagged but tries to talk in Thai)
Please! Let me go!

Chang punches the victim in the face, and holds the knife on his neck, but he can't dig the knife into the victim's throat. They stare at each other. Eventually, Chang gives up.

CHANG
(in Thai)
Do you know my face?

The Thai young man shakes his head.

CHANG
(in Thai)
Good.

Chang punches the victim again and quickly flees with his knives pack.

INT. RESTAURANT OF HOTEL LUX, KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is busy as usual. The captain comes in with a plate of barely-eaten pork chop.

CAPTAIN
Table No. 13 needs a new order. This pork chop is over-cooked.

Chang raises his head and sees someone in the kitchen take over that plate. The food goes into the leftover barrel.

Chang looks down on his grill. There is a piece of pork chop.

INT. FAITH'S OFFICE - DUSK

It's past the working hour and Faith is about to leave the office. There's only her and no one else. Out from the small window there are about a dozen of seats between separators. The lights are almost out, but she seems to see a shadow passing the seats quickly, in a blink.

She blinks several times, the shadow disappears. Shaking her head, she turns off the computer and leaves.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Faith kneels in front of the altar and prays. She opens her eyes and seems to hear something. She turns around but no one is there. A wind blows in and the candles in front of the altar goes out.

Faith appears to be worried and gets up, walks out of the church.

EXT. NOT FAR FROM CHURCH, ROADSIDE - NIGHT

Faith walks with a worried look on her face, peeps back from time to time.

Chang steps out from the dark suddenly and blocks Faith.

 FAITH
Oh my -

 CHANG
It's me. Don't be scared.

 FAITH
My! I'm...well, I'm totally frightened. I
thought someone was following me.

 CHANG
For real? You're followed?

 FAITH
I don't know. It's just a feeling...

Chang cuddles Faith.

 CHANG
I'm here.

Faith looks Chang into his eyes: they look like two dark diamonds.

 CHANG
Will you move into my house? It's not a
big place but...I was thinking maybe you
would have dinner with me tonight, at my
place?

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment, which originally looks dirty and messy, is clean and bright now: The broken lightbulb is changed into a tender warm light, the stained rags that Chang often used for wiping blood and scattered around are now nowhere to be seen.

On the table, covered in a white table cloth, are two plates with finished food.

Chang comes to the table. He picks up the plates and cutlery and throws them into the sink. Taking off his shirt as the water runs to fill the sink, he lights a cigarette. Across the road, he sees that Faith's room is lighten up. He waves to the shadow.

Chang rolls the white table cloth and opens a cupboard, there, his bloody rags are stored. He puts the table cloth in and takes out a rag with old dried stain.

In bed and covered with the rag, Chang smokes as he takes out the little box, where he takes out several personal belongings: a cheap ring, a hair pin, and a foot bracelet braided with strings. He plays with them.

Eventually, he gets up from the bed and puts on Jojo's watch. He heads to the bathroom. Water running sounds come out.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - TIME PASSAGE

Chang's apartment, from a dark, greasy, and messy place, turns into a brighter, cleaner, and more home-like look, with some more quality furniture (instead of cheap second-hand ones) and other personal belongings: a scrap paper of shopping list written with neat handwriting, a pink cherry-flavor lip balm, a white-fur scarf, and eventually a small bible, put beside the bed.

The dirty bloody rags are taken out from the cupboard, along with used vacuum food bags, are thrown to a big black plastic bags, tied up, taken out of the house.

The black killing t-shirt that Chang is used to wear is taken out from the closet, thrown to the plastic bag as well. However, the t-shirt is taken out. Chang lays the t-shirt on the bed, stares at it for a while before folds it up carefully and puts it in the bottom of the drawer.

And then he takes off Jojo's watch and puts it into the little box.

The little box sits quietly beside the Bible for a while, and then a ring box replaces. A man's hand (Chang's) with a wedding ring puts the little box into the drawer.

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - DAY

There are two big suitcases packed beside the door. There are no shoes on the shelf, however, and all the other furniture is covered with dust-proof sheets.

FAITH

All set? Ready to go?

CHANG

Yeah, I guess. Wait me in the car?

FAITH

OK. But hurry! Or we miss the train.

Once Faith walks away Chang hurries into his room, and searches quickly in the closet. Finally, he finds the little box. He tucks the little box into one of the suitcases.

EXT. IN FRONT OF SHABBY APARTMENT - DAY

A taxi parks at the door with Faith sits in the backseat. Chang puts the two suitcases into the trunk. He climbs in and sits with Faith. She holds his hands.

 FAITH
Good to go?

 CHANG
Right.

As the taxi rolls away Chang looks back.

 FAITH
You forget something?

 CHANG
Nah...nothing.

FADE OUT.

CREDIT SHOWS: "Main Course".

EXT. BREAKFAST STORE - DAY (2 YEARS LATER)

A traditional old store but decorated with bright color walls and comfortable chairs, it's the breakfast store opened and owned by Chang and Faith.

It's early morning and there are already a lot of young kids with parents lining up in front of the breakfast store to buy sandwiches or toast.

INT. BREAKFAST STORE - DAY

Chang is sweating over at the stove in the kitchen. Faith is taking order at the desk. There are a lot of orders, with lots of customers sitting in the store and waiting for their orders to be brought on.

A school girl (GRACE) in uniform, age about 7, comes to the front desk.

 FAITH
Morning Grace! what would you like today?

Before Grace could answers, Lee comes into the store in a suit.

 FAITH
Hi! You must be-

LEE
I'm this little piggie's father.

Grace laughs nervously.

LEE
An egg roll with ham and cheese for her,
and two cups of soybean milk, one warm, one
iced.

GRACE
But daddy, I don't want soybean milk. I
want milk tea!

FAITH
Would you like to change?

Lee gives a fake grin to Grace and turns to Faith with a
proper smile.

LEE
No, that'll be all. You can't get kids too
much sugar these days, right?

FAITH
Absolutely. That'll be 85 NTD, sir.

LEE
There you go! It's really nice you open
this store around the school's corner. See,
it's tough when there's no one at home
making breakfast for a child.

FAITH
That's very nice of you saying that! Come
here often!

Faith waves Lee and Grace goodbye.

From the kitchen's small window, Chang sees Lee and Grace
stepping into a car. He looks grim.

INT. CHANG AND FAITH'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

On the small bedroom wall there hangs the wedding photo of
Chang and Faith in a church, along with other family photos
and a big wooden cross in the middle. An exquisite wooden
cosmetic desk with mirror, apparently a dowry from Faith's
parents, is next to a cheap canvas closet. Chang, with damp
hair and a towel covering his head, is searching in the
canvas closet for his pants.

Faith comes in. She is dressed in a baggy dress with a 2-
month pregnant belly.

FAITH

Oh stop! You're messing the clothes I just put in.

CHANG

I'm sorry. I just wanna find my pants.

Faith takes out a pair of pants and give them to Chang. She stands in front of the cosmetic desk and rubs her hands with hand cream. Chang is sitting on the bed to put on the pants.

CHANG

How's our baby today?

Faith doesn't answer him.

CHANG

I'm sorry for messing up the closet. Didn't mean it.

FAITH

It's alright...

Chang puts his head onto her belly and listens.

FAITH

Do you hear anything?

CHANG

Don't know...maybe? I heard nothing.

Faith is gazing upon the cross on the wall.

FAITH

Life is amazing, a grace of God.

The two are lying in bed and ready to sleep. As Chang reaches to turn off the lamp, Faith opens her eyes.

FAITH

Grace is a nice name.

Chang doesn't reply right away. Faith falls asleep.

CHANG

Never Grace, my old friend.

FAITH

(murmur)
What...?

CHANG

I mean, it could be a boy.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

There are already some cars parking in the lot, and a man in a vest guiding drivers to drive in. The entrance of the church is decorated with flowers and ribbons, with children dressing in neat dresses or shirts playing on the ground.

Chang steps out of the car and opens the door for Faith, whose belly is bigger, big enough to make her waddle. The couple stops at the church to greet with the FATHER.

FATHER

Peace, Mr. and Mrs. Chang! Glad to see you both today.

FAITH

Peace, Father! Of course we are coming for a baby's baptism. Right, Chang?

CHANG

Yes, indeed.

FATHER

We look forward to taste the cookies and pastries your husband's gonna make for us. I'm sure it's delicious.

FAITH

You're always far too kind, Father. Chang, aren't you getting the ingredients from the car? You're not gonna make it to bake all those cookies if you don't start now, are you?

CHANG

I'm getting them now.

FATHER

Do you need help, Mr. Chang? We have a volunteer today, to help you with the kitchen stuffs...

Chang smiles slightly and shakes his head. Then he turns to walk away.

INT. CHURCH KITCHEN - DAY

It's a small kitchen with yellowish tiles on the wall, and big professional ovens and a big table. The small fan in the corner is turning and blowing winds feebly, which doesn't help to reduce the heat.

Chang is kneading a big chunk of butter dough with flour spread on the big table. Beads of sweat stream down his forehead. There are a big plate full of freshly baked cookies and a beautiful pie dressed with chocolate coating. He stops a while and wipes the sweat off his face. The light flickers and he feels a gush of cold winds sweeps through the kitchen. He is about to turn his head.

LEE
Peace, brother.

CHANG
What are you doing here?

LEE
The Father didn't tell you? Well, I volunteer to help out in the kitchen today. I know it'd be you.

CHANG
Why?

Lee approaches Chang and stands beside him, poking the dough with one finger. He sees that Chang is wearing Jojo's watch.

LEE
(whispering)
I remember that watch...oh yeah, I do. When I was fucked from behind I was thinking, 'hmm this is interesting, why are you wearing another man's watch?' But then I understand...

Lee is whispering to Chang's ear, who is now freezing with a murderous look.

LEE
This one is different, right?

Chang pushes Lee away, a bit too hard. Lee almost falls.

LEE
Different woman, I first thought. But then this? Brother, you are walking in some real dark alley this time.

CHANG
Shut the fuck up.

LEE
I ain't telling no one.

CHANG
I don't care.

LEE

So whose the watch is it? C'mon, I deserve to know what kind of man gets to be fucked by your -

Chang snatches a knife so fast Lee doesn't even see it coming; the point of the knife is right at his throat.

CHANG

One more word and this will be one inch deep.

LEE

If you ain't saying, I'm going to visit your breakfast store more often then, in case you forgot my tight-

GRACE

Daddy?

Chang hides the knife away as quickly as he pulls out before. Grace is standing at the kitchen door. Her hair is messy and she's sweating over.

LEE

What the f-What do you want now?

GRACE

I just want to say hello to Uncle Chang.

CHANG

Hello Grace. Cookies will be out in a few minutes.

Lee tries to comb through Grace's hair with his finger, but it looks more like he's pulling her hair. Grace sees the baked cookie and immediately runs to get one. Lee doesn't think for a moment and slaps her face.

LEE

Look at you, you filthy dirty fat bag. Are you really my daughter?

Grace looks at her father with surprise, the cookie still in her hand. Tears fill up her eyes quickly.

Chang picks up some broken cookies and puts them in a napkin and hands them to Grace.

CHANG

It's alright. There you go.

LEE

Don't encourage her! God damn it! Now thank Uncle Chang and get lost!

Grace runs out with the cookies and tries not to look like she's about to burst into tears.

CHANG

She's not yours? For real?

LEE

Why, what do you care?

Chang puts the last plate into the oven. The two men steps out from the back of the kitchen door and stands in the small alley behind the church.

LEE

Yes, she's mine. My bitch girlfriend one day showed up and leaves her at my door. She was about 6.

Lee lights a cigarette. He takes a drag and gives it to Chang.

CHANG

The watch belongs to some guy named Jojo. Never know his real name.

LEE

How was he?

CHANG

A bit too lean, not much fat. But good blood. He was Faith's brother.

Lee stares at Chang in astonishment. He takes another deep drag and throws away, lighting a new one.

LEE

For fuck's sake what have you done?

Chang takes away Lee's cigarette and smokes. He stares at Lee.

CHANG

This is my last warning. If you show up in my breakfast store, or anywhere near my house, I will have to kill you. I have a family now and I've chosen them over...over you and...all these fucking shits. You hear me? No more show-up, like today, no more casual stop-by. Nothing more.

LEE

What if I miss this?

Lee grabs Chang by his crotch. Chang pushes him away, this time hard enough to knock him on the ground. His knife is millimeters away from Lee's heart.

LEE
What if YOU miss this?

Chang is still pointing the knife.

CHANG
You call my cell.

Lee spits Chang on the face. Then he gets up.

LEE
Fuck you, and your wife, and that fucking watch. Bastard. Fuck you.

Lee walks back into the church.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The guests are sitting and watching the Father baptizing the infant. Chang and Faith are sitting in the last row, holding hands.

Chang looks at Faith, who now has a saint-like glow on her face. He can't help but patting softly on her belly.

CHANG
(whisper)
I chose you.

FAITH
What?

CHANG
I love you.

The Father pours the holy water on the infant's head.

Faith turns to look at Chang; her eyes full of love and joy. The sun cast shadows on her face so she looks half-bright and half-dark. But for the first time she notices the watch on Chang's wrist.

FAITH
I love you, too.

INT. CHANG AND FAITH'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Faith is sitting in front of the cosmetic desk and rubbing lotion on her hands. The sound of shower comes from the bath room next to their bedroom. She glances at the bed: Chang's shorts is over their.

She turns to take a good look at her face in the mirror; there are some wrinkles at the end of her eyes, she squeezes the bottle for some more lotion. That's where she notices Jojo's watch left on the cosmetic desk. She picks it up and takes a good look at it.

Chang comes into the bedroom, his hairs still damp.

FAITH
Where did you get this?

CHANG
What?

FAITH
I mean, this watch looks rather familiar,
just wondering where you bought it.

CHANG
Oh yeah? It was an old piece. Can't
remember.

Faith puts on the watch and sees herself in the mirror.

FAITH
You telling me the truth or not?

CHANG
Why, you don't believe me?

FAITH
It's a good watch, and an expensive one, I
can tell. My...I once know someone who owns
it.

CHANG
Who, then?

FAITH
Just tell me who gave it to you?

CHANG
You suspect that I have an affair?

FAITH
Do you? How dare you say something like
that in my face and in front of God!

CHANG
I don't. But do you believe me?

Faith takes off the watch and throws it into the corner, the glass of the watch shatters. She sits down and covers her face, weeping. Chang glares at the broken watch, almost murderous. But when he turns to look at Faith, he has gained his caring look back. He pulls a tissue and gives it to Faith.

CHANG

Here, here...alright...no big deal.

FAITH

I was so afraid.

CHANG

Why? What are you afraid of?

FAITH

I don't know! This baby...it must be the hormones, messing my mind. Oh! Lord, I don't know what's happening! And this watch - it reminds me of Jojo...

Faith weeps even louder. Chang keeps giving her tissue.

FAITH

I miss him, Jojo, my brother, I really do... He's not a good apple but I love him...I haven't heard from him for a while. But who knows what and where he could be?

CHANG

Jojo used to wear the watch.

FAITH

Yes, he has a very similar one, a present I gave him when he was...

CHANG

When he was what?

FAITH

Clean...You know, drug addiction never goes away easily.

Chang hugs crying Faith but with a cold face staring at the broken watch.

FAITH

Bad habit dies hard.

CHANG

Yeah, bad habit dies hard.

The two lie in bed and Chang is about to turn off the light.

FAITH

Sometimes I wonder if God has forsaken him. Jojo...he's not a bad kid, but all those drugs, you know. Makes me wonder if there's a chance he's never going to the heaven.

CHANG

It's not God or chance. It's his choice.

FAITH

What?

CHANG

Nothing. You're tired, that's why you're babbling nonsense.

Chang closes his eyes. Faith sits and stares at him in disbelief for seconds before she turns off the light. She turns away from Chang.

INT. CHANG AND FAITH'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Chang's cell phone left on a table in the dark living room suddenly rings loudly.

Chang, in the bedroom, opens eyes alertly. He gets up while tries not to wake his sleeping-sound wife and gets the call.

It's Lee.

CHANG

What?

EXT. IN FRONT OF CHANG AND FAITH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT, PHONE CONVERSATION

Lee sits at the doorstep and holds a cigarette.

LEE

Come down here.

CHANG

What do you want?

LEE

Come on, don't be an ass. Just come down here.

CHANG

I can't. Faith is sleeping.

LEE

Oh, ok. I'll go up -

CHANG
Don't - alright, I'm coming down.

INT. LEE'S CAR - NIGHT

Chang sits into Lee's car, which parks across from Chang and Faith's apartment.

CHANG
Now what the -

Lee grabs Chang by the neck and kisses him fiercely.

CHANG
You're drunk?

Lee ignores. He starts undressing Chang.

LEE
Yeah yeah, drunk, or not drunk...doesn't matter...

CHANG
Wait, if we are going to do this, let's go to my store.

Lee smirks as he starts the engine.

INT. BREAKFAST STORE - NIGHT

Chang and Lee almost get tripped by the doorstep as they are kissing their way into the locked breakfast store. In a hurry, Chang only turns on a lamp over a table, on which he bends Lee over.

LEE
Quick, Fuck m-

Chang locks Lee by his throat, almost choking him. A moan mixed with pleasure and horror gaged in Lee's throat.

LEE
Please -

CHANG
Why?

Chang looses his choking a bit.

LEE
You said I could call you.

Chang ignores; he chokes Lee again until they come together and Lee passes out.

Chang gets up quickly and sees that his store is in such a mess: some tables and chairs are flipped over, a few sauce bottles are rolling on the ground, and their clothes scattered. He picks up his underpants, which is covered by Lee's shirt. A small plastic bag of white powder falls out from the shirt's pocket. He frowns upon tasting the powder. He then searches every pocket of Lee's clothes, finds a wallet, there's a police officer identification.

He puts down the wallet and the drugs, lights a cigarette and stares at Lee, who seems to wake now.

CHANG

Why do you do this?

LEE

(mumbling)

What -

CHANG

You're a fucking cop.

Lee struggles to get up but get pointed by a knife on his chest, right where his heart beats frantically.

LEE

You like this, don't you? Aren't you gonna choke me again while you fuck my asshole? Is that what you want? Why don't you try that drugs? It gets you on even more-

Chang drills the knife into Lee's abdomen, deep and firm. Blood gushes out quickly. Lee breaks out a horrified cry but Chang gags him with his own clothes in the mouth.

CHANG

I don't know why people talk so much today.

LEE

(gagged)

Please...

Tears roll down Lee's face.

CHANG

I chose my family.

Lee tries to say something. Chang removes the clothes hesitantly.

LEE

(whispering)

You can't...your nature chose you.

Chang stares at the big wound which bleeds profusely, and Lee's face turning pale in seconds.

LEE
 (whispering)
 And...I chose you...

CHANG
 No.

LEE
 (whispering)
 Please-please...

CHANG
 No...NO! I chose my family! I chose them!

Chang stabs Lee's chest wildly. When he finally stops the madness his face is covered with blood and he's sobbing uncontrollably.

CHANG
 (sobbing)
 I'm so sorry...I chose them.

There's a cold stiff smile on Lee's pale face.

CREDIT SHOWS: "Dessert".

INT. BREAKFAST STORE - DAY

Not a very bright summer day with dim daylight and a cloudy weather, but customers are lining up as usual to wait for their breakfast order in front of the stores. The early morning newspaper on one of the tables reads "Tropical Depression Forms around the Philippines Open Waters".

Chang is busy in the kitchen: minding the frying pan and toaster as he rolls a big piece of dough.

Faith comes into the kitchen. She looks tired.

FAITH
 Do we have enough steam buns?

CHANG
 I'm rolling the dough.

Faith looks at the dough getting bigger and bigger in piece.

CHANG
 What's going on? The people are lining up-

FAITH
 Where were you this morning?

The toaster shoots out two perfect pieces of toast. Chang starts cutting the dough into small chunks.

CHANG
Why, at home.

FAITH
No, you weren't.

CHANG
I was. I was at home.

FAITH
Where were you last night?

CHANG
Look, it's not the best time. The people are waiting!

Faith picks up the toaster and smashes it on the ground, and then jars of jam and butter, and then pots of black tea. Chang glares at Faith.

The fry pan catches fire. Chang picks up the pan quickly and throws it into the sink. Faith storms out of the kitchen.

Grace is at the desk. She's not wearing her uniform but with a book bag.

FAITH
Morning, Grace.

GRACE
Aunty Chang! I'd like to have one steam bun and a cup of milk tea.

Chang shows up beside Faith.

CHANG
Sorry, Grace, steam buns are all sold out.

Grace glances at the steam oven, there are clearly enough steam buns.

GRACE
But you still got them-

CHANG
Choose something else, Grace.

Grace looks at Chang, for a second she finds the man terrifying menacing.

GRACE
But I want steam bun-

FAITH
 For the love of God, Chang, just give her
 what she wants-

Faith grabs the clip and puts a steam bun into the plastic bag.

CHANG
 That's your choice, Grace.

Grace looks puzzled. She pays and is ready to leave.

FAITH
 Wait, Grace? Where is your father today?
 Why isn't he here to take you to school?

GRACE
 I don't know, Aunty Chang. He was not at
 home this morning.

FAITH
 He was on patrol?

GRACE
 He would tell me, but he didn't.

Grace leaves.

FAITH
 Something's not right. A man who loves his
 daughter like Lee does would leave without
 any note?

Chang sneers when he goes back to the kitchen and starts cleaning all the mess.

INT. BREAKFAST STORE - DAY

The sun still doesn't come out in the afternoon; one or two times the daylight tries to penetrate multiple layers of skies but the weather still looks gloomy.

It's past 12 and the store is about to close. Faith takes off her apron and sits on one of the chairs.

FAITH
 I'm feeling so tired today. I might need to
 go home right now.

Chang stops scrubbing the fry pan.

CHANG
 I'll drive you.

FAITH
 Oh, no need. I'm good by myself.

Faith stands up slowly and waddles to get the door.

CHANG
I don't think so. Come on, let me drive
you.

INT. CHANG'S CAR - DAY

Chang gets in the car and starts the engine. Faith sits in the back with seatbelt buckled up. They drive through the streets. A gush of winds blow, so loud they could hear it in the car.

FAITH
It's weird that there should be cloudy days
in summer, like today...

CHANG
It's the tropical depression.

There is a thick air of awkwardness.

FAITH
Did you smell something funny when you open
the store today? Something like bleach or
chlorine?

CHANG
No.

Faith's word brings back Chang's memories from last night:

CUT TO:

INT. BREAKFAST STORE - NIGHT

Chang finally stops sobbing and starts cleaning up: wiping and mopping the blood, bleaching, more bleaching and washing. He takes out the big metal bucket* to burn Lee's clothes.

*Note: Most Taiwanese families and stores would keep a metal bucket in order to burn the ghost money when worshipping during festivals.

He clutches Lee's wallet before tossing it into the fire. Eventually he doesn't.

It's the body that bothers him the most. He raises the butcher knife for several times, pondering which part would be suitable for his hobbit. However, he fails.

INT. CHANG'S CAR - DAY

Chang hears Faith talking.

FAITH
I'm sorry for the drama in the kitchen today.

CHANG
I believe it's the pregnancy. Or the hormones.

It takes a few seconds before Faith realizes the irony.

FAITH
Oh you think it's my-

CHANG
Please. NO.

Faith looks out the window and weeps quietly. Chang sees that in the rear mirror.

CHANG
I'm sorry.

FAITH
Do you love me?

Chang doesn't answer right away. Faith sobs more emotionally.

CHANG
Please...please stop crying.

FAITH
I can't.

CHANG
(muttering)
I do. I chose you.

INT. CHANG AND FAITH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Chang supports Faith getting upstairs and undressed. She lies in bed and falls asleep quickly.

Chang goes downstairs and takes out an envelope.

The phone rings. Chang picks it up immediately.

CHANG
Hello?

OFFICER LIN
Hello. This is Officer Lin from the
Taichung First District Police Department.
Is Mrs. Chang there?

CHANG
What's the matter?

OFFICER LIN
Are you her husband?

CHANG
Yes. What's going on?

OFFICER LIN
It's about her brother, who was reported
missing for almost two year ago. The police
has found something and would like to
update with her.

CHANG
You've found him?

OFFICER LIN
Yes.

CHANG
Where is he?

Seconds of hesitation.

OFFICER LIN
I'm very sorry to inform you, but
unfortunately, her brother is dead and we
have evidence to believe that we are
looking at a murder case. I'm not supposed
to give you more details, sir.

CHANG
What kind of evidence do you have?

OFFICER LIN
That...I'm afraid I can't tell you.
Actually, I'm here to ask Mrs. Chang to
come for a few questions. Is she really not
there?

CHANG
No. She's not here. And...I don't think
she's brought her cell phone.

OFFICER LIN

We will keep contacting her. Still, please ask her to call this number as soon as possible. My colleague Officer Lee and I are on this case.

CHANG

I will. Which Officer Lee, may I ask?

Chang is about to write down the name, but suddenly stops.

CHANG

I see.

OFFICER LIN

Thank you very much, and...my condolences.
Bye.

Chang hangs on the phone without saying goodbye. He stares at the phone for a while before he grabs the envelope and storms out of the house.

INT. BREAKFAST STORE - DAY

Chang goes straight to the freezer in the kitchen corner and pulls out a box. There lies a wallet. He puts the wallet into the envelope.

A knock on the half closed door. Chang takes a quick peek from the kitchen curtain and meets the eyes of Grace and MRS. HUANG, a woman in early 30s, dressed in a dress and a handbag.

MRS. HUANG

Hello? Anyone?

GRACE

Uncle Chang!

Chang has no other choice but to open the door and let them in.

MRS. HUANG

Hi, sorry to bother you. I'm Grace's teacher. She showed up today at school without uniform and she said that her father hadn't come home since last night. I asked if she knew anyone taking care of her tonight, and she said she didn't know. But then she mentioned your name...

Chang glances at Grace, who is already wandering among the chairs and tables, enjoying herself.

MRS. HUANG
I still have classes for the sixth graders.
I'm sorry to say but I wouldn't let herself
wandering on the campus, either...

CHANG
It's fine. She knows me. Did she say
anything about her father besides not
coming home?

MRS. HUANG
Well, I'm not sure. See, these single-
parent kids are always the same...

A loud "bang!" from the desk. Grace accidentally drops a cup,
but it doesn't break.

CHANG
Come out, Grace! Kitchen is not the place
for kids.

MRS. HUANG
I'll leave her to you, then, Mr. Chang -
It's Mr. Chang, right?

CHANG
That's right.

Mrs. Huang leaves. Chang waves her car goodbye.

GRACE
Uncle Chang? What's this?

Chang turns around and sees Grace holding the envelope.

INT. CHANG'S CAR - DAY

Chang is driving Grace home.

CHANG
I got an afternoon job. You need to stay
with Aunty Chang for now.

GRACE
OK.

CHANG
Have you finished your homework?

GRACE
No. Mrs. Huang said that we should do
homework at home.

GRACE
 Isn't Auntie Chang going to have a baby?
 When is she going to give birth?

CHANG
 Anytime. Can't tell.

GRACE
 I so want a brother or sister. I sometimes
 wish I could stay with my mother, not with
 Dad... But either way is never the best
 choice.

Chang raises his eyebrow.

CHANG
 You're a good kid. Should've not said that.

GRACE
 Uncle Chang, do you think my father is
 coming home tonight?

CHANG
 I don't know.

GRACE
 He once beat me for taking his wallet. He
 would never leave it.

They've reached Chang's house. Chang pulled the car under the
 veranda, but doesn't get out.

CHANG
 Listen. I don't know about the wallet
 thing. And I don't know where your father
 has gone.

GRACE
 What if he never comes back?

Grace looks like she is about to cry.

GRACE
 My mother doesn't want me. Nobody
 does...maybe we could ask his colleague to
 find-

CHANG
 No.

Grace is crying.

GRACE
 Why not?

CHANG
Because I said so.

GRACE
But-

CHANG
Go inside, Grace. And shut your damn mouth.
Your father's in trouble, and if you tell
anyone about the wallet, he would never
come back then.

Grace looks at Chang with shockingly fear. Chang pinches her
cheek, seemingly endearingly, but then threateningly.

CHANG
What are you waiting for? GET!

Chang watches Grace walks into the house.

INT. CHANG AND FAITH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Faith wakes up from a long deep nap and hears someone walking
downstairs. She gets out from the bed and walks down slowly.
She sees Grace, who is sitting at the table with several
homework books open and TV turned on.

FAITH
Grace?

GRACE
Hi, Aunty Chang.

FAITH
Why are you here?

Faith's cell phone on the shelf rings. A stranger's number
but she still picks it up.

FAITH
Hello?

OFFICER LIN
Is this Mrs. Chang?

Faith casts an eye on Grace and walks back upstairs.

Grace continues doing her homework as she constantly gets
distracted by the TV. In a surf of channels she catches a
glimpse of the news. A woman NEWS REPORTER is standing in
front of a river road where a lot of grass is growing high.

NEWS REPORTER

...As you can see from here that although the heavy daily traffic is not far away, this is the place that seldom people visit. The used needle and condoms under the bridge suggests that there are drug addicts activities. This is also the alleged crime scene of the headless murder.

The news then cuts to a police station. The same reporter, along with other news media, is blocking an officer's way out. The subtitles says the office's name is Lin.

NEWS REPORTER

Officer! Officer, would you tell us anything about the headless murder? Is the police targeting any suspect yet?

Upstairs, Faith is talking on the cell phone with a grave look.

FAITH

...Look, I'm not sure if I should bring this up. It's madness, but...

OFFICER LIN

Anything related to your brother's identification is no madness, ma'am.

FAITH

Did you find in the remains...a watch?

OFFICER LIN

A watch? No, we didn't.

FAITH

My brother never takes off a watch.

OFFICER LIN

Could you describe the look of the watch? Maybe we could check the crime scene again.

FAITH

Even better, I could show the watch to you.

There is a sudden noise in Officer Lin's background. He pauses for a moment.

DISTANT VOICE
(V.O.)
It's on the news!

OFFICER LIN
What do you exactly mean?

Faith bites her lip and opens the drawer. Jojo's watch lies quietly in it.

FAITH
I have a similar one...

Downstairs, Grace hears the footsteps behind her. She quickly switches the channel to a weather forecast and turns to find that Faith is standing behind. She's still on the phone, and she looks pale.

GRACE
Aunty Chang! I was just...

FAITH
(to the phone)
You and an Officer Lee are on this case?
Officer Lee you said?...I see. Thank you.
Bye.

WEATHER FORECAST
(V.O.)
The tropical depression is now officially announced as the 7th typhoon this year, named Paroka. It's approaching Taiwan fast and we are estimating that it'd arrive tonight around 8 or 9-

Faith tramps loudly toward the TV and turns it off.

FAITH
You should've not watched TV when you do homework. It's distracting.

GRACE
Aunty Chang! Uncle Chang said I could come to your house-

FAITH
Your father hasn't been home for how long?

GRACE
One day...since...since last night. Mrs. Huang, my teacher, brought me to the breakfast store.

Faith sits right across from Grace at the table.

FAITH

Grace, where is Uncle Chang? Where did he go after he dropped you?

GRACE

He said...he had another job in the afternoon, that he had to go.

Faith stares at Grace coldly. Grace shutters a bit.

FAITH

Grace, my husband does NOT have an afternoon job.

EXT. BREAKFAST STORE - DAY (DUSK)

Chang steers the wheel and parks the car in the back of the breakfast store. Contrary to the neat and organized entrance, the back is shabby and smelly. Garbage bins and dead pot plants stand along, with unknown junk stored by the neighborhood. Chang takes out a key and opens the back door.

INT. BREAKFAST STORE - DAY (DUSK)

Chang comes into the kitchen. He moves away the fridge and reveals a trapdoor. Opening it up and walks down, he stands in a narrow room with the height about only 62 feet. He uses his cell phone as a flashlight and swings around, finding the thing he is looking for: a black duffle bag in the corner.

He opens the bag; it's still the same content as the time he was about to murder the Thai young man. The ropes, rags, tape, his pack of butchering tools, fat stacks of cash, and a passport. He puts the wallet into the bag.

His phone rings.

FAITH

Chang? Chang? Where are you?

CHANG

I'm in the Carrefour.

The signals are not well-received.

FAITH

Hello? Carrefour? You're shopping? Where are you really?

CHANG

Call you later.

FAITH

I'm having a baby!

CHANG

WHAT-

The signals go off.

Chang lights a cigarette and stares at the bag.

INT. CHANG & FAITH'S APARTMENT - DAY (DUSK)

Faith puts down her cellphone and look at Officer Lin, who's sitting on the sofa across to her and Grace.

FAITH

I hope it works.

OFFICER LIN

If he's really the loving husband you described, he would come back home.

FAITH

What would happen if he doesn't come home? You're gonna arrest him?

OFFICER LIN

That would make him very suspicious. First of all, the crime scene is only 8 miles away from where he used to live. Secondly, now we have the watch, which you said was almost the same as the one your missing brother used to wear-

GRACE

I've seen you before, Uncle!

Officer Lin and Faith look at Grace surprisingly, who seems to have remember something.

GRACE

You work with my father! I've seen your name card!

Officer Lin suddenly looks serious.

OFFICER LIN

Is your father a police officer, too?

GRACE

Yes.

Officer Lin stands up slowly and look at Faith cautiously.

OFFICER LIN

Ma'am, is there something about your husband that you wish to tell me, but you don't know where to begin? Because if I connects the dots, everything comes back here, which points to your husband.

FAITH

That's absurd-

OFFICER LIN

The watch, the location of the crime scene, and this girl's father-

FAITH

I...I said it was a very similar watch.

OFFICER LIN

But you still gave it to us to test the DNA.

FAITH

Grace, go to the kitchen. Help yourself with some cookies-

OFFICER LIN

No. Stay, Grace. Ma'am, you're also not being honest about my colleague's missing by keeping his daughter in your house.

FAITH

I don't see any importance about these-

GRACE

They were good friends, Uncle Chang and my-

FAITH

SHUT UP, GRACE!

Officer Lin stares at Faith astonishingly.

OFFICER LIN

WERE?

Grace nods.

The lightning tears the sky and hums a deep thunder. Rain falls fiercely.

Faith suddenly lets out a terrible cry. Officer Lin turns to find out that her water is broke.

OFFICER LIN
 (on his page)
 This is Officer Lin. I need an ambulance...

INT. CHANG'S CAR - NIGHT

Chang is driving slowly; the rain gets heavier and heavier. Even the wipers sweep madly the vision is still blurred; however, there's no way that Chang would miss the 2 police cars parking one street away from his house. He slows down even more and tries to see through the foggy and blurred windshield: Not only are there 2 police cars but an officer guarding.

Chang glances at the duffle bag he puts beside him. He drives away.

INT. CHANG'S CAR - NIGHT

Chang is driving aimlessly on the road. Eventually he finds that he's heading toward the highway. He turns off the music that he always plays and switches to the news radio. The news is broadcasted halfway.

NEWS RADIO HOST
 (V.O.)
 ...as Paroka the typhoon has officially landed an hour ago, the whole island is looking at the strongest typhoon in the past 10 years. The Central Weather Bureau would like to remind that there will be no airplanes taking off after midnight, so are the ships and ferries...

His sees he has received a text from Faith. Pulling over, he picks up the phone to read it.

TEXT
 Come to the hospital. Please. Givin' a birth. Need You.

A voice message comes in. He turns off the internet connection and then click it to hear.

VOICE MESSAGE
 (In Faith's V.O.)
 Chang, please...come to the hospital...you're a father to a son...he's so beautiful. I'm thinking about naming him Isaac.

The voice message pauses a while and then continues.

VOICE MESSAGE

(In Faith's V.O.)

I know terrible things have happened, but please, I love you...come back to me and we can face them together.

There's a picture. A new-born infant.

Chang stares at the picture for second before he throws the phone out and runs it over, crashes it.

He then opens the duffle bag, takes a syringe and the white powder of Lee's. He mix the powder and some water into the syringe.

INT. HOSPITAL, ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A YOUNG NURSE is dozing off in the on-call room when she is waken by a pound BANG. She rushes out immediately, along with OFFICER LIN, and they find out it's a car crashing into an empty ambulance. The driver is nowhere to be found.

YOUNG NURSE

Oh my god-

Officer Lin checks the damaged car around. Some other doctors and nurses are bringing a gurney but only to find there's no patient. A humming of murmurs spread out quickly. Officer Lin suddenly realizes something.

INT. HOSPITAL, PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

Chang walks in the corridor silently. There isn't anyone, not even a patient or a nurse passing by. He holds something in his pocket.

He opens a door. Faith is sleeping in a bed with Grace curling up in a big armchair. ISAAC, the baby, is sleeping in a cradle.

He moves quietly aside Grace and takes out the syringe, giving the little girl a shot on the neck.

FAITH

Chang?

Chang turns to find that Faith has awoken, looking at him as she tries to sit up.

CHANG

Please, lie back. Don't get up-

FAITH

You came, after all.

Chang looks at her, realizes that he is still holding the syringe. He nods slightly.

CHANG

Yes.

FAITH

I love you, you know that, right?

CHANG

Yes.

Faith weeps quietly, tears roll down profusely.

FAITH

Please don't make anymore mistake-

CHANG

Quiet. It's going to be over real soon.

FAITH

Do you love me? Have you ever loved me?

Chang pats Grace cheeks with a bit more force. She lies sleeping sound.

CHANG

Strangely, yes. I've once chosen you.
That's the nearest thing I've ever done for
love.

Chang approaches to the cradle; Isaac looks heavenly peaceful.

CHANG

(cont'd)

Whether you believe me or not.

FAITH

But...if you chose me, why now-

CHANG

(whisper)

Maybe he was right, one's nature is over
any choice.

FAITH

What?

Chang picks up the infant.

CHANG

I guess this is it. I'm so sorry.

Chang kisses the infant on the forehead while he stares at Faith, who is now sobbing too heavily to say a word.

CHANG
Goodbye.

Chang disappears behind the door.

INT. CHANG'S CAR - NIGHT

There aren't many cars on the highway. Chang drives so fast that there isn't any car in front of him. Isaac sleeps like a log.

He follows the road sign that reads Taipei.

EXT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Chang's car drives into the small alley, right in front of the shabby apartment that he used to stay. He sits in the car and stares at the familiar door. And then he picks up the baby and the duffle bags and walks out.

The rain seems to wake up the baby. He starts crying.

Chang takes the crying baby in, before he closes the door, he peeps out. The wailing of Isaac's crying fails after the door shuts, eventually the sound fades in the heavy rain.

FADE OUT.

THE END.