

DRAGON'S MOUTH

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. AIRBUS A340 - DAY - AIRBORNE

Aboard the China Eastern Airlines flight, passengers doze, read, or peer through windows. Three young children watch an animated movie. An old Chinese woman argues MOS with an old Chinese man.

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT pushes a cart down the aisle. She serves beverages and hands out snacks. Two young women sit together. She reaches their seats.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
(Cantonese; subtitled)
Would you like something to drink?

SHARI CHEN, 28, an attractive, dedicated detective, is more than acquainted with taekwondo. She's a crime-fighting adventuress ready for whatever may happen.

Shari lowers her tray table.

SHARI
(Cantonese; subtitled)
Hot tea, please.

The Flight Attendant serves Shari her tea.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
(Cantonese; subtitled)
How about you, miss?

LILI CHEN, 20, slim, is the biggest admirer and sidekick of her sleuthing sister. Lili is a cutie whose impish wit is her signature.

LILI
Diet Pepsi.

The Flight Attendant hands Lili a cup of ice and a can of Diet Pepsi.

SHARI
It was fun meeting those long-lost relatives.

Lili pours her Pepsi and takes a sip.

LILI
Yes. I needed a break from school.
It was also educational visiting
the birth place of Sun Yat-sen.

SHARI

And how about the Buddha at Liurong
Temple?

LILI

Shari, no wonder I'm tired.

She leans against the headrest and closes her eyes.

SHARI

Lili, when we get to Hong Kong, you
can relax.

EXT. HONG KONG SKYLINE - DAY

It is one of the great commercial centers of the world and
gateway to the Orient. It's a busy city where fortunes are
made and lost. Where poor people live and die unnoticed.

EXT. HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

Dark clouds roll overhead while a China Eastern Airline
Airbus A340 lands.

SUPER: "HONG KONG."

EXT. HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Red, green, and blue taxis line up to await their fares. A
misty rain fills the air.

Shari pushes the door open, and Lili follows her from the
arrival hall. They pull their luggage behind and head for
the taxi station. The wheels of their luggage clickety-
clack over the concrete seams.

INT. TAXI - DAY - TRAVELING

Shari pulls the door of the taxi closed. She and Lili settle
back in the seat.

SHARI

(Cantonese; subtitled)
Driver, the Princess Changping
Hotel.

The taxi pulls from the curb.

The taxi moves along busy city streets. Lili looks out and
watches buildings whiz by.

SHARI (CONT'D)

So much for those travel folders
showing sunny Hong Kong.

LILI
Yeah, this looks more like San Francisco.

She looks over at Shari.

LILI (CONT'D)
I need a few things. Where can we shop?

Shari reaches into her bag and pulls out a travel pamphlet.

SHARI
In this brochure, there's a place called Harbour City. The biggest shopping mall in Hong Kong.

She leafs through the pamphlet.

SHARI (CONT'D)
Here it is.

She hands it to Lili. Lili peruses the pamphlet.

LILI
This place looks great. I'm getting an adrenaline rush.

SHARI
You would.

INT. INSPECTOR LUK'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

An altar to Buddha occupies a corner of the room. The room is clean and organized. The family dog quietly curls up on the floor.

KITCHEN

SIMON LUK, 37, is a detective senior inspector with the Hong Kong Police Department. He's a man not prone to patience. He strives for a promotion with the Regional Crime Unit.

Luk sits at the table with his two daughters.

LUK
One of these days, I'll make chief inspector, and we'll move to a really nice place.

ELLEN CHOU, 34, serves breakfast to her family. She's a wife, mother, and local librarian.

ELLEN
Simon, aren't you happy here?

LUK
Sure, you and the girls just
deserve better.

AMY is Luk's ponytailed eight-year-old.

AMY
Daddy, when we move, can I have a
yard and swing?

LUK
You bet!

KACI is Luk's pigtailed seven-year-old.

KACI
Can we get another dog?

LUK
What's the problem with Cong?

KACI
If we're going to have a yard, we
need a bigger dog.

ELLEN
And why would that be?

KACI
You always tell us not to waste
things. By not using all the
space, wouldn't we be wasting it?

Ellen and Luk glance at each other.

ELLEN
Cong will do just fine. You girls
finish your breakfast. It's almost
time for school, and I have to get
to the library.

Amy and Kaci finish their last bites and drink their milk.
Luk sips his tea.

LUK
I almost forgot. I've arranged to
be off for our anniversary.

Ellen smiles while she removes dishes from the table.

Amy and Kaci get up and leave the room.

ELLEN
That is good news.

Ellen gives Luk a seductive look.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
Taking me someplace romantic?

LUK
You'll see.

Luk winks. He wipes his mouth with a napkin and gets up from his chair.

LUK (CONT'D)
Let's go. Another look like that
and we'll never get to work.

ELLEN
Is that a promise?

They laugh.

INT. ZHAO HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

A suit, shirt, and tie lay on the unmade bed. In the adjoining bathroom, a shower is heard.

Through the open bathroom door, a man's form is cast upon the frosted shower glass. The shower stops. A towel on top of the shower enclosure is drawn inside.

BATHROOM

The shower door opens.

ZHAO DESHENG, 51, prepares for another day of work. He's married, and the successful manager of the Hong Kong Diamond Exchange. Aside from diamonds, his passions are gambling and attractive women.

He towels himself dry and slips on underclothes. He stands in front of the mirror and splashes on aftershave.

BEDROOM

Zhao enters the room and begins to dress. Moments later, the bedroom door opens and a woman enters.

NI MU, 50, Zhao's wife, is a spoiled social climber. She's a nagger and nitpicker.

MU
No! No! That tie won't do.

ZHAO
But I like it.

MU
Like it or not, it doesn't go with that suit. Where's your good taste?

Zhao looks perturbed.

MU (CONT'D)
Suppose one of our friends saw you in that ghastly combination.

She grabs the tie from around his neck and heads to the closet. She returns with another tie.

MU (CONT'D)
Here, this'll make you look like a real gentleman. Remember the adage: "Dress for success."

She drapes it over his shoulder and heads toward the door.

ZHAO
Am I not successful?

Mu ignores him and disappears down the hallway.

MU (V.O.)
Hurry along. Breakfast is ready, and you know how mother hates to be kept waiting.

ZHAO
(under his breath)
You and your mother can go to hell.

He snatches the tie from his shoulder.

INT. PRINCESS CHANGPING HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

The lobby is ornately decorated in dark wood and marble. The motif is that of a Chinese palace. Guests stroll while others relax on plush chairs and sofas. The hotel staff goes about their duties.

Shari and Lili exit the elevator and casually walk toward the front door.

KO TAO, 21, wears her employee uniform. She hesitantly walks up to Shari and Lili.

TAO
Are you Miss Chen?

SHARI
Yes, how did you know?

TAO
Americans are easy to spot.

She leans closer to Shari.

TAO (CONT'D)
(in a low voice)
You're a detective, right?

SHARI
I am.

TAO
I heard you were stopping here. I
have to see you.

SHARI
What can I do for you?

TAO
I can't talk now; they're watching.

She looks from side to side.

TAO (CONT'D)
I'm Tao. I'll come by your room
this evening.

She rushes down a hallway and disappears. Shari and Lili look questioningly at each other.

INT. THE CHEN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The color coordinates are blue and white. The bedspread and curtains have an abundance of ruffles. On a stand, a small TV plays the evening news MOS.

Lili sits at the vanity and brushes her hair. Shari hangs the last of her clothes in the closet.

SHARI

What do you suppose that woman wants?

LILI

It's for sure it isn't your autograph.

SHARI

Don't be silly. Maybe it's a ruse.

LILI

Whatever it is --

There's a knock on the door. Shari pads over and opens it. Tao stands motionless in the doorway.

SHARI

Aren't you coming in?

Tao takes a feeble step and slumps forward. She reaches out to Shari. Shari wraps her arms around Tao. Shari's hand is centimeters from a gold handled dagger that protrudes from Tao's back. Shari lowers her onto the floor.

TAO

Help my brother Danny.

Lili steps around them and looks out the door.

LILI

Nobody.

Tao's eyes close, and her head rolls to the side. Shari presses fingers on her neck to check for a pulse.

SHARI

Call the desk. Have'em get the police. She's dead.

Lili hurries over, picks up the phone, and quickly dials the front desk.

LILI
Hello, desk? Call the police.
There's been a murder.

Lili hangs up and joins Shari who kneels beside Tao's body.

SHARI
Sis, look at this dagger. The
handle is shaped like a golden
dragon, and the eyes are jade.

LATER

The Chens are in the room with the police and crime scene investigation team. Inspector Luk enters and visually scans the room.

LUK
I'm Luk from the Regional Crime
Unit.

He flashes a badge and places it back into his jacket. Luk removes a pack of cigarettes from his jacket pocket.

LUK (CONT'D)
What happened here, miss, uh --

SHARI
-- Chen, Shari Chen of San
Francisco. She's --

LUK
-- I'll get to her.

She glances at Lili and then looks back at Luk.

SHARI
It's quite simple really. I opened
the door, and this woman just...
well... fell into my arms.

LUK
I'll decide if it's simple. Could
be you're hiding something.

He lights a cigarette, inhales deeply, and looks inquisitively at Shari.

LUK (CONT'D)
You didn't know her? You never saw
her before?

SHARI
We just arrived.

He produces a notebook from his inside jacket pocket. He walks methodically about the room and makes entries. Shari trails along. He stops and turns to Lili.

LUK
Who are you?

LILI
Lili, her sister.

A photographer with the crime scene investigation team takes photos. Another team member carefully dusts for prints on the doorframe.

LUK
What can you add to her story?

LILI
It's as she said. We heard a noise, opened the door, and the lady fell in.

Luk throws a cool stare directly into Lili's eyes.

LUK
It's too simple, and you act too innocent.

He looks suspiciously at one and then the other. He strolls around the room.

LATER

LUK (CONT'D)
I may have further questions. Keep yourselves available.

SHARI
Remember, we just arrived. We're here --

Luk looks annoyed.

LUK
-- Yeah! Yeah! On vacation.

Men from the coroner's office enter. They place Tao into a body bag. They lift the bag onto a gurney, strap it down, and wheel her out.

LATER

Shari and Lili sit on the bed in their pajamas. Lili pages through a brochure of Hong Kong.

LILI
Why didn't you tell the police you
met her earlier?

SHARI
Sis, don't you get it? Tao, for
whatever reason, didn't trust the
police.

LILI
After meeting Luk, I can understand
that.

Shari gets up, treads over, and looks into the mirror. She
runs her finger over a facial blemish.

SHARI
The first question is why does this
Danny need my help?

LILI
And the second?

SHARI
Why didn't she trust the police?

LILI
Is there a third?

SHARI
Of course. Who killed her?

Shari returns to the bed, climbs in, and lies down. Lili
lies down as well.

LILI
I'm tired.

Lili yawns.

SHARI
Let's get some sleep.

She reaches over and switches off the table lamp.

LILI
My body's tired, but the nerve
cells of my brain are firing.

Lili frowns.

LILI (CONT'D)
It's so creepy. Somebody being
killed in our room.
(MORE)

LILI (CONT'D)

I can't imagine what Uncle Jimmy would say. What do you think?

Shari renders no response.

LILI (CONT'D)

Did you hear me?

Lili turns and looks at her. Shari's eyes are closed.

INT. THE CHEN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

While she towel dries her hair, Lili walks out of the bathroom. Shari places dirty clothes into a basket for the hotel laundry.

SHARI

I called the coroner's office. Tao's body is being sent to the Heping Funeral Parlor.

LILI

Hello, trouble. Goodbye, vacation.

SHARI

We have to follow this through. Don't you want to know who killed her?

LILI

No!

INT. FUNERAL PARLOR - DAY

Candles and incense sticks burn. A photo of Tao rests on a stand near the open coffin. Friends and relatives pay their last respects.

DANNY KO, 28, is an electronics security specialist for the Hong Kong Diamond Exchange. He is kneeling near the coffin. He rises and somberly walks over as Shari and Lili enter.

DANNY

(Cantonese; subtitled)

Thanks for coming. I don't believe I know you. I'm Danny. Did you know my sister long?

SHARI

(Cantonese; subtitled)

We spoke to her at the hotel. Later, she was killed at our door.

She extends her hand.

SHARI (CONT'D)
My name is Shari Chen. This is my
sister Lili.

They shake. Danny nods to Lili.

SHARI (CONT'D)
Tao heard I was a detective and
wanted me to help you.

DANNY
Me? She shouldn't have done that.
Because of me --

He looks away. His expression is one of pain.

LILI
So you are in trouble.

DANNY
No, I --

Fear marks his face.

LILI
If there's one thing we know, it's
trouble.

With a smug look, Lili gazes at Shari.

SHARI
Your sister was afraid for you.
She was also afraid of the police.
You know why?

DANNY
You know how sisters --

SHARI
-- We can help, but you'll have to
play it straight.

Danny reaches into his jacket. His hand trembles as he
brings out a pack of cigarettes.

DANNY
Okay, I'm in charge of security for
the Hong Kong Diamond Exchange. A
large shipment of uncut diamonds is
arriving from South Africa.

He lights up, takes a drag, and blows the smoke from the
corner of his mouth. With his fingers, he removes a piece of
tobacco from the tip of his tongue.

DANNY (CONT'D)

The value of the stones will to be determined when cut. It's the island's largest shipment ever.

He looks about.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Oh, how rude of me.

He leads them to some chairs, and they sit down.

SHARI

Go on.

DANNY

One of the triads learned of the shipment. They want me to help steal the shipment.

Lili's eyes widen.

LILI

Wow!

Danny looks at the cigarette; it burns toward his fingers. He takes another drag.

DANNY

I don't know what to do. They've threatened my family. Now I know they mean it.

A well-dressed man passes and pats Danny on the shoulder. Danny nods.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(to man)

Thanks for coming.

SHARI

We're going to help. When's the shipment arrive?

DANNY

Next week, but nobody knows which day. It's hush, hush.

SHARI

We have several days to figure a plan. Anybody there you can trust?

Danny pauses for a moment.

DANNY

Tam Dao-ming, I guess. She's always treated me well, and she's been there forever.

SHARI

Good. Do you know her address?

DANNY

No, but I'll get it.

EXT. FUNERAL PARLOR - DAY

Shari and Lili stand on a street corner. Pedestrians, like ants, scurry past. Under an umbrella, a vendor sells pieces of pork on sticks.

SHARI

We'd better rent a car. Danny said they have tours of the exchange.

She looks up the street and starts to wave her arm.

SHARI (CONT'D)

Dikasih! Dikasih!

A taxi screeches to a stop.

LILI

Now that's service.

Shari opens the rear door, and they pile in.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - HALLWAY - DAY

A group of tourists include Shari and Lili. They shuffle along a glass-enclosed hallway flanked by rooms. A TOUR GUIDE, 20s, raises his hand, and they stop.

TOUR GUIDE

These rooms are where wholesalers from around the world examine and order gems.

On the other side of the glass, men and women with eye loops and microscopes diligently analyze possible purchases. Employees carry trays of gems.

He points to cameras mounted in the ceiling.

TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)

You'll note the extensive placement of cameras.

Zhao marches up the hallway. He stops to inject his own insightful commentary.

ZHAO

Ladies and gentlemen, this building is impenetrable. We've never been robbed.

A woman strides up to Zhao. TAM DAO-MING, 40, is the very pretty executive secretary to Zhao. The widow of the former assistant manager, she is privy to all business operations.

TAM

Mr. Zhao, don't forget your two o'clock.

ZHAO

Thanks, Tam.

They walk quickly away.

TOUR GUIDE

Follow me.

He waves his arm, and the group moves forward.

LILI

This is interesting. I've never seen so much ice.

SHARI

Ice? You've been watching too many movies.

Two businesswomen carry briefcases when they exit one of the rooms. They pass through the group and continue down the glass hallway.

SHARI (CONT'D)

We shouldn't lose sight of our vacation. Let's rent motor scooters and take in the town?

LILI

Sounds fun. We should take something back to Uncle Jimmy. Maybe an antique.

SHARI

At the same time, we'll get plenty of fresh air.

INT. LAU HU MOTOR COMPANY - SZE'S OFFICE - DAY

An intricately carved desk with Chinese figures is the centerpiece of this otherwise modern office. Several large photos of auto engines decorate the walls.

On one wall, a display of antique Chinese swords does not fit the surroundings.

Across the room, two tough looking men lounge on a sofa next to a wet bar.

BULL, 30s, is a wheelman and killer who speaks with a deep voice. TRIGGER, 20s, carries a gun that protrudes from under his jacket. He's not afraid to use it.

MISS YEE, 20s, the secretary, enters and walks to a man who sits at the desk. She hands him several papers.

MISS YEE

(Cantonese; subtitled)

Mr. Sze, here are those bids you requested.

HENRY SZE, 52, is the owner of Lao Hu Motor Company. He's a cut-throat businessman in every respect. His outer veneer conceals a ruthless board member of the powerful Shangqiao Triad crime group.

SZE

(Cantonese; subtitled)

Thank you, Miss Yee.

She smiles and exits the room.

SZE (CONT'D)

Let's get back to business.

The two men get up and approach the desk.

SZE (CONT'D)

Those American women I mentioned are staying at the Princess Changping Hotel. One's a detective.

BULL

Boss, what's our job?

SZE

They don't have standing here. I don't like cops of any stripe poking noses where they don't belong. Bull, take Trigger and --

He talks in a whisper as Bull nods his head.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - RIDING SCOOTERS - DAY - TRAVELING

Buildings cast shadows across the winding streets while the sun begins its descent. Shari and Lili ride side by side on motor scooters.

LILI

It was a good idea to rent these.

SHARI

Already, I feel relaxed.

LILI

Don't forget; we want something for Uncle Jimmy.

Bullets bore holes in the windshield of Shari's motor scooter. She looks over her shoulder and sees a dark sedan.

SHARI

Sis, someone's after us.

INT. DARK SEDAN - DAY - TRAVELING

Bull is the driver. Beside him is seated Trigger with a Norinco Type 80 machine pistol. On the floor are several loaded magazines.

BULL

Traffic's a real bitch.

TRIGGER

Get closer.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - DAY

Shari and Lili give their scooters gas. On the narrow, congested streets, they try to put distance between themselves and the sedan. They cut between cars and scatter pedestrians while they race through the streets.

An OLD MAN carries a bian dan pole with bundles on each end. Shari passes very close. The handlebar and windshield strike a bundle. The Old Man spins around. The force throws him off balance.

Lili whizzes past and also strikes a bundle. The Old Man spins again, but this time he falls.

The bian dan and bundles tumble to the pavement. The dark sedan runs over the bundles and rips them apart.

The clothes inside are scattered over the street. Some pieces are wet with sewage. The sedan barely misses the Old Man.

The Old Man struggles to his feet and shakes his fist in the direction of the vehicles.

OLD MAN
(Cantonese; subtitled)
Are you all crazy?

TWO MORE BLOCKS

While lead flies, the chase continues up and down the small streets. A truck sits perpendicular and blocks the way. Crates filled with ducks are its cargo.

Shari angles her scooter toward a two-wheeled cart parked near the truck. It presents a perfect ramp. She hits the cart at high speed and becomes airborne.

Trigger leans out the window and cuts lose another burst. Bullets ricochet off the truck bed.

Two pedestrians are struck by stray gunfire. They collapse in the street.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - RIDING SCOOTERS - DAY - TRAVELING

The scooter carries Shari over the truck just above the stacks of crates.

SHARI
Oooh!

The scooter's wheels thump onto the pavement. She looks over her shoulder and sees Lili.

Lili, a bit less daring, takes advantage of a narrow space between the truck and a wall. She squeezes through. Beside her hand, the scooter's mirror drags along the wall. It throws sparks before it disintegrates.

The scooter almost dumps. She screeches.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - DAY

The sedan closes fast on the truckload of ducks. The truck driver sees the sedan that bears down upon him. He leaps out of the truck and scampers away.

INT. DARK SEDAN - DAY - TRAVELING

Pedestrians clear the way. Bull slams on the brakes. Triggerman raises his arms across his face.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - DAY

The area is busy with cars, pedestrians, and cyclists.

The sedan barrels into the truck bed. Bam! Ducks and bits of demolished crates catapult into the air. Ducks quack; feathers fly like snow.

INT. DARK SEDAN - DAY

The windshield is in pieces. Half of a busted crate protrudes into the car between the men. Feathers begin to settle in and around the car. Bull and Trigger sit with looks of disgust on their faces. Ducks quack and waddle around the car's interior.

INT. THE CHEN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Lili sits on the bed while Shari sits on the vanity bench.

LILI

When you went airborne, it reminded me of Robby Knievel.

With her hand, Lili motions through the air like a roller-coaster ride.

SHARI

My butt's still sore. Somebody's trying to frighten us off.

LILI

My knees are still shaking.

SHARI

Know what that means?

LILI

They're determined to get us?

SHARI

Yes.... No, silly. It means we're on the right track.

INT. LAU HU MOTOR COMPANY - LOBBY - DAY

The furniture is dark wood with chairs covered in crimson fabric.

An attractive Asian woman sits behind a reception desk. An auto engine sits on a dark metal pedestal at one side of the room.

Dressed in suits, five Chinese men stand in a group. Sze and members of his staff walk in.

SZE
Gentleman, welcome to Lau Hu
Motors.

He extends a hand when he approaches one of the men.

LI YUN-QI, middle-aged, the chairman of China Auto Limited, steps up to Sze. They shake hands.

LI
Mr. Sze, my friend, a pleasure to
see you.

SZE
Mr. Li, the pleasure is mine. I
trust you had a pleasant journey.

LI
Most pleasant.

Sze steps over and shakes hands with Li's staff. He turns back to Li.

SZE
We'll proceed into the plant.

LI
I'm sure this'll be enlightening.

Sze puts his arm around Li's shoulder, and they all amble down a hallway.

DESIGN ROOM

Several employees sit in front of computers and enter data. Images of parts fill other screens, and employees point at them while they converse MOS.

SZE
The finest engineers work here. We
ensure a top-quality product.
Let's move to the foundry.

EXTERIOR FOUNDRY

Through a large glass window, employees are visible as they prepare molds to cast parts.

Sze stops the visitors outside of the window. He puts his hand on a stack of ingots.

SZE (CONT'D)
We control the entire process.
Cast our own blocks from these
ingots.

He pats a stack of ingots.

SZE (CONT'D)
Quality starts with the basics. No
other engine castings compare.

The men from China Auto look at each other and nod approval.

SZE (CONT'D)
Any questions?

A STAFF MEMBER, 30s, raises her hand.

SZE (CONT'D)
Yes?

STAFF MEMBER
How long does fabrication take?

SZE
They work in teams. No engine
leaves until all team members
agree. Permit me to show you the
rest of our factory.

They continue on.

FACTORY FLOOR

An end mill cuts away metal to shape a part. The group walks slowly along. They stop occasionally to watch machines shape parts. A factory worker pushes an engine block that dangles from a hoist.

SZE (CONT'D)
There are our assembly teams.

He points toward several teams of workers who diligently assemble engines.

INT. TAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The room looks like a Chinese antique shop. Tam, Shari, and Danny walk across the room.

DANNY

Appreciate you seeing us. I felt we could confide in you.

They stop and stand in the middle of the room.

DANNY (CONT'D)

An employee may have given a triad information about me. Maybe about other employees. The triad intends to rob the exchange.

Tam exhibits a look of distress.

TAM

I can't believe they'd do it.

SHARI

I'm a detective trying to help Danny. You know the comings and goings. Seen anything suspicious?

TAM

Nothing. I can't imagine any employee stooping to such deeds.

She moves to an armchair and sits. Shari and Danny step over and stand beside the chair.

SHARI

Anything strange about Mr. Zhao's activities?

TAM

Most honest man I know. Never. Never. Such a fine family man could never be involved. The thought is absurd. That place is his life, his baby.

SHARI

I'm not pointing fingers.

TAM

Mr. Zhao's an outstanding citizen. My husband was his assistant manager until he died. Mr. Zhao took time away from his family to help me.

Shari is taken aback by Tam's protest.

SHARI

Mill over it, and let me know.

TAM

This is so unsettling.

She gets up from the chair. They walk slowly back toward the front door.

DANNY

Good night!

Tam opens the door; Shari and Danny exit. Tam closes the door and leans against it. Her jaw quivers.

EXT. TAM'S HOME - NIGHT

Shari and Danny slowly walk away from the front door.

SHARI

When we entered, there was the
aroma of aftershave. I smelled the
same aftershave on Mr. Zhao the day
Lili and I visited the exchange.
Let's hang around.

INT. TAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

From down the hallway, Zhao struts into the room.

ZHAO

Honey, you handled it beautifully.

She walks toward him. They embrace; he kisses her.

TAM

I'll be glad when this is over.
That bunch worries me.

ZHAO

Me too.

Zhao puts his arm around her shoulder.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

My cut's about forty million Hong
Kong. We can go a long way on that
money.

Tam rests her head on his shoulder.

TAM

Money isn't everything.

ZHAO

Maybe not, but it's the next-best
thing.

(MORE)

ZHAO (CONT'D)

Have to get away from that nagging bitch. She'll have the surprise of her life when she realizes I'm gone.

He clenches his lips.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

And the kids... hell... they're just like her. It's I want. It's I need.

He sighs.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

It's a god damn shame.

EXT. TAM'S HOME - NIGHT

Shari and Danny stand in the shadows across the street. The front door opens. Tam and Zhao step out. They kiss deeply. Zhao leaves.

SHARI

I was right. Zhao was there.

Zhao heads down the street and out of sight.

DANNY

Why did he hide?

SHARI

I don't know.

INT. SZE'S OFFICE - DAY

Sze's phone rings. He walks to his desk and picks it up.

SZE

Hello.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - ZHAO'S OFFICE - DAY

The desk features a glass top supported by two dark wood drawer pedestals. To one side of the room is a small sofa covered in a flower print. In front of the sofa is a rectangular dark wood coffee table.

Zhao holds a cell phone to his ear and paces around. On the desk, smoke drifts from a cigarette in an ashtray. A bottle of scotch and a glass sit in front of a picture of Ni Mu.

ZHAO
Mr. Sze, there's a problem. Danny
Ko and the Chen woman were at
Tam's.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SZE
What?

ZHAO
They're trying to find a leak at
the exchange. They want Tam's
help. Things are getting hot.

Sze sits down on the corner of his desk.

SZE
You're paid to take heat.

Zhao pulls out a handkerchief and pats his forehead.

ZHAO
They could be onto us.

SZE
Numb nuts, this is a lucky break.

ZHAO
It is?

Sze displays a confident look.

Zhao strokes his chin. He looks confused.

SZE
I have a couple of ideas to --

LATER

Sze stands and looks through his office window.

SZE (CONT'D)
Danny Ko likes shooting off his
mouth.

Sze turns and faces two men who stand a couple of meters
behind him.

SUEN LI-LIANG, 26, sports a droopy eye and a scar from the
eye down the cheek.

LITTLE OSCAR, 25, is a large and ungainly thug. He lacks
brains but follows orders.

SZE (CONT'D)

I have a job for you boys. Go to --

INT. MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

The floor is covered in highly polished light wood. The walls contain pictures of students in martial arts attire engaged in competition. Areas of the floor are strewn with large tan mats.

A group of people practice snap kicks. Three men do stretches on a large mat.

A TALL MAN, 30s, works out on a Wing Chun dummy. Shari and Lili approach him.

SHARI

(Cantonese; subtitled)
Excuse me. Who do I see about
using this facility?

TALL MAN

(Cantonese; subtitled)
See Master Ung. He's in his
office.

Tall Man points to a red door.

Shari and Lili walk purposefully to the door, and Shari knocks.

MASTER UNG (V.O.)

(Cantonese; subtitled)
Come in.

Shari opens the door, and they walk in.

MASTER UNG'S OFFICE

Martial arts photos decorate the walls. The Spartan surroundings suggest the occupant is a person of meager means. Light streams through a window and illuminates liberal amounts of dust on the furniture.

MASTER UNG, an elderly man with a gray beard and Fu Manchu mustache, sits at a desk. His thin face mirrors the appearance of a hermit more than a martial arts master.

MASTER UNG

(Cantonese; subtitled)
May I help you?

SHARI
 (Cantonese; subtitled)
 I'd like to use your facility while
 here on vacation.

MASTER UNG
 (Cantonese; subtitled)
 Where's your home?

SHARI
 (Cantonese; subtitled)
 We're from San Francisco,
 California.

MASTER UNG
 (Cantonese; subtitled)
 Americans! Welcome!

SHARI
 (Cantonese; subtitled)
 I'm Shari Chen. This is my sister
 Lili.

He motions them to sit in two old wooden chairs. After they sit, Lili runs her finger through the dust on the chair's arm. She looks at her finger and makes a face.

MASTER UNG
 I stayed some years ago in Los
 Angeles. It's good to make your
 acquaintance. Which martial arts
 style do you practice?

He leans forward an inquiring look on his face.

SHARI
 Taekwondo.

MASTER UNG
 We teach Leopard kung fu, but you
 are welcome to avail yourself of
 our humble quarters.

He nods ever so slightly.

SHARI
 I'll come in tomorrow.

MASTER UNG
 And you Miss Lili?

LILI
 I get all the exercise I need at
 the mall.

MASTER UNG

Martial arts are not mere exercise.
They are to discipline the body and
mind as well as for self-defence.

The door opens, and in moseys GARY UNG, 24, the handsome,
personable son of Master Ung.

GARY

(Cantonese; subtitled)

Excuse me, Father. Didn't know you
had guests.

MASTER UNG

Come in, Gary. These ladies are
from America. This is Shari Chen
and her sister Lili.

GARY

Shari, a pleasure.

He smiles politely and shakes her hand.

SHARI

Very nice to meet you.

He turns smartly to Lili. He extends his hand, and a smile
fills his face.

GARY

Wow! I mean -- I am -- That is --
How do you do?

They shake hands; Lili grins broadly.

LILI

Happy to meet you.

MASTER UNG

Gary's one of our instructors.

Gary puffs out his chest.

LILI

That's interesting.

SHARI

Well, we'd better go.

She stands up. Lili stands, brushes off the back of her
slacks, and then her hands.

LILI

See you tomorrow.

SHARI

I thought --

LILI

-- We have to do some shopping. If I'm going to learn martial arts, I need the right attire. Now, where's Harbour City?

EXT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - NIGHT

Other businesses have closed. A few cars are parked along an empty street. Across the street from the exchange, two pedestrians make their way down the sidewalk.

SECURITY GUARD #1, early 30s, opens the glass door of the main entrance. Danny exits.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Good night, Danny.

DANNY

Good night.

Security Guard #1 closes the door and locks it.

Danny steps onto the sidewalk and looks in both directions.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

He walks casually along. He stops momentarily and lights a cigarette. Behind, he hears footsteps. Danny hesitates, daring not to look.

He begins to walk with haste.

SUEN (V.O.)

Danny.

Danny freezes.

SUEN (V.O.)

Danny.

Danny turns slowly. Suen and little Oscar swagger up.

SUEN

Those things'll kill ya.

Suen slaps the cigarette from Danny's mouth.

SUEN (CONT'D)

You were told not to talk to cops, so you got a detective.

Danny, coward like, looks at Suen.

DANNY

I didn't.

Suen pushes Danny against Little Oscar. Little Oscar socks Danny's chin. Danny's legs wobble, and he goes down.

LITTLE OSCAR

Not so fast, little man.

He bends, grabs Danny by the shoulders and jerks him to his feet. He holds Danny with one hand and punches him several times in the stomach. He works Danny over.

Little Oscar lets go, and Danny's face meets the pavement. Danny groans and rolls onto his side.

Little Oscar, his rage loosed, kicks Danny a few times in the spine. Danny moans and reaches for his back.

SUEN

That's enough.

LITTLE OSCAR

I wanna shine my shoes on this bastard's head.

SUEN

Lay off. The boss doesn't want'em marked up.

Little Oscar kicks one more time and then backs away.

SUEN (CONT'D)

If you don't get the message,
you're dead. Got it? Dead!

Danny barely moves. A trickle of blood is in the corner of his mouth. Suen and Little Oscar amble away.

INT. HARBOUR CITY MALL - CONCOURSE - DAY

Shoppers tote packages while they stroll along. A young woman carries a small dog. The dog squirms trying to get down and yelps continuously.

Shari and Lili pad along past the stores. Lili clutches an arm full of packages.

SHARI

Sis, have you noticed anyone following?

LILI
No, where?

Lili's head bobs about.

SHARI
Don't look. There's a man in an
orange shirt in front of the shoe
store.

ORANGE SHIRT, in his twenties, stands casually in front of a
shoe store.

SHARI (CONT'D)
He's been following us the last
half hour.

LILI
Maybe he thinks we're cute.

SHARI
I'm serious.

LILI
Nobody would bother us here. I'm
starved. Let's eat.

SHARI
You eat more than anybody I know.
How do you stay thin?

LILI
Keeping up with you has my
metabolism racing.

SHARI
What would you like?

LILI
There's a Pizza Hut down a few
doors.

They walk slowly.

SHARI
Maybe he'll leave after we go
inside.

Their pace increases the closer they get to the shop. They
enter the Pizza Hut.

PIZZA HUT

The shop bustles with patrons. A male employee carries a pizza to a table. A small boy eats pizza. The cheese slides from the crust and onto his lap.

Shari and Lili make their way through the shop to a table. They sit down and survey their surroundings.

LILI

Now that we're being followed by every Tung, Gao, and Fu, what's our next move?

SHARI

We need a plan to stop the robbery.

LATER

Shari and Lili eat pizza. Shari looks puzzled.

SHARI (CONT'D)

How the triad obtained confidential information on Danny is the question.

LILI

You suspect Zhao?

SHARI

Could be. Why did he conceal his presence that night?

LILI

Because of their romance?

SHARI

Maybe!

Lili picks up the last slice of pizza.

LILI

I shouldn't eat this, but it's soooo good.

She bites off a piece. While chewing she speaks.

LILI (CONT'D)

None of it fits.

Shari and Lili finish their drinks.

SHARI

We should go.

LILI
I need kung fu slippers. Gary said
Shoe World carries them.

They get up. Lili picks up her packages and tries to arrange them in her arms.

LILI (CONT'D)
Here, carry this.

She hands Shari a box.

SHARI
(jokingly)
You should retain someone to shop
for you.

Lili momentarily juggles the packages.

LILI
I can handle the shopping.
Carrying all the packages is where
I have issues.

SHARI
So I noticed.

They toddle amicably toward the door.

CONCOURSE

Shari and Lili exit the Pizza Hut. They gaze up and down the busy concourse.

Orange Shirt waits in front of a toy store. He turns away while he talks on a cell phone. He watches their reflections on the window glass.

ORANGE SHIRT
They just came out.

LILI
Let's find a store directory.

Shari spots Orange Shirt. She nudges Lili's arm.

Lili sees him too, then spots three more reprobates in their twenties who stand at a flight of steps. One of the men wears a pair of CUTOFFS. The second is short and sports a TANK TOP. The last of the trio stands and pull up on his BAGGY PANTS.

LILI (CONT'D)
This place is crawling with'em.

Shari looks around.

SHARI

In here.

They dart through an open door.

HERSHEY'S M&M STORE

Stuffed M&M characters, tote bags, and other paraphernalia fill tables and racks. Tall dispensers filled with every color M&M imaginable line the walls.

When they enter the store, Lili tosses her packages to one side. She takes the one from under Shari's arm and flips it over with the others.

Shari and Lili grab bags of M&Ms and throw them at Orange Shirt and the four goons when they enter. The two women clutch stuffed M&M characters, back up slowly, and fling the characters into the men's faces.

They flee down one of the aisles. A female shopper fills a bag with M&Ms from one of the dispensers. Shari and Lili pull open the levers at the bottom of each dispenser. M&Ms flow onto the floor.

M&Ms bounce in every direction. They produce a rainbow of colors. Orange Shirt and Cutoffs storm around the corner.

ORANGE SHIRT

Get'em!

Orange Shirt and Cutoffs rush forward. They slip and slide on the M&Ms. Orange Shirt falls on his butt.

Cutoffs hits the wall and falls flat on his back under one of the open dispensers. M&Ms pummel his face. They pile up around his head.

Orange Shirt gets to his feet. Shari and Lili dash past the female shopper.

LILI

Excuse us.

Orange Shirt is right behind them. An employee dressed as an M&M character comes from a storeroom. Shari and Lili grab the M&M character and push it into Orange Shirt.

Orange Shirt falls down, and the M&M Character falls on top of him. They roll around on the floor. Orange Shirt gets up, trips over the M&M character's leg, and falls again.

Shari and Lili come around a corner. A shot rings out. The bullet shatters several mugs in a display; the display collapses. Mugs and pieces of mugs roll across the floor toward their feet.

They cut up another aisle and exit the store.

ON THE CONCOURSE

Shari and Lili run through the center of the mall. Lili feels something in her blouse pocket. She reaches into the pocket and finds M&Ms. She pops them into her mouth.

Shari looks back and sees Orange Shirt and the four goons in hot pursuit.

They enter another store.

INSIDE THE KITCHEN GADGET STORE

Pots, knives, and kitchen gadgets are on display. A lady employee demonstrates a deep fryer to a group of patrons.

Shari and Lili enter on a dead run trailed by Baggy Pants and Tank Top. They run between the display tables.

Baggy Pants grabs several knives and begins to throw them. Knives whiz by barely missing Shari and Lili.

Tank Top brandishes a gun and approaches Shari. She sweeps him. The sweep knocks the gun from his hand. She backs away. He comes at her, hands outstretched.

Shari picks up a kabob skewer. She thrusts it through one of Tank Top's hands. He howls in pain while blood drips onto the floor. He staggers off.

Shari backs to a wall.

BAGGY PANTS

You're mine.

Shari grabs a mop handle from a display. She whacks him on the side of the face. He lurches into a display of dishes and falls. Stacks of dishes hit the floor and fragment.

Cutoffs rushes up. She jams the mop between his legs and trips him. He falls and skids across the floor like a man on a surfboard.

Orange Shirt runs up.

ORANGE SHIRT

Cops! Beat it!

They flee through the door.

CONCOURSE

They bolt across the concourse and disappear into the crowd.

KITCHEN GADGET STORE

Shari and Lili slowly walk over and sit on a pair of stools. Numerous officers race in with guns drawn.

LILI
Remind me to call the office.

SHARI
Why?

LILI
To check my life insurance.

LATER

Detective Luk enters the store. Shari and Lili remain parked among the remnants of a display of pots and pans.

Luk slips on a pot lid; two uniformed officers catch him before he falls.

LUK
God damn!

Lili and Shari swap glances.

LILI
Here we go again.

LUK
My two favorite tourists.

He paces in front of them.

LUK (CONT'D)
Miss Chen, you're trouble.

LILI
You should see her back home.

Luk looks at Lili; his eyes narrow.

LUK
This is not home. You're in my yard, and you'll play by my rules.

SHARI

Men attacked us. What should we have done?

LUK

You shouldn't have wrecked two stores and scared dozens of people.

Luk removes a packet of antacid tablets from his pocket. He opens it and pops a few into his mouth. Luk speaks while he chews the tablets.

LUK (CONT'D)

I've been digging.

LILI

(looks at Shari)

At least he's been doing something constructive.

Luk shoots daggers at Lili.

LUK

(to Shari)

You're a detective. Stop, you're up to. Better still, go home.

SHARI

This is our vacation.

Luk leans forward and places both hands on a display table.

LUK

Make sure you don't end your vacation in the morgue.

LILI

My God!

SHARI

What?

LILI

My packages!

She bolts for the door.

INT. MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

A male instructor conducts a nunchaku demonstration for his young class.

Lili wears her kung fu uniform and slippers. She stands on a large mat with Gary, who is in his kung fu attire.

GARY

Leopard kung fu is one of the five animal styles. Let's start with basic hand toughening exercises.

Gary leads her to a table on which an iron palm bag sits.

GARY (CONT'D)

Work your hands on the bag like this.

Gary punches down at the bag.

GARY (CONT'D)

You try.

Lili steps up to the table and works her hands over the bag.

GARY (CONT'D)

That's it. Harder!

MONTAGE - LILI WORKS OUT WITH GARY

-- Lili does stretches. Gary does stretches beside her.

-- Lili runs on a treadmill. Gary gives encouragement.

-- Lili practices jump rope. Gary watches intently.

-- Lili uses hand grips. Gary looks on.

-- Lili hits and kicks a Wing Chun dummy. Gary moves in and corrects her technique.

-- Lili does push-ups. Gary lies on the floor beside her.

END MONTAGE

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

Music plays on the radio; Lili hums along.

SHARI

Sis, did you enjoy the first day of instruction?

LILI

I found it... very educational. What I didn't like was how sore my hands became. Oh, and look at my nails. I broke every one.

She holds out her hands.

SHARI

I image you're tired. We'll eat in the hotel.

LILI

Gary invited me for dinner.

SHARI

Oooh! That's fine. I'll see Danny about the case.

INT. THE CHEN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Lili sits at the vanity while she applies makeup. Shari sits on the side of the bed.

SHARI

While you make yourself beautiful, I'll call Danny.

LILI

Look who's jealous for a change.

SHARI

I'm not jealous.

She smiles like a Cheshire cat.

Shari picks up her cell phone from the nightstand and enters a number. She raises it to her ear.

SHARI (CONT'D)

Danny, where can we meet?

DANNY (V.O.)

There's a noodle house on Wan Chai Road. I believe the name is Yuen. Can you find it?

SHARI

Sure.

DANNY (V.O.)

Meet you in an hour.

She disconnects. She picks up her purse, drops the phone inside, and closes it.

SHARI

When will Prince Charming arrive?

LILI

Any minute.

INT. THE CONTINENTAL RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The restaurant has a European elegance. The dining area is a palette of several shades of blue. Deep blue water goblets give the perfect accent.

Lili and Gary sit at a candlelit table. Gary spoons soup into his mouth.

GARY
How's the crab salad?

LILI
It's quite delicious.

Lili picks up crab salad with her fork and then stops. A troubled look creeps over her face.

LILI (CONT'D)
Gary, I'm worried.

GARY
About yesterday?

LILI
Yes, those men had to be gangsters.

GARY
How can I help?

She reaches across the table and takes his hand.

LILI
That's sweet, but we don't want to involve others.

GARY
We're fond of you and your sister. Well trained students could help.

LILI
You sure?

GARY
Very.

He smiles a toothy grin.

GARY (CONT'D)
You should talk with Father. The triads must not be taken lightly.

LILI
I'll suggest it.

GARY

How'd you like to take a day trip
to Lantau Island? It'll take your
mind off what's happened.

LILI

What's there?

GARY

A cool gondola ride, shows, a giant
Buddha, and shops.

Gary takes a bite from a slice of bread. He sips his wine.

LILI

I love shops.

GARY

I'll pencil you in.

They smile at each other.

INT. YUEN NOODLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Several customers sit around tables. The owner, a MIDDLE-
AGED WOMAN carries dirty dishes. At the counter, the radio
plays Chinese music.

When Shari arrives, Danny is already there. She approaches
the table, and he stands.

DANNY

You found it.

She sits across from him.

SHARI

No problem. If we're going to stop
a robbery, I need more information.
I also haven't eaten.

DANNY

You like noodles?

SHARI

Happens to be my favorite.

Danny looks toward an OLD WOMAN who mops under a table.

DANNY

(Cantonese; subtitled)
Two bowls of noodles and a pot of
tea.

OLD WOMAN

Coming up.

With the wave of her hand, the Old Woman acknowledges his request. She stands her mop against a table and hurries off.

DANNY

Where do we start?

SHARI

When was the first time the triad made contact?

DANNY

Couple of weeks back.

He fidgets in his seat.

DANNY (CONT'D)

A caller told me I was the only one who could pull it off. Said, if I knew what was good for me I'd play along.

SHARI

Did you recognize the voice?

DANNY

No.

The Old Woman toddles over with a pot of tea and two cups. She sets them in the middle of the table. Shari pours tea for Danny and herself.

DANNY (CONT'D)

A couple of guys gave me a good pasting the other night. They knew you're a detective.

Acne Face and another man enter, look around, and slowly walk toward Shari and Danny's table. Acne Face is slightly ahead of a pretty boy named KWAN SAI-CHUENG, 25. They stop a few steps from the table.

ACNE FACE

Danny, who's the lady?

DANNY

A friend. We're --

ACNE FACE

-- She's no friend. She's a cop.

Acne Face reaches under his jacket and displays a knife. He steps toward the table.

Shari snatches the tea pot from the table and tosses the tea onto his face. He screams and drops the knife. He staggers backward, hands over his face.

Kwan picks up a bottle and smashes it. He swings the broken bottleneck at Shari. Swish! Light glistens off its jagged edges. She leans back to avoid injury.

KWAN

You god damned little --

She jumps to her feet and delivers a back kick to Kwan's crotch. He bends forward and grabs his jewels. She picks up one of the chairs and bashes him on the head. He collapses face down.

Acne Face reaches down and picks up the blade.

She moves to put the table between Acne Face and herself. Swish! He slashes at her across the table. He chases her around the restaurant. Patrons duck or head for the exit. The fight continues.

Finally, she runs and springs off the seat of a chair. With a flying kick, she drives him into the wall. He falls backward to the floor. The blade sticks out of his stomach.

SHARI

(to Danny)

Get out!

DANNY

But --

SHARI

-- Go!

He gets up, runs to the door, and almost knocks over a customer who enters. Danny pushes the door open and disappears into the darkness.

EXT. YUEN NOODLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Lights flash, and sirens blare while a police car roars up and stops. A SENIOR CONSTABLE, 30s, and a CONSTABLE, 20s, jump out, draw batons, and run for the door.

INT. YUEN NOODLE HOUSE - NIGHT

The Senior Constable and Constable burst through the door. Shari sits in a chair near Acne Face.

Kwan lies not far away. The Middle-Aged Woman, the Old Woman, and some patrons stand near the counter.

The Senior Constable briskly walks directly to Acne Face. He checks for vital signs. The Constable walks to and kneels beside Kwan. Blood soaks the side of Kwan's head. It runs down his face and puddles on the floor.

CONSTABLE

This one's unconscious, a nasty head wound. I'll call for an ambulance. Him?

SENIOR CONSTABLE

He's dead.

The Constable gets up and keys the mic of his radio.

CONSTABLE

Unit fifteen to Control.

CONTROL (V.O.)

Copy fifteen. What's your situation?

CONSTABLE

One dead and one wounded at the Yuen Noodle House on Wan Chai Road. Nearest cross, Johnston Road.

CONTROL (V.O.)

Units responding.

CONSTABLE

Copy.

The Constable quickly walks over, pulls out a notebook, and begins to interview patrons MOS.

The Senior Constable walks confidently to the Middle-Aged Woman. They speak MOS. Her body language conveys anger. She points toward Shari, Acne Face, and Kwan.

The Senior Constable and the Middle-Aged Woman move closer to Shari's table.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN

(Cantonese; subtitled)

Look at my place.

With her hand, she gestures toward the broken furniture.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN (CONT'D)
(Cantonese; subtitled)
It'll take hours to clean up. Dead
people are bad for business.

She begins to cry, walks unsteadily back to the counter, and sits. The Senior Constable turns to Shari.

SENIOR CONSTABLE
What's your story?

SHARI
These men attacked me. Somehow,
this one stuck himself.

SENIOR CONSTABLE
Hupf! How convenient. I suppose
the other one knocked himself out.

He looks about the room.

SENIOR CONSTABLE (CONT'D)
Where's the man with you?

SHARI
He ran out. Guess he didn't wanna
get involved.

SENIOR CONSTABLE
The owner says you and the man were
together.

SHARI
She's mistaken. We were sharing
the table.

SENIOR CONSTABLE
We'll sort it out at headquarters.
Come along.

Shari slowly gets up. The Senior Constable takes her by the arm and leads her to the door.

INT. REGIONAL CRIME UNIT - LUK'S OFFICE - DAY

The desk has a metal frame and a faux wood top covered with mostly stacks of paper. Luk sits behind it on a black swivel chair. Nearby, a bookcase contains numerous volumes that cover forensic medicine.

Shari and Lili stand in front of Inspector Luk's desk. Luk leans forward.

LUK
Since you won't provide
information, maybe a couple of days
in lockup'll help.

SHARI
What's the charge?

LUK
Obstructing justice.

LILI
I'll get you out.

LUK
No you won't. You're going with
her.

LILI
Me? I wasn't even there.

LUK
You're in this way over your head.

INT. CENTRAL LOCKUP - DAY

Shari, Lili, Luk, and an OLD JAILER pass through a cellblock.

LUK
You brought this on yourselves.

SHARI
You've made up your mind.

LUK
Right.

Lili stops.

LILI
What mind? If he has one, he's not
using it.

The Old Jailer shoves her.

OLD JAILER
Get moving.

LILI
Okay! Okay! I'm going.

She moves reluctantly.

They stop in front of one of the cells. The Old Jailer unlocks the door and swings it open.

LUK

Step in quietly, like good girls.

Shari and Lili enter the cell. The Old Jailer closes the door. Click! He locks it.

LUK (CONT'D)

A sweet sound.

Shari and Lili stand with their hands on the bars.

LILI

You can't get away with this.

Luk rubs his hands together and grins.

LUK

I already have.

Luk looks at them with contempt. Lili sticks out her tongue and wrinkles her nose.

INT. MASTER UNG'S OFFICE - DAY

Shari, Lili, Gary, and Master Ung sit in the office.

SHARI

(to Master Ung)

Thanks for getting us out.

MASTER UNG

All for a good cause.

GARY

Lili and I talked about collaborating.

SHARI

How?

Master Ung rises from his desk and with measured steps walks across the room.

MASTER UNG

Many forces are at work. You are Chinese, but much of your outlook comes from a western perspective. You are in much danger. If you get into difficulty, call. My best students will come.

SHARI

In a tight spot, we'll appreciate anything you do.

He stops in front of an old wall map of China.

MASTER UNG

China is ancient and has time on its side. She is often depicted as a dragon.

He points at the map.

MASTER UNG (CONT'D)

Because of its strategic location, Hong Kong is the dragon's mouth. The entrance to all that is China, both old and new. If you get into difficulty, call. My best students will come.

EXT. LANTAU ISLAND - DAY

Gondola cars on the Ngong Ping Cable Car System rise toward their destination at Ngong Ping Village. Below is a view of Tung Chung City and the South China Sea. The sun is bright, and through the mountains a stiff breeze blows.

INT. CRYSTAL CABIN GONDOLA - DAY

Shari, Lili, and Gary sit and peer through the windows. The gondola floor is made of clear glass. A young couple shares the gondola.

SHARI

This is fantastic.

GARY

I knew you'd enjoy it.

LILI

This glass floor isn't for the faint of heart. It's as though you could drop right through.

She stomps her foot on the glass.

The gondola reaches the terminal and stops. It sways when they get out.

EXT. NGONG PING VILLAGE - WALKWAY - DAY

White buildings with dark tile roofs present a simple yet pleasurable tourist attraction. Shari, Lili, and Gary stand at the top of steps not far from the terminal.

GARY

Earlier, I mentioned things to do.
Where would you like to start?

LILI

I would like --

SHARI

-- You would like to eat.

LILI

Yes, but I need the ladies room.

GARY

In that case, we'll go to Pak Lo.

LILI

I'm sold.

They stroll along the light-colored brick walkway and arrive at the restaurant.

INT. PAK LO GARDEN RESTAURANT - DAY

The interior decor is dark wood and traditional Chinese furniture. Shari, Lili, and Gary enter. They seat themselves at a table beneath one of the windows.

LILI

I'll find the ladies room.

SHARI

Sis, I'll go with you.

GARY

I'll order? Let's try the siumai.
Would you like tea or something
else?

LILI

Diet Pepsi with lots of ice.

SHARI

Tea.

Shari and Lili get up and wander around a corner in search of the ladies room.

LATER

The food is on the table, and Gary waits patiently. Shari and Lili return and sit.

LILI
I'm famished.

SHARI
You can't be. You ate a couple of hours ago.

Lili makes a face and begins to eat.

GARY
What'll we see first?

SHARI
The Buddha?

At another table, four men drink tea and watch Shari's group with interest.

Two of the men are Suen and Trigger. The leader is a man with a bushy mustache known as STACHE, 30s. Another nicknamed BANDIT, 20s, because of his many thefts.

STACHE
Bandit, when we gonna hit'em?

BANDIT
Stache, you're too anxious.

Shari eats her siumai and flashes glances at the men.

EXT. NGONG PING VILLAGE - DAY

Shari, Lili, and Gary stand not far from the Pak Lo Restaurant. A breeze blows through Lili's hair. Visitors mill about.

LILI
That was good. On to sightseeing.

GARY
The Buddha is just past the monastery.

Lili grabs Gary by the hand, and they head along the walkway filled with visitors.

TIAN TAN BUDDHA

They trudge up the steps toward the Buddha and stop.

The 112-foot Bronze Buddha and six smaller statues are located at the top of a hill. The Buddha, on a lotus throne, sits atop a stone three story exhibition hall.

SHARI

Stand here.

She descends several steps and turns. She adjusts the camera and snaps a picture of Lili and Gary. She observes the four men from the restaurant. Shari moves to the top of the steps. Lili bounds over and takes the camera.

SHARI (CONT'D)

Sis, we have company.

LILI

Gary, come here. Something's wrong with the camera.

She fiddles with the camera and pretends something is wrong. Gary jogs over.

GARY

What's up?

LILI

Nothing.

SHARI

We have unexpected guests.

She moves her eyes in the direction of Bandit, Stache, Suen, and Trigger.

GARY

You sure?

LILI

Believe me, she's never wrong.

GARY

Should we confront them?

SHARI

Let's draw them away from these people.

GARY

The monastery.

They begin to walk slowly toward the monastery. The monastery is situated a short walk across from the Buddha.

PO LIN MONASTERY

The doors and major parts of the exterior are painted gold and orange. The roof tiles are gold in color. Multicolored banners flutter in the breeze.

INT. PO LIN MONASTERY - DAY

The interior is painted vermilion with dragons and other mythical Chinese figures on the walls and ceiling. Gold curtains adorned with religious writing hang from the high ceiling. Visitors pray or stand and look at the Buddhas.

The orange doors swing open. Shari, Lili, and Gary swiftly enter. They glance from side to side. In front of them are three golden Buddha statues. Arrays of potted flowers sit to either side.

GARY

Maybe they won't come in.

The door opens, and Bandit cautiously enters. Behind him are Suen and Trigger. A moment later, Stache backs slowly through the door.

Shari, Lili, and Gary move warily to the side away from the Buddhas. Shari surveys the area.

Three visitors finish prayers and depart. Two women remain and pray.

LILI

Here's a chance to try my kung fu.

SHARI

Stay out of this.

GARY

You're not ready.

Bandit makes a move on Shari. She blocks it and counters with a double snap kick. They exchange punches.

The two women who pray hear the commotion, get up, and rush out the door.

Suen and Trigger get on each side of Gary. Suen rolls on the floor like Monkey kung fu, then moves in. Gary employs the clawing strikes of Leopard kung fu to go after him.

Trigger joins in. He uses a combination of Crane and Snake kung fu. The three battle it out for several minutes.

Gary snatches a cloth off a table. He twirls it into the shape of a rope. He snaps it toward Suen. It wraps around a leg, and Gary gives it a yank. Suen's legs go up in the air, and he lands on his butt.

Stache moves toward Lili. She makes some awkward Leopard kung fu moves.

Stache grins.

STACHE

What are you gonna to do? Kick my
ass.

LILI

Who knows.

Stache moves closer. Lili executes a leopard fist punch with little effect.

LILI (CONT'D)

Ouch!

Stache steps back several paces.

Visibly in pain, Lili looks at her hand and back at Stache. She turns toward Gary.

LILI (CONT'D)

Gary, did you see that?

GARY

Never mind me.

He points behind her. Lili looks just as Stache charges and hits her with a flying side kick. She falls onto the floor and hits her head.

A monk shuffles in through a side door.

Stache hears the sound, spins, and quickly throws a knife. When it strikes his chest, the monk groans and grabs the handle. He tumbles over.

Other monks enter. They see their brother on the floor. They begin to shout and look around.

BANDIT

Let's go!

Bandit and the others sprint out the door. Gary rushes over to Lili.

GARY

You okay?

Lili rubs the side of her head.

LILI

Now I know what it means to have
your bell rung.

Gary hustles over beside the monk. He gets down on one knee and lifts the monk's arm. He presses his fingers on the monk's wrist.

GARY

Dead.

Shari kneels and looks closely at the knife. Lili, still groggy, stumbles over.

SHARI

Sis, this knife look familiar?

LILI

It's like the one used to kill Tao.

The three of them exchange glances.

INT. SZE'S OFFICE - DAY

Suen relaxes in a chair beside Sze's desk. Little Oscar stands next to him. At the window, Sze adjusts the blind.

SZE

You did good with Danny.

Sze struts over to his desk and sits.

SZE (CONT'D)

I have one dead and another in the
hospital. There's a mess to be
cleaned up, and I need good men.

Little Oscar looks at Suen. Suen shrugs his shoulders. They look at Sze.

SZE (CONT'D)

Go to the --

INT. HOSPITAL - LAUNDRY - DAY

Workers load clothes into large commercial washers. The pressing machines hiss and belch steam while their operators press and fold hospital uniforms and linen. Women load clean linen into laundry carts.

Suen and Little Oscar step around carts. They make their way through the laundry.

HALLWAY

Suen and Little Oscar ramble down the hallway. A NURSE, 30s, approaches from the other direction.

SUEN
We're lost. Which way is Intensive
Care?

NURSE
Take the elevator end of the hall.
Third floor.

Suen smiles, and they continue down the hallway.

ICU

The door of the elevator opens; Suen and Little Oscar exit. They amble to an empty nurses station.

On the wall, a metal chart holder contains several charts. The name on one chart reads: "KWAN SAI-CHUENG - 3G."

SUEN
Three G.

HALLWAY

They follow the room numbers toward 3G.

ORDERLY #1, 40s, slowly pushes a patient on a gurney. He comes upon the duo.

ORDERLY #1
You shouldn't be back here.

SUEN
I'm a doctor.

ORDERLY #1
You're not.

SUEN
I am, and this man's very sick.

He pulls a Norinco Type 67 pistol with a silencer from under his jacket! Pop! Pop! He puts two slugs into the patient.

A look of astonishment crosses the face of Orderly #1.

SUEN (CONT'D)

You don't look well either.

Pop! Suen shoots Orderly #1 in the head. Orderly #1's legs buckle. He falls forward and propels the gurney about two meters down the hallway.

Suen and Little Oscar continue to look for 3G.

Two women step out of a room, look at them, and hastily step back inside.

ROOM 3G

Suen and Little Oscar enter. An ICU NURSE, 20s, adjusts Kwan's intravenous fluid drip. She looks at Suen.

ICU NURSE

This is a restricted --

Suen raises his weapon. Pop! He coolly takes her out with one shot in the chest. A circle of blood appears around the hole in her uniform.

Her body collapses against the bed. Her arm bumps the stand that holds the intravenous fluid and tips it over. It crashes onto the floor.

She slides down the side of the bed onto the floor. Her face is centimeters from the overturned stand.

Suen straddles the ICU Nurse's body while he stands beside the bed. He places the end of the silencer to Kwan's head.

An unconscious Kwan is unaware of his presence.

He hesitates, turns his head away, and pulls the trigger. Pop! Pop! Blood splashes onto the pillow, bedside table, and wall.

He marches toward the door, and Little Oscar follows.

HALLWAY

ORDERLY #2, 20s, walks around the corner and sees Orderly #1 face down in a pool of blood. The patient lies dead on the gurney. Blood drips onto the floor.

Suen and Little Oscar enter the hallway and come face to face with Orderly #2.

Orderly #2 looks baffled.

ORDERLY #2
Hey! What --

LITTLE OSCAR
(with a snarl)
-- Come here!

Orderly #2's look changes to wide-eyed paralyses.

Little Oscar grabs Orderly #2 by the throat and picks him up.
Orderly #2's legs dance like someone being hanged.

Little Oscar throws him, and he lands in a laundry cart.
Orderly #2 coughs and gags. His feet stick above the cart.

Suen and Little Oscar continue down the hallway toward the
nurses' station. The phone rings at the nurses' station.
Suen picks up the receiver and tosses it onto the counter.

SUEN
Hospitals should be quiet.

They continue toward the elevator.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The sky is blue, and the sun shines brightly. A large number
of people mill about or sit at tables. Behind the park, a
building is under construction.

Shari and Lili meander among the tables. They step around
toddlers, blankets, and picnic baskets. A red ball sails by
their heads. They duck out of its path.

SHARI
The view almost makes me forget
everything that's happened.

LILI
Let's walk over to the water.

They stroll to the seawall and look out over Victoria Harbour
toward Kowloon. Lili picks up a couple of pebbles and tosses
them into the water. A ship's horn sounds across the water.

LILI (CONT'D)
I'm ready for lunch. Glad we
stopped by K.F.C..

SHARI
Let's eat at one of these tables.

They turn and saunter back to the car. Shari walks around to the passenger side, and Lili unlocks and opens the driver's side door.

Shari looks up and sees a bulldozer leave the construction site. Smoke pours from its stack.

SHARI (CONT'D)
Where's he going?

The bulldozer turns toward the park.

LILI
I don't like this.

The bulldozer rolls steadily toward them; the smiling operator is Orange Shirt. Bull and Trigger stand in the scoop shovel.

Trigger opens fire with a Norinco Type 95 machine gun. As Shari and Lili duck for cover, rounds strike the ground several meters in front of them.

While they flee, people yell and scream.

LILI (CONT'D)
Something tells me lunch is over.

Shari and Lili jump into their car.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

Lili fumbles with the key and finally jams it into the ignition. She cranks the starter, and the engine comes to life. She shifts into reverse.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Bull and Trigger quickly jump out of the scoop shovel. The scoop shovel bumps into the back of the car. Orange Shirt shifts gears and gives it gas. The car's wheels spin and carve ruts into the ground. The bulldozer slowly pushes the car forward.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

Shari looks through the rear window. In the cab, Bull and Trigger stand on either side of the still smiling Orange Shirt. They laugh MOS and point.

SHARI
To those bastards, this is sport.

LILI

Oh, God!

Lili's fingers grip tightly into the steering wheel.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The bulldozer pushes the car toward the seawall. A chain barrier stands between the car and the seawall. The chain stretches across the front of the car.

The grill cracks. Pieces snap like twigs and fall away. Posts, holding the chain, pull from the ground. The car slides forward.

The tires drop over the edge of the seawall. The undercarriage rakes across its concrete top.

The car tips over the edge and splashes into the water. It lands upside down and slowly sinks. Bubbles churn around the chassis. The men fire at the undercarriage.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

Shari and Lili sit on the interior of the roof. Water squirts in around the vents and some of the door seals. They hear bullets strike the undercarriage.

The car rolls over. The women bounce around the interior. It sinks more rapidly.

SHARI

Quick, get in back.

They scramble over the seats. Water continues to pour in. The lid from their Kentucky Fried Chicken bucket floats by.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Bull, Trigger, and Orange Shirt stand on the seawall and laugh. Bull points into the water. Trigger pats his machine gun. The bulldozer sits; its engine runs. Smoke trails from its stack.

BULL

Those bitches are fish food.

TRIGGER

Tried to make fools of us.

The men turn and continue to laugh while they amble away.

INT. RENTAL CAR - DAY

The car is almost filled with water. Shari and Lili huddle in an air pocket at the back window.

SHARI

We can't remain here.

They inhale deeply, go under water, and push at the back door. It opens but not enough to get out. They return to the pocket for another gasp of air.

Immediately, they go back to the open door. Shari uses her feet while Lili uses her hands. It yields enough where they can squeeze out to freedom.

EXT. WATERFRONT - UNDER WATER - DAY

The car sits on the bottom. Shari and Lili swim along the bottom and then head toward the surface.

IN THE WATER

They bob to the surface and gasp for breath. They look for their antagonists.

SHARI

They wrote us off.

Lili has a look of relief on her face.

LILI

Thank God!

SHARI

We'll swim up the shoreline.

They swim parallel to the seawall.

MINUTES LATER

LILI

Isn't this far enough?

Gone is her swimming form; her strokes are more desperate.

SHARI

Okay, head in.

They swim to the seawall where concrete steps give easy egress from the water.

NEAR THE PARK

Shari coughs as they ascend the steps. They breathe like pack animals after a long haul.

They look down the shoreline. On the seawall, emergency responders walk along the wall and search the water for signs of life. People gather. A launch from the marine police sails toward the scene. They walk toward the park.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Shari and Lili hobble toward the crowd. They approach a uniformed SERGEANT, late 30s.

SHARI

Excuse me, Sergeant.

He turns.

SERGEANT

Yes, ma'am. How may -- What happened to you?

SHARI

It was our car that went into the water.

SERGEANT

How'd it happen? Do you know that water is five meters deep?

LILI

We found that for ourselves.

LATER

A diver in a wet suit stands at the seawall. A barge mounted crane lifts the car from the water. Gulls glide overhead.

Shari and Lili sit at a table with blankets around them.

SHARI

Oh, no!

Glances pass between Shari and Lili. Inspector Luk struts up. On his face is a cocky expression.

LUK

When I heard your names on the radio, I had to see for myself.

Shari bites her lip.

SHARI
Wait a minute.

LUK
No, you wait.

He shakes his finger at Shari.

LUK (CONT'D)
You two even keep the marine police
busy. What'da ya have against me?

LILI
You don't wanna know.

LUK
What?

She looks away.

LILI
(casually)
Never mind.

LUK
Can't wait for the official report.
Sooner or later, I'll nail you two.

Smiling, he turns and struts away.

LUK (CONT'D)
(not looking back)
I'm sure the car decided to give
itself a bath. You two were just
along for the ride.

He shakes his head and continues to walk.

INT. LUK'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Amy and Kaci sit at the table and do their homework. Ellen
washes dishes. Cong, the family dog, lies quietly on the
floor between the girls.

In another room, a door opens and closes.

ELLEN
That you, Simon?

Luk sounds less than enthusiastic.

LUK (V.O.)
Yeah, sorry I'm late.

A moment later he enters the kitchen.

AMY
Hi, Daddy!

KACI
Hi, Daddy!

LUK
Hi!

He walks over and gives Ellen an obligatory kiss on the cheek. He looks beat. He kisses the girls on their heads.

ELLEN
I'll fix your plate. We waited as long as we could.

She stops and dries her hands on a towel. Luk sits down across the table from the girls. Ellen serves him tea.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
You look awful.

Luk, obviously annoyed.

LUK
That's great. All these problems at the station and what happens? I come home, and my wife tells me I look awful.

ELLEN
I didn't mean it that way.

His face shows a tinge of anger. He stares at Ellen who prepares a plate of food.

LUK
Just how did you mean it, Ellen?

Amy and Kaci look at their father with dismay.

LUK (CONT'D)
Forget it. A case I'm working is getting under my skin. Besides that, my stomach is killing me.

ELLEN
Here, try to eat something.

Ellen puts the plate in front of him. He pours on soy sauce and stirs it with chop sticks.

AMY
 (timidly)
 Can my friend sleep over tomorrow?

LUK
 Who?

AMY
 Karen Chen.

Luk clenches his fist; his face reddens. He can hardly hold back the emotion.

LUK
 If I hear the name Chen again, I'm going to scream. I can't get away from it. It's everywhere!

KACI
 Daddy, you're... you're impossible.

Amy and Kaci start to cry. They jump up and run from the kitchen. Cong starts to bark.

ELLEN
 Have you gone mad? Don't bring trouble home. I'm not having those children frightened.

LUK
 This is my house, and I'll bring home anything I please.

Ellen is angry.

ELLEN
 If it pleases you, clean up the dishes when you're through.

She stomps out of the kitchen. Cong ceases to bark. He looks at Luk, bares his teeth, and growls.

LUK
 What's your problem?

He picks up a hand towel and throws it at Cong. Cong scurries away.

INT. SZE'S OFFICE - DAY

Sze stands behind the bar. Suen and Little Oscar stand nearby. Sze pours himself a drink and raises it toward the two men.

SZE

You did well at the hospital.
Though a little bloody. You're
like... like those fine swords.

He points to the wall display of old Chinese swords.

SZE (CONT'D)

You and those swords are tools.
Under my guidance, you get the job
done.

He struts from behind the bar, drink in hand.

SZE (CONT'D)

Danny still hasn't gotten the
message.

He takes a sip of his drink.

SZE (CONT'D)

Time to play my insurance card.
Pick up Danny's --

The men listen intently.

INT. MUSEUM OF MEDICAL SCIENCES - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Footsteps clatter on the marble floors. Groups of people
flow from one display case to the next. A female adult
nudges students to move them along.

The front door opens; Suen and Little Oscar enter. They
wander from room to room. Their prey is here, and they must
find her.

They come around a corner. Suen spots her. He puts out his
hand to stop Little Oscar. KO GENJI, 11, Danny's sister,
stands among a group of students.

SUEN

We'll wait for our chance.

Their chance comes quickly. Genji walks over to a long-
haired woman. They speak MOS, and the long-haired woman
points toward a hallway. Genji walks hurriedly in the
direction indicated.

SUEN (CONT'D)

Let's go.

They follow at some distance. Genji enters the ladies room.
They stop for a few moments to be sure the coast is clear.

LADIES ROOM

At a sink, a white woman washes her hands. Suen and Little Oscar enter. Little Oscar walks up behind the white woman. She looks in the mirror. Little Oscar gives her a knife hand strike to the neck.

The white woman collapses over the counter. Her head brushes against her purse. The purse tips into the sink and spills its contents. Little Oscar pulls her by the shoulder. Her unconscious body falls onto the floor.

A stall door opens, and Genji emerges. She sees the white woman on the floor. Her eyes bug out. She darts for the exit, but Suen catches her by the arm. She squeals.

SUEN (CONT'D)

Oh no you don't.

He places a gun to the side of her face. The silencer presses into her cheek.

GENJI

Don't hurt me. Don't hurt me,
mister.

A spectacled woman enters the ladies room. Suen's reflexes take over, and he pumps two slugs into her. The spectacled woman groans and falls. Genji screams. Suen's hand clamps over Genji's mouth.

SUEN

Shut the hell up.

He raises his hand to backhand her. She cowers.

MAIN FLOOR

Little Oscar leads the way out of the ladies room. Suen twists Genji's arm behind her back.

SUEN (CONT'D)

Don't give me trouble.

They head toward a side door. Genji looks longingly over her shoulder. Suen pushes her along. Little Oscar flings the door open, and they hurry out.

EXT. MUSEUM OF MEDICAL SCIENCES - DAY

Suen, Little Oscar, and Genji walk quickly down the street.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - DAY

Genji stumbles, barely able to keep up. Fear is painted on her face. Her eyes flit aimlessly about.

A female cyclist rides past on a scooter and looks at them.

LITTLE OSCAR

What are you lookin' at?

The female cyclist looks away and keeps going.

They reach the car. Little Oscar opens the driver's side and slides behind the wheel. Suen opens the back door and pushes Genji in. He hops in and closes the door. Tires squeal, and the car pulls from the curb.

At the intersection, the car cuts off pedestrians and turns.

INT. ZHAO'S OFFICE - DAY

Tam and Zhao are in the office. He sits at his desk. She stands behind him; her arms drape over his shoulders.

TAM

I never dreamed people would be murdered and children kidnapped.

ZHAO

Neither did I, but the stakes are high. I owe them.

TAM

What is it?

ZHAO

Don't ask.

She leans down, kisses his cheek, and hugs him.

TAM

If you love me, you'll find a way out.

ZHAO

We'll have to ride this elevator even to the basement.

He leans forward, elbows on the desk. He rests his head in his hands.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

There's no way out.

TAM
We'll go to the police.

ZHAO
They couldn't protect us.

Tam toddles to a window and stares out.

TAM
I'm ashamed for wrecking your
marriage.

A tear rolls down her cheek.

TAM (CONT'D)
Did love make us liars and cheats?

Zhao gets up and slowly walks over behind her. He puts his arms around her waist.

ZHAO
You can't imagine the things I've
done because I love you.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Henry Sze sits among nine men at a conference table. They all dress like prosperous businessmen.

KWOK HUANG-FU, 62, the head of the Shangqiao Triad, presides over the meeting.

KWOK
There's good news for Shangqiao,
but the man who made it possible
should give you the details.
Henry.

Sze stands and walks around the conference table.

SZE
Thank you, Mr. Kwok.
(to the others)
As you know, we've been working to
obtain a contract with China Auto
Ltd. That effort has borne fruit.

The entire group applauds. He stops to light his pipe.

SZE (CONT'D)
You're familiar with the project
code named: "All That Glitters."
Within forty-eight hours, it'll be
completed.

He displays a look of satisfaction.

SZE (CONT'D)

The Lau Hu engine blocks will be packed with stones. Then the blocks shipped quietly from the country.

The triad members look at each other and nod, smile, or laugh. Two members get up, walk over, and shake Sze's hand.

INT. LUK'S OFFICE - DAY

Luk leans against his desk. Two plainclothes officers are with him.

LUK

I don't know how much more of the Chens I can take. Chief inspector wants to know what I intend to do about them. Can you believe that?

The volume of his voice steadily rises.

LUK (CONT'D)

What am I, their keeper? They're making a shambles of the whole administrative region.

PLAINCLOTHES OFFICER #1

Calm down, sir.

LUK

I am calm. What makes you think I'm not?

PLAINCLOTHES OFFICER #2

You're shouting, sir.

LUK

(shouting)

I'm not shouting. Everything they touch turns to trouble.

His face betrays his pain, and he rubs his stomach. He reaches into his desk and removes a bottle of antacid tablets. He dumps several into his hand and shoves them into his mouth like popcorn.

LUK (CONT'D)

My wife's cut me off. The kids go to their room when I come home. The dog even peed in my shoes. It's affecting my whole life.

Hands on its edge, he looks down at his desktop.

INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny tosses in his sleep.

DREAM - DANNY, SUEN, AND LITTLE OSCAR ON A STREET

Little Oscar has Danny down on the sidewalk. He punches Danny repeatedly in the face. Danny's eyes glaze over. Danny sees Little Oscar's face as a blur.

LITTLE OSCAR

Just wouldn't listen. When I'm done, nobody'll recognize your scrawny ass.

Danny takes another punch in the face, and momentarily blacks out. He opens his eyes to the still blurry image of Little Oscar. Little Oscar shakes him violently.

LITTLE OSCAR (CONT'D)

Don't pass out.

SUEN

Let me.

Suen squats beside Danny. One knee presses into Danny's ribs. Danny blinks several times; his vision clears.

Suen holds a gun, centimeters from Danny's face. The barrel looks the size of a canon.

SUEN (CONT'D)

You've had your chances.

His thumb pulls back the hammer. Danny watches Suen's finger tighten on the trigger. The trigger clicks and jolts Danny from his sleep.

END DREAM

BACK TO SCENE

Danny lies in bed.

He reaches his hands out and feels around. He rolls onto his side. Light from the window illuminates his face. He's a man near panic.

LATER

Danny is asleep.

DREAM - DANNY AND TAO IN THEIR MOTHER'S HOME

They are adults, but they sit among the toys of small children. Stuffed animals, trucks, and other childhood toys are strewn around the room.

TAO

I miss you. I miss how we played as children. Is it okay that I came?

DANNY

Yes, I miss you too. I can't erase my guilt for your death.

TAO

I know it's upsetting, but you mustn't blame yourself.

DANNY

I'm responsible.

He lowers his head.

DANNY (CONT'D)

When I see a tear in mother's eye, I know you occupy her thoughts.

TAO

You must set aside your guilt and control your fear. You have to work with the Chens to catch my killers.

She raises her arms out to her sides.

TAO (CONT'D)

I'm fine. It's a beautiful place with no pain, no suffering, just happiness.

She displays an impish look.

TAO (CONT'D)

I can be solid like you. A wispy spirit...

She becomes drifting smoke and then disappears.

TAO (V.O.)

... or anything in between.

She slowly materializes and becomes a solid form.

TAO

Let's play.

She offers him a colorful Jack in the Box. He reaches and takes hold of it. Jack pops out, and in that instant, it startles Danny.

END DREAM

BACK TO SCENE

Danny awakens.

DANNY

Tao! Tao! Where are you?

For a moment, he looks disoriented. He rolls slowly over onto his back and looks at the ceiling. A little smile creeps over his face.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Now that you're with me, I'm okay.

INT. LAU HU STORAGE BUILDING - NIGHT

Old pieces of equipment, boxes, and spare parts occupy most of the small building. A fluorescent ceiling fixture provides the only light.

Genji sits on the floor in a corner. Her hands are bound behind her. Her eyes are closed as though asleep.

Footsteps are heard on the concrete floor. Bull appears from the darkness.

BULL

Hey, kid!

Genji's eyes slowly open.

BULL (CONT'D)

Want some food?

Genji nods. Her lips are parched. Dry mucus under her nose is a testament to her ordeal.

Bull walks over and turns on another light. On a table sits a hot plate, its coils aglow. There are two pots on top. From one pot, he scoops rice into a bowl. From the other, he spoons char siu.

He sets the bowl onto the table, walks over, and unties Genji. She looks at him.

BULL (CONT'D)

Well?

She stands and walks to the table. She hesitates and then sits in the chair. She takes chop sticks in one hand. With the other hand, she lifts the bowl to her chin. She looks at him warily and begins to eat.

INT. ZHAO'S OFFICE - DAY

Zhao sits at his desk and goes over papers with Tam as she stands beside him. Zhao's cell phone rings. He picks it up from the desktop and answers.

ZHAO

Hello.

SZE (V.O.)

After the robbery, be at my office around eleven thirty. I'll have your split.

ZHAO

I'll be there.

Zhao hangs up.

ZHAO (CONT'D)

That was Sze. We get our money tomorrow.

TAM

Good. I can't take much more.

Zhao grasps her arm, pulls her over, and gives her a passionate kiss.

INT. DANNY'S MOTHER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danny sits on a sofa and watches television. The phone across the room rings.

DANNY

I've got it, Mom. Maybe the police found Genji.

He gets up and jogs over to a table. He picks up the receiver and presses it to his ear.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hello!

With his deep voice, Bull speaks.

BULL (V.O.)
Danny?

DANNY
Yes!

BULL (V.O.)
It's going down tomorrow night. In
case you're getting cold feet, we
have your sister.

Danny has a stunned look.

DANNY
Don't hurt her.

BULL (V.O.)
She'll be okay. Just do your job.

DANNY
I will.

Bull hangs up. Danny slowly replaces the receiver.

DANNY'S MOTHER, 50s, enters the room.

DANNY'S MOTHER
Was that the police?

DANNY
No, Mom. Wrong number.

Dejected, she exits the room.

Danny stands for a moment and stares at the phone. He picks
up the receiver and punches in a number.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Hello, Shari. Danny.

INT. PRINCESS CHANGPING HOTEL - BAR - NIGHT

A lady bartender arranges glasses on a rack. Two men talk
MOS and drink beer.

Shari sits on a stool at one end of the bar. She has her
cell phone to her ear. A pina colada is before her on the
bar.

SHARI
Hello, Danny.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DANNY

The crooks called. The robbery's tomorrow night. They have Genji.

SHARI

Things keep getting more complicated.

DANNY

What are we going to do?

SHARI

We'll need Luk's help. Tomorrow night --

EXT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

A panel truck pulls into the bay. On the side, the name reads in Chinese and English: "KOWLOON ELEVATOR COMPANY."

Bandit and Stache exit the truck; each carries a toolbox. They approach the door of the exchange. Bandit rings the bell. A small slot in the door opens, and SECURITY GUARD #2, 30s, peers out.

SECURITY GUARD #2

State your business.

BANDIT

Here to repair the elevator.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Have I.D.?

Bandit shows an identification card.

SECURITY GUARD #2 (CONT'D)

We were expecting you.

He opens the door. Bandit and Stache enter.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - G LEVEL - NIGHT

Security Guard #2 leads them down a hallway.

BANDIT

We hate working nights but the money's too good.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Know what you mean.

They continue on.

SECURITY GUARD #2 (CONT'D)
Here's the elevator. The
electrical panel is behind that
door.

He points to a door farther down the hallway.

STACHE
Thanks. We'll take it from here.

SECURITY GUARD #2
I'd better call in.

He takes a radio from a pouch on his hip and raises it to his
mouth. He presses a button.

SECURITY GUARD #2 (CONT'D)
Station two to station one.

SECURITY GUARD #1 (V.O.)
This is station one. Go ahead,
two.

SECURITY GUARD #2
I'm on G with the elevator
repairmen. Starting rounds.

SECURITY GUARD #1 (V.O.)
Copy, station two.

Security Guard #2 turns to walk away. Stache takes a wrench
from his tool box. He strikes the guard on the head. The
guard drops onto the floor.

BANDIT
Tie him up. I'll get the power on.

Stache gets rope from a tool box. Bandit walks to the door
containing the electrical panels. He opens it. One large
box is marked: "ELEVATOR." He pulls the switch.

Stache ties up Security Guard #2.

BANDIT (CONT'D)
I'll let the guys in.

He turns, walks down the long hallway, and disappears around
the corner.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

The panel truck's rear doors open.

Three men exit and stand behind the vehicle. A man named FISH FACE, 39, lights a cigarette. His name fits his face. A SHAVED HEAD man, 30, disheveled, stands with one foot on the rear bumper. LEUNG KAM-PO, 36, a safecracker with a British accent, looks toward the exchange door.

LEUNG
Gimme a roolly.

Fish Face hands him a cigarette and lights it. Leung takes a drag and glances at his watch.

LEUNG (CONT'D)
Where the blooming hell are they?

The loading docks door opens, and Bandit sticks out his head.

BANDIT
Bring the stuff.

Leung and Fish Face remove two tanks from the rear of the truck. One tank is oxygen, and the other is acetylene. The tanks are attached to a dolly. Hoses and a torch complete the package.

FISH FACE
These tanks are heavy. I'm no coolie.

LEUNG
Stop complaining, mate. This is bloody insurance.

Leung and Fish Face roll the tanks up the ramp and to the door. They enter, and Shaved Head follows.

SHAVED HEAD
I'll close the door.

LEUNG
Aye, don't hurt yourself.

Shaved Head looks puzzled. He closes the door.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - G LEVEL - NIGHT

Led by Bandit, Leung and Fish Face roll the tanks swiftly down the hallway. Shaved Head brings up the rear. They approach the elevator where Stache waits.

STACHE
Everything good?

BANDIT

Like clockwork.

Stache presses the elevator button, and the door opens. They wheel the tanks into the elevator. Stache stays behind. The door closes.

VAULT LEVEL

The elevator door opens. The vault is at the other end of a small lobby. A metal gate is the only obstacle to a massive vault door.

Leung and Fish Face roll the tanks forward. Shaved Head and Bandit carry the tool boxes. They walk to the gate.

Leung steps forward and removes an electronic device from one of the tool boxes. He holds it over the gate's lock with its probe in the lock mechanism.

He presses a button, and the device comes to life. He presses a second button. A faint buzz and hum are heard. A click when the gate unlocks.

SHAVED HEAD

Man, that's wild.

SECURITY CENTER

The brightly lighted center contains a console, a computer, and numerous monitors.

A cigarette dangles from Danny's mouth as he nervously looks at his watch. He shifts his attention to the security console. Most lights are on.

He looks at one of several monitors. It displays an empty hallway. Danny exhibits a look of frustration as he butts the cigarette into an ashtray. He glances at his watch. Perspiration breaks out on his forehead.

He picks up the receiver of the phone and with haste punches in a number.

SHARI (V.O.)

Hello.

Danny looks at another monitor. Leung, Shaved Head, and the others are clearly in view.

DANNY

They're on the vault level.

SHARI (V.O.)
We're in the alley. Buzz us in.

Danny puts his finger on a button and looks at a monitor. Shari and Lili come into view at the loading dock. Danny presses the button.

DANNY
Okay.

The monitor shows Shari and Lili enter.

SHARI (V.O.)
Call Luk.

INT. LUK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Luk stands in front of a wall map with two uniformed officers. ANDY, early thirties, a senior constable in uniform, sits beside Luk's desk. Three other officers are in the room.

LUK
I figure the guy is somewhere in
this area.

He draws an imaginary circle on the map with his finger.

The phone on Luk's desk rings.

LUK (CONT'D)
Andy, get that?

Andy picks up the receiver.

ANDY
Hello, Inspector Luk's office....
(to Luk)
For you, Inspector.

Luk walks over to his desk, and Andy hands him the receiver.

LUK
Luk here.

DANNY (V.O.)
They're robbing the diamond
exchange tonight.

LUK
What? Who is this?

DANNY (V.O.)
 Never mind. If you wanna catch the
 Chens, you better get over there.

The dial tone is heard. Luk hangs up.

LUK
 I've got you.

He turns to the officers.

LUK (CONT'D)
 The Chens are robbing the diamond
 exchange. Andy, go to the squad
 room. Round up all available men.
 I'll coordinate a party they won't
 forget.

Andy trots out the door.

LUK (CONT'D)
 Vacation, my ass. Rest, my ass. I
 had those two pegged from the
 start.

Luk and the other officers hurry out the door.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - SECURITY CENTER - NIGHT

Danny sits in front of a computer keyboard. He looks at a
 computer screen. His fingers dance over the keys.

VAULT LEVEL

Leung looks anxiously at his watch. The others sit or pace.

LEUNG
 C'mon!

He looks at his watch.

LEUNG (CONT'D)
 Better test the acetylene.

He picks up the torch. He turns on the oxygen and acetylene
 valves. He turns on the torch. He takes a lighter from his
 pocket and lights the torch. A flame flickers at its end.
 He adjusts it to a bright blue.

A buzz and a clunk are heard within the vault door. A light
 next to the vault turns green.

LEUNG (CONT'D)
We're in. We won't need this
bloody thing.

He turns off the torch.

SHAVED HEAD
How'd they do that?

LEUNG
Fooled the ruddy time lock.

Leung grips the door of the vault and pulls it open. Inside the vault, lights come on. Leung is the first one through the door followed by Fish Face.

EXT. HONG KONG STREETS - NIGHT

A stream of police cruisers speed along residential streets. The whines of their sirens cut through the night sky.

An elderly man walks a dog on a leash. The dog jumps into his arms when the police cruisers fly by.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Andy drives, and Luk sits in the passenger seat. Two uniformed officers sit in back.

LUK
I'll put those two in jail and toss
the key. Faster, Andy!

ANDY
Inspector, it's almost on the
floor.

LUK
Put it there.

Andy speeds up.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - VAULT - NIGHT

In the center is a large table. The table contains trays of cut and polished diamonds.

On the floor are two metal containers. Leung opens one. He runs his hand through the uncut stones.

LEUNG
Blimey! Look at all those rocks.

Fish Face is preoccupied with diamonds on trays.

FISH FACE

We takin' these too, right?

LEUNG

Of course, wanker.

Fish Face pulls a cloth bag from inside his shirt. He picks up a tray and pours the stones into the bag. Some stones bounce back onto the trays that remain.

Fish Face laughs. He grabs another tray.

Shaved Head joins Leung beside the metal boxes.

SHAVED HEAD

Man, the mother lode.

Bandit walks over to a couple of metal racks. Each rack holds multiple trays of sized gems. Some trays hold pink or pale blue diamonds.

He pulls out a tray and looks at the gems like a five-year-old on Christmas morning. He replaces it and pulls out another tray. He whistles. He slides it back into the rack and then does a little dance.

LEUNG

Enough celebrating.

FISH FACE

Yea. Let's get these rocks rolling. Hee-hee! Get it? Rocks rolling?

LEUNG

Tosser, only you'd come up with a line like that. Let's go.

BANDIT

We'll get more and catch up.

LEUNG

Aye.

Leung and Fish Face head for the elevator. They carry a metal container and sacks. The others remain in the vault.

G LEVEL

The elevator door opens. Leung and Fish Face get out. Stache waits.

STACHE

Got it?

LEUNG

Aye.

STACHE

Where are the others?

LEUNG

Getting more.

Stache steps into the elevator, and the door closes. Leung and Fish Face walk up the hallway with the gems.

EXT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - NIGHT

Multiple police cruisers pull up in front. Luk and Andy jump out. Luk shouts to officers in one cruiser.

LUK

Cover the back.

Pudgy officer guns the engine while a skinny officer totes a shotgun. Pudgy officer whips the cruiser around another car, and speeds down the block.

Luk, Andy, and numerous officers hotfoot it to the entrance. Security Guard #1 quickly unlocks the door and opens it.

SECURITY GUARD #1

What's happening?

LUK

A robbery! Outta my way!

Security Officer #1 steps aside and the police enter.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - NIGHT

Luk pushes Security Guard #1 aside and enters the lobby. Security Guard #1 presses the button on his radio.

SECURITY GUARD #1

All stations report.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

Leung and Fish Face walk through the door and onto the dock. They lumber down the ramp. Fish Face opens the side door of the panel truck. They load the container and bags onto the floor. They hear sirens.

LEUNG

You drive.

They hop into the truck, and Fish Face starts it up. He backs the truck into the alley.

ALLEY

Pudgy officer and skinny officer exit the police cruiser. They walk up the middle of the alley.

INT. PANEL TRUCK - NIGHT - TRAVELING

The officers are silhouettes against the cruiser's lights. They walk toward the truck. Fish Face turns on the headlights. He looks at Leung.

LUENG

Run'em down!

Fish Face shifts gears and stomps on the gas.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The truck lays rubber and leaps forward. As it nears the officers, it picks up speed.

Skinny officer raises his shotgun, but it's too late. The truck plows into them. There are sounds of flesh and bones as they yield to metal. The truck knocks pudgy officer to the side, and he falls onto the pavement.

Skinny officer passes underneath. Momentarily, his body is caught on the undercarriage and dragged. Bloodied, it falls to the wet pavement.

INT. PANEL TRUCK - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Leung leans back in the passenger seat.

LEUNG

We're in the clear.

FISH FACE

I need a drink and a cute chicken.

INT. DIAMOND EXCHANGE - G LEVEL - NIGHT

The elevator door opens. Shaved Head exits; he carries a sack. Stache and Bandit follow. They carry a container between them.

SHAVED HEAD

I'll check ahead.

He jogs to the end of the hallway and looks cautiously around the corner. He waves the others to come. Shaved Head continues on.

Shari and Lili round another corner and see Shaved Head. He pulls a semiautomatic pistol from his pants and fires multiple times. The women withdraw around the corner. He pops off a couple of rounds that empty the gun.

He drops the sack. Diamonds spill onto the floor.

He fumbles in his pocket and pulls out a fresh magazine. He presses the release; the spent magazine drops from the handle. He reloads.

Shari and Lili slam against him. The weapon discharges and blows away part of his jaw. Blood splashes across the wall. Blood also splatters onto Shari and Lili.

They jump back. Shaved Head's body slides down the wall onto the floor. His bloody head partially rests on the bag and scattered stones.

Lili looks at the blood on her hand.

LILI

Ugh, what a mess.

Shari picks up the weapon. Lili wipes her hand on Shaved Head's pants leg.

SHARI

Come on.

They walk to the corner and peek around. Bandit and Stache retreat down the hallway with the container.

STACHE

You and your greed. We should've gone with the others.

BANDIT

Shut up, or I'll cap your ass.

He waves the gun in Stache's face. The barrel brushes against Stache's nose.

STACHE

Yeh jai!

Bandit turns and fires at the two women. Shari and Lili duck around the corner. One bullet shatters an exit sign. The other embeds itself into the wall.

BANDIT
Get the elevator.

STACHE
But --

BANDIT
-- You heard me.

Stache presses the button, and the door opens. They step in. Bandit leans out, fires again and then disappears inside. The door closes.

ELEVATOR
They set the container of diamonds
onto the floor.

STACHE
Now what?

BANDIT
Take us to another floor.

STACHE
I tried to tell you. It only goes
to the vault.

BANDIT
Pok khai! What are we gonna to do?

STACHE
I don't know. You're the big man
waving a gun.

Bandit presses the button. A moment later, the door opens. They pick up the container and get out at the vault level.

VAULT LEVEL

The elevator door opens. Beside the vault, Bandit fires multiple times toward the elevator.

ELEVATOR

Shari responds with several rounds. Smoke drifts from the barrel of her gun.

SHARI
Let's go.

They charge from the elevator.

VAULT LEVEL

Stache drops onto the floor beside the acetylene equipment. Shari and Lili take cover in a small alcove.

Shari fires multiple times. A slug ricochets off the dolly next to Stache's head. Another hits Bandit in the gut. He slowly drops onto the floor.

Stache picks up the gun and fires the last round. Shari fires once and is also empty.

Stache gets up and turns on the acetylene valves. With a strike anywhere match, he ignites the torch.

Shari and Lili edge forward. Stache waves the torch in their direction and shouts.

STACHE

Stay back, or I'll toast your tits!

Shari motions to Lili to spread out. Lili moves farther to one side and then takes a step forward.

SHARI

You don't have a chance.

STACHE

I can burn your ass, and I'll do it.

He thrusts the torch toward her.

Lili steps forward. Stache turns to face her.

Shari springs and grabs his wrist. They struggle. From behind, Lili wraps her arms around his chest and one arm. Shari tries to wrench the torch from his hand. She forces his hand down and twists his arm.

The torch passes over his crotch. It starts a fire. The front of his pants becomes engulfed. The women step away. He screams over and over. The torch drops onto the floor.

Shari and Lili step farther back. His hands flail at his crotch. His shirt sleeves ignite. He falls onto his back. His entire body burns.

SHARI

Who's going to toast whom?

LILI

I think it's toast who.

SHARI
No, it's definitely whom.

LILI
Oh, okay.

Bandit lies on the floor. He groans; his wound bleeds profusely. Shari and Lili walk over. They kneel beside him. Blood starts to puddle on the floor at his midsection.

SHARI
Where did they go?

His mouth moves.

SHARI (CONT'D)
What?

BANDIT
Factory. Lau Hu.

The last breath escapes his lips, and he dies. Shari checks for a pulse and then shakes her head.

They get up and walk toward the elevator. Stache's body burns behind them.

Lili makes a face.

LILI
What a foul odor.

Shari presses the elevator button.

SHARI
Time's running out.

G LEVEL

Shari and Lili walk swiftly toward the loading dock. Shari whips out her iphone and enters a number.

INT. MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - GARY'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Gary reclines on his bed. A poster of Jet Li is conspicuously displayed on a wall. On the night stand, a radio plays pop music. His cell phone rings. He takes it from his shirt pocket and answers.

GARY
Hello.

SHARI (V.O.)

The exchange has been robbed. Do you know how to get to the Lau Hu factory? Genji and the diamonds are probably there.

Gary sits up.

GARY

I know the place. It's on Industrial Park Drive.

SHARI (V.O.)

We'll get it off MapQuest. See you there.

GARY

Gotcha.

He disconnects the call, jumps from the bed, and sprints out the door.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

Shari and Lili burst through the door. They run to the alley and jump into the rental car.

INT. 2ND RENTAL CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Lili starts the car, and they take off. She steers around the fallen officers. Shari looks out at them.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The officers' bodies lie on the pavement

INT. 2ND RENTAL CAR - NIGHT - TRAVELING

SHARI

We can't help them.

LILI

Where's that fool Luk when you need him? Did I say that?

Shari nods.

INT. SZE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

With a grin on his face, Sze stands behind the bar while Zhao and Tam sit together on barstools.

SZE
I'm waiting for the boys. I have
your money.

He motions toward a suitcase on the sofa.

ZHAO
I'll give a look.

Zhao walks over, opens the suitcase, and thumbs through the
stacks of bills.

ZHAO (CONT'D)
Isn't it light?

SZE
I've had a lot of expenses, and
it's not over.

ZHAO
So what!

Sze is a little pissed.

SZE
You got the beautiful woman and
money. Don't get greedy.

ZHAO
We had a deal.

Sze starts to boil.

SZE
Yeah, we had a deal. I got rid of
the whore's old man and made you
rich.

Tam looks at Zhao in horror.

TAM
Now, I know what you meant. How
could you? I loved you, but you're
... you're a murderer.

ZHAO
Baby, it's over. We're free.

TAM
Over! Free! I wanna be free of
you!

She begins to cry. Her hand brushes against a knife on the
bar. She picks it up and lunges at Zhao.

TAM (CONT'D)
Bastard! Bastard! Bastard!

She stabs him repeatedly. Zhao slumps against the back of the stool. She continues to stab and slash. Sze stands behind the bar and unabashedly laughs.

She stops. Zhao's body falls from the stool. She turns toward Sze.

His expression changes from a smile to alarm. He pulls a Cobra Patriot 9mm from under his jacket.

SZE
Stay back, you dumb bitch!

Tam takes small steps toward him. He backs away. He shoots once and grazes her shoulder. She flinches.

SZE (CONT'D)
That was a warning.

She moves forward. Blood drips from the blade in her hand. Tam's tear-filled eyes are fixed on his.

He points the pistol at her head and fires. Her eyeball explodes when the slug enters the socket. Flecks of brain matter are expelled into the air.

She bounces off a bar stool on her way to the floor.

Sze blows smoke away from the end of the barrel. He looks at Tam's body.

SZE (CONT'D)
What a waste of pussy.

EXT. LAU HU MOTOR COMPANY - NIGHT

Shari and Lili scale a metal ladder attached to the building. From the second-floor roof, they look at the ground below. They walk across the roof to a wall; other floors tower above. They try the windows, but all are locked.

LILI
Let me.

She kicks out a pane of glass. Lili reaches in, and unlocks the window. She raises the sash.

LILI (CONT'D)
That's the stuff I learn being around you.

They climb inside.

INT. SZE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sze, Suen, and Little Oscar stand over Tam's body. Zhao lies dead in front of the bar.

SZE
Clean up this mess before my
carpet's ruined.

He kicks Tam's body.

EXT. LAU HU MOTOR COMPANY - NIGHT

Two cars, four vans, and a pickup screech to a halt at the main entrance. Gary and students from the school pile out of the vehicles. They rush to the front doors, but they're locked. Gary pounds on the glass.

GARY
Let us in!

Inside, a uniformed man waves them off.

Gary spots some timbers at a street repair site. He points to the timbers.

GARY (CONT'D)
Bring that wood.

Four students dash over, grab some timbers, and carry them quickly back.

GARY (CONT'D)
Break the doors.

Several students join the others. They ram the ends of the timbers against the glass doors. They shatter. Led by Gary, the group streams through the opening. Some students carry swords or bo staffs.

The uniformed man inside flees.

INT. LAU HU MOTOR COMPANY - FACTORY FLOOR - NIGHT

From a hallway, the martial arts students flood in. Sze's men pour down steps and drop from catwalks. Some men carry sais, kamas, and nunchakus. Shari and Lili enter from another hallway. The scene is chaotic.

SHARI
Split up.

They walk off in different directions.

Fish Face carries a wrench. He chases Lili into the paint spray booth.

PAINT SPRAY BOOTH

Fish Face pulls back the plastic curtain to enter. Lili stands on one side of the room next to drums of paint.

Fish Face slaps the wrench into his palm, and with deliberate steps, he moves toward her. Her eyes flit around the room.

FISH FACE

I'm gonna mess you up.

LILI

As long as I don't look like you.

FISH FACE

I'll crush you're skull.

LILI

My but you do have a way with words.

Lili moves behind a table. Across the table, Fish Face swings the wrench. She backs against the wall. Fish Face tries to push the table toward her, but it's bolted to the concrete floor.

He runs around the table but can't catch her.

She moves alongside a smaller table. From the corner of her eye, she sees a spray gun. It lies on the tabletop. She grabs it, aims at him, and squeezes the trigger. Nothing comes out. Fish Face laughs.

FISH FACE

Oh, I'm scared.

She sees a switch box mounted onto the table. She flips the switch; a compressor energizes.

She points the spray gun at Fish Face and squeezes the trigger. Silver paint shoots from the nozzle and hits him in the chest. Lili continues to spray up and down until he drips with paint.

He slips and almost falls. She sprays at his feet and creates a puddle. Fish Face falls against one of the paint drums and slides onto the floor.

LILI

Paint on your face is an improvement.

She drags the paint hose over to where he leans against the drum. She wraps the hose several times around him and the drum. Fish Face, somewhat out of it, exhibits little resistance. Lili stands with her hands on hips.

LILI (CONT'D)

There. Your mother wouldn't recognize you. And for her, it might be a good thing.

Lili turns, struts to the curtain, pulls it open, and exits.

INT. LAU HU STORAGE BUILDING - NIGHT

Bull sits at the table and plays solitaire. Genji naps on the floor. The wall phone rings. He gets up and takes a few steps to the phone. He snatches the receiver from the cradle and pulls the cord with the other hand.

BULL

Hello.

SZE (V.O.)

Get the hell over here. Bring that brat.

He quickly hangs up and bounds over to Genji.

INT. LAU HU MOTOR COMPANY - FACTORY FLOOR - NIGHT

Pandemonium reigns supreme.

Shari uses a hook kick to knock a shotgun from Trigger's hands. Lili snatches it off the floor just when Acne Face comes from behind a band saw. She levels the gun and fires.

Acne Face's arm is blown off, flies through the air, and lands on a drinking fountain.

LILI

Dr. Kimble, call Detective Gerard.
We have your one-armed man.

With the shotgun on her shoulder, she strolls past the howling Acne Face. Blood squirts out of his stump.

Bull pulls Genji along by the arm; she reluctantly walks.

END MILL

Sze stands beside an end mill machine. Little Oscar and Suen are with him.

Bull and Genji walk over.

SZE

Take her.

Little Oscar and Suen grab Genji by the arms.

SZE (CONT'D)

(to Bull)

Get out there and stop those sons
of bitches.

Bull trots away.

While Sze programs the end mill, Little Oscar and Suen manhandle Genji. Sze pulls a cart over beside the end mill.

SZE (CONT'D)

Suen, bring those pieces of wood.

Sze gestures toward a supply table. Suen walks over, picks up two blocks of wood, and returns to the end mill. Sze opens the mill's vise and places the wood between the jaws.

SZE (CONT'D)

Lay the girl on the table and tie
her head in the vise.

Genji begins to scream and struggle. She kicks at Little Oscar. His massive hands grip her tightly.

GENJI

No! No!

SUEN

Suppose it's not enough to hold
her?

SZE

Improvise damn it. Do I have to do
all the thinking?

Little Oscar lifts Genji onto the table. Suen pulls her head back between the two blocks of wood. He cranks the vise closed; it squeezes the sides of her head.

LITTLE OSCAR

Suen, get that rope. This feisty
bitch is a handful.

Suen steps away and picks up the rope. Genji continues to scream; saliva runs from her mouth.

SZE

Get a gag. If there's anything I
can't stand, it's a whiny female.

Suen wraps a piece of rope around Genji's torso and the top of the cart. He secures it and picks up a second piece. He ties one end to the milling machine and the other around Genji's throat. He wads paper and stuffs it into her mouth.

Suen sees a package of plastic multipurpose ties. He zips two of them together. He wraps them around the back of Genji's head and zips them closed across her opened mouth.

Sze turns on the milling machine. The motor hums, and the cutter begins to spin.

SZE (CONT'D)

Technology will do the rest.

NEAR LATHE MACHINES

Some distance away, Shari sees Sze, Suen, and Little Oscar beside the end mill. Shari's eyes meet Sze's.

SHARI (V.O.)

That must be the bastard behind
this.

Three bad guys swing nunchakus while they run up to Shari. She ducks behind bad guy #1 and disarms him. She cracks him on the head with the nunchakus. He grabs his head and stumbles away. With the nunchakus, she engages bad guy #2 and bad guy #3.

END MILL

Sze, Suen, and Little Oscar watch the blade cut an imaginary square. The mill head drops and begins a new square.

SZE

By my calculation, it'll take six
minutes to reach her head.

The blade drops again. Genji's face exudes terror. Through tear swollen eyes, she watches the blurry blade.

The men walk off.

NEAR LIFT TRUCKS

Cutoffs tosses throwing stars and barely misses Gary. The stars strike the wall behind him. Gary yanks one out and throws it back.

It hits Cutoffs in the mouth; it sticks out like a cookie. Blood runs down his chin and he falls forward onto the floor. His fingers claw at the concrete.

GARY

Bon appetit.

NEAR LATHE MACHINES

Shari and Trigger back into each other. They quickly turn and step back. Trigger holds a gun waist-high. She kicks the gun straight up into the air. She snap kicks him in the chest, and he stumbles backward.

The gun falls through the air; she catches it. She shoots him in the chest. He grabs his chest, back peddles, and slumps over a rack of round stock.

NEAR LIFT TRUCKS

Suen drives a lift truck and heads toward Gary. Gary sees the lift truck coming. He runs and jumps onto one of the forks. He steps around the lift truck mast.

Gary uses a leopard fist punch on Suen. Suen partially blocks it. They punch away. Suen scrambles from the lift truck. Gary does a backflip and lands in front of Suen. They continue to fight.

END MILL

The blade drops.

NEAR A CAGE-LIKE TOOL CRIB

Little Oscar throws Shari around like a rag doll and then tosses her to the floor. She leaps to her feet.

She executes a snap kick to his chest. He's barely fazed. He grabs Shari, picks her up, and throws her. She slides across the floor.

Little Oscar takes a camshaft from a box and removes it from its wrapper. He growls and rushes toward her. He swings the camshaft repeatedly. Each time she jumps clear.

END MILL

The blade drops.

NEAR A CAGE-LIKE TOOL CRIB

Shari backs into an engine block that hangs from a hoist. She grabs the block and pulls it along its rail. She increases the distance between Little Oscar and herself.

LITTLE OSCAR

Can't handle a real man?

She gets behind the block and pushes it forward. She runs toward him. The block hits him in the chest and knocks him onto the floor.

LITTLE OSCAR (CONT'D)

Damn you!

Before he can get up, she flips the release on the hoist, and the block plunges onto his head. Blood and brain matter ooze from beneath the block. His head is crushed like an over-ripe melon.

END MILL

Genji still struggles.

Shari runs up to the end mill. The blade spins barely a centimeter from Genji's forehead. She shuts off the machine. Lili joins her.

Shari hurriedly unties Genji. Lili opens the vise and removes the gag. Shari eyes Sze as he sprints toward a staircase some distance away.

SHARI

Gotta go.

She dashes after him.

BOTTOM OF A STAIRCASE

Sze rapidly ascends the staircase. Shari follows.

SZE'S OFFICE

Sze enters, slams the door, and locks it. He positions himself at the far end of his desk.

Shari kicks the door open. Pieces of the doorjamb fly through the air.

She runs and jumps. On her side, she slides across the desktop. Her feet hit Sze in the face. The blow knocks him off his pins.

He hops to his feet and runs to a wall. Sze pulls one of the swords from the wall display. He swings it multiple times at Shari. She defends herself with a wooden chair.

SZE

I'll cut your heart out.

The fight continues.

FACTORY FLOOR

Leung swings a chain while he steps toward Lili. She dodges his wild swings.

LEUNG

I'll bloody kill you.

Gary runs up.

GARY

Try somebody your own size.

Leung turns and swings the chain at him. They fight.

FACTORY FLOOR ELSEWHERE

Led by Luk and Andy, uniformed officers swarm onto the floor.

SZE'S OFFICE

Sze thrusts at Shari, and the sword goes through the seat. She twists the chair and pulls the sword from his hand. With the sword stuck in the chair, she flings it to the side. It lands a few feet away.

With a spinning roundhouse kick, she hits Sze in the upper chest. He is driven backward and lands against the overturned chair.

The sword pierces his back and exits his chest. He grabs the bloody blade with both hands. His eyes bug out. A look of surprise covers his face. Blood runs from his mouth. His head drops forward.

FACTORY FLOOR

Luk surveys the scene while uniformed officers lead Suen and Bull away.

Lili looks at Gary. The students gather around. Shari quickly walks over.

LILI
(to Gary)
Great job.

SHARI
Don't forget me.

LILI
Yeah, you too.

She leans over and kisses Gary on the cheek.

GARY
What was that for?

LILI
Saving my life and being a great instructor.

He grabs her and gives her a long kiss on the lips.

LILI (CONT'D)
If that's kung fu, how do I get advanced classes?

Everybody laughs.

INT. DANNY'S MOTHER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Danny's Mother peers through the window.

DANNY'S MOTHER
Where are they?

DANNY
Patience, Mom.

Danny's Mother sees the headlights of a police car as it pulls up. Genji, Shari, Lili, and Inspector Luk step out of the car. Genji runs toward the house.

DANNY'S MOTHER
There she is! There's my baby!

The door bursts open, and Genji enters. She rushes into her mother's arms.

GENJI
Mommy! Mommy!

Danny's Mother begins to cry. Genji starts to cry.

DANNY'S MOTHER

I thought I'd never hold you again.

Danny, tearful himself, walks over and puts his arms around them. They hang tightly onto each other.

Shari, Lili, and Inspector Luk enter and stand by the door.

SHARI

What price can you put on that, Inspector?

LUK

None.

LILI

I was wrong not wanting to get involved.

SHARI

When good people fail to get involved, evil triumphs.

INT. LUK'S OFFICE - DAY

Luk sits behind his desk. Shari and Danny stand beside the desk. Lili and Gary sit nearby.

SHARI

My clue to Tam's involvement came from the quote in Hamlet. It goes like this: "The lady doth protest too much, methinks." The other clues were the aftershave and one provided by Danny.

DANNY

From me?

Shari turns to Danny.

SHARI

Yes, the caller said you were the only one who could pull it off, right?

DANNY

Yeah.

Shari turns and faces Luk. She leans with both hands on the edge of the desk.

SHARI

Only someone highly placed would have that knowledge. Zhao, for example.

LUK

You sound like a movie detective. I'd just once like to go on a call and not find you two.
(scowling)
Go home, and don't come back. If you do, I'll swear out warrants.

Shari abruptly steps back from the desk a look of incredulity on her face.

SHARI

For what?

LUK

Firearms violations.

Lili jumps to her feet.

LILI

Firearms violations?

LUK

Yes, you were seen with firearms at the Lau Hu plant. You probably killed someone. I just can't prove it.

Shari looks indignant.

SHARI

We took those off the bad guys.

LUK

It doesn't matter. The law's clear. I can make it stick. It was a dangerous situation; students were killed.

SHARI

Without Gary and the help of the students, who knows what would have happened.

LUK

Things like that are better left to the police.

Lili looks smug.

LILI

Sometimes, the police are nowhere to be found.

SHARI

Recovering the stolen diamonds is a real feather in your cap.

LUK

My cap?

SHARI

Sure! And Genji's back with her family. Your picture will be on TV and in all the papers.

LUK

TV, hmm!

SHARI

You'll probably be in line for a promotion.

LUK

A promotion?

SHARI

Who else?

LUK

Well, I was on top of things. You two just got in the way.

His look is very pompous.

LUK (CONT'D)

If I hadn't shown up at the plant, they might have gotten away. In fact, you could have been killed.

SHARI

Good point, and a man in your position can surely cut us some slack.

From a bottle of antacid tablets, Luk pours a few into his hand. He pops one into his mouth and unconsciously shakes the others like dice.

LUK

Maybe this time. Now, get out. I'm too busy to spend anymore time with the likes of you.

Lili turns to Shari.

LILI
We've forgotten Uncle Jimmy's gift.

SHARI
I remember an interesting shop.

Luk points his finger at them as they head for the door.

LUK
Get out of Hong Kong. My stomach
and marriage can't handle the two
of you.

Lili walks back to Luk's desk. She reaches into her purse.

LILI
Here, I bought these for you.

She hands him a bottle of antacid tablets.

LILI (CONT'D)
The marriage? You're on your own.

He cracks a little smile.

LILI (CONT'D)
(to Shari)
I think he's getting to like us.

They giggle.

SHARI
I wouldn't bet on it. Let's go
shopping.

Lili walks back to Shari, and they head for the door.

FADE OUT.