

SUNDAY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

Written by

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EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - 1968 - EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

MUSIC STARTS - (As Credits Rolling) - "Sunday Will Never Be the Same" by Spanky and Our Gang.

Sweeping aerial view of San Francisco and then Chinatown's Chang's Lucky Garden Chinese Restaurant.

EXT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

TIFFANY LU ANNE CHANG (Asian-American, early twenties, conservative, appealing) leaves the Chang restaurant and walks down the street to a CABLE CAR marked for the GOLDEN GATE PARK.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - GOLDEN GATE PARK - CONTINUOUS

As MUSIC fades, Tiffany is sitting on her favorite PARK BENCH writing a LETTER.

Suddenly, a FRISBEE is being pushed into Tiffany's knees by a large-friendly dog (PEACE), that is urging her to play. Surprised, Tiffany jumps up a bit. Her PURSE, NOTEBOOK and a PHOTO, fall to the ground.

TIFFANY
Shoo! Shoo! Go away....

As Tiffany tries to ward off the friendly dog, TROY CASTELLI (Italian-American, mid-twenties, sixties-hippie style, Berkeley graduate student) is running up to rescue her.

TROY (V.O.)
Scratch behind his ear and he'll sit.

Troy scratches behind his dog's ear, the dog sits obediently and Troy throws the Frisbee back to his friend and college roommate, JOSHUA JONES (African-American, mid-twenties, hippie-Afro hair style). Troy picks up Tiffany's belongings and notices the photo.

TROY
Nam?

Tiffany nods in agreement.

TIFFANY
You really need to put that thing on a leash.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

That's my dog...and take away his freedom?

Tiffany sits down to continue writing her letter.

TROY (cont'd)

Too bad about your friend in that senseless war over there.

TIFFANY

Senseless? Maybe to a hippie, but he's proudly serving his country.

TROY

I really don't believe in fighting for a war I don't agree with.

TIFFANY

I guess everyone is entitled to their own opinions.....

TROY

Maybe I'm being a bit selfish, concerned about my future. I'm in grad school. Don't you have hopes and dreams for your future?

Troy sits next to her on the bench. Tiffany moves her purse and herself a bit away from him in a defensive move.

TROY (cont'd)

Sometimes, I think Peace is a hippie.

TIFFANY

Peace?

TROY

My dog. That's his name...

Tiffany glances at the PEACE SYMBOL hanging from the dog's COLLAR.

TROY (cont'd)

And my name's Troy. My dream is to be a professor at some university. Maybe teach the world to sing and live in harmony and peace. So, what's yours? Your dream, your future?

Tiffany looks out across the park a bit hesitant to show her feelings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

Would you laugh at me if I told you I always wanted to play first violin with the San Francisco Symphony?

TROY

Not at all. You play?

TIFFANY

Listen, I have to finish my letter. Back to my family's restaurant.

TROY

That's really a "trip".

TIFFANY

Trip? No, it's really a short ride on the cable car and..

TROY

No, what I meant was like, "wow". My family owns an Italian restaurant in North Beach.

Troy gets up to join his friend, then he walks back.

TROY (cont'd)

You didn't tell me your name.

TIFFANY

Is there a need to know?

TROY

Well, we see each other here almost every Sunday morning. At least we should know each other's name.

TIFFANY

You're here every Sunday? Guess I haven't noticed. Anyway, it's Tiffany.

JOSHUA

(yelling)

Come on man. You coming or not?

Troy signals at him to cool out.

JOSHUA (cont'd)

Well, hurry. We need to get back to Berkeley....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
 Maybe we can talk next Sunday?

Joshua comes up to the park bench to hurry Troy. Tiffany gets up and starts to collect her things to leave.

TIFFANY
 And please put that thing on a leash.

Troy and Joshua watch Tiffany coolly walk off into the park.

TROY
 (to Joshua)
 Something else? Huh, man?

JOSHUA
 She's something else all right. She called your dog a "thing". Besides, did you get a load of that huge diamond engagement ring on her finger?

TROY
 Yeah. But, I'll tell you this, I'm going to marry her someday!

JOSHUA
 Bro? And what have you been smoking?

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "A Girl Like You" by The Troggs.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN - CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN
 CHINESE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany is hurrying into the restaurant as her childhood friend and waitress MINDY MING (called mostly MING) (Hong Kong born, early twenties) is preparing for Sunday opening. Mindy rushes up to Tiffany.

MINDY
 Where have you been? You're late...

TIFFANY
 You know where. Must we go through this every Sunday morning?

MINDY
 We're one chef down. The dishwasher called in sick again, the shipment of rice wasn't at the back door...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tiffany rushes into her back office leaving Mindy stopped in her tracks.

MINDY (cont'd)
 (yelling at Tiffany)
 And as usual, your Mom's out for your head....

Tiffany's Mother, MRS. CHANG (Mainland China born, attractive, widowed, early fifties, broken English) comes up behind Mindy and hands her a stack of NAPKINS.

MRS. CHANG
 Finish the tables before we open.
 I'll handle my daughter.

INT. TIFFANY'S MANAGER'S KITCHEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany is sitting behind her desk reviewing the day's menu.

MRS. CHANG
 Pray everyday to Buddha to have an obedient, good, Chinese daughter. No answer to a woman's prayers.

TIFFANY
 Not now, Mother. We open in five...

MRS. CHANG
 I pray for the future. Pray for my daughter to be on time, not to live in the past. My daughter is still living in the past.

TIFFANY
 Mother, please? Must we go through this every Sunday?

MRS. CHANG
 Have no future the way you are going. Restaurant has no future, daughter no future, lost with no future.

TIFFANY
 You sound like a stale fortune cookie, Mother.

Tiffany gets up from her desk with the MENU in her hand as they both go out to the main dining room where Tiffany opens the restaurant for the lunch crowd.

INT. CHANG'S RESTAURANT - MAIN DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Chang goes behind the counter to whisper to Mindy.

MRS. CHANG

"Almost Sister" needs to have another talk. Put some sense in my daughter's head.

MINDY

Mrs. Chang? With all due respect. "Almost Sister" has run out of things to say....

MRS. CHANG

You're her best friend and almost sister. It's your responsibility. Now go....have talk....

Mindy drags herself back to Tiffany's office.

INT. TIFFANY'S MANAGER'S KITCHEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany is standing at the filing cabinet. Mindy comes into the office.

TIFFANY

Had my fortune cookie read already for this Sunday. No thanks.

MINDY

You know something? Your Mom is so worried about this place. Since your Dad passed, we're not exactly staying heads above water.

TIFFANY

It'll get better. Once the tourists stop being scared away by all the Chinese gangs.

MINDY

You've been saying that for the past year. Wake up to reality. In fact, on all accounts.

TIFFANY

If this is going to be a conversation about Jimmy again I don't want to hear it.

Mindy walks over to the file cabinet to confront Tiffany.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

It's over two years now, Tiff. For God's sake, you need to face up....

TIFFANY

Like I told you and everyone else countless times. He's MIA, missing in action. Like so many of those soldiers over in Nam.

MINDY

His parents have accepted it, why can't you? We were at his funeral for God's sake!

TIFFANY

That is not Jimmy in that grave. They always mix up bodies coming back from Nam. Besides, he promised me.....

MINDY

Promised you what? That he'd rise from the dead?

TIFFANY

You're supposed to be my best friend. Support me, will you?

MINDY

You know I have, for the last two years. Please take that engagement ring off. It's like you're engaged to a ghost.

Tiffany slams the file cabinet shut and goes to sit at her desk. An uncomfortable silence is in the room.

MINDY (cont'd)

I want my very best friend back, the one I used to know....

TIFFANY

There are customers out there. I suggest you get back to work.

Mindy slowly leaves the office, leaving Tiffany fiddling with her engagement ring, looking at the FRAMED PICTURE of her fiance on her desk.

EXT./INT. SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - CASTELLI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

MRS. MARIE CASTELLI (Troy's Mother, Italian born, late-fifties, broken English) is sitting with Troy at a large kitchen table at the back of the restaurant.

TROY
Stop worrying, Ma....

MRS. CASTELLI
Who's worrying? We never see you anymore. We don't even recognize you, looking like Geronimo....

TROY
Ma? Stop already. Don't insult the Native Americans.

MRS. CASTELLI
You know we didn't raise a son to be going around wearing beads and feathers. What girl is wanting to have "amore" with a boy wearing beads around his neck and wearing a loin cloth to cover his culo?

ANGELINA CASTELLI (Troy's sister, flirty, Italian-American, late-twenties) comes into the kitchen from the dining area of the restaurant.

ANGELINA
Ma! Leave him alone. He's fine.

MRS. CASTELLI
What's "fine"? He looks like "Cochise"! How about Gina Giannatti?

TROY
Ma!

MRS. CASTELLI
Then, Maria Mancini?

TROY
(to Angelina)
Will you talk to her?

MRS. CASTELLI
Don't bring your sister into this. It's enough she's an old maid.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. CASTELLI (cont'd)
 Twenty-eight years old, she's dancing
 the tarantella with one man after
 another. We need a bus to move her
 men in and out of here...

ANGELINA
 (to Troy)
 See what you started? Ma! Statte
 Zitte, already!

Mrs. Castelli goes to the refrigerator to check the supplies
 for the day.

MRS. CASTELLI
 Angelina! I told you provolone not
 mozzarella to order.

ANGELINA
 Ma? You've been on my back all day!

MRS. CASTELLI
 Eh! Some days we're the pigeons, some
 the statue. That's the way the
 pizelle crumbles!

Mrs. Castelli leaves to go into the dining area of the
 restaurant. Troy tries to get enough nerve to ask his sister
 some sisterly advice.

TROY
 Heh, Sis? Can I ask you something?

ANGELINA
 Sorry, just bought a new dress and
 shoes. No bread.

TROY
 Not that. It's about....a girl.

ANGELINA
 If it's about my girlfriend Rosa,
 she's practically engaged. I know you
 had your eye on her since puberty!

TROY
 No, it's some one I met the other day
 in the park.

ANGELINA
 Picking up girls in the park? You
 never asked my opinion before about
 girls?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
Well, this time it's a bit different.

ANGELINA
How so? Cosa?

TROY
This time she's a bit engaged.

Angelina comes over to the kitchen table.

ANGELINA
Stop right there. My advice to you is to forget it, move on. Been there, done that. Only asking for trouble.

TROY
I can't....

ANGELINA
What do you mean, you can't?

TROY
I just can't...I'm telling you...

ANGELINA
Oh, the old lightning bolt?

TROY
It's like she has this big diamond on her left hand. But, something about her "vibes" tells me otherwise.

ANGELINA
Those vibes are "hormones", baby bro!

Angelina goes back to the counter, retrieving an order.

TROY
She's just different, can't get her off my mind.

ANGELINA
Different? Come?

TROY
Believe me, she's different.

ANGELINA
(laughing)
Where's she from? The moon?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
(hesitating)
Chinatown.....

Angelina drops the bowl of pasta she is carrying on the kitchen floor as Mrs. Castelli comes back into the kitchen.

MRS. CASTELLI
Cosa? What is Mr. Antonelli's
linguine with clam sauce doing on the
kitchen floor?

ANGELINA
Sorry, Ma. It slipped....

MRS. CASTELLI
Your head slipped!

ANGELINA
I said I was sorry, Ma!

MRS. CASTELLI
And "you"! Help your sister, Madonna
Mia! We have customers waiting!

Troy kneels down to help his sister clean up the mess on the kitchen floor as Mrs. Castelli prepares some orders.

ANGELINA
(whispering to Troy)
Chinatown? Sei Pazzo? Do you wanna
give Ma a stroke?

Angelina starts to break out in laughter as Mrs. Castelli leaves out the kitchen door to the dining area.

TROY
What?

ANGELINA
I can't wait to see Ma's face when
you tell her the girl you're in love
with eats her pasta with chopsticks
and not a fork!

TROY
Go on, make jokes about this. Thought
you'd be of some help...

ANGELINA
Oh no! You're on your own. I've
already been the statue for the
pigeon all day around here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

Fine. I'm splitting this scene.

ANGELINA

Wait a minute. Aren't you going to tell me more about this girl?

TROY

Not much to tell, only that she writes letters to her Marine fiance in Nam, and her family runs a restaurant in Chinatown. Oh, and she's not too crazy about dogs not on leashes.

Troy starts heading out the back door of the restaurant kitchen to leave.

ANGELINA

Wait a minute! Aren't you going to help me clean up this mess?

Troy keeps going out the door.

ANGELINA (cont'd)

Fine! Don't think I'm going to help you clean up your mess when you tell Ma about Miss Chinatown!

EXT. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK - NORTH BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Mindy is sitting on a bench in front of Saint Peter and Paul's Catholic Church. Troy is walking to the church, noticing Mindy, looking curious and hesitant.

TROY

No one will bite if you enter....

Mindy looks down shyly as Troy sits down on the bench next to her.

MINDY

Always wondered how it was inside.
Seems so beautiful from outside....

TROY

You'll never find out sitting here...

A beat as Mindy continues staring at the church.

TROY (cont'd)

Are you Christian?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Not sure what I am. Just always been fascinated ever since I was little.

TROY

Maybe it's time for you to discover what's inside....

Mindy blushes a bit shyly but still behaves a bit flirty.

MINDY

I'd love to have you show me....

Troy takes Mindy's hand and leads her up the church steps.

INT. - SAINT PETER AND PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Mindy and Troy walk to the front of the church. Mindy is in awe of the surroundings as they both sit in the front pew.

MINDY

It's beautiful, just as I imagined.

TROY

It maybe beautiful. But having faith means much more than admiring all these statues and paintings inside here. Would you be interested in attending Bible classes here on Wednesday evenings?

MINDY

Are you there? Every Wednesday night?

TROY

I teach them when I'm not up at Berkeley attending classes..

Mindy gives Troy a shy flirty look.

MINDY

You're in college? I never, ever dated a college boy before. I mean, knew a college boy before...

TROY

Listen, I've got to meet with the priest about my class plan. I'll see you this Wednesday evening...

Mindy admires Troy as he heads for the back of the church.

INT. SAINT PETER AND PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - CLASSROOM -
WEDNESDAY EVENING

Mindy enters the Bible class that is already in session.
Troy is teaching as Mindy quietly sits in the very back.

TROY

Life can be a strange but wonderful
mystery that most times we don't
understand. There are good parts,
birthdays, weddings, new born babies,
everyday gifts to enjoy....

Mindy closely observes admiringly from the back.

TROY (cont'd)

Then they're the bad parts.
Loneliness and silent suffering.
These are things we want to talk
about this evening. These are what
Jesus is most interested in. Pain is
a part of all of our lives. Can
anyone tell me how they cope with
this sort of pain?

CLASS ATTENDEE

I think Jesus brings a sort of
supernatural healing and if we are
honest, the kind of healing we need.

TROY

Too many of us try to cover our pain
and brush away our grief, ashamed and
scared of being exposed. We keep
everything secret and afraid if
someone sees our messed up lives they
won't like us. We bury our hurts,
mistakes, fumbles and struggles and
try to appear perfect.

SECOND CLASS ATTENDEE

So, what are you suggesting?

TROY

A kind of freedom from having to act
perfect all the time. Jesus wants to
make a deal with you. Hand over your
fears to him and he will heal you and
give you a new life, loved more than
you could possibly know.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mindy looks down with a sad expression. The class ends, the ATTENDEES file out, Mindy slowly approaches Troy as he collects his things at the front desk.

TROY (cont'd)
What did you think?

MINDY
I'm a total screw up. I lie and so scared I'm not enough. "Always this", "always that". I feel my friends think of me....

Troy hands a Bible to Mindy.

TROY
Take this home tonight and read some of the stories. Jesus' favorites are runaway sheep, used up whores, cunning thieves and liars. People just like you and me...

MINDY
Well, I don't think I'm any of that. Well, maybe a runaway lost sheep....

TROY
Whatever your story may be, have faith that Jesus can help. Hope you continue to come. We'll be waiting...

Mindy hugs the Bible as Troy hugs her.

ARCHIVE - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. delivers a sermon at his Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. "I'd like somebody to mention that day Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody...that I tried to love and serve humanity. Yes, if you want to, say that I was a drum major for peace...for righteousness."

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - ABOVE FLAT APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NEXT EVENING

The theme song and opening scene of GREEN ACRES is playing on the living room TELEVISION.

EVA GABOR
(singing)
"New York is where I'd rather be"....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY
Speaking of New York, have you heard
from Sasha lately?

TIFFANY
Not a peep....

MINDY
Wonder how's she's doing?

TIFFANY
(singing)
You know Sasha, "Chinatown I loathe
you, just give me Park Avenue"....

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS INTO NEXT SCENE - "Going To Send You
Back To Walker" by Eric Burden and the Animals.

ERIC BURDON
"Oh, Oh, Oh, Ohhhh! You know that,
you had nothing when I met you baby.
But, look what you got now"....

INT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

SASHA SING (Asian-American, early-twenties, flirty,
confident and sassy. A thoroughbred of a girl) struts
through the airport dressed in MINK, wearing SUNGLASSES. She
is whisked away in a TAXI to Chinatown as MUSIC plays into
the next scene and fades out.

EXT./INT. - CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT -
CONTINUOUS

Sasha gets out of the TAXI and enters the restaurant. Sasha
lowers her SUNGLASSES looking for familiar faces. Mrs. Chang
is surprised to see her.

MRS. CHANG
Sasha? Sasha Sing? Is that you?

Mrs. Chang rushes up to Sasha and hugs her.

MRS. CHANG (cont'd)
My goodness, Sasha! Just look at you.
You really hit the jackpot!

SASHA
Just my everyday wear....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. CHANG

The girls will be so happy....

Mrs. Chang pulls Sasha by her hand to Tiffany's office.

SASHA

So, how are the children?

MRS. CHANG

Children? Sasha, always making jokes.

Sasha rolls her eyes at the surroundings.

INT. TIFFANY'S MANAGER'S KITCHEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mindy and Tiffany are going over the daily sales tickets.

MRS. CHANG

Girls! Look what just dropped in.....

Mindy and Tiffany, amazed to see Sasha, rush to her and give her hugs and kisses.

TIFFANY

Diamonds and furs, Sasha? Made it to Seventeen Cherry Tree Lane.....

SASHA

17 Cherry Tree Lane?

MINDY

"Mary Poppins". Have you forgotten?

SASHA

Still not obsessed with that movie?

TIFFANY

Mom, can you cover for us?

MRS. CHANG

Go! Go! It's slow now until dinner...

TIFFANY

Come along children. Spit spot and off we go!

SASHA

(sotto to Mindy)

Can I tell her to go fly a kite?

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "(If You're Going To) San Francisco)" by Scott McKenzie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tiffany, Mindy and Sasha hurriedly head out of the restaurant chatting about old times as they walk towards North Beach as the MUSIC plays into scene.

EXT./INT. SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - ITALIAN BAKERY/
COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The three girls are sitting at a table eating muffins and drinking hot tea.

SASHA

These muffins are to die for...

TIFFANY

Lots better in New York, I'm sure?

SASHA

Not like these. A real San Francisco treat! Remember, cutting classes in high school to come here?

TIFFANY

So, you're here how long?

Sasha hesitates for a beat to answer.

SASHA

Let's just say for awhile...

MINDY

Awhile? Meaning?

SASHA

Meaning "awhile"....

MINDY

But, your husband back in New York?

SASHA

Oh, him. He's always busy with his law practice. He won't miss me...

TIFFANY

Your job on Park Avenue, the boutique?

SASHA

Oh, that freakin' thing? I quit. Who needs it? Hey! How about we get some of those Italian things we always got. What do you call them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

Cannoli....

SASHA

I even love the sound of cannoli.

Mindy gets up to order cannoli at the counter.

SASHA (cont'd)

Your Mom notice? That "thing"
dangling around Ming's neck?

TIFFANY

Thing?

SASHA

What's with the "cross"?

TIFFANY

You know Ming, always some new thing.
Remember when she wanted to change
her name to "Jackie"?

SASHA

How can I forget. She even used to
write "Jackie" on her notebooks at
school and times on her test papers.

TIFFANY

And there's always some guy behind
her madness. She claims Jesus has
found her. She goes to Bible class.

SASHA

Bible class? And she wonders why your
Mom never adopted her.

Mindy returns to the table with the cannoli.

TIFFANY

How about your Dad?

SASHA

You know he still won't talk to me.

TIFFANY

Still upset you married a Jew?

MINDY

I still can't believe you went and
married some Jewish guy...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

Whatever it takes to get out of Chinatown, not like you two wanting to live in Chinatown all my life.

MINDY

Hey! The food's great, rents are low and the best roaches in Frisco!

TIFFANY

Really need go see your Dad, Sash.

Tiffany gets up for hot water for the tea. Sasha waits until she is out of ear shot.

SASHA

(to Mindy)

OK? Why the freak is she still wearing it?

Mindy has a mouthful of cannoli and can't answer.

SASHA (cont'd)

The freakin' ring, Ming? The engagement ring from Jimmy?

MINDY

Long story.....

SASHA

I'm here for awhile, spill!

MINDY

Long story short, she still thinks he's MIA and alive.

SASHA

Thought you were all at the funeral?

MINDY

We were...

SASHA

And?

MINDY

And, she thinks it's someone else down there....

SASHA

You've got to be freakin' kidding me? Someone else? Like who, the unknown soldier?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Just someone else.....

SASHA

I leave San Francisco for a couple years and both of my best friends have gone looney tunes...

MINDY

What's that supposed to mean?

SASHA

What? Are you Catholic now?

Mindy looks down at the cross dangling down around her neck.

MINDY

Something like that.....

SASHA

Something like that?

MINDY

I'm.....I'm...exploring...

SASHA

My take, you're exploring some guy...

MINDY

Jackie Kennedy is Catholic....

SASHA

So? That means you have to be?

MINDY

Sasha? You make being Catholic sound like some kind of horror movie.....

Tiffany comes back with a pot of hot water for the tea.

SASHA

(sarcastically)

Jackie Kennedy is Catholic....

TIFFANY

Huh?

MINDY

She's so wonderful. I always wanted to be like her, change my name to....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

We've all heard the story, Ming. And lived through it.

TIFFANY

Why so on edge, Sash?

SASHA

It's nothing, okay?

Sasha finishes her tea and gets up to leave. Tiffany and Mindy watch Sasha through the window as she nervously lights up a cigarette and leans against the building still smoking. She thinks of the time she met her husband ADAM (A Jewish New York lawyer, mid-forties).

FLASHBACK.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO FIVE STAR HOTEL LOUNGE/BAR - EVENING

Sasha, elegantly dressed sits provocatively at the bar in the hotel lounge. Adam (very smartly dressed) admires her from across the room. He approaches her. Sasha is a bit uncomfortable with his admiring glances.

SASHA

Excuse me, but is there something that you want?

ADAM

As a matter of fact, yes..."you"..

SASHA

Listen, I'm not one of those....

ADAM

And which one of those would that be?

SASHA

You're hotel security, right?

ADAM

(amused)

Actually, I'm an attorney from New York to consult with a client.

Sasha takes a sip of her cocktail and tries to ignore him.

ADAM (cont'd)

So, I'm curious as to which one of those girls you're not?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA
Must I spell it out for you? One of
those Chinatown girls looking for...

ADAM
Looking for?

SASHA
You are clueless, aren't you? Just
what do you want?

ADAM
I'd love to have dinner with you...

SASHA
Just like that?

ADAM
How else would you like it to be? I'm
here all week, when can we?

SASHA
(shrugs)
Now...

ADAM
Now?

SASHA
I'm hungry.....

Sasha downs her cocktail and heads for the elevators outside
the lounge with Adam trying to catch up to her.

ADAM
So, exactly who am I having dinner
with tonight?

SASHA
(sighing)
Jesus.....

ADAM
Your name is "Jesus"?

SASHA
It's an expression, okay?

Sasha looks up to the heavens and Adam follows her gaze as
they wait for an elevator.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Well, I'm not exactly sure he's up there. What I think, he was a prophet, a good man that.....

SASHA

And why is that?

ADAM

(amused again)

I'm.....Jewish...

SASHA

Never heard that before....

ADAM

Consider it part of your Jewish education.....

The elevator opens and Sasha struts inside.

SASHA

I'm just dying to see what else you're going to educate me about...

Adam follows her into the elevator and the door closes.

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Vietnam" by Jimmy Cliff.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - GOLDEN GATE PARK - EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

Troy, Joshua and Peace are playing Frisbee in the park as Tiffany is strolling towards her favorite park bench. Troy signals Joshua to over throw the Frisbee in Tiffany's direction as she sits on the park bench.

JOSHUA

C'mon, Man! Not again....

The Frisbee accidentally hits Tiffany's feet. Troy runs over to fetch it and mingle with Tiffany.

TIFFANY

First it's your dog. Now, it's your turn? Shall I scratch behind your ear for you to behave?

TROY

I'm really so sorry....

Tiffany tries to ignore Troy but she has a curiosity about him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY (cont'd)
Nice to see an old friend in the
park.....

TIFFANY
Friend?

TROY
Well? How about "acquaintance"?

Troy sits down on the bench next to Tiffany.

TROY (cont'd)
I mean, we are "acquaintances"?

TIFFANY
I just think it's a little early for
us to be calling each other friends.

TROY
I'm so sorry if I appear to be so
forward. But, I have to confess...

TIFFANY
Confess?

TROY
It's just that, I always see you here
in the park and....I seriously have
never felt like this before. I
literally have to force myself to
stop thinking about you. I mean, all
the time....

TIFFANY
Do you wanna stop?

TROY
Stop? No way! I don't think I can.
But, I really do feel guilty about
it...

TIFFANY
Why guilty? Are you stalking me?

TROY
No. No. Nothing like that. I just
don't do stuff like this....ever.

TIFFANY
Should I take this as a compliment?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

Oh, it is. Definitely, it is. Just feel you are someone interesting to know and learn about.....

TIFFANY

Learn about?

TROY

Well, I'm not trying to learn how to eat with chopsticks or anything....

TIFFANY

So, what I'm hearing here is that you want to learn about someone Chinese?

TROY

Well, yeah. I mean, not just anyone..

TIFFANY

But, someone like "me"?

Troy shyly nods his head in the affirmative.

TROY

If it means anything, I do know how to play Chinese checkers....

Tiffany looks out at the park and starts to giggle.

TIFFANY

I'll make a deal. Next Sunday, I'll bring a pair of chopsticks. Just don't start doodling my name on your college boy notebooks....

TROY

Deal. So, how's the violin thing going?

TIFFANY

Haven't been playing much these days.

TROY

It's your dream. One as talented as you, shouldn't give up...

TIFFANY

Easy for you to say. You're not Chinese and have to be obligated to carry on the family business....Wait a minute, what makes you think that I'm talented?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
Simple. By your fingers...and hands.

Tiffany closely studies her fingers and hands as Troy runs back to Joshua.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - TIFFANY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Tiffany is in her bedroom practicing her violin. She puts the violin down and heads into the living room where Mindy and Sasha are watching the movie "Roman Holiday" on television.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany sits on the sofa and the "Mouth of Truth" scene appears on the television screen. Audrey Hepburn (Princess Anne) behaves scared and helpless with Gregory Peck.

SASHA
Oh please?! Like she's so afraid....

MINDY
I think you'd be afraid too, Sash...

TIFFANY
Yeah, Sash. With all your past exploits and lies through the years. I'm sure you'd lose both hands...

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - EARLY MORNING

Tiffany, Mindy and Mrs.Chang prepare to open the restaurant for the lunch crowd.

TIFFANY
Where's Sasha? I told her to be downstairs at five a.m.

MINDY
I tried to wake her. She just rolled over like a dead fish.....

Sasha finally comes stumbling into the main dining area with her eyes half open.

TIFFANY
Sasha? I told you five a.m. sharp?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

I don't even have five a.m. on my freakin' watch.....

TIFFANY

You promised to help out.....

SASHA

I thought it was like a "consultant"? Since I've been to the most exclusive restaurants in the world. I could give advice?

TIFFANY

Well, start over there and give Mindy advice on how to fold napkins....

SASHA

You want me to fold freakin' napkins?

TIFFANY

In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.....

Sasha slowly and sleepy-eyed goes over to help Mindy.

SASHA

(to Mindy)

I swear, if she starts singing, "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down", I'm back on that freakin' plane to New York.

MINDY

Whatever would we do without her.

SASHA

You know, those three cats of yours kept me up all night. And who, in their right mind, names their cats Jesus, Joseph and Mary?

MINDY

Shhhh! Not so loud in front of Mrs. Chang. She thinks their names are...

SASHA

You're lucky she doesn't send you back to Hong Kong....

Sasha just watches Mindy fold the napkins for the tables.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Sasha? What are you doing?

SASHA

I'm "consulting"....

MINDY

Consulting?

SASHA

Like they do in Paris...or Rome.
You're doing just fine.....

Sasha is barely keeping her eyes open, trying to focus.

EXT./INT. CASTELLI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - EVENING

The restaurant is semi-crowded. Angelina is waiting on tables and taking orders. She then rushes into the kitchen and notices Troy sitting at the large kitchen table.

ANGELINA

Ma's looking for you. Another girl
from Saint Peter and Paul's. Better
high tail it to Berkeley before...

Mrs. Castelli comes bursting into the kitchen.

ANGELINA (cont'd)

Too late. Your cannelloni is cooked!

Mrs. Castelli notices Troy and approaches him, giving him a motherly slap to the back of his head.

MRS. CASTELLI

Eh! "Geronimo" has returned from the
prairie. Or is it "Sitting Bull"?

TROY

Ma? Don't insult Native Americans...

Mrs. Castelli fingers the love beads around Troy's neck.

MRS. CASTELLI

Angelina? Geronimo or Sitting Bull?

ANGELINA

(laughing)

"Deer Running Scared", I'd guess..

MRS. CASTELLI

Scared of meeting a nice girl.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. CASTELLI (Troy's Father, Italian-born, broken English) comes into the kitchen.

MR. CASTELLI
Leave the boy alone, Marie! Just
expressing himself.....

MRS. CASTELLI
Express all he wants. One day he will
run this place, so we can go back to
Palermo to visit.

TROY
Better warn the relatives in Sicily
Ma, so they can run and hide in the
mountains...

MRS. CASTELLI
Eh! Don't get smart with your Mother.
The Holy Ghost is watching....

Mr. And Mrs. Castelli head back to the dining room.

MRS. CASTELLI (cont'd)
(to Troy)
Talk later. Nice girl at the church.

ANGELINA
Break any hearts in Chinatown, yet?

TROY
I told you, this one is different...

ANGELINA
She's different all right. When are
you going to give Ma a stroke?

TROY
Haven't even had a date with her yet.

ANGELINA
How come so serious so soon?

TROY
Not like you, Sis. I don't string
them along!

Angelina gives Troy a sisterly slap to the back of the head.

ANGELINA
In culo alla balena! Don't be a wise
ass! Just tread lightly with Ma. I
know times are a changing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGELINA (cont'd)

But, think of the culture gap here. The last time Chinatown and North Beach got together was when Pacific Bell wanted to build that transformer station between the neighborhoods.

TROY

Well, don't you think it's time we learned to live with each other?

ANGELINA

I'm just warning you. Ma finds out about Miss Chinatown and you'll be on the first boat back to Sicily, marrying some Sicilian girl that carries a shotgun.

EXT./INT. SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH PUB - EVENING

Mindy and Troy are sitting across from each other in a booth having a glass of wine after Bible class at church.

MINDY

You know, when I was very little growing up in Hong Kong, I always thought Santa Claus and someone like Jesus only appeared in America.....

TROY

I know you've seen Jesus in your heart. But, Santa Claus, too?

MINDY

When my Dad raised me Buddhist, on Chinese New Year, we had to consult with all the Gods and the "Tong Sing" to find out when and where to go. The old Chinese have lots of traditions and superstitions.

TROY

What about your family? You live with them in Chinatown?

MINDY

I live with my second family. My parents both passed away when I was very young. I never really knew my Mom, she died during my birth.

TROY

So sorry. How about your Dad?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

(hesitant)

You know, in the past I didn't like to talk about it. But, since your class a few weeks ago about how we should not hold back and not act like everything is perfect..

TROY

You don't have to. But, if you're ready....

MINDY

He...committed...suicide...

TROY

I'm so sorry....

MINDY

Back in those days, Chinatown here had the highest rate of suicide in the country? My dad was very heartbroken over my Mom's passing when I was born. I came here with my Dad from Hong Kong when I was about four or five years old. My Dad could only get manual jobs in the laundry or washing dishes, even though he was highly educated. He lost his dignity.

TROY

I understand.

Mindy takes a sip of her wine and hesitates to go on.

MINDY

I was only ten when he passed. I always remember sitting on his lap as he read to me from the Golden Book Series, "The Three Little Kittens". That was always my favorite and now I have three cats of my own. Jesus, Joseph and Mary...

TROY

Cool....

MINDY

Not to be disrespectful, but to honor the Holy Family. You know, I always wonder why my Dad left me like he did.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY (cont'd)

I remember my best girlfriend's Mom bought me a new dress the day before my Dad's funeral. She wanted me to look pretty for him. I really didn't have any really nice dresses and her Mom gave me a big box of Ghirardelli chocolates....

TROY

Your best friend's Mom took you in?

MINDY

Yeah. I'm still living with them. The dress and chocolates helped a bit. But, I was so scared of what I was about to see. I wanted to scream. I wanted to hurt someone, anyone, to make them understand some of the pain that I felt.

TROY

You were only ten?

MINDY

Yes. Her Mom took my hand and led me, well, half dragged me into the viewing room. I had no idea what to expect and it was so hot in there. The overwhelming smell of gardenias and peonies choking me. The room was dimly lit with wavering candlelight. I recognized a few faces. The expressions on everyone's faces showed mostly pity for the poor young thing who had lost her father.

Mindy starts to get emotional and a tear forms in her eye.

MINDY (cont'd)

Listen to me. I just met you and I'm pouring out my heart to you? But, I feel so comfortable with you...

TROY

You can stop. You don't have to tell the rest.

MINDY

It's OK. I haven't let it out in awhile. It helps.

Troy reaches across the table and gently holds her hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY (cont'd)

I heard some sobs in the background as my friend's Mom guided me to the front of the room towards the casket. It was as large as a row boat. My legs felt wooden and it was if my feet continually snagged the carpet as we moved toward my father.

TROY

You must have been a brave little girl?

MINDY

I could feel my friend's Mom's hand tremble on my shoulder. I looked up at her and saw her bring both hands to her mouth as she stifled a sob.

Mindy tries to collect herself with a sip of wine.

TROY

Did you cry?

MINDY

I was too numb. I could barely see over the coffin and the velvet lining that pillowed around my Dad. His eyes were shut, of course, and I was struck by how much he seemed to be a wax facsimile of the man I adored. The expression on his face was not one I recognized. I thought to myself, this is not my father, not the gentle and kind face that I knew. They weren't the same eyes that lit up when I told him about my adventures at school. His hands weren't the same ones that touched my face, soothed my hair and told me that I was loved.

TROY

It must of been quite an experience at your young age?

MINDY

I knew enough to say a prayer before rising. Not to Jesus, but to Buddha. I was trembling so much inside and thought if that man in the casket wasn't my father, then where is he? When would I see him again?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

And you didn't cry?

MINDY

Not until that night when I was all alone in bed. Then all my tears came out. All of the sadness, loneliness, anger and fear that I kept pent up inside all day.

Mindy takes a sip of her wine, her eyes full of tears.

MINDY (cont'd)

It all came out and I wanted to scream. Maybe I did because my friend's Mom came into the bedroom and told me that from now on, she would take care of me and that I would live with her family and one day they would adopt me and I'd be sisters with my best friend.

TROY

So, they adopted you?

MINDY

Sad to say no. Maybe it's because they couldn't afford to, because my friend's Dad passed soon after. But, I know they love me so much. So, I'm what you would call an "almost sister"...

Mindy giggles through her tears as she tries to wipe them away with her napkin.

MINDY (cont'd)

That seems to be the story of my whole life, "almost anything"....

TROY

Don't say that. You're such a beautiful and sweet person...

MINDY

You know? After my Dad's suicide, I hated myself and I lost faith in everything. I got deeply depressed and wanted to die to be with him. I wanted to walk out into the bay towards Alcatraz Island until I couldn't touch bottom any longer and sink. But, I was a coward...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

No. You were brave to endure.

MINDY

And the saddest thing, I would hear lots of gossip and whispering all throughout Chinatown that my Dad was probably in Hell for what he did. I always pray for Jesus to forgive him.

TROY

Jesus died on the cross to forgive us for our sins. You know, I have a confession to make also...

MINDY

Confession?

TROY

The Bible class I may be conducting them in a Catholic church. But, I'm really involved more in the "Jesus Movement".....

MINDY

Jesus Movement?

TROY

We're called "Jesus People". Or as Non-Christian hippies label us as "Jesus Freaks".....

MINDY

I've heard that term before. So, you're a hippie? You're against the war?

TROY

Definitely. But, then again. There will be no peace until all things are made new. That's something Jesus taught and he did indeed mean that it will take the end of the world, and then it's remaking to bring about permanent and lasting peace. The peace Jesus offers is grace unearned so that we can have a relationship with the creator of all.

MINDY

Oh my gosh. It's so late. I have to get up early to open the restaurant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
Restaurant? It seems like everyone in
Chinatown works in a restaurant...

MINDY
Just about....

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY - PRESIDIO -
NEXT DAY

Tiffany and Mindy are placing flowers over the assumed grave site of Tiffany's fiance, Jimmy Chang. The SOUNDS of the park and cemetery are the only sounds as a focus on the head stone, "James "Jimmy" Chang, Sgt. U.S. Marines, Killed in Action - Vietnam, May 17, 1946 - August 12, 1966".

MINDY
"Death is the reckoning of Heaven".

TIFFANY
That from that Bible class of yours?

MINDY
Charlie Chan. "The Chinese Ring". I
always watched every Charlie Chan
movie I could with my Dad.

A long beat.

TIFFANY
Hey! I have one. "Fear of the future
is wrong for young people in love".

MINDY
"The Chinese Cat". That's a good one.
My favorite is "Believing in the Lord
is sometimes like a melon growing in
the shade. Eventually, it will ripen
in the end".

Another long beat.

MINDY (cont'd)
Tiff?

TIFFANY
What?

MINDY
If Jimmy's MIA? Who's down there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

Not a clue. Just hope he's at peace.
War is such an awful thing. Vietnam
is such a big mistake.

A beat.

TIFFANY AND MINDY

(in unison)

"Biggest Mistakes In History Made By
People Who Didn't Think". "Charlie
Chan at the Circus"!

They both give each other comforting smiles as Tiffany takes the Prayer to Buddha pose and Mindy makes the sign of the cross and clasps her hands in prayer.

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Where Have All The Flowers Gone"
by The Kingston Trio.

An aerial view as they both stand up and hug each other and walk off holding hands around the numerous grave markers.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - TELEGRAPH HILL - FILBERT STEPS - DAY

Troy starts to walk down the steps. Mindy, who has been secretly following him, rushes to the bottom of the steps and pretends to be heading up the steps.

TROY

Mindy?

MINDY

Oh Hi! What a coincidence...

TROY

Shouldn't you be at the restaurant?

MINDY

Day off. I do get one now and then.
I just love Telegraph Hill.

TROY

Well, don't want to interrupt that...

Troy tries to continue down the stairs, Mindy gently takes him by his arm and gives him a passionate kiss on the lips. Troy tries to catch his breath and balance.

TROY (cont'd)

So, are you going to make me ask?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Jackie Kennedy once said, "One might not let oneself be overwhelmed by sadness"....

TROY

Okay.....and?

MINDY

Remember in class you said that we shouldn't hold back secrets? Shouldn't worry about being exposed about our feelings?

TROY

Yeah, but.....

MINDY

I can't hide anymore. I think....I think, I'm in love with you...

A beat.

TROY

Mindy? I don't think...

MINDY

You know in the movie Roman Holiday when Princess Anne had a hard time saying goodbye to Gregory Peck and she gave him a long goodbye kiss? And you're like, you don't ever want to say goodbye to someone that's opened your eyes and changed your life...

TROY

We're hardly saying goodbye....

MINDY

When you go back to Berkeley, I miss you so much and look forward to when you come back to the city.....

TROY

I think it's more the classes that you miss.....

MINDY

But, it's more about "you". I don't want to keep it a secret any longer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
Mindy? I'm glad you're expressing
your feelings. It's just that...

MINDY
There's someone else, right?

TROY
Well.....kind of....

MINDY
Then, nothing's definite?

TROY
Listen Mindy? I have to go. We'll
talk more Wednesday evening...

Troy gives her a friendly kiss on her forehead and heads
down the steps as Mindy lets out a long sigh.

EXT. STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - NEXT DAY

Tiffany is walking down a street as Troy and his dog Peace
spot her from across the street.

TROY
Hey! So glad to see you on my side of
town. You should come more often.

TIFFANY
I doubt anyone's rolling out the red
carpet for me. Or anyone else in
Chinatown.....

TROY
Let me walk you....

Troy tries to keep up as Tiffany starts walking at a fast
pace, a bit scared of Troy's dog and shy to be seeing Troy.

TROY (cont'd)
Where we going?

TIFFANY
We?

TROY
Just curious...

TIFFANY
Curiosity killed the cat, you know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
Wouldn't know. Always had a dog...

TIFFANY
I see it's still not on a leash...

TROY
Hear that Peace? You've just been upgraded from a "Thing" to an "It"?

TIFFANY
There must be some kind of "leash law" in San Francisco?

TROY
I'll have to check on that...

Peace suddenly and playfully jumps up at Tiffany making her drop her purse and stumble. Troy catches her before she falls. They end up in a close embrace on the sidewalk.

TIFFANY
Are you going to let me go or must I scratch behind your ear?

TROY
I don't know. It feels kind of enlightening holding you like this. What's that Buddhist word for it?

TIFFANY
"Bodhi"....

TROY
"Bootie"?

TIFFANY
No. "Bodhi"....

Tiffany notices that Peace has her purse in his mouth, wagging his tail at her.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Your dog has my purse....

Troy is lost in the moment.

TROY
What?

TIFFANY
Your dog? He has my purse...he's about to run off with it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
You think so?

TIFFANY
I know so. Perhaps if you let me go.

Troy is still struck by the close proximity of Tiffany.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Well? Are you or aren't you?

TROY
How about this Saturday night? Dinner
and the opera?

TIFFANY
What?

TROY
You asked if I was going to...

TIFFANY
People are staring...

Troy lets her go and Tiffany loses her balance and ends up sitting on a bench.

TROY
What is it with you and benches?

Tiffany gets up embarrassed and tries to pull her purse out of Peace's mouth.

TROY (cont'd)
Remember? A scratch or two behind the
ear does the trick...

Troy bends down and scratches Peace behind his ear and he immediately behaves and lets go of the purse, sending Tiffany stumbling back and sitting back on the bench.

TROY (cont'd)
(teasing)
There is something about you and
benches.....

Tiffany stands up again, straightens her skirt and slings her purse over her shoulder and scurries off down the street embarrassed and shy, without even looking back at Troy.

TROY (cont'd)
(yelling)
Yes or no about Saturday night?

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - ITALIAN BAKERY/COFFEE SHOP - NEXT DAY

Tiffany enters her favorite bakery (owned by Troy's Uncle Vinny) and is waited on by Troy's cousin, JOHNNIE CASTELLI (Italian-American, good-looking, mid-twenties).

JOHNNIE

There's my most favorite customer.
Cannoli today?

TIFFANY

Yes. A dozen will do....

JOHNNIE

Must be a special occasion?

TIFFANY

Not really. Just that my family and friends love them so much.

JOHNNIE

We've got the best in San Francisco,
by far. Be right back, just made some
fresh. Just for a pretty lady...

Tiffany blushes shyly as Johnnie heads in the back, where Troy is helping him finish a fresh batch of cannoli.

JOHNNIE (cont'd)

Mio Dio! Il fiore bella from
Chinatown out there...

Troy is half listening and busy finishing up the last batch of cannoli for the day.

TROY

Wait a second. Did you say
"Chinatown"?

JOHNNIE

And what a beautiful flower she is.
She'll take your breath away...

Troy peeks out the back kitchen door to look out, then runs back, pulls off his apron and checks himself in a mirror. He then hurries out to the counter. Johnnie laughs to himself at his cousin.

JOHNNIE (cont'd)

(to Troy)

Don't break her heart, Cuz!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Troy waits on Tiffany looking in her purse for her wallet.

TROY
Hope didn't lose it the other day?

TIFFANY
Huh?

Tiffany looks up and is surprised to see Troy.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
A real "Mary Poppins", aren't we?

TROY
Been called lots of things before...

TIFFANY
We pop up here, we pop up there...

TROY
Just been looking for you to start my
chopstick lessons.....

TIFFANY
So busy. Which reminds me...

Tiffany puts her wallet back in her purse and heads out the door to leave, trying desperately to reject her feelings.

TROY
Wait. Your order is in back.....

TIFFANY
Sorry, business has picked up so much
since the tourists' curiosity about
the "Summer of Love" in Haight
Ashbury last year...

Troy runs out from behind the counter to stop her at the door and they end up holding each other again.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Going to go through this again?

TROY
Maybe not. No benches in here....

Johnnie looks out and is amused at his cousin's antics.

TROY (cont'd)
Your order is on the house...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

You don't have to do that....

TROY

My uncle owns the place, just take it out of my pay. It's the least I can do to apologize. I hope my dog didn't ruin your purse strap...

TIFFANY

My purse strap is fine. It's my blouse you're wrinkling...

TROY

You don't want to get me fired for running off a customer, do you?

TIFFANY

Okay. Only if I pay half of it....

TROY

No need. I'll just take those chopstick lessons for the other half.

Troy takes Tiffany by her hand and leads her to a table. She sits and waits for her order.

TROY (cont'd)

How about some Italian coffee, while you wait? It'll just be a minute....

Tiffany sits at the table as Johnnie gets Tiffany a cup of Italian coffee as Troy runs in back for her order.

JOHNNIE

(to Tiffany)

He's harmless. Just a caring soul...

Tiffany looks nervously around the bakery.

TIFFANY

His dog's not around, is it?

JOHNNIE

He's out back in the courtyard.

TIFFANY

I really need to get back.....

JOHNNIE

I'll hurry him up. Just enjoy...

Johnnie goes in back to hurry Troy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHNNIE (cont'd)
(to Troy)
You know that China doll?

TROY
Know her? I'm going to marry her....

JOHNNIE
Scusa?

Johnnie watches in amusement as Troy rushes around.

JOHNNIE (cont'd)
Ma E Pazzo, Cuz? You want to give my
Aunt Marie a stroke? Your Mother will
send you back to Sicily to swim with
the fishes.....

TROY
I'll make sure to say ciao for you to
all the relatives back in Sicily....

Troy rushes back to the dining area with Tiffany's order.

TROY (cont'd)
(to Tiffany)
Really wish you'd let me pay.....

TIFFANY
Why are you doing all of this?

TROY
I told you, to apologize.

TIFFANY
I judged too quickly about the leash.

Tiffany tries drinking the Italian coffee, choking on it.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
It's like cough syrup...

TROY
Here, let me get you some tea...

TIFFANY
I really have to be getting back...

TROY
Can you stay just a few minutes more?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

Sorry. They only let us out of
Chinatown on a check-in and check-out
basis.....I'm kidding...

They both are amused as Troy's head is in the clouds.

TROY

Sei Molto Bella.....

Tiffany appears confused.

JOHNNIE (V.O.)

He told you that you are very
beautiful.

Tiffany stares at her coffee cup too shy to look at Troy.

TIFFANY

I really must be going....

TROY

I really didn't mean to embarrass you
by saying that. Came from my heart.

TIFFANY

Thanks for the cannoli and coffee....

Troy follows Tiffany to the front door.

TROY

Can I see you again?

Tiffany is hesitant.

TIFFANY

Perhaps Sunday...in the park...

TROY

Same park, same bench. And don't
forget a pair of those chopsticks....

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Different Drum" by The Stone
Ponies and Linda Ronstadt.

Troy watches Tiffany walk down the street as MUSIC plays,
mesmerized by Tiffany. Tiffany glances at him over her
shoulder as she continues to walk down the street, still
trying to hold back her feelings for him.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN TEA HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Tiffany, Mindy and Sasha are seated in a booth having an afternoon tea.

TIFFANY

You know, Sasha? One shouldn't be afraid to tell the truth to one's friends?

SASHA

The truth?

TIFFANY

Yes, the truth. The real reason you're back here in San Francisco.

SASHA

I told you why. Can't a girl come back and see her two best friends she hasn't seen in over two years?

MINDY

Yeah, Tiff? Why can't she?

TIFFANY

I've known you much too long to not know something is up...

SASHA

Just leave it alone, OK?

TIFFANY

Your husband is upset with you?

A long beat as the three just sip at their tea. Mindy, noticing that Sasha is uncomfortable with the topic, tries to change the subject.

MINDY

Did you see that guy again?

SASHA

A guy? What guy?

MINDY

This guy in the park. He's there every Sunday trying to hit on her...

TIFFANY

No one's hitting on anyone...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

She goes every Sunday morning.

TIFFANY

You're not helping, Ming.

SASHA

Every Sunday morning?

MINDY

Mary Poppins's room had a park view.

SASHA

I wanna hear more about this guy..

TIFFANY

There's no guy....

SASHA

That's not what she's saying.....

TIFFANY

There's no guy. He's just there every Sunday playing with his dog and friend.

SASHA

Dog and friend? What is he, twelve?

MINDY

Even bought her coffee and cannoli. Dinner and the opera, Saturday night?

TIFFANY

Ming? Please? You're not helping..

SASHA

So, perhaps the freakin' ring should be coming off?

TIFFANY

I'm still engaged, Sasha...

A long beat as the three sip at their teas in silence.

SASHA

You should go out with him?

TIFFANY

Out where?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

On a "date", Chang! Or did we forget what a freakin' date is?

TIFFANY

Do you always have to use that word?

SASHA

Which word?

TIFFANY

You know which word.

MINDY

At least it's not the other "F" word.

SASHA

You can't even freakin' say it! Anyway, I think you should go out with him.

TIFFANY

And maybe I should stick a pair of chopsticks in my eye too?

SASHA

Ming? What do you think?

MINDY

A pair of chopsticks would be awfully painful....

SASHA

The "date", Ming! The date...

MINDY

Well, it has been over two years. I guess, she is long overdue...

SASHA

You guess? There's freakin' mold growing down there...

TIFFANY

Sasha? Why do you always have to be so crude?

SASHA

To knock some sense in that uptight Chinese ass of yours, that's why!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

You know what, Sasha? Since you've been back, I have this funny feeling that your husband threw you out...

MINDY

Tiff, don't say that....

SASHA

I'm sorry. I just think it's time you thought of the next step.....

A long beat.

SASHA (cont'd)

Do I still have a bed to sleep in?

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Tobacco Road" by The Nashville Teens.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN - DAY

As MUSIC plays, Sasha is walking around Chinatown reminiscing about growing up in Chinatown. She enters a Chinese senior citizen center, looking for her Father.

INT./EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER - CONTINUOUS

As the MUSIC fades, Sasha notices her Father, MR. SING playing Mah Jongg with another CHINESE SENIOR CITIZEN.

SASHA

Papa?.....Papa?...It's me..."Sasha"..

Mr. Sing is ignoring his daughter, continuing the game.

SENIOR CITIZEN FRIEND

(to Mr. Sing)

Daughter? Not going to welcome?

MR. SING

Have no daughter, just sad memory.

SASHA

Papa? Please? I'm so sorry. I've come to ask for your forgiveness. Just you and me now that Mama has passed...

Mr. Sing still ignores Sasha. The senior citizen friend is compassionate towards Sasha and tries to encourage Mr. Sing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SENIOR CITIZEN FRIEND

(to Sasha)

I'll convince. Best go now....

Sasha slowly backs away with tears in her eyes.

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

The restaurant is a bit crowded for lunch. A tourist bus just drops off a load of TOURISTS. Tiffany is rushing over to Sasha at the front hostess stand at the front door.

TIFFANY

Sash? I need you to cover for Ming. She's feeling a bit ill and I told her to take a break upstairs...

SASHA

But, I'm the hostess...

TIFFANY

I know you're the hostess. But, this is an emergency. There's another bus load of tourists due in half an hour. Just get over to table five and take their order...

SASHA

You mean, I have to tell more tourists that we don't serve the San Francisco treat, Rice A Roni here?

TIFFANY

Just go! They've been waiting over twenty minutes.....

Sasha reluctantly is hurried by Tiffany over to table five.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

Be nice, like a good Chinese girl for once, Sasha.

Table five has an older American couple waiting to order.

SASHA

Decided yet?

OLDER TOURIST MAN

My wife would like to know what the difference is between Hunan and Sichuan.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

The Hunan is actually hotter with the vinegar and pepper. Sichuan uses pepper corn, numbing the taste buds.

OLDER TOURIST WOMAN

Didn't hear. What was that?

OLDER TOURIST MAN

(to Sasha)

Sorry. My wife wears a hearing aid...

SASHA

Well? Maybe she needs to turn it on?

OLDER TOURIST WOMAN

What did she say?

SASHA

Turn it on.....

OLDER TOURIST WOMAN

What?

SASHA

(louder)

Turn it on!

OLDER TOURIST WOMAN

I can't hear a word she is saying...

Sasha writes on her WAITRESS NOTEPAD to turn the aid on.

OLDER TOURIST WOMAN (cont'd)

I can't read that, I need my glasses.

SASHA

On top of your head....

OLDER TOURIST WOMAN

What?

Sasha writes "on top of your head" on her notepad.

OLDER TOURIST WOMAN (cont'd)

Oh. Here they are. Why didn't you say so?

Sasha rips out her written pad notes, balls them up and tosses them into the air.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY
(to Sasha)
What are you doing?

SASHA
"Waitressing"....

TIFFANY
Sasha? If that's "waitressing", I'm
"Jewish"!

SASHA
Then, Mazel Tov, to you!

TIFFANY
Just get table two before I put you
on a freakin' plane back to freakin'
New York so your husband can deal
with you....

SASHA
(to herself)
Unbelievable! Not once, but twice...

TIFFANY
Why is this so difficult for you? Why
do you complicate things that are
really quite simple?

SASHA
Well, maybe I need a break?

TIFFANY
Just had one thirty minutes ago....

SASHA
Do you know how tiring it is to be
extra nice to people you could care
less about?

As Sasha is about to take table two's order, Mindy suddenly
comes rushing through the restaurant in a panic.

MINDY
Jesus! Jesus!

SASHA
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

You left the bedroom window open with your smoking. Jesus got out and he's wandering around! Do you know how many in Chinatown would love to have Jesus for late supper?!

Mindy rushes out the front door in search of her cat. The whole restaurant is looking in confusion at Sasha!

SASHA

Please excuse her folks. The poor soul's from Hong Kong....

Tiffany rushes over to Sasha.

TIFFANY

Where's Jesus?

SASHA

How should I know? Maybe he ran off to London to see the Queen...

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - GOLDEN GATE PARK - EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

Troy is sitting next to Tiffany on her favorite park bench as Joshua and Peace are playing in the park.

TROY

So, writing more letters, I see?

TIFFANY

Actually, making notes for a book...

TROY

Cool. What's it about?

TIFFANY

(teasing)

Our adventures together here in the park and everywhere else you pop up. Think it will sell?

TROY

Hope so. I'll sure buy one...

TIFFANY

Really?

TROY

I'm dying to find out what happens to us....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

And how should I write the ending?
Any suggestions?

TROY

Well, since it is our destiny to be
together, I'd have us getting married
and living in a commune...

TIFFANY

Wow! That's a pretty unrealistic
ending. For one thing, I'm not a
hippie and not Christian.....

TROY

What's so unrealistic about it? A
great end to a great love story...

TIFFANY

Love story? Two people from two
different worlds, two different
cultures? This world is not ready for
a love story like that. And, you
believe in Jesus and I believe in
Buddha. How's that gonna work?

TROY

You know we're the sixties
generation? It's up to us to change
the world. Don't you ever wish and
hope that dreams will come true?

TIFFANY

Sure. I've been dreaming and hoping
for someone to invent a phone with no
wires or cords. Think that will ever
happen?

TROY

Anything is possible. I never thought
that maybe one day people would refer
to me as a "Jesus Freak". But, it
just happened...

TIFFANY

And that's what you want me to be? I
don't think I'd want to be married to
someone that's referred to as a
"freak". And, I can tell, you don't
believe in the war in Vietnam....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

Totally against it. But, then again.
Jesus didn't come here to bring
peace. But, a sword....

TIFFANY

I never, ever thought, in my life,
that one day I'd be sitting on a park
bench talking to a hippie, let alone
a freak of Jesus. I'm not either of
what you are....

TROY

(amused)

The times they are a changin'....And
opposites do attract....

TIFFANY

We're opposites, all right....

TROY

"You know, all our dreams can come
true if we have the courage to pursue
them". Said the cowardly lion to
Dorothy.....

TIFFANY

Even if we're stuck in a place and
situation that we don't want to be?

TROY

Courage is found in unlikely places.
Even in the Land of Oz....

A beat as Tiffany is writing on her notebook.

TROY (cont'd)

You never did give me an answer about
Saturday evening. Why don't we both
"pop up" at the opera?

TIFFANY

Do I get to call you "Mary"?

TROY

Mary? Not Dorothy?

TIFFANY

You know, "Mary Poppins"?

TROY

I like "Dorothy" better, she had a
dog.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

You would, it wasn't even on a leash. Well, maybe just the opera for starters. Just don't show up wearing a skirt.....

TROY

This is San Francisco. And by the way, Toto would have never been able to expose the Wizard, if he was on a leash. You know, I think our neighborhoods should get together.

TIFFANY

What did you have in mind? Having spaghetti and meatballs at the next Chinatown New Year's parade?

TROY

I was thinking more egg rolls instead of cannoli at the next Columbus Day Italian Festival. But, I'm trying not to be too particular...

TIFFANY

Know what I always wanted to do here?

TROY

Put my dog on a leash?

TIFFANY

(giggling)

Well, that too. But, I always wanted to go fly a kite, like in "Mary Poppins"?

TROY

Joshua has one in his backpack.....

TIFFANY

Then, spit spot! Let's go fly a kite and send it soaring....

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "Groovin" by The Rascals.

Tiffany, Troy, Joshua and Peace are all flying the kite as the MUSIC plays and fades out into the next scene.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - HAIGHT ASHBURY STREET - DAY

JIMMY CHANG (Tiffany's Marine fiance, early twenties) and a new acquaintance CHARLOTTE FUNG (attractive, early twenties) are walking down the street. Charlotte is wearing a tie dyed hippie colorful scarf around her head that she just bought at one of the hippie shops.

JIMMY

I can't believe you bought that. You look like a gypsy Chairman Mao...

CHARLOTTE

Stop being so square. You need to be more fun and hip. Do we really have to go to that boring new Asian museum today? Looking at Buddhas is not my idea of fun...

JIMMY

You need some culture in your life, Charlotte. Life is not all fun and games.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO ASIAN ART MUSEUM - CONTINUOUS

Charlotte playfully poses with Buddha statues and artwork while Jimmy looks not amused and serious. They then sit in front of a representation of the Buddhist deity.

JIMMY

Kinda looks familiar, like I've seen so much of that in Nam....

CHARLOTTE

You need to get that damn Nam out of your freakin' head, Jimmy....

JIMMY

Easy for you to say....

Charlotte pulls Jimmy behind a walled partition in the gallery and corners him against the wall.

CHARLOTTE

Maybe this will get that damn freakin' war off your mind....

Charlotte gives Jimmy a long and passionate kiss as the scene fades.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING

Tiffany, Mindy and Sasha are sitting around the living room having an early evening tea.

SASHA

Wait a minute? You're freakin' telling us you have a date tomorrow night?

TIFFANY

Not really a date. A "pop-up"....

SASHA

What the freak is a "pop-up"?

TIFFANY

He shows up at the opera and then I show up too...a "pop-up"!

MINDY

Just be glad she's going out. If she wants to refer to it as a "pop-up"...

SASHA

The "opera"? What is he, sixty?

TIFFANY

He's not sixty and he's not twelve. Just decided to start controlling my own destiny, write my own story. I'm going to stop bossing everybody too.

SASHA

Yeah. Good luck with that one. Just don't wear anything from Chinatown lost and found like you usually do...

Opera MUSIC starts (and into the next scene).

EXT/INT. SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE - SATURDAY EVENING

Troy, dressed in formal attire, desperately searches for Tiffany among the crowd in the foyer of the Opera House. He spots her. In slow motion, as Opera MUSIC plays, Tiffany is shown entering the Opera House, beautifully and elegantly dressed.

Tiffany and Troy are seated in the mezzanine watching the opera. Troy cannot take his eyes off Tiffany who is seated on the edge of her seat, intrigued by her first opera.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - TOSCA CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany and Troy are seated in a booth with opera MUSIC in the background both having a glass of wine.

TIFFANY

I really want to thank you for taking me tonight. You've been so nice to me, I feel I need to confess to you.

TROY

(teasing)

Need to go to a confessional booth?

TIFFANY

Everyone thinks my fiance is.....dead and buried...Stepped on a land mine in Vietnam. Unrecognizable, closed coffin at the funeral. The dog tags were found several feet from the body. Buried over in Presidio...

TROY

And you?

TIFFANY

I have a very strong feeling that he's alive. He promised me he'd return. We'd be married. I'm crazy, right? Thinking he's still MIA?

TROY

Well? If your faith is strong...

Tiffany hesitates a bit and then lets out a long sigh.

TIFFANY

That's just it. I'm starting to doubt myself. It's been over two years. The faith you speak of and your beliefs? What happened on that landmine over there? Was that like your God watching over the Titanic?

TROY

Well, there are still a lot of guys who are unaccounted for over there. I could help you find him?

TIFFANY

How's that even possible?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

There's an organization called "The League of Families". They have meetings to find ways to get the government to search for MIA's and POW's over in Nam.....

TIFFANY

That's very nice of you. But, why would you do that?

TROY

Because I care for you and, besides, I love to see that pretty smile of yours....

TIFFANY

I'd feel funny going by myself...

TROY

We'd go together, as a team...

Tiffany looks around the cafe a bit uncomfortable.

TIFFANY

What would your parents think if you brought me home to meet them?

Troy thinks of the scene introducing Tiffany to his Mother.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

See? I can see the look on your face. They wouldn't accept me. My Mother wouldn't understand either. My best friends married a Jewish lo-flan. Her father disowned her.

TROY

Lo-flan?

TIFFANY

Chinese slang for a white person. My parents didn't want me to be with my fiance. His last name is the same as mine. Chinese superstition forbids two of the same last name to marry. Bad luck for the family and for business.

TROY

Bummer!

INT. THE LEAGUE OF FAMILIES (WIVES) MEETING - EVENING

Tiffany and Troy are attending the meeting and are welcomed by one of the organizers PAMELA PACE (a striking blonde in her mid-thirties whose husband was shot down in Vietnam).

PAMELA

I'm so happy that you two have volunteered to assist us in raising funds. We need all the help we can get at our rallies....

TROY

We're more than happy to help.

PAMELA

(to Tiffany)

We sympathize so much with you dear. We're all in this together to change public awareness of the POW/MIA situation. Newspapers, magazines, public talks and most importantly, television, are all helping us in our call for help.

TIFFANY

My fiance, who is a Marine, has been missing for over two years now. I just didn't know where to turn.

PAMELA

Things are improving. Since Nixon has been elected this year, the Administration's attitude has completely changed. They've realized the quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy on behalf of the POW's and MIA's was failing them. They are finally allowing the families to speak out with the American government's support.

TROY

Thank God....

PAMELA

The new Administration has come to understand the public relations value that we women and our families can provide. It's a unifying cause in a politically divided country. Nixon, himself is a military veteran and he is sympathetic to the POW's plight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

Aren't there any special teams or efforts?

PAMELA

Sorry to say, no. Us women have quit waiting for our husbands to be rescued by the American government. We've become the rescuers and are doing the job ourselves to bring our men home.

TIFFANY

Wow! That's a fairy tale in reverse.

PAMELA

Let's just say, that we ladies never knew what was coming. We're determined to find hope for our husbands to show them that their country has not forgotten them. We've used lots of letter-writing campaigns as weapons against the North Vietnamese.

TIFFANY

Guess I'll be spending more time on that park bench putting pen to paper.

ARCHIVE - June 4/5, 1968 - San Francisco - Ambassador Hotel - Evening

California Primary ROBERT KENNEDY addresses a large crowd of supporters after winning in California and South Dakota. As he leaves the stage, he is shot by SIRHAN SIRHAN in the hotel kitchen.

INT. TIFFANY'S MANAGER'S KITCHEN OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Mindy and Sasha are standing in front of Tiffany's desk. Tiffany is seated behind it.

TIFFANY

Sasha? You need to start getting up earlier. We're halfway prepared to open by the time you get down here.

SASHA

I just need my beauty sleep, OK?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

You don't sleep, Sasha. You hibernate. And, another thing. I can't believe you're still seeing that guy you met at some bar. One man just isn't enough for you, is it?

SASHA

He's just a friend, Okay? Sometimes what a girl needs is just a guy to tell her problems to. One who will then just look at you, shrug and say "I'd still do you"!

TIFFANY

I want you to stop seeing him. You're a married woman...

SASHA

(to Mindy)

I thought she said she wasn't going to boss anyone around anymore?

Tiffany gets up to her file cabinet. The long telephone cord gets wrapped around her.

TIFFANY

I wish someone would invent a phone with no cords...

SASHA

Keep dreaming....

Tiffany comes back to her desk and sits.

SASHA (cont'd)

(to Mindy)

Maybe you should add that to that prayer list of yours?

MINDY

Good idea....

Mindy pulls out a piece of paper from her apron pocket and the list expands to a length that hits the floor.

SASHA

What the freak is that?

MINDY

My prayer list....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA
By the way, how was your date last night?

TIFFANY
"Pop-up"....

SASHA
Whatever....

TIFFANY
Actually, he kind of made an unreasonable demand of me last night.

SASHA
(to Mindy)
Obviously, he didn't know he was dealing with a beginner...

TIFFANY
He asked for me to spend more time with him so that we could get to know each other better.

MINDY
More "pop-ups"?

TIFFANY
Let's just say, an "extended pop-up".

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS (and into the next scene) - "Summer Rain" by Johnny Rivers.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - EARLY NEXT MORNING

Troy is riding his HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE with Tiffany at his back as they head for Big Sur for the weekend as MUSIC continues to play and into the next beach scene.

EXT. BIG SUR - PFEIFFER BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany and Troy are walking on the beach hand in hand as the MUSIC continues and fades out.

INT. BIG SUR CABIN - EVENING

The cabin is illuminated in candlelight as Tiffany and Troy are sitting on the bed having a glass of wine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

I've never, ever done this before. Being with another guy, all alone like this. But, it's so beautiful here and so peaceful. I love this cabin.

TROY

It's my Uncle Vinny's. You know, the one that owns the bakery?

TIFFANY

Yeah. I love that too...

TROY

And I brought some of your favorites.

TIFFANY

Oh my gawd, cannoli....

Troy takes a cannolo from the bag and holds it while Tiffany shyly takes a bite. Troy watches her, mesmerized by her beauty.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

I'm glad that something can put a smile on my face. Those League of Families meetings make me so sad at times.

TROY

The families can speak out now. Your letter writing is going to help.

TIFFANY

I just hope all the letters that I've been writing will help raise enough funding that will make a difference.

TROY

You're doing great and I just sent out three letters, myself.

Tiffany gets up from the bed and looks out at the ocean view through the cabin window.

TROY (cont'd)

You're still holding out hope for him, aren't you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

Not sure anymore. Maybe with our efforts and those of the League of Families we'll find him. But, then again, Jimmy would want me to live my life and pursue my dream, just like you encourage me to do. As a friend, I want to encourage you too, to pursue your dreams teaching.

Tiffany gazes out the window and lets out a long sigh.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

I think you are the most sweetest, nicest person I've ever met. And you don't even try....

TROY

Actually. I've been busting my culo off trying.....

TIFFANY

Can we just be friends?

TROY

Friends?

TIFFANY

Friends don't have to be intimate?

TROY

They can be close.....

TIFFANY

Close? Like what?

Troy gets up from the bed and joins Tiffany at the window. He tries to give her a kiss on the cheek. Tiffany backs away.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

Please don't...I'd rather...

TROY

Then "friends", it is. It's getting late. I know where we can get some horses to ride on the beach tomorrow.

TIFFANY

Horses? I'm still trying to get used to your dog....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY
C'mon. Let's get some sleep....

They both lay down on the bed, Troy quickly falls asleep. Tiffany, having a tough time sleeping, tosses and turns. She gets up, removes a bottle of sleeping pills from her purse, swallows a couple of pills, and then goes back to bed.

INT. BIG SUR CABIN - EARLY NEXT MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany slowly opens her eyes and realizes she has her head on Troy's bare chest and cuddling him. She jumps up out of the bed in a panic.

TIFFANY
Oh my gawd....

Troy is awakened by her outburst.

TROY
What? What's wrong?

Tiffany is pointing at Troy who is wearing only his love beads around his neck and a pair of tie-dyed boxer shorts.

TIFFANY
You're...you're...naked. The "Summer of Love" was last year...

Troy looks down at himself.

TROY
What naked?

TIFFANY
There....

TROY
You said you wanted to be friends....

TIFFANY
Yes. But, not that friendly....

Tiffany quickly turns in embarrassment and looks out the window with her gaze away from Troy.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Please, put something on....

TROY
What's the big deal? Haven't you ever seen your fiance in his boxers?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

No, never! What kind of girl do you think I am?

TROY

An engaged to be married one. This is the sixties and usually when people get engaged they...

TIFFANY

Do you have something on yet?

Troy gets up from bed and wraps a blanket around his waist.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

If I would have known you'd be....

TROY

I'm not naked...

Troy comes around the bed to Tiffany who is at the window.

TROY (cont'd)

It was warm last night and.....

TIFFANY

Well, I'm not used to seeing a guy in his boxers....

TROY

Don't I get a morning kiss?

TIFFANY

What?

TROY

A morning kiss?

TIFFANY

I don't think "friends" give out morning kisses to each other, let alone in their.....

Troy cups Tiffany's face in his hands and gives her a long kiss on the lips as his blanket falls to the floor.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

(out of breath)

boxers.....

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS (and into the next scene) - "What Kind of Girl (Do You Think I Am)?" by The Charmaines.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT KITCHEN - EARLY MONDAY MORNING

As MUSIC plays the camera focuses on Troy's LOVE BEADS hanging down from around Tiffany's neck. Mindy and Sasha are sitting across the breakfast table staring at the beads.

SASHA
(sarcastically)
Least it's not a cross. OK? You got those, what did he get?

TIFFANY
Nothing happened....

SASHA
What do you think, Ming? What do those beads spell out?

MINDY
I was always terrible at spelling....

SASHA
They're love beads, Ming!

MINDY
Oh.....Ohhhhhh.

TIFFANY
Sasha? Ming and I have been talking.

MINDY
Some of us just listen...

TIFFANY
We think you should try to get back with your husband.

SASHA
Are you two trying to get rid of me?

TIFFANY
We just want you to be happy.

SASHA
I am happy, very happy. I don't have to see him and he is still providing for me. It's a perfect relationship.

TIFFANY
Not according to your husband.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

What did you say?

MINDY

Maybe we shouldn't get involved...

TIFFANY

She's our best friend. Someone has to intervene....

Sasha gets up and starts to go back to her bedroom.

SASHA

You two just stay out of it. Just stay the hell off my freakin' cloud. You don't have a clue...

TIFFANY

We do, Sasha! More than just a clue. He called here looking for you. He told me everything. How you cheated on him. How you got fired from your job on Park Avenue. How you stole jewelry and money to support your drug habit. Want me to go on?

SASHA

The freakin' Jew is lying....

MINDY

Sash? Don't insult your husband like that. He gives you everything...

SASHA

Actually, not everything. I would sneak out on him every night. I wanted attention that he never gave me. I felt so all alone in such a big and lonely city...That bastard, how dare he call here and...

TIFFANY

He cares for you Sasha. He's been so worried about you. He's still very much in love with you...

SASHA

He said that? That he loves me?

TIFFANY

Very much so. Sit down, Sash. We want to help. We're your best friends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sasha slowly comes back to the table and sits down.

SASHA

(To Mindy)

Well? Aren't you going to say anything?

MINDY

I'm just curious how she'd sneak out every night.....

SASHA

I went out the door....

MINDY

He was right there, beside you in bed. Can't imagine how you did it...

SASHA

I went out the door....

MINDY

Not the window?

SASHA

Ming? I live in freakin' Manhattan. Twenty freakin' stories up. People in New York don't go out windows....

TIFFANY

Are you two through? Ming? Is that all you've got to say?

SASHA

You start preaching about Jesus. I swear, Ming. You're going out the window just like your cat...

MINDY

Don't swear, Sash. That won't help...

SASHA

Okay. I fucked up....

TIFFANY

So what's new, Sash? You're such a mess. Always have been...

SASHA

What can I say? I do what I likes and I likes what I do. You should know that one. It's from Mary Poppins.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA (cont'd)
I'm sorry. I'm not your idol, Mary Poppins....

FLASHBACK.

INT. NEW YORK CITY - CLASSY MANHATTAN PENTHOUSE PRIVATE PARTY - EVENING

Sasha is elegantly dressed and alone in the study/library with Adam's Rabbi, RABBI STEIN. She is very flirty and standing very close to him, playing with and straightening his tie. Rabbi Stein is slightly embarrassed but is enjoying the attention. Adam appears in the doorway. The Rabbi excuses himself and heads back to the party.

ADAM
Sasha? What the hell was that?

SASHA
You told me to be extra friendly to all your boring clients Adam....

ADAM
Sasha? He's my Rabbi, for God's sake...

SASHA
What's the freakin' big deal? His tie needed fixing...

ADAM
That was lots more than "tie fixing", Sash....

SASHA
At least he takes notice of me. His eyes have been like white on rice on my chinkass since we've walked in the freakin' door...

ADAM
Well, maybe if you didn't wear your damn skirts and dresses so damn tight.....

SASHA
Caught your eye back in that bar first time you noticed me, didn't it?

ADAM
What if this gets around at my synagogue?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

Well, let me have a scientific wild ass guess here. Perhaps, what they've been calling me will justify things? Your "tchatchke" or was it your "shikse"?

ADAM

They just meant your young and pretty...and non-Jewish....

SASHA

Your little play toy, Adam. Trouble is, you stopped freakin' playing with me. Your damn law practice is more important....

ADAM

You know what Sasha? I tried to be understanding when you were fired from your job at the boutique....

SASHA

It's this cheap pink wine they're serving....

ADAM

What?

SASHA

Pink wine makes me slutty. One sip and I'm like Jayne Mansfield throwing myself at Tony Curtis....

ADAM

I just find it so amazing how you color things, Sasha....

SASHA

I need another drink. Maybe if I have more of this freakin' cheap wine, I'll find myself in Hollywood teaming up with Joan Crawford and Betty Davis throwing themselves at their leading men....

Sasha pats Adam on his cheek and struts to the bar.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

MINDY

Sash?.....Sash?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sasha comes out of her flashback.

MINDY (cont'd)
So, what are you going to do?

SASHA
He threw me out. I have no place to go. My father sure doesn't want me.

TIFFANY
We keep throwing buckets of water on you and you still don't seem to melt.

SASHA
And what about you, Chang? When are you going to face reality? Take the freakin' ring off. He's dead and buried, time you found someone else.

TIFFANY
Just wait and see. His name is going to appear on the missing in action list soon...

SASHA
And mine's going to appear on the freakin' Hollywood Walk Of Fame.

MINDY
I think we all need to just stop fighting like this. Maybe a little bit of meditation...

SASHA
Meditation? That's like napping, right? I can do that....

Tiffany wiggles her engagement ring off her finger, places it down as Sasha and Mindy stare at the ring lying on the table like it's a miracle.

TIFFANY
It's off! You happy? Now, I want you to do something to get your life on track. Because, I certainly am....

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - (and continues throughout the next scene)- "I'm Looking Through You" by The Beatles (Anthology Two Version).

INT./EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - BOOK AND RECORD
SHOP - DAY

Tiffany is wandering around the shop and notices someone who looks very much like her fiance, JIMMY CHANG, but this man has long, straggly hair and is unshaven. Looking a bit confused and surprised, Tiffany continues to watch him and his few friends as she runs upstairs to get a better view and to stay out of sight. Jimmy leaves out into the street as Tiffany runs out as he vanishes and the MUSIC fades out.

EXT./INT. CASTELLI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - KITCHEN -
CONTINUOUS

Troy is showing Tiffany how to make cannoli. They playfully throw flour at each other and chase each other around the kitchen and into the supply closet where they embrace and kiss as Troy kicks the door shut with his foot.

Suddenly, Mrs. Castelli and Angelina come into the kitchen carrying bags filled with kitchen supplies.

ANGELINA

Ma! I told you, we needed Swiss
cheese....

MRS. CASTELLI

Eh with the Swiss cheese. I don't pay
for holes.

Mrs. Castelli takes the bread out of the shopping bag.

MRS. CASTELLI (cont'd)

Angelina? American bread? This is an
Italian restaurant.....

ANGELINA

This is America, Ma. Not Sicily! We
have lots of American customers who
request it. Dio Mio! Adjust! You're
not in Palermo any more.

MRS. CASTELLI

They want American bread? Tell 'em go
to McDonald's.

Angelina goes to put some of the groceries into the supply closet. When she opens the door, Tiffany and Troy are still embraced in the closet. Angelina quickly SLAMS the door and braces her back against the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. CASTELLI (cont'd)
Cosa?

ANGELINA
Mouse.....

MRS. CASTELLI
Who made all this mess with making
cannoli? That brother of yours, I
suspect. And look, these cannoli in
the oven are overbaked here....

Angelina still has her back pressed against the door.

ANGELINA
Along with your son.....

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN STREET - DAY

Tiffany is walking down the street when she sees the very
same image of her Marine fiance. She hurries to cross the
street and catch up with him but loses him again.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - TIFFANY'S BEDROOM -
THAT EVENING

Tiffany is sitting on her bed in a state of confusion. Mindy
comes into the bedroom and sits next to her.

MINDY
You alright? You look like you've
just seen a ghost?

TIFFANY
That's an understatement....

MINDY
What?

TIFFANY
Ming? Do I look crazy?

MINDY
Not any different than I'm used to...

TIFFANY
What are you used to?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Well, sometimes you get a little bossy and sometimes you're a bit on edge and sometimes you're unreasonable to talk to and other times you're....

TIFFANY

Ming?

MINDY

And then there was that one time...

TIFFANY

Stop....

MINDY

Remember last week when you...

TIFFANY

Stop already....I think I saw Jimmy. First in the book shop and today in the street. I think I'm losing it....

MINDY

I had a feeling this was going to happen, feeling guilty you took the ring off and about this new guy, that you're seeing visions.

TIFFANY

You think so?

MINDY

You seem to be getting really serious about this guy in the park.

TIFFANY

This guy "Troy"? He is one of the nicest guys I've ever met...

MINDY

Wait a minute. You said his name was Troy? From North Beach? Grad student up at Berkeley?

TIFFANY

Yeah, that's him. You know him?

MINDY

Know him? I love him! Well, I mean, I really like him....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mindy gets up from the bed totally upset.

TIFFANY

I just met him in the park. He was so nice and understanding...

MINDY

A total hunk...

TIFFANY

Well, that too. But....

MINDY

But what? You're just going to steal him away from me?

TIFFANY

No, of course not....

MINDY

Why is it you always have to have everything I get?

TIFFANY

What are you talking about?

MINDY

Billy Wang! I wanted him so much back in high school and you knew it. Then what happened. You went and started flirting with him in the cafeteria...

TIFFANY

Ming? I told you back then. I had something in my eye.....

MINDY

Of course you did, Billy Wang...

TIFFANY

I can't believe you're bringing this up again. After all these years...

MINDY

The time my Dad bought me the very first Asian Barbie doll?

TIFFANY

So absolutely ridiculous now, Ming...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Ridiculous, huh? You had your Mom buy you not one, but two Asian Barbie dolls, just to outdo me....

TIFFANY

Because I liked the one you had...

MINDY

Exactly! Now, I got this freakin' hunk and you have to freakin' have him too?

TIFFANY

You've been sleeping with Sasha much too long. Now, you're talking like her....

MINDY

Least, Sasha doesn't go 'round wanting what I've got...

TIFFANY

Sasha has everything you don't...

MINDY

How dare you say that? Just leave him the freak alone, he's mine.....

Mindy storms out the bedroom. Tiffany tries to sleep but tosses and turns in her bed. Finally, she reaches over to a bottle on her night stand for a couple of sleeping pills.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - MINDY AND SASHA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Mindy and Sasha are in bed for the evening. Sasha is trying to sleep, but Mindy is restless and finally turns on the light on the night stand.

SASHA

Okay? Am I gonna have to tie you down on the bed tonight?

MINDY

I can't sleep...

SASHA

Obviously....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

I'm worried about, Tiff. She's been seeing things....

SASHA

Things? Like what things? You tell me she's seeing Jesus and you're going out that window like your cat did....

MINDY

She thinks that she saw Jimmy....

Sasha sits up in bed.

SASHA

Isn't that nice? The resurrection from the dead has finally happened?

Sasha turns away and throws the covers over her head and tries to go back to sleep.

MINDY

I'm serious, Sash! She saw him twice now, in the book shop and the street.

Sasha sits back up in bed and takes a long sigh.

SASHA

Isn't it enough that I have to sleep with three freakin' cats and listen to you every night pray to the Holy Ghost? Now, she's seeing ghosts?

MINDY

What are we going to do, Sash?

SASHA

I'm going back to sleep.

Sasha goes back under the covers.

MINDY

That's not helping Sash.....

SASHA

Leave me alone.....

MINDY

She's feeling guilty about taking off the ring and seeing this other guy. She's using it as an excuse not to get involved...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

I said, leave me the freak alone...

MINDY

But, on the other hand. If it's true, I'll have this guy all to myself. Then we won't have to fight over him anymore...

A beat and then Sasha comes up from under the covers.

SASHA

You're fighting over some guy?

MINDY

"Troy".

SASHA

Who the hell is Troy?

MINDY

The guy Tiff and I are fighting over. But, then again. Maybe it's completely innocent...

SASHA

You told me you never did have that girl to girl talk with her. What are you worried about.....

MINDY

Where's Jackie Kennedy when I need her?

Sasha dives back under the covers. Mindy makes the sign of the cross and turns off the light.

ARCHIVES - October 20, 1968 - JACQUELINE KENNEDY is married to ARISTOTLE ONASSIS, a Greek shipping magnate on the private island of Scorpios.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - GOLDEN GATE PARK - FEW DAYS LATER

Tiffany is sitting on her favorite park bench writing a letter and becomes aware of someone in front of her.

MINDY

Two days. That's got to be the longest we've ever, never not said two words to each other....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

Even when we didn't live together...

MINDY

Mind if I share your bench with you?

TIFFANY

Belongs to the City of San Francisco.

MINDY

Sure? By now, I would think you would have squatter's rights to it....

TIFFANY

Think so?

MINDY

Know so.....

Mindy finally sits down on the bench next to Tiffany.

MINDY (cont'd)

Remember when we were little and your Mom used to take us here to the park and we would chase birds over there and try to catch them?

Tiffany looks out at the flock of birds on the park knoll.

TIFFANY

We never did catch one, did we?

MINDY

Pain often puts us on a chase similar to when we tried to catch those birds, thinking of finding those hard-to-find answers.....

TIFFANY

Ming? What are you getting at?

MINDY

We wake up in the morning thinking maybe today is the day it all makes sense. We chase why did this happen and no one loves me anymore?

TIFFANY

Ming? Please? You know very well your Dad loved you very much. We all do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

I know you do and your Mom. Well, sometimes, I wonder about Sasha....

TIFFANY

Sasha loves you. She just has a hard time showing it and her feelings....

MINDY

"You are those who have stood by me in my trials".

TIFFANY

Charlie Chan?

MINDY

Troy. Well, Luke 22:28. Only in Jesus do we find both the courage and the permission to admit we've been wronged. In Jesus we can forgive....

TIFFANY

Troy is really teaching you so much about compassion, isn't he?

MINDY

Yeah. He's really taught me a lot about how to cope with life. Now, I think it's your turn to learn from him. Besides, I was his "almost girlfriend" anyway. I wish you and Troy all the happiness. I want you to be with him, learn from him and love him. I think Jimmy would understand.

TIFFANY

How do you know I love him?

MINDY

I can tell by the look in your eyes. I've seen how he's made you smile more these days.

TIFFANY

Don't say that you were his "almost girlfriend". You'll always be special to him. And I don't want you saying that you're my "almost sister" any longer. We don't need a piece of paper to be real sisters....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A long beat as they both look at each other with tears in their eyes and hug on the park bench. Mindy wipes her tears and points to the birds.

MINDY

Want to chase some birds?

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "I'll Never Find Another You" by The Seekers.

Tiffany and Mindy run and start chasing the birds together as the MUSIC plays out the scene.

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Sasha's husband, ADAM enters the restaurant looking for Sasha.

TIFFANY

Table for one?

ADAM

Actually, I'm here looking for Sasha.
I'm her husband...

TIFFANY

You're Adam? We spoke on the phone.
So nice to meet you. Sasha's on break
in back.....

Sasha comes out of the back and is stopped in her tracks noticing her husband standing at the front.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

Aren't you going to say hello to your
husband?

SASHA

Tell him I'm not here....

TIFFANY

Sasha? He's standing right there
looking straight at you....

SASHA

Well then, I'm not available....

TIFFANY

Don't you think you owe him a few
minutes of your time? He came out
here all the way from New York to see
you. Go 'head. Use my office....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sasha turns on her heels and goes back to Tiffany's office as Tiffany motions to Adam to follow Sasha to the back.

INT. TIFFANY'S MANAGER'S KITCHEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sasha is sitting behind Tiffany's desk as Adam enters the office and closes the door.

ADAM

Hello, Sasha.

SASHA

Okay. I saw you. You can leave now....

ADAM

Come on, Sash! Can you at least be civil for once in your life? Can I at least sit for a few minutes?

SASHA

Do what you want. That's what you always do anyway, isn't it?

Adam sits down in a chair in front of Tiffany's desk. A long beat as Adam looks curiously at his wife for a sign.

SASHA (cont'd)

What the fuck do you want, Adam? You already embarrassed the hell out of me with your phone calls. Are you out of your "kosher" mind...

ADAM

Do we have to start with the Jewish stuff already? No one's dragging anyone anywhere. I've come to ask you nicely to come back to New York....

SASHA

You threw me out, Adam.

ADAM

I'm sorry. It was just that you upset me so with your behavior back in New York. You can't blame me. Flirting with my Rabbi, then having affairs with God knows who? Honestly, Sasha?

SASHA

That's between God and me...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

(amused)

Do you even believe in God, Sasha?

SASHA

You could have shown me more attention and loved me....

ADAM

I do love you, Sash! Even though you make men crazy with your bewitching ways...

SASHA

I do that to most men, or haven't you noticed?

ADAM

I've noticed, Sash! You even had my Rabbi making deals with the devil....

SASHA

Men are men. I can't help how you men are, even those sworn to God....

ADAM

You've had me totally bewitched ever since I met you....

SASHA

Maybe you should get your Rabbi to give you an exorcism, Adam?

ADAM

That's something a Catholic priest does, Sasha....

SASHA

Then get whatever Jewish people get...

ADAM

I apologize for all the late meetings and out of town trips. I love you....

SASHA

You sure had a strange way of showing it. I got more attention from your Rabbi than from you....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

And why is that? C'mon, Sash? Do I have to get down on my knees and beg you to come back?

SASHA

Wouldn't be the first time. Go on, for old time's sake....

ADAM

It's so amazing how you get me so wound up all the time...

SASHA

Then, stop complaining how I behave.

ADAM

Can you at least be a little nicer?

SASHA

How nice?

ADAM

Just nicer....

SASHA

You know Adam? I can't stay in love with a man who doesn't even know he's not involved. Your freakin' law practice is more important than me...

ADAM

It's what provides all the shit you love, Sash! Minks, diamonds...

SASHA

I tried to get close to you, Adam.

Sasha's cool confidence begins to crack. She looks away, pushing at the corners of her eyes, trying to stop a tear. She crosses towards the door past him. Adam rushes to her before she opens the door.

ADAM

Come on, Sash? We'll both work at our relationship together. I promise. I won't try to force all that Jewish stuff on you, I promise.

SASHA

You'll tell your friends and relatives to stop calling me your "tchatchke" and "shikse"?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

I promise....

SASHA

You know, Adam? If you're brave enough to commit, I will devote myself entirely to you...

ADAM

Brave enough, but not stupid enough. Just be a little nicer. And a little less naughty...

SASHA

Tell you what? You go back to New York like a good boy and give me time to think about it....

Sasha gives Adam a kiss on his lips and a pat on his cheek.

SASHA (cont'd)

I'll try to be nicer, but I'm not sure about the naughty part. Sasha is Sasha, what can I say.

Sasha gives Adam a flirty wink as she goes out the door.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - TIFFANY'S BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

Tiffany is dressed to meet Troy's family. She is checking her appearance in her mirror as Mindy is sitting on the bed.

MINDY

You look beautiful, Tiff.

TIFFANY

I am so scared. Especially of his Mother. I have a feeling she's going to be a real challenge. She's from Sicily....

MINDY

Mama Mia! I hear women from Sicily are more dangerous than a shotgun.

TIFFANY

Should I bring one of my own?

Sasha appears in the bedroom doorway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

Herself? Ordering people around all the time? She'll definitely be chased out of there by his Mother with a shotgun. Can I come in or are you two still at each other's throats?

MINDY

We buried the hatchet days ago.

SASHA

Along with the other burial, I hope?

TIFFANY

Let her keep making jokes. It's time I moved on with my life.

MINDY

She's even wearing her Chinese New Year's good luck red panties...

SASHA

Hmm? Maybe this might be this guy's lucky night?

TIFFANY

What's that supposed to mean?

SASHA

Ming? Haven't you had that girl to girl talk with her yet?

TIFFANY

I just hope his Mother will like me, maybe just a little bit....

SASHA

Maybe you can make her an offer she can't refuse? If I were you, I'd wear a bullet proof vest instead of those red panties tonight!

EXT./INT. CASTELLI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Troy is leading Tiffany into his family restaurant. UNCLE VINNY (Italian born, mid-fifties, heavy set) has a strand of spaghetti hanging from his mouth and a wide-eyed look on his face at the sight of Tiffany coming through the door and then looks at Mr. Castelli.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. CASTELLI
 (to Uncle Vinny)
 Diverse, ma belle.....

Uncle Vinny begins to shake his head in agreement, but then quickly looks at Mrs. Castelli who is clearly annoyed. Mrs. Castelli gives Uncle Vinny a threatening look as a way to tell him to not get involved. Uncle Vinny shrugs his shoulders and quickly looks down at his plate.

A long beat as everyone in the room is motionless. Angelina enters the dining area from the kitchen carrying a large plate of pasta. She puts the plate on the large table and then turns towards Tiffany to welcome her.

ANGELINA
 Hi. I'm Angelina, Troy's sister. And you must be....

TIFFANY
 Hello. I'm Tiffany....

MRS. CASTELLI
 (sotto to Mr. Castelli)
 Uffa! Jesus, Joseph and Mary. E Adesso! She's a lampada.....

MR. CASTELLI
 Marie! Stop with the nicknames. She's a beautiful girl, not a lamp!

ANGELINA
 (to Tiffany)
 Troy has told us so much about you, except he failed to tell us how beautiful you are. Ma? Isn't Tiffany molto bella?

MRS. CASTELLI
 Cosa? Tell all about? The first I hear anything about her....

Mrs. Castelli slowly walks in shock over to Tiffany to welcome her.

MRS. CASTELLI (cont'd)
 Prego Si Accomodi. Sit. Sit. Mangia....

Troy leads Tiffany to a seat at the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

C'mon. She's telling you to eat...

MR. CASTELLI

Welcome, sweetheart. I'm Troy's Dad.
Troy tells us that your family has a
restaurant in Chinatown.

MRS. CASTELLI

(sotto to Angelina)

How does everyone know everything and
I don't?

Uncle Vinny is busy eating.

TROY

And that's my Uncle Vinny over there.
He's the one that owns the bakery.
Uncle Vinny? Tiffany here is one of
your regular customers...

Uncle Vinny just nods a thank-you to Tiffany, his mouth too
full of pasta to talk. Mrs. Castelli goes off to the kitchen
trying to catch her breath still a bit in shock.

ANGELINA

(sotto to Troy)

Better go check on Ma. I think she's
on the kitchen floor having a heart
attack.....

Troy excuses himself from the table to check on his Mother.
He finds her in front of The Cross on the kitchen wall,
praying aloud the rosary beads.

INT. CASTELLI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

TROY

Ma? Put those away. There's no reason
for the Stations of the Cross
tonight....

Mrs. Castelli keeps praying aloud to Jesus.

TROY (cont'd)

Ma? Please? Statte Zitte with the
rosary beads.....

MRS. CASTELLI

Where you meet this lampada?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

Ma! Her name is Tiffany. For God's sake, she's not a lamp...

MRS. CASTELLI

Watch your mouth in front of Jesus...

TROY

Ma? Please sit down with me...

Troy leads his Mother over to the kitchen table for a talk.

MRS. CASTELLI

It's all your Father's fault...

TROY

Cosa?

MRS. CASTELLI

He should of never taught you to play Chinese checkers when you were ten...

TROY

Ma? Stop talking nonsense. Can you at least, give her half a chance?

MRS. CASTELLI

Half a chance? How could you do this to me, tua madre? Town of China....

TROY

Yes Ma! Chinatown. I love her.

MRS. CASTELLI

Isn't it enough that your sister makes me crazy with all of her strange boyfriends, but now you too? Now, we need a, "come si dice", a rickshaw for your Town of China...

TROY

Only one Ma. I only have one.

MRS. CASTELLI

One is enough to send your Mother to her grave....

TROY

Ma! Isn't it a bit too early to be administered last rites?

Angelina comes into the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY (cont'd)

Let me get back to Tiffany...

ANGELINA

She's fine. Dad's learning all about how to run a Chinese restaurant...

MRS. CASTELLI

He needs to learn first how to run an Italian one. And "you"? How come you didn't tell your Mother about this lampada? I don't even know her last name.....

TROY

Ma! Again with the lamp? It's "Chang".....

MRS. CASTELLI

Che Cos'e?

TROY

Chang....

MRS. CASTELLI

Ching?

TROY

No Ma. Chang.

MRS. CASTELLI

Ching, Chang, Butta Bing.....

Angelina comes over to the kitchen table.

ANGELINA

Ma? He loves her. Why does he have to love a girl from the parish?

MRS. CASTELLI

Because we know these people. Who knows those people in Town of China? Honey, when your Father and I first came to this country from Sicily, we had to stand in the pouring rain, in the dead of night for six hours in the cold. We were just thankful for just a cup of hot chocolate. But, it was our own people, the Italians, who helped us make this our home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGELINA

Ma! You always said it was almost one hundred degrees in the shade, thankful for a cup of lemonade?

MRS. CASTELLI

Cosa?

ANGELINA

You said it was daytime and hot...

MRS. CASTELLI

Eh? Were you there? Stay out of this. Let your Mother talk some sense into your brother's head. And stop making up stories about your Mother.

Angelina rolls her eyes and takes more food out to the dining area of the restaurant.

MRS. CASTELLI (cont'd)

Like I was saying, honey. Your Father and I stood there...

TROY

Ma? What's this got to do with Tiffany out there?

MRS. CASTELLI

What I'm trying to say is, be thankful for what you have in your own neighborhood. No need to be exploring on the wrong side of town.

TROY

What wrong side of town?

MRS. CASTELLI

The wrong side, Town of China...

TROY

Says who?

MRS. CASTELLI

Says your Mother! Who better than your own Mother to tell her son what is best for him?

Angelina comes back into the kitchen.

ANGELINA

Better listen to your Mother. The Holy Ghost is watching.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGELINA (cont'd)

I think he should introduce her to all the relatives.

MRS. CASTELLI

The relatives already think we have a son that thinks he's "Sitting Bull". If they come next Sunday and see la lampada, they'll think he will be Sitting Bull in a temple...

EXT. STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Troy is walking Tiffany back to Chinatown after dinner.

TIFFANY

Thanks so much for inviting me. Your Dad is so sweet. I can see who you take after. And I loved your sister, Angelina. She's so pretty and caring.

TROY

And my Mom?

TIFFANY

Let's face it. Your Mother will never accept me and my Mother will never accept you. Old ways are hard to change for some.

A long beat as they walk towards Chinatown.

TROY

Tiff? Marry me.....

TIFFANY

Are you crazy? I think you had too much of that Italian vino...

TROY

I'm serious. I've never met anyone like you....let's get married.

TIFFANY

You're still in school. I'm in a struggling restaurant in Chinatown. And your Mom would disown you and shoot me with her shotgun.

TROY

What shotgun? Listen, give my Mom some time. She'll come around.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY (cont'd)

She'll see how happy I am and how much I'm so in love with you.

TIFFANY

We're in two different worlds, different cultures. The world will never change. There's just as much chance of them inventing a phone with no cords than there is a relationship like you're suggesting that we be in.

TROY

I don't care. I don't care what people think or say. I just want to be with you always.

They stop in front of the CHINATOWN GATEWAY ARCH and face each other to say goodnight.

TIFFANY

I need time. Can you give me more time? It's so sudden....

TROY

If that's what you need. Remember, I'll love you no matter what.

Tiffany is silent not being able to return his commitment.

TROY (cont'd)

Aren't you going to say anything?

TIFFANY

"Super Calafragilistic - Expilalidocious"....

TROY

Huh?

TIFFANY

It's something to say when you don't know what to say. It's from Mary Poppins, what she used to say when she didn't know....Please? Just give me more time....

Tiffany gives Troy a slight peck on his cheek and turns to walk away under the Chinatown Gateway Arch. She takes a few steps and turns around and waves goodbye to him.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN TEA HOUSE - FEW DAYS LATER

Tiffany has entered the tea house and to her surprise, sees the same image of Jimmy Chang sitting at a table by himself having a cup of tea. Cautiously, she approaches the table.

TIFFANY
Jimmy?.....Jimmy Chang?

JIMMY
I'm sorry, do I know you?

TIFFANY
Jimmy? You don't remember me? I'm
Tiffany....Tiffany Chang?

Tiffany notices the heart-shaped birthmark on his right wrist.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Your birthmark? On your right wrist?
You are Jimmy Chang...

Jimmy looks confused at his birthmark and then back at Tiffany.

JIMMY
I'm Jimmy Chang. But, I'm so sorry, I
don't think we've met. I think you
have me confused with someone else.

A very pretty CHINESE GIRL (early-twenties) comes and joins Jimmy at his table. Tiffany backs away as Jimmy welcomes the girl. Tiffany bolts out the door and then looks at the couple through the window totally confused and frustrated.

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT -DAY

Mindy rushes over to Tiffany and Sasha and pulls each of them by their arms into the office and slams the door.

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - TIFFANY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

SASHA
If this is about another one of your
freakin' cats going out some window..

MINDY
Benjamin Brooks....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tiffany and Sasha look at each other in confusion.

MINDY (cont'd)
Corporal Benjamin Brooks....

A beat.

MINDY (cont'd)
He's the one down there. Troy told me. He's been volunteering at those family meetings and found out through them that they finally identified who was buried there. He traced it all the way to Washington to prove it's not Jimmy down there...

SASHA
Why would he do that? The guy definitely wants Tiff for himself...

Sasha looks at Tiffany for a response.

TIFFANY
Because he's "Troy", that's why....

EXT. NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY - PRESIDIO - NEXT DAY

Tiffany is kneeling before the grave stone that reads Jimmy Chang, placing flowers and praying in a Buddha pose as a figure appears above her. Without looking up, she realizes it is Troy.

TIFFANY
Don't think I'll ever stop coming here even now that I know....

TROY
I never thought that you wouldn't...

A long beat as Tiffany arranges the flowers on the grave.

TIFFANY
Didn't surprise me at all what you did.....thanks.

TROY
I just wanted to...

TIFFANY
Make me smile, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

Yeah. Something like that....

Troy sits down on the grass in front of Tiffany as she lifts her head to look at him sitting there.

TIFFANY

And what about you? Are you happy?

TROY

Happy for you and how you were right all along.....

TIFFANY

It's called "faith", right?

TROY

He's out there. We'll find him.....

TIFFANY

You seem more confident than me, now?

Tiffany gets up and gives Troy a friendly kiss on his lips.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN - JIMMY CHANG'S BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Jimmy is cleaning and organizing his bedroom closet. He opens an old shoe box buried at the bottom of his closet that jars his recollection of Tiffany.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - GOLDEN GATE PARK - EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

Jimmy is walking in the park and comes across the park bench that Tiffany and he would sit on every Sunday morning before he was deployed to Vietnam. He sits on the bench.

Suddenly, Tiffany appears in front of him. She falls to her knees, reaches out to touch his hands and face. They end up hugging each other.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN TEA HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany and Jimmy are sitting across from each other at a table, just staring at each other in silence.

TIFFANY

When?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Six months ago...

TIFFANY

Six months ago?

JIMMY

I forgot so many things and remembered only my name and my parents. Another unit in Nam found me wandering around in the jungle. The land mine jarred my memory. I didn't even remember I was a Marine, Tiff. I am so sorry I forgot all about you.

TIFFANY

How did you remember?

JIMMY

I found an old box of your pictures and letters you wrote to me when I was in basic training.

TIFFANY

But, why didn't your parents tell me?

JIMMY

Tiff? This might be hard on you. But, your Mom knew. I approached my parents last night. They finally confessed they didn't want either of us to know. They still want us apart.

TIFFANY

My Mom knew?

JIMMY

Come on, Tiff? Bad for both of our family's businesses....

TIFFANY

Stupid Chinese superstitions...

JIMMY

So? We're engaged?

Tiffany looks at her left hand minus the engagement ring.

TIFFANY

I can't believe our parents still want to keep us apart.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Both of our parents grew up with lots of old silly superstitions and traditions.....

TIFFANY

You know you're supposed to be buried over there in Presidio?

JIMMY

What? My parents never told me that. I guess it is one of my men that set off the land mine. It must have knocked my dog tags off and they thought he was me.

TIFFANY

I hear it happens lots. Send the wrong body in a body bag from Nam. I kept telling everyone. Did you know this Benjamin Brooks? He's the one buried over there in Presido...

JIMMY

Not really. I guess he was one of the Marine specialists that joined our squad for that special mission.....

Jimmy looks out the window and decides to confess.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Tiff? I have to be honest here. I'm not the same person I was before I left for Nam. Lots of guys come back with drug issues, alcohol, nightmares and suicide. I've been struggling.

TIFFANY

I should have never agreed for you to join up?

JIMMY

My fault. I wanted to serve my country, be something special. But now, I'm suffering. I even forgot all about you. My mind is not the same. Some days I look in the mirror and I don't even recognize myself. I'm so sorry, Tiff. Please forgive me.....

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany bursts into the restaurant. Mrs. Chang, Mindy and Sasha are preparing to open for Sunday's lunch.

TIFFANY
Mother? How could you?

Mrs. Chang doesn't answer but knows what the subject definitely is about.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
(to Mindy and Sasha)
He's back.....

MINDY AND SASHA
(in unison)
Who's back?

TIFFANY
Jimmy!

SASHA
I thought we were well past this?

TIFFANY
I saw him. I touched him. He remembers me.....

SASHA
She's way over the edge now. I'll call the hospital and see if we can get a room for her....

MRS. CHANG
No need for that....

TIFFANY
That's right, Mother! Why Mother?

MRS. CHANG
It's best....

TIFFANY
Best for who, Mother? The restaurant?
For good luck for the families?

MRS. CHANG
For everyone....

TIFFANY
Mother? You didn't mind when Jimmy
and I were just friends.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY (cont'd)

But, once we got engaged, I had to go running off to the park every Sunday morning to see him.....

Tiffany goes behind the counter and picks up a couple of dishes and smashes them on the floor in frustration. Mindy tries to stop her from picking up several more dishes.

MRS. CHANG

Let her be. Breaking china brings good luck.....

INT. CHANG'S LUCKY GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT - TWO WEEKS LATER

Mindy notices Troy entering and rushes up to greet him.

TROY

Is Tiffany all right? I haven't heard from her or seen her?

MINDY

She didn't tell you? She found Jimmy?

INT. TIFFANY'S MANAGER'S KITCHEN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mindy knocks on Tiffany's door as Tiffany is engrossed in paperwork on her desk.

MINDY

Tiff? It's Troy, here to see you...

Mindy excuses herself and closes the door for Tiffany and Troy to be alone.

TROY

You all right?

Tiffany gets up from her desk and goes over to her file cabinet trying to continue to work. Troy goes over to the file cabinet to Tiffany.

TROY (cont'd)

Why didn't you tell me?

Tiffany closes her eyes and lets out a long sigh.

TIFFANY

I don't know what to say.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TROY

Then don't say anything now. You're confused. Just take time to figure out what will really make you happy. You're happy you found him, right?

TIFFANY

Of course I am, but I'm sad because I miss our time together. I'm torn and feel like I'm being pulled in two different directions!

TROY

I can't help you on this one, Tiff, and I won't stand in your way if you choose Jimmy. He's already been through a lot. I'm just glad for our time together and that we were friends. I just want you to be happy.

TIFFANY

Were? How can you be so casual about it? Were just friends?

TROY

Listen. You've got a lot of work to do here.....

TIFFANY

You got me having these loving feelings for you and now you're...

TROY

Stop it. Maybe what you really need now is to spend more time with Jimmy to see if he is who you really want. Know this though, I will always be there for you. If you choose Jimmy, tell him that he's got the most beautiful thing in this world. But, I'm sure he knows that....

Troy hugs Tiffany and gives her a long kiss on her forehead and then leaves out the door.

TIFFANY

(to herself)

"Thing"? Not an "It"?

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - TIFFANY'S BEDROOM -
EVENING

Tiffany is tossing and turning in her bed. She sits up in bed and reaches for a bottle of prescription sleeping pills on her night stand.

ONE MONTH LATER.

EXT./INT. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY CAMPUS -
TROY'S DORMITORY ROOM - DAY

Mindy is knocking on Troy's dormitory door. Troy opens the door surprised to see her.

TROY
Mindy? What brings you up here?

MINDY
I really need to talk to you....

Mindy enters the room still a bit hesitant.

TROY
What's to talk about? I heard that Tiffany made her decision and that she's back with Jimmy. I told her that it's best we just be friends and leave it at that.

Troy notices that Mindy is distraught and takes her by her hand and leads her over to the sofa. Mindy breaks down and starts to cry.

TROY (cont'd)
Mindy? Why are you crying?

MINDY
Because of Tiff. She's strung out...

TROY
Strung out?

MINDY
On pills, sleeping pills. I think the break-up with you and now things have gone very south with Jimmy...

MINDY (cont'd)
He's not the same. Struggling so much, the war has really taken a toll on him.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY (cont'd)

Nightmares, distancing himself from his family and even being distant towards Tiff. He's even seeing other girls.....

TROY

It doesn't sound like Tiffany to be taking drugs...

MINDY

She can't sleep nights. Sasha and I can hear her crying all night. She's been taking sleeping pills. She says that they help her get through the night, but Sasha and I are scared for her and don't know how to help her. Please come back!

TROY

I'm probably the last person she wants to see...

MINDY

She calls out your name at night. She still loves you.

TROY

You know? They say that love is the answer to all problems, but it can also create problems...

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - GOLDEN GATE PARK - FEW DAYS LATER

Tiffany and Jimmy are sitting on their favorite park bench staring out at the park.

JIMMY

(finally speaking)

Things were lots simpler back in high school....

TIFFANY

I never even looked at another guy. Always wanted to be with you...

JIMMY

We were so much in love...

TIFFANY

Were?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Tiff? I told you before I'm not the same guy like back then.

TIFFANY

We'll get help. I'm sure there is...

JIMMY

There's not. No one understands what war does to someone...

TIFFANY

We'll give it time, Jimmy. We've invested too much of our lives together.

JIMMY

Maybe a break from each other is best?

Tiffany stands up from the park bench and confronts Jimmy.

TIFFANY

What are you saying? You're breaking up with me?

JIMMY

A break. You know, see if this engagement thing is what's best....

TIFFANY

You sound like our parents now.

Tiffany starts walking out towards the park as Jimmy watches in bewilderment. Tiffany turns around and slowly starts walking backwards.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

Go ahead! Believe in those stupid superstitions like all those old gossip ladies in Chinatown...

JIMMY

C'mon, Tiff! It's not about that. Come back and sit....

TIFFANY

No! Bad luck! A Chang shouldn't be sitting next to another Chang alone in the park. Someone might die!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Stop talking nonsense. We'll still be friends. Meet once a month here...

Tiffany points her finger at Jimmy, still walking backwards away from him.

TIFFANY

More bad luck!

Jimmy gets up from the park bench and approaches Tiffany.

JIMMY

For gawd's sake, Tiff!

Jimmy hugs Tiffany and gives her a kiss on her forehead as she wells up with tears.

TIFFANY

How long a break?

JIMMY

I don't know, a month. We'll meet back here and see...

TIFFANY

I won't come.....

JIMMY

What do you mean, you won't come?

TIFFANY

I just won't. Maybe that's why I had the bad luck. You disappearing the way you did. Maybe if I hadn't agreed for you to join up. Maybe then I wouldn't have this bad luck we're both having? And maybe if we hadn't got engaged...

JIMMY

Now who's sounding like our parents?

Tiffany breaks away from Jimmy's grasp and goes back to get her purse on the park bench. Then she walks up to Jimmy.

TIFFANY

I hope those other girls you've been seeing since you've gotten back make you happy.....

Tiffany starts walking off into the park and doesn't look back at Jimmy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Come on, Tiff. Don't make this harder
than it already is....

Tiffany doesn't look back as Jimmy sits back on the park
bench watching her walk away into the park.

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Tiffany, Mindy and Sasha are having early morning breakfast.
Mindy is eating a bagel flavored with cinnamon, blueberries
and strawberries.

SASHA

What the freak is that?

MINDY

It's called a "Catholic Bagel".

Sasha glances at Tiffany.

SASHA

Well, God bless us, Mrs. Robinson.
And what are you having, a "Buddhist
Bagel"? I swear Ming? What's next,
"Catholic Won-Ton" for lunch?

TIFFANY

Just eat your rice chex like a good
girl, Sash. We have a new menu to go
over this morning....

SASHA

Well count me the hell out. I'm
putting in my notice this morning.
I'm going back to New York. I decided
to give him another chance.

TIFFANY

Another chance? Don't you think it
should be the other way around?

SASHA

Anyway, I just feel like I've been
the "sideshow attraction" around
here. It hasn't been exactly
"Breakfast at Tiffany's" here....

MINDY

Least there was a cat involved...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

Don't remind me. It'll take me months to get the cat hair out of my mink. I just hope you make a decision Tiff. You can't dance at two weddings.

MINDY

Yes you can. You can be a bride's maid at one and....

SASHA

Just eat your "Pope in a Blanket" there. And she needs to start dressing lots better...Just how much bang for the buck do you really think you get from those cheap Chinatown heels you wore yesterday?

TIFFANY

Well excuse me. I don't have "Prada" stenciled on my ass like you, Sasha!

Tiffany storms off out of the kitchen.

MINDY

Least she knows a designer's name....

INT. CHANG'S UPSTAIRS FLAT APARTMENT - TIFFANY'S BEDROOM

Tiffany is laying in bed, gasping for breath. She fumbles to get her phone and knocks over the lamp on her bedside table.

TIFFANY

Ming?....Ming?

Mindy runs into Tiffany's bedroom and sees Tiffany slipping in and out of consciousness and sees the bottle of sleeping pills spilled all over the bedroom floor. Sasha and Mrs. Chang rush into the bedroom. Mindy tries to hold Tiffany as Mrs. Chang calls an ambulance.

MINDY

(crying)

I think she took too many of them.
Please God, don't let her die.

EXT./INT. SAN FRANCISCO - CHINATOWN HOSPITAL - MORNING - FEW DAYS LATER

Tiffany is in a hospital bed recovering from an overdose of sleeping pills. A HOSPITAL ATTENDANT is serving Tiffany her breakfast on a tray. There is a knock on the room door.

HOSPITAL ATTENDANT

It's your two angels of the morning.
Each and every morning....

Mindy and Sasha enter the hospital room.

SASHA

Actually, we're just here to establish an alibi for your Mother so we don't have to fold napkins this morning....

There is another knock on Tiffany's door.

ANGELINA

I brought you some cannoli. But, the nurse out there wouldn't let me bring it in...

Angelina comes over and hugs Tiffany.

ANGELINA (cont'd)

It's a good thing I brought something else..... Ma?

Mrs. Castelli comes into the room carrying a dozen red roses and presents it to Tiffany.

MRS. CASTELLI

They tell me that the color red is good luck in the Town of China.

TIFFANY

Mrs. Castelli, they are so beautiful.

SASHA

(sotto to Mindy)

Let's split this scene, before she pulls out the shotgun...

MRS. CASTELLI

(to Tiffany)

I pray the rosary every night....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGELINA

And she goes to mass and confession every week to repent....

MRS. CASTELLI

Again, with the stories about your Mother?

Sasha pulls Mindy by her sleeve to leave.

SASHA

C'mon, napkins await.....

Mindy and Sasha leave.

MRS. CASTELLI

(to Tiffany)

Honey, I have come to realize what an angel in disguise you have been to my family and especially to my son. Troy misses you so!

TIFFANY

Mrs. Castelli? I'm far from that...

ANGELINA

You really have opened her eyes. She even puts out American bread at the tables now.....

MRS. CASTELLI

Again, with the stories? I just want her to know, anyone my son loves so much, I will love as much.

Mrs. Castelli hugs Tiffany and pulls Angelina by her blouse out the door.

ANGELINA

We all love you. Especially, Troy....

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS (and into the next scene) - "Real Love" by The Beatles (Anthology Two version).

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO BUS TERMINAL - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY

Tiffany is waiting for a bus to the University of California at Berkeley campus and then sitting on the bus alone looking out of the bus window at the passing views as MUSIC continues.

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS

As the MUSIC continues to play, she arrives at the campus. She walks around, looking a bit mystified at what she sees (not ever being on a college campus before). She sits on a BENCH and watches the students going to and from classes.

Troy is walking to class and passes by Tiffany on the bench. He then realizes that she is sitting there and goes back to stand before her. Tiffany shyly looks down and fiddles with her PURSE-DAY BAG as the MUSIC fades out.

TROY
Found a new bench?

TIFFANY
(shyly)
Guess I got tired of the old one...

Troy sits down next to her on the bench.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
I tried. I tried so hard to get through everything. Guess, I didn't try hard enough?

TROY
Hei, fatto bene....You did good. The best you could. Just please stop taking those pills.

TIFFANY
I have, honest I have. I'm lots better now....

TROY
I can see, as beautiful as ever....

TIFFANY
Troy? Jimmy and I are through. His condition and all. He feels he just can't commit to me. That ridiculous war, it's changed him so much. Even with his counseling, I'm not sure he'll ever be the same again...

TROY
I think you should give him more time. With time, perhaps he will be himself again...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIFFANY

I'm not so sure. He was my first love
and I always thought my last love.
Now, he's with others....

TROY

Do you still love him?

TIFFANY

A part of me always will, just not in
the same way.....

TIFFANY (cont'd)

Troy? What about us? Do you still
love me? Or did I totally screw
things up? You probably hate me....

TROY

I'll always love you, Tiff....

INT. CHINATOWN SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER - MR. SING'S ROOM - DAY

Mr. Sing, wags his finger and shouts in Chinese at a PICTURE
OF SASHA, propped up on his BUDDHIST ALTAR. Sasha appears at
the doorway of his room.

SASHA

No need to curse at my picture, I'm
here for that, Father...

Mr. Sing turns to face his daughter.

MR. SING

Don't have a daughter. Just an image
of what use to be...

SASHA

Father? You don't know how much that
hurts me when you say that...

MR. SING

Maybe daughter should have thought of
that before she disgraced her family?

SASHA

Why Father? Because I didn't marry
Chinese?

MR. SING

Much more than that....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SASHA

I know I've messed up my life. How many times must I ask for your forgiveness? I'm sorry I disgraced you and the Sing family. Are you going to hate me the rest of your life for that?

MR. SING

I don't hate you. I'm just... disappointed in daughter...

SASHA

You know what, Father? I thought that money and material things would make me happy, but now I realize that it's really my friends and family, right here in Chinatown who make me feel happy and accepted. I'm so sorry I embarrassed you and your friends by not being the daughter you dreamed. Can you blame me for wanting a better life?

MR. SING

My Father was a poor man, embarrassed by his own life. I swore I'd never end up like him. I too thought money and success would be the difference. So, you my daughter, perhaps have followed in my footsteps. I guess, in many ways we are alike...

SASHA

I'm going back to New York to Adam, Father. I want you to come with me. But, we'll come back to Chinatown often so we can see our friends.

MR. SING

My life is here...

SASHA

There's a life outside of Chinatown, Father. I want you to see it...

MR. SING

Best my daughter be with husband.

SASHA

Can you at least say you forgive me before I leave? It would mean so much to me....please?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. SING

I understand....

Sasha has a slight smile through her tears, closes her eyes and sighs to herself.

SASHA

Guess we are so alike showing our feelings. Guess an understanding from you is a start....

Sasha kneels in front of her Father and hugs him.

SASHA (cont'd)

Please, Father? Next time you point at my picture, pray to Buddha for me...pray for us.....

INT. SAN FRANCISCO EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Tiffany, Mindy and Sasha are dressed elegantly to celebrate Sasha's return to New York and her husband.

TIFFANY

Well, Sasha? I guess we can call this your "last supper"?

SASHA

I think you have me confused with my husband? He's the Jewish one...

TIFFANY

Why don't you pick out the lobster in the tank for our dinner?

SASHA

Ming's the one with the cross around her neck. I'll let her make the life decisions tonight...

MINDY

So, Sash? What made you decide to go back to New York?

SASHA

Well, I told my Father that I'd try and not be so materialistic in life. But, Adam offered a Park Avenue apartment until we feel things are right to move in together again. How, can a girl refuse? My own place, my own freedom...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Apartment on Park Avenue? That's where Jackie stays! With a view of Central Park. I heard Jackie takes strolls in the park. Maybe you can take a step in time with her....

TIFFANY

Sasha taking a step in time with Jackie would be something I can't imagine to even think about. Scary, to say the least...

SASHA

Why scary? We're both women of style and absolute total visionaries...

TIFFANY

Come on, Sash? You're vision of life is a bit cloudy, to say the least...

SASHA

A girl can change, can't she? These are the times of a changing...

MINDY

I'm going to miss you so much, Sash! Who am I going to sleep with every night now?

SASHA

You know what, Ming? Maybe it's you that needs that "girl to girl".....

TIFFANY

You still have your cats, Ming..

SASHA

Being here I've learned that living with three cats means that nobody sleeps, everything's broken and there's lots of throwing up....

Sasha takes a sip of her wine.

SASHA (cont'd)

I've also learned that our friendships are more precious to me. I'll miss you too, Ming...

Sasha reaches over and hugs Mindy across the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Look, Tiff! Sasha is hugging me....

TIFFANY

Will miracles never cease...

INT. CHINATOWN BUDDHIST TEMPLE - DAY

Tiffany and Mindy are in a Buddhist pose in front of a Buddha statue. They both have their eyes closed and hands and palms extended upwards in meditation.

MINDY

"Mikvah"....

TIFFANY

What?

MINDY

The collection of bath water used for the purpose of ritual immersion in Judaism.

TIFFANY

Okay? Don't keep me in suspense.

MINDY

Sasha called me from New York yesterday...

TIFFANY

Boy! You two have become hugging, calling each other buddies now...

MINDY

She told me that she is thinking of pleasing Adam by immersing herself in Judaism....

TIFFANY

Would that even be considered "kosher"?

A long beat as they meditate.

MINDY

Tiff?

TIFFANY

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Why don't you go see him? Troy?

TIFFANY

I was hoping to see him at the park,
but he hasn't been there...

MINDY

Just go to his restaurant...

TIFFANY

I don't know. I got the feeling he
just doesn't want to see me anymore.

MINDY

A most famous lady once said. "You've
got to fight for what you believe in.
You have to finish what you start".

TIFFANY

Jackie, right?

MINDY

Go get him, Tiff!

FEW WEEKS LATER.

INT. CASTELLI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - EVENING

Angelina and Troy are enjoying a glass of wine at the large
kitchen table.

ANGELINA

What's wrong, Troy? You seem so lost
in thought?

TROY

Been offered a fellowship in Rome....

ANGELINA

Teaching fellowship, that's great. Ma
will be so proud...

TROY

I guess it comes at a good time.
Really need to get away from here....

Angelina gets up and hugs Troy.

TROY (cont'd)

Sis? Can you do me a favor?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGELINA
I'll break it to Ma, don't worry...

TROY
Not that. She already knows...

Troy pulls out a bulky ENVELOPE from his jeans and hands it to Angelina.

TROY (cont'd)
I want you to give this to Tiffany for me. I just can't bear to say goodbye to her. I'm so worried she'll get sick again...

ANGELINA
I understand. Abbracciami. Ti Amo.

Angelina hugs Troy again.

A FEW WEEKS LATER.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - NORTH BEACH - CASTELLI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Tiffany walks into the restaurant before the lunch crowd. Angelina is busy setting up tables.

ANGELINA
Tiffany? So nice to see you.

Angelina is folding napkins and Tiffany offers to help.

TIFFANY
Imagine that? That's the same way we do it over in the Town of China...

ANGELINA
We're all the same. No matter what side of town we're on.....

A long beat as they fold napkins.

ANGELINA (cont'd)
He's in Rome. A fellowship at the University of Rome and to learn how to make cannoli lots better....

TIFFANY
But, he made the best. I'm so happy he finally got his dream to teach. I just wish he would of said goodbye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGELINA

It was hard for him. He loves you very much. He didn't want to see you get sick again....

TIFFANY

But, I'm better now....

Tiffany starts to walk out of the restaurant.

ANGELINA

Tiffany? Wait. He wanted me to give you something.

Angelina goes behind the bar and goes into the cash register to retrieve the envelope that Troy left. She then walks back and gives it to Tiffany.

TIFFANY

What is it?

ANGELINA

Go ahead, open it...

Tiffany opens the envelope and is very surprised as she reads the letter.

TIFFANY

My gawd! He paid for violin tutoring lessons for me at the Symphony. And why all this money?

ANGELINA

He was saving his pay from the bakery for you to buy a new violin, a really nice one. He wanted so much to see you play up on stage one day with the San Francisco Symphony.....

TIFFANY

This is too much. I can't...

ANGELINA

It would make Troy very happy to see you up there one day. Think you owe a smile on his face, wouldn't you say?

Tiffany has tears in her eyes as she hugs Angelina.

INT. TIFFANY'S MANAGER'S KITCHEN OFFICE - LATE EVENING

Tiffany is exhausted at her desk after another long day at the restaurant. Mindy comes in after closing the restaurant and has a seat in front of Tiffany's desk.

MINDY

You're still a stranger to me...

TIFFANY

Huh?

MINDY

You're still not the friend and "almost sister" I used to know.

TIFFANY

Please don't start. Such a long day.

Tiffany goes to the file cabinet to file some paperwork.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

You've known me since we were ten years old. How dare you say that...

MINDY

Because, before you wanted to change the world. You were so sweet, so much fun and trying to figure it out.....

TIFFANY

That was when I was young and naive.

MINDY

And then Jimmy happened. You just gave up and stopped caring about everything, including us....

TIFFANY

That's not true and you know it.

MINDY

My take is that you're suffering from a broken heart and the only way it's going to stop hurting is that you do something about it.

TIFFANY

And what do you suggest I do, Miss know it all?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

You know what to do. You're Tiffany Lu Anne Chang. The smartest and prettiest and fairest of them all at Chinatown High....

Tiffany slams the file cabinet drawer and walks towards Mindy.

TIFFANY

Don't just sit there. Let's go freakin' do something about it!

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS (and into the next scene) - "On An Evening In Roma" - by Dean Martin

EXT. ROME, ITALY - MOUTH OF TRUTH - DAY

Tiffany and Mindy are walking down the street and end up in front of "The Mouth of Truth".

MINDY

Wow, Tiff? "The Mouth of Truth". Remember, it's from the movie "Roman Holiday" with Audrey Hepburn? They say if you tell a lie and you put your hand in there, it'll be cut off.

TIFFANY

Please, Ming? I'm so sick and tired of superstitions.....

MINDY

I think you should try...

TIFFANY

And say what?

MINDY

I think you should say that you still love Troy very much. That's why we're here, isn't it? Go on.....

Tiffany does it just to please Mindy and then pulls her hand out all intact.

MINDY (cont'd)

See, it's true. Now, go across the street there and tell him that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tiffany crosses the street and goes into a restaurant. Troy is on the phone with his friend Joshua who is back at Berkeley.

INT. ROME, ITALY - RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

JOSHUA (V.O.)

It's bad luck not to call your Mother. Least call your Mom. She keeps calling me. From what I've heard, she's left her old ways back in Palermo...

Tiffany enters the restaurant and Troy notices her through the kitchen opening as he continues to talk to Joshua.

TROY

And it looks like she sent her new ways over here to Roma....

Troy hangs up the phone and goes out to face Tiffany.

TIFFANY

What was I afraid of? The gossip? What people would say? I know now, that I can't exist without you....

TROY

No, you'll get sick again.

TIFFANY

I don't care if I get sick again. Being without you is worse. I don't care we're from two different worlds and cultures. It's what's inside that counts. I'm so sorry it took so long.

Troy starts to swell with tears in his eyes.

TIFFANY (cont'd)

Don't just stand there crying, like a silly hippie freak. Are you or aren't you? It's just you and me now...

Mindy appears in the doorway.

MINDY

Hey! What about me?

TIFFANY

She really needs to be adopted...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tiffany pushes herself in Troy's arms just like the time Peace made her lose her balance in North Beach.

TIFFANY (cont'd)
Are you going to marry me, or what?

TROY
You bet your sweet Chinese culo.....

SUGGESTED MUSIC STARTS - "If You're Ready (Come Go With Me)"
by The Staple Singers.

EXT. ROME, ITALY - STREET - CONTINUOUS

Tiffany, Troy and Mindy are walking through the streets of Rome, a new threesome as MUSIC continues and as ending credits roll.

THE END.

EXTRA ENDING SCENE:

SUGGESTED MUSIC - "My Love, Forgive Me (Amore, Scusami)" by Robert Goulet.

The whole cast pairs up to dance in the courtyard of Alcatraz Island with aerial and close-up views of the cast.