

BREAKING BARRIERS

Written by

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SCRIPT NOTES

Breaking Barriers is a fusion of Asian and American drama styles.

Dialogue in italics is Mandarin.

Hailee acts as a translator between Anna and the other characters as needed.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - TERMINAL - DAY

After twenty exhausting hours on a cramped flight, ANNA WESTCOTT (25), a feisty red-headed American nurse, steps into the bustling arrivals hall. Her smile of anticipation turns into a frown as she searches the crowd.

She reaches for her phone. It rings before she can get it.

HAILEE (V.O.)
I'm sorry. There's road
construction.

EXT. HANGZHOU STREET - DAY

Traffic is at a standstill as a line of orange cones and construction vehicles take up half the road.

INT. TAXI- DAY

HAILEE WESTCOTT (25), Anna's fraternal twin, the sweet to Anna's spicy, looks out the window at the workers. Impatient HORNS blare in the background.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - TERMINAL - DAY

Anna slumps, but her voice stays light.

ANNA
I guess traffic is a universal
evil.

Not one to dwell on problems, Anna's attention is drawn to a tantalizing aroma that breaks through the pungent scents of coffee and soy sauce.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I'm starving. Now I
have time to eat and stretch before
getting in a cab.

Anna gathers her luggage, zeros in on the fast-food shops.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Call me when you get here.

Anna zooms past the noodle shops and Starbucks to the familiar red and white sign: KFC.

She is practically drooling, but her stomach must wait its turn as a bunch of PASSENGERS form a line ahead of her.

It's finally her turn to order, when a man, RYAN ANDERSON (30), a mixed Chinese/Caucasian businessman, staggers out of the VIP room.

Anna catches a glimpse of his pale face and blue lips before he collapses. A CRACK reverberates through the hall when his skull hits the hard floor.

PASSENGERS circle the body, shouting in various languages for help or holding up phones to video. Anna pushes her way through the crowd.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I'm a nurse, let me through.

A SECURITY beats her to the unconscious Ryan and does chest compressions. Anna kneels at Ryan's head.

SECURITY

Get out of the way!

Anna ignores him, takes out her phone.

A second AGGRESSIVE GUARD grabs her arm, she drops her phone as she is pulled to her feet. The Aggressive Guard pulls her, but Anna digs in her heels and stares him dead in the eye.

ANNA

I-AM-A-NURSE.

She rips her arm from his grip and returns to her position.

The Aggressive Guard attempts to grab her again, but a SKATER BOY (20s) blocks him.

SKATER BOY

She's a nurse.

The Aggressive Guard refocuses to perform crowd control.

Anna picks up her phone. It has a cracked screen, but the flashlight still works. She tilts Ryan's chin up, looks down his throat.

Anna reaches into his mouth with her finger, extracts the chunk of what looks to be a bagel.

Ryan's color returns to his face once his airway is clear. His eyes are blind from the fluorescent lights; it's hard to tell which hurts worse-his chest or his pride.

He forces his eyes open to find Anna haloed above him.

He sits up too fast, a pile of dust tumbles down his throat, sending him into a coughing fit.

Without looking, Anna takes a water bottle that Skater Boy hands her. She helps Ryan drink the soothing liquid.

RYAN

Thanks.

ANNA

What is your pain level on a scale
of one to five?

Ryan glances at the GUARDS and PASSENGERS watching.

RYAN

Do you think we can do this
someplace else?

The Security pulls Ryan to his feet. Ryan winces at the pain in his head and forces down the urge to vomit.

Security grabs Anna's luggage, escorts them to the VIP room.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - VIP ROOM - DAY

The ceiling is lined with chandeliers, the ambient lighting gives a warm glow to the marble floors and the polished wood accents of the plush furnishings.

Ryan's body relaxes, he regains his aura of confidence as he steps back into his domain.

Anna doesn't have time to appreciate her surroundings as she focuses on her patient. They take a seat in a semi-secluded sitting area.

ANNA

Let me take a quick peek for cuts
and swelling.

Anna touches his head to tilt it, but Ryan jerks back. Anna moves his hands out of the way, she gently feels the lump.

ANNA (CONT'D)

What's your name?

RYAN

Ryan Anderson. What's yours?

Ryan takes the chance to admire her features up close.

ANNA

Anna Westcott. Where do you live?

Anna holds up a finger, moves it back and forth in front of his eyes.

RYAN

I have a condo in the Seaport
District in Boston, an apartment in
Binjiang when I'm--

ANNA

Any dizziness or nausea?

Ryan shakes his head then immediately regrets it.

RYAN

I'm fine.

Anna's face is skeptical.

ANNA

If you have any symptoms, go to the
hospital for a scan. You could have
a concussion.

Anna uses her phone to check the time, twenty minutes since her sister called. She texts Hailee for an ETA.

Ryan waits longer than he is used to for Anna to pay attention to him.

RYAN

What can I do to thank you?

His tactic works. She looks up. He bestows an inviting smile.

ANNA

Chew your breakfast next time.

Ryan's smile transforms from practiced into a genuine one.

Anna's phone dings with a reply from Hailee "Traffic is at a standstill." Anna's hand goes to her stomach, she stands up, her hand on her luggage.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Well, bye.

RYAN

Wait!

He holds onto the handle of her bag.

Anna pastes back on her Florence Nightingale smile.

ANNA

Is there something else?

RYAN

How about breakfast?

Ryan gestures to the back of the room. Anna's eyes light up at the sight of the buffet table lined with silver chafing dishes, steam rising from them; stacked trays of pastries, piled in an artistic display; and a basket overflowing with assorted bread.

LATER

Ryan watches Anna devour a plate of food with a single-minded intensity women normally display for pursuing him.

RYAN (CONT'D)

So what are you doing in China?

Anna's eyes light up, her attention successfully diverted.

ANNA

It's my first vacation. I'm visiting my sister, she's doing one of those teaching programs here.

RYAN

Your first? Sorry, I made you work Dr. Westcott.

ANNA

It's just Anna, I'm not a doctor, I'm a nurse.

RYAN

Now I feel even worse. Nurses never get a break.

Anna grins at his teasing, she takes the chance to study his handsome features as they chat about their lives (M.O.S.)

ANNA

Are you seeing anyone?

Ryan pauses at the sudden change of topic, he leans in closer, looks into her eyes.

RYAN

No, I've been busy with work, but I'm willing to make time for the right woman.

The alarm on Anna's phone goes off.

ANNA

Sorry, where's the restroom?

Ryan's eyebrows lift, he points to an inconspicuous door.
Anna gathers her purse, takes a glass of water as well.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - LADIES ROOM - DAY

The sinks are equipped with the latest automation. Everything a woman might need is provided in baskets lined with silk and decorated with ribbons.

Anna places the glass on the counter, digs through her purse for a prescription bottle. She dumps a handful of pills in assorted sizes and colors into her hand.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - VIP ROOM - DAY

Ryan's finger taps on the table, while he stares at the door Anna disappeared into.

His phone rings.

RYAN

What is it?

LI (V.O.)

*You were right. He's been
embezzling funds and merchandise.*

Ryan's lips turn up in a ruthless grin.

RYAN

That makes it easier. Wàigōng can't complain about his termination.

LI (V.O.)

Do you want me to take care of it?

Ryan thinks for a moment.

RYAN

No, I need to send a message to all my relatives; I'm not someone they can take advantage of.

LI (V.O.)

I've canceled your flight. The car will be there in ten minutes.

Ryan hangs up the phone and signals the VIP MANAGER.

RYAN
Have my luggage sent to this
address.

He hands the manager his card. Ryan checks the time, looks toward the women's room.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - LADIES ROOM - DAY

Anna arranges the assortment of pills on a paper towel, their multiple colors and sizes make an interesting mosaic. She takes the largest in her hand, shoots it down with a sip of water in a practiced movement.

The door marked "Employees Only" creaks open. A young woman, Cao Niu Ju (19), with doe eyes and a crisp uniform, pushes a cleaning cart. She hesitates when she spots Anna.

CAO NIU JU
(heavy accent)
Excuse me.

Cao Niu Ju begins to back out, but Anna waves her in.

ANNA
Do whatever you need to do.

The young woman hesitates, looks over her shoulder before pushing the cart fully inside. She glances at the rainbow assortment of medications on the counter, then at Anna again, with a look of unease.

Anna sees in the mirror Cao Niu Ju peeking at her as she shoots back pill after pill. After the last one, Anna tosses the towel into the trash, stores the bottle in her purse.

Anna enters one of the stalls that has yet to be cleaned. Cao Niu Ju and Anna finish their business without a word.

Anna is about to open her stall when she hears a door slam open, BANG.

CAO NIU JU (O.S.)
Y-You can't be in here.

JOCK
Sorry, wrong door.

Anna hears footsteps coming further into the restroom.

SKATER BOY

Do you know how to get to
departures?

CAO NIU JU

I...I don't speak good English.

Anna opens the stall door two college-aged Caucasian guys are in the women's room. The first, JOCK, has a preppy sports vibe, he holds Cao Niu Ju while a lanky guy with shaggy blonde hair, Skater Boy, sticks the young woman with a hypodermic needle.

Cao Niu Ju collapses.

ANNA

Hey!

She swings her purse at Jock, hits him in the head. Jock stumbles back. Anna ducks back into the stall, fumbles for her phone.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You better leave. I'm calling 911!

The phone is ripped out of her hand from above. An automated voice mocks.

PHONE

This call cannot be completed as
dialed.

SKATER BOY

It's 110, stupid.

Skater Boy tosses the phone in the toilet, jumps down into the stall.

Anna bursts through the door into Jock's arms. He locks her into a bear hug. Anna twists and hammers her fists with all her might. She lands a lucky blow to his groin, and Jock falls to his knees.

Anna goes down with him, her head hits the edge of the granite counter, darkness swallows her.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - VIP ROOM - DAY

Ryan's fists tighten as he looks at the time, he signals the VIP Manager.

RYAN

Send someone to check on my guest.

VIP MANAGER

Yes, sir.

The manager hurries away to carry out his orders.

Ryan's phone buzzes again.

RYAN

The driver can wait.

LI

Customs is refusing to let the ship dock.

RYAN

I'm on my way.

Ryan scribbles on a napkin, hands it to a WAITER.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Give this to the pretty redhead when she returns.

Ryan strides out of the lounge.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Hailee looks out the window at the line of cars blocking the way to the airport entrance. Her reserved face breaks into a sudden sweat, her eyes widen with alarm.

HAILEE

Pull over.

EXT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - MORNING

Hailee runs toward the airport, searches for Anna's face in the crowd. Hailee calls Anna's phone, it goes to voicemail.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - MONTAGE - MORNING

- Hailee pushes past the line of women into the public ladies' room.
- An announcement calling Anna to the security desk echoes through the airport.
- Hailee shows vendors and airport personnel Anna's photo.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - SECURITY OFFICE - MORNING

A worn-out OLD GUARD scowls with impatience.

OLD GUARD

*A maintenance worker saw her leave
with two Caucasian guys. They found
needles in the restroom trash.
She'll call when she sobers up.*

HAILEE

My sister doesn't do drugs!

OLD GUARD

Family is always the last to know.

HAILEE

You don't understand--

OLD GUARD

*She left the airport; there's
nothing we can do.*

The Old Guard is paged to handle an irate customer.

INT. CONTAINER - LATE AFTERNOON

Anna, her hair in disarray, blood-speckled shirt, and bruised arms, slams her shoulder one last time into the metal door. She slides to the floor, defeated.

Her vision, distorted from tears, adjusts to the dim light.

A shadow puppet of a phoenix grows on the wall blocking the glow from a single lantern.

Anna's gaze follows the shadow down to CHAI LAI LUAN (20), a cute young woman.

Chai Lai Luan drops her crossed hands when she notices Anna's attention. The light extends, revealing four other victims.

The pretty tomboy, HUAN RONG (19) does sit-ups.

A downtrodden PRINCESS (20), propped listlessly against the wall.

In a dark corner, a delicate FAIRY type girl(20) silently cries as she clings to another victim, a young woman resembling a fragile DOLL (18) stares blankly into the abyss.

Anna's eyes search the dark, frantic till they land on Cao Niu Ju, unconscious on the floor.

Anna slides over to Cao Niu Ju, grasps her wrist, listens to her labored breathing. She feels Cao Niu Ju's forehead beaded with sweat.

Anna places Cao Niu Ju's head on her lap, strokes her hair.

INT. HANGZHOU PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU - LOBBY - DAY

At the front desk, Hailee argues with a DISMISSIVE OFFICER.

DISMISSIVE OFFICER
*You can file a missing persons
report after 24 hours.*

HAILEE
By then it could be too late.

DISMISSIVE OFFICER
*The rules don't change because
you're an American. If you have a
problem, go to your embassy.*

Hailee's frustration breaks through her restraint.

HAILEE
(mix English and Mandarin)
*I already did. They said to talk to
you.*

DISMISSIVE OFFICER
You need to calm down.

Hailee storms away from the desk, takes out her phone.

HAILEE
*Principal Song, do you have
connections at the Public Security
Bureau?*

INT. MAN ZHU BAI'S OFFICE - DAY

DETECTIVE MAN ZHU BAI (34), masculine, a cop to his bones, fills out paperwork on a desk cluttered with take-out containers and a photo of his daughter. His phone rings with the school's number.

MAN ZHU BAI
*Yes, this is Li Na's father,
Detective Man Zhu Bai. Is something
wrong Principal Song?*

INT. HANGZHOU PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU - LOBBY - DAY

Man Zhu Bai enters to find Hailee pacing.

MAN ZHU BAI
Teacher Westcott?

Their eyes meet.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

Man Zhu Bai reviews the footage. On the screen, Anna is led out of the airport by Jock and Skater Boy stumbling like she is drunk or high.

OLD GUARD
See, she must have shot up in the bathroom and called her friends to get her. Left her luggage and everything.

MAN ZHU BAI
What was she doing in the VIP area?

The Old Guard shrugs.

MAN ZHU BAI (CONT'D)
Show me where you found the needle.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - LADIES ROOM - DAY

Man Zhu Bai inspects the counter and floor, but it has been wiped clean.

He walks through the "Employee's Only" door.

INT. HANGZHOU AIRPORT - SERVICE HALLWAY - DAY

A CLEANING WOMAN (50s) grumbles while she cleans graffiti from the wall.

CLEANING WOMAN
Do-Nothing youngsters.

MAN ZHU BAI
Auntie, are you the only person on duty today?

CLEANING WOMAN

Humph, the brat who is supposed to be on quit mid-shift. Sent the boss a text message

MAN ZHU BAI

Is she normally irresponsible?

The cleaning auntie's lips twist in consideration.

CLEANING WOMAN

No, she was a good one. Makes it more disappointing.

MAN ZHU BAI

Her name?

CLEANING WOMAN

Cao Niu Ju.

The auntie looks down at Man Zhu Bai's shoes.

CLEANING WOMAN (CONT'D)

Hope you didn't track any dirt in there. I just cleaned. What a mess.

MAN ZHU BAI

What kind of mess?

CLEANING WOMAN

My guess is someone tripped and hit their head on the counter. There was blood there and on the floor. Whoever it was tried to clean it up, but instead they swished it around and made a bigger mess.

Man Zhu Bai hands her his card.

MAN ZHU BAI

Thank you, you've been very helpful.

The woman turns back to scrubbing the graffiti. Man Zhu Bai touches the paint. It is mostly dry, but still sticky with a strong chemical smell.

There is no particular pattern or symbolism only random scribbles going down the hall. The security camera's faces are blacked out.

Man Zhu Bai returns to the security office.

MAN ZHU BAI (CONT'D)
*Pull up everything from the time
 Anna Westcott gets off the plane
 until she leaves.*

INT. CONTAINER - DAY

Anna and the girls sit in silence, eyes on the door. Under her breath, Anna counts the beats of Cao Niu Ju's pulse.

A jolt goes through Cao Niu Ju's body, her eyes blink rapidly. The VIBRATING CLANG of the metal floor blends with cries of terror from the others as Cao Niu Ju seizes.

Anna finds a sweater on the floor, tucks it under Cao Niu Ju's head. As the initial shock wears off, Chai Lai Luan, Huan Rong, and Princess edge closer.

ANNA
 Stay back.

Anna loosens Cao Niu Ju's top, rolls her onto her side.

As suddenly as it began, the seizure stops. Anna rolls Cao Niu Ju onto her back, checks her pulse, straddles her, starts chest compressions.

ANNA (CONT'D)
 Fight damn it! Hold on sweetie,
 stay with us.

The girls watch wide-eyed.

ANNA (CONT'D)
 You can do it. Don't give up on me.

Cao Niu Ju takes a breath. Anna drops down in exhaustion.

ANNA (CONT'D)
 Thank God.

Anna puts Cao Niu Ju's head in her lap, uses the bottom of her shirt to wipe the drool from Cao Niu Ju's pale face.

Chai Lai Luan puts her arm around Anna. Anna lets her head fall onto Chai Lai Luan's shoulder.

Cao Niu Ju whimpers, Anna caresses her forehead, sings in a whisper.

ANNA (CONT'D)
 Amazing Grace/how sweet the sound/
 that saved a wretch like me.

Chai Lai Luan adds her voice to the song.

ANNA/CHAI LAI LUAN
(blend English & Mandarin)
I once was lost but now I'm found/
was blind/but now I see/Hmm, hmm,
hmm hmm, hmm hmm.

Huan Rong and Princess join them, Fairy scootches closer like a moth to the flame, Doll stays in the shadows, afraid of hope.

INT. MAN ZHU BAI'S CAR - DAY

Man Zhu Bai runs a hand through his thick black hair, pounds on the steering wheel.

MAN ZHU BAI
Damn it.

INT. HANGZHOU PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU - LOBBY - DAY

Hailee stops pacing when Man Zhu Bai steps inside.

HAILEE
Did you find her?

With his aura of confidence back in place, Man Zhu Bai leads Hailee through the station to his desk. He sits her down, crouches so they are at eye level.

MAN ZHU BAI
*We are going to do everything to
find your sister.*

HAILEE
What happened?

Man Zhu Bai pulls a thumb drive from his pocket and plugs it into the computer. He brings up security footage, screen shows Anna rushing to Ryan's aid in the terminal. He freezes the frame, zooming in on a man in the crowd—Skater Boy.

MAN ZHU BAI
Do you recognize him?

Hailee's brows knit in confusion.

HAILEE
No. What is going on?

Man Zhu Bai zooms in on Jock.

MAN ZHU BAI
What about this guy?

HAILEE
No. What do these guys have to do with Anna?

Man Zhu Bai shuts off the video.

MAN ZHU BAI
I've reviewed all the footage. These men were stalking an airport employee, a member of the cleaning staff. She's missing too. There's footage of your sister leaving the airport through an employee exit with these men, but shortly after, the cameras were sabotaged.

Hailee bites her lip, her face gets whiter with every word he speaks.

HAILEE
Where is my sister?

INT. CONTAINER - DUSK

A few girls sleep, Huan Rong exercises, Anna shows Chai Lai Luan CPR.

Anna holds up 10 fingers and flashes them 3 times.

ANNA
The important thing is 30 and 2.

Anna acts out the motions using a sweater as a dummy

Huan Rong stops her sit-ups to watch Anna correct Chai Lai Luan where to place her hands.

HUAN RONG
*What's the point? If you ask me she
(looking at Cau Niu Ju)
Is the luckiest one here.*

Chai Lai Luan stands up, hands on her hips.

CHAI LAI LUAN
Don't curse her. Take it back.

Huan Rong gets up in Chai Lai Luan's face.

HUAN RONG
*No. I'm done with this kumbaya
crap, no one is saving us.*

WHACK, Chai Lai Luan slaps Huan Rong across the face. Huan Rong grabs her hair, the catfight is on.

ANNA
Knock it off.

A familiar VIBRATING CLANG interrupts.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Shit.

Cau Nu Ju's seizure comes to a stop along with the fight.

Anna remounts to do chest compressions.

CHAINS SCRAPE outside, the door opens. The girls scurry to the back of the container, squeeze up against the wall.

Anna continues compressions.

TWO THUGS come in with bats, they swing them around to stop any thoughts of escape. A THIRD THUG grabs Anna's waist.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Let go, get your hands off me!!

It takes two thugs to tear a hysterical Anna outside.

ANNA (CONT'D)
No! I won't lose--

Chai Lai Luan rushes to continue CPR. The doors slam close.

INT. HANGZHOU PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU - LOBBY - DAY

Hailee, curled into a ball on a chair, waits for news.

A water bottle appears in Hailee's sight, she follows it up past a strong arm to Man Zhu Bai's sympathetic face.

MAN ZHU BAI
*We informed the embassy. You're
listed as emergency contact, but
they can call your parents.*

HAILEE
No! Don't call them.

Hailee chokes on unshed tears.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
*You don't know how many times they
 sat in a waiting room, helpless.*

MAN ZHU BAI
You can cry.

Hailee waves him off.

MAN ZHU BAI (CONT'D)
*There is no one here you need to be
 strong for.*

Amie's face collapses, all her sobs swell up at once.

Man Zhu Bai places his hand on her shoulder.

MONTAGE - EARLY EVENING

- Hailee sends a social media post asking for information.
- Police canvas the streets with photos of Anna, Cao Niu Ju, and the suspects.
- Man Zhu Bai checks bars and hangouts of criminals/snitches.

INT. WAN FAMILY VILLA - RYAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Ryan tosses his suit jacket on his king-sized bed. The room is elegantly appointed with a blend of traditional and modern décor. Dark wood floors and furniture are offset by soft gray and blue linens and rugs. He opens the walk-in closet to find a change of clothes for the evening.

The phone ringing interrupts his decision between the black or the navy blazer.

RYAN
*I'll be there soon. I have another
 call coming in.*

Ryan accepts the incoming call. His fingers freeze on the top button of his shirt.

RYAN (CONT'D)
*What do you mean she disappeared?
 She's a human not luggage, how can
 you lose her?*

The more Ryan listens the tighter his jaw gets.

RYAN (CONT'D)
*I'll be there to get her
belongings. You'd better hope I
find her--because if I don't, the
only VIP lounge you'll manage will
be in hell.*

Ending the call, Ryan re-dials the previous number as he strides through the house.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Change of plans. You'll have to
handle it for me.

He steps into the garage and grabs the keys to a sleek sports car. The engine roars to life, echoing in the enclosed space.

INT. RYAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ryan floors the accelerator, the tires screech as the car tears down the road.

INT. AIRPORT GARAGE - NIGHT

Ryan places Anna's luggage into his trunk. Sliding into the driver's seat, he grabs her purse and sets it on the passenger side. His hands move swiftly as he rifles through its contents, extracting her passport.

Flipping it open, he skims through the pages. Only one stamp. His eyes pause on the page with her photo and details, taking in her information.

With a quick motion, he snaps a picture of the passport page with his phone. He attaches the image to a text and types out a curt message--**Find Her.**

INT. HANGZHOU - WU'S HOUSE - ENTERTAINMENT ROOM - EVENING

Glasses clink, in the lavishly tacky room, a party for the wealthy and depraved is in full swing.

In a nearby chair, KANG JIA ZAN (35) wears intimidation like a custom suit, sips his drink, no movement wasted. He scans the room, the THUGS idle at their post, the GUESTS, to the only other sober man in the room.

LI JING SHENG (29) lounges in a chair, folds a square of paper. His automatic movements are reminiscent of a panther--relaxed, but ready to strike.

Kang follows Li's gaze to the party host.

WU (50s) a greasy underboss whose ego outweighs his intelligence, waves his thug ZE DONG over, whispers orders.

Kang observes Ze Dong slip out of the room, pours a drink.

SCREAMS from down the hall get louder. The drunks on the couch cheer as Ze Dong comes in with Anna slung over his shoulder, her arms zip-tied behind her.

Fire burns in Anna's eyes, insults spew from her bloody lips.

ANNA

Did a skunk crawl up your ass to
DIE? Put me down you limp dicked,
monkey twat!

Ze Dong drops her in front of the audience. He holds her still while Wu rubs his hands with anticipation.

Anna hyperventilates as she searches the room for help. She discounts the thugs and guests, Li doesn't even glance at her, he fixes the crumpled paper in his hand.

Her gaze meets Kang's. His eyes lock on her like a target. A chill goes up Anna's spine, her heart slows to a loud steady thump. She swallows down an urge to scream.

She averts her attention to Wu. Wu examines her head to toe, grabs a napkin. He dips it in his drink then holds it toward her face.

Anna tries to turn away, but Ze Dong has her by the ponytail.

Anna hisses in pain as the alcohol seeps into her cuts.

Wu steps back to inspect her clean face.

WU

Not bad.

Anna kicks at Wu, but he evades. He slaps her in retaliation.

Anna lurches, but still held by the arms she is unable to fall, she gasps from the wrenching pain.

WU (CONT'D)

I'll fix that temper.

Wu smirks over his shoulder as his Guests cheer. His eyes narrow when he notices he isn't the center of everyone's attention. Kang is on his phone, Li is lost in his own world.

WU (CONT'D)
Mr. Li, please do the honors.

Li waits blankly for a more explicit order.

WU (CONT'D)
(frustrated)
Strip her.

Kang looks up from his phone.

Li takes heed of Anna for the first time, tosses a mangled origami bird on the table as he stands up.

Desperate, Anna tries to break loose, but Ze Dong twists her arms till she screams.

Li cocks his head.

Anna flinches. She squeezes her eyes shut as Li's hand reaches toward her. She opens them again when she feels a tug at her hair elastic. Red waves fall loose from her ponytail.

Li mechanically soothes her hair. Anna trembles.

Li bends down lowering himself on one knee in front of her. Anna kicks at his head, but Li grabs her foot. He removes one shoe then the next.

Anna's eyes dart around the room. With no sign of a rescue in sight, she utilizes the only weapon she has. An ear piercing shriek cuts through the air.

WU (CONT'D)
Shut her up.

Li takes a knife from his pocket. Flipping up the blade, he touches it to his lips.

Anna goes silent. Tears and snot drip down her face.

Li cuts the bottom off her shirt. He wipes her nose and drops the rag on the table.

Li slits her shirt inch by inch, exposing her to the audience. He stops at her cleavage. A mess of surgical scars mars her pale skin.

Kang gets to his feet. CRASH. An overturned table in front of Wu becomes evidence of his tantrum.

WU (CONT'D)
Damaged, damn it.

Kang tucks his phone into his pocket as Wu storms off.

Li flicks his wrist; the knife folds down. Li and the rest of the rich guests follow Wu out of the room.

INT. WU'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Li detours outside, away from the others in the party area.

INT. BAR - BATHROOM HALL - NIGHT

Man Zhu Bai steps away from the noise to answer his phone.

MAN ZHU BAI
Really! On my way.

He rushes out of the bar.

INT. WU'S HOUSE - ENTERTAINMENT ROOM - NIGHT

The door shuts. Everyone left in the room is frozen.

Ze Dong tosses Anna to the floor. With the tension broken, the thugs huddle around like boys at a playground fight to watch Ze Dong pin her down.

Anna, trapped under Ze Dong, struggles to move and breathe.

GLASS SHATTERING causes Ze Dong to look up. Anna takes advantage of his distraction. She pushes Ze Dong's chest off her. She has only a few seconds to gasp for air before he shoves her back down. He pulls at her waistband.

Anna twists in desperation. A thug falls onto Ze Dong's back, smashing him into Anna. The impact knocks the wind out of Anna and pain shoots through her as their heads collide.

Ze Dong sits up off balance. Free of his weight, Anna wiggles a leg free. She kicks Ze Dong hard in the chest, toppling him backward.

With renewed energy, Anna scrambles to her feet. She sprints toward the door, but trips over a thug. Because her hands are tied she crashes hard on her side.

Anna is lifted up from behind then shoved forward. She hits the ground face-first.

Ze Dong menaces over Anna. From somewhere behind him comes a kick in the groin. He collapses.

A shadow looms above Anna.

She tries to run, but can't get her feet under her. She cries out as she is thrown over Kang's shoulder.

Anna's hoarse screams echo as the door closes on a room littered with thugs' bodies.

INT. HANGZHOU PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU - MEETING ROOM- NIGHT

Man Zhu Bai distributes firearms to the officers. A ROOKIE OFFICER's hand quivers.

INT. HANGZHOU PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Hailee paces outside the meeting room.

The door opens, officers file out. Man Zhu Bai squeezes Hailee's shoulder as he passes.

Hailee meets his gaze, forces a tight lip smile.

INT. WU'S HOUSE - STUDY - NIGHT

NOTE- When Anna and Kang interact without a translator there should be NO SUBTITLES

Kang tosses Anna down on the couch. She tries to get up, he pushes her back, takes a knife out of his boot.

Anna freezes.

With efficient movements, Kang cuts the bonds around her wrists. Anna hisses in pain, shakes out the pins and needles.

ANNA
Not into bondage?

Kang grabs a red pillow. He uses the knife to shred it into strips. He wraps the fabric around her raw and bloody wrists.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Never mind.

The door opens. Kang pulls Anna's hands above her head by the ribbons. He covers her with his body. A DRUNK and a HOSTESS come into the room.

The Drunk catches sight of Kang and Anna.

DRUNK
Can we join in?

Kang glares at the couple. The Drunk backs off.

DRUNK (CONT'D)
Your loss man.

Before the door fully closes, Kang jerks upright. There are teeth marks on his neck, but Anna is the one with tears in her eyes.

ANNA
 Owww!

Several red hairs wrap around Kang's fingers.

KANG
Sorry.

Anna rubs her sore head. Kang ties off the makeshift bindings around her wrists then tosses her back over his shoulder.

Anna fights against Kang until he shifts his grip, dropping her further down his back. She digs her fingernails into his side as hard as she can and twists. Her retaliation earns her a sting on her backside.

SHOUTS and RUNNING SOUNDS come from the hall. Blue lights dance in a window.

Kang puts Anna down, lifts her chin to face him.

KANG (CONT'D)
Táo chū chuāng wài.

Anna's mouth gapes open when he strides out of the room.

ANNA
"Don't run away"? Screw that!

Anna shimmies the window till it sticks.

ANNA (CONT'D)
I can fit. Probably.

INT. WU'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Kang waits at the entry of the room to assess the situation.

WU
Good evening officer, what may I help you with? A donation?

Wu, with several thugs, faces Man Zhu Bai.

MAN ZHU BAI
I am searching for -

A window shatters— a pool of blood forms on Wu's chest.

Everyone dives for cover. Man Zhu Bai hits the ground with his gun drawn. A bullet makes a hole in the wall behind him, he grabs his radio.

MAN ZHU BAI (CONT'D)
Send in backup.

Kang lunges behind a chair.

INT. WU'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Anna peeks her head out of the room. She enters the hall opposite the crowd toward the sound of gunfire. Anna plasters herself against the wall as she edges closer to the battle. She pokes her head around the corner of the foyer.

Anna can see on the floor in a puddle of blood. Two thugs shoot from behind a couch while a third is positioned in the opposite hall entry.

Police use the door and windows for cover as they shoot their way into the room.

Man Zhu Bai shoots the guard in the entry.

MAN ZHU BAI
Hold fire!

The room is silent, Kang comes out from behind the couch with his hands up.

A COCKY OFFICER rushes over with handcuffs ready. Kang allows himself to be restrained.

Anna bolts into the room. She checks for a pulse on a thug. There is none, so she continues to triage the room.

She examines the pupils of a WOUNDED OFFICER with a graze on his hip. When he clings to her hand, she gently brushes him off to help the next patient.

Anna makes her way to Wu.

Hyper-focused, Anna doesn't notice the hands that clear away the broken glass around her.

ANNA

Bullet went through his chest,
collapsed lung. Get two pieces of
plastic, bandage tape!

While a few officers stand around confused, Man Zhu Bai is already on his way with a first aid kit.

Anna opens the kit, tears the plastic packaging, flips Wu onto his side, the pair of hands hold him steady.

She seals the entry wound on three sides and tapes down the plastic. She waves an officer over to apply pressure then repeats the process on the exit point.

Anna finishes as the paramedics arrive. In a daze on the floor, she watches the EMTs load the wounded onto stretchers. A figure stands guard behind her.

Man Zhu Bai squats down.

MAN ZHU BAI

Anna Westcott?

ANNA

The girls... Ryan?

Anna tries to stand, but overwhelmed from exhaustion, she collapses. Hands catch her before she hits the ground.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Blurry faces, lights, oxygen mask, sirens, Anna floats in and out of consciousness. A distorted face talks to her (M.O.S.). She tries to move her hand, but someone holds it. A soft male voice sings what sounds like the ABCs.

INT. HANGZHOU HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - MORNING

Anna wakes up disoriented. Hailee, in a chair next to the bed, holds her hand. Their eyes meet.

HAILEE

Hey.

ANNA

(scratchy)

Hey.

Anna coughs. Hailee hands her a cup of water with a straw.

HAILEE

Sip.

ANNA

(hoarse bark)

The girls, the girls are--!

The alarms on the heart rate machine go off. Hailee soothes Anna with a hug and rubs her back.

HAILEE

Shhh, shhh, They're safe, Anna, the police found them.

ANNA

What about--?

HAILEE

She made it. She is in ICU, but the doctors are optimistic.

Anna takes a deep breath. She settles back on the pillow but doesn't let go of Amie's hand.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

I'll tell you the whole story--

KNOCK KNOCK, Man Zhu Bai is at the door with two bouquets.

Hailee waves him in.

MAN ZHU BAI

For your sister and you.

Hailee gently sniffs a bouquet then sets them on a table.

MAN ZHU BAI (CONT'D)

(to Anna)

Hello Miss Westcott.

HAILEE

Please, don't be formal.

Man Zhu Bai pulls the chair out for Hailee to sit down.

HAILEE (CONT'D)

This is Detective Man, he helped rescue you.

ANNA

How did you find me?

KNOCK, KNOCK, another man behind a bouquet comes in.

Anna panics when she sees who is holding them.

ANNA (CONT'D)
What the hell?
(to Man Zhu Bai)
Arrest him!

Kang stills. Hailee places a hand on Anna's shoulder.

HAILEE
Anna, he's a police officer.

Anna doesn't take her eyes off Kang as she takes a deep breath. The heart monitor returns to a normal rhythm.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
He came in the ambulance with you.

Kang ignores Anna's death glare as he strolls in.

ANNA
He tried to--

Kang pushes the flowers into her hands.

KANG
Sorry.

Anna throws the flowers back at him.

ANNA
Sorry? Sorry is not going to cut it
asshole.

Anna's fists and jaw clench. Her gaze darts to Man Zhu Bai.

ANNA (CONT'D)
I want to press charges.

Hailee squeezes Anna's hand.

HAILEE
His name is Agent Kang, he was
undercover. He contacted the police
to help you escape.

Anna calms down a bit but keeps a distrustful eye on Kang.

ANNA
Then why did he tell me not to run
away?

Hailee translates Anna's rebuttal.

KANG
I said "Escape out the window"

Hailee clamps her lips together to hold back a grin.

HAILEE
 "Táo chū chuāng wài". Go out the window.

Anna crosses her arms with a sneer.

ANNA
 He could've just opened it.

Kang's eyes narrow, but Anna doesn't flinch. He flips open his badge.

ANNA (CONT'D)
 (to Man Zhu Bai)
 Is it real?

Man Zhu Bai's lips twist in amusement as he nods.

Kang's mouth tilts up with a hint of a victory smile.

Anna scrutinizes Kang's face.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE OF SCENES FROM KANG'S POV

- Kang text "White Female Kidnapped, come in easy, UC operation in progress" with the location.
- Kang fights thugs to get to Anna and Ze Dong.
- Kang knocks out the shooters behind the couch.
- Kang stops the officer who is cuffing him from shooting Anna when she runs into the room.
- Kang clears the glass out while Anna helps the wounded.
- He holds Wu steady while Anna administers first aid.
- Catches her when she faints.

RESUME SCENE

Anna concedes.

ANNA
 Thank you.

Kang bows his head in acknowledgment.

Kang moves on to the next obstacle, he locks gazes with Man Zhu Bai. He pulls up a chair, positions himself beside Anna.

Man Zhu Bai angles himself in front of Hailee. With the male posturing routine complete they relax their guards again.

There is an awkward silence, till a NURSE with medication comes in.

NURSE

*The patient is supposed to be
resting. Family only, doctor's
orders.*

MAN ZHU BAI

I'll come back later.

Kang gets out of his seat. Waits for Anna to look at him.

KANG

Rest.

Kang leans down to whisper in the nurse's ear.

KANG (CONT'D)

*Bring some tea and honey for her
throat.*

Kang returns the chair to its original place on his way out. Anna sticks her tongue out behind his back.

Hailee crosses her arms to give Anna a stern look.

ANNA

He started it.

Unable to keep a straight face, Hailee fixes Anna's blankets. Anna snuggles into the bed.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Did you tell Mom and Dad?

HAILEE

*You got stuck in customs because of
your meds, your phone broke, mine
was out of battery then jet lag.
Mom won't be put off much longer.*

Anna rubs her hands over her face.

ANNA
I need to figure out what to say
without sounding
(looks for the right word)
dramatic.

Hailee snorts then a snicker escapes. It's contagious.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Oww, it hurts to laugh.

Anna and Hailee cry, hug, and laugh all at once together.

EXT. HANGZHOU HOSPITAL - MORNING

Kang turns to Man Zhu Bai once they reach their vehicles.

KANG
*Send me any reports and files.
Thank you for your assistance, but
this is now an ASB matter.*

MAN ZHU BAI
That's bullshit. This is my case.

Kang opens the door to his car. Man Zhu Bai shoves the door closed. Kang doesn't react.

KANG
*A local station doesn't have the
resources to handle it.*

MAN ZHU BAI
*If you could handle it, I wouldn't
have a bunch of bodies with bullet
holes in my morgue.*

Kang opens the car door again.

KANG
*Have everything related to the case
turned over by the end of the day.*

Kang slips in the driver's seat. Man Zhu Bai blocks the door.

MAN ZHU BAI
*There were six more girls last
night. How many of our own were you
willing to sacrifice for the sake
of whatever op you were running?*

KANG
*I didn't know about the girls. The
investigation--*

Man Zhu Bai slams Kang's door closed. Kang's knuckles turn white on the wheel.

INT. HANGZHOU HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - MORNING

Hailee and Anna smoosh together so they both can be seen on the video call with their parents, LIV and BERT.

LIV
I found a flight. I can be there in
48 hours.

ANNA
Mom, I need you to gather my proof
of ID and mail it to the embassy.

LIV
Your father can-- I'll book it as
soon as I get everything together.

ANNA
Sure mom.

Liv huffs in frustration while Bert rubs her shoulders.

LIV
I can't believe you waited this
long to tell me you got mugged.
Does the hospital have your med
list?

HAILEE
Everything is taken care of. There
was no point worrying you.

LIV
I'm your mother, I'm worried about
you 24/7.

BERT
We're sending you money for your
tickets home.

HAILEE
I don't have time off till January.

Bert and Liv look at each other.

BERT
You're coming home now. Where
you're safe.

HAILEE
It could have happened anywhere.
Statistically, Hangzhou is as safe
as Boston.

INT. WESTCOTT HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Liv's chair falls when she stands. Angry frustrated tears run
down her cheeks as she smacks the table.

LIV
I don't give a damn about
statistics. You're coming home.

Bert stands beside Liv so she can lean into him for support.

EXT. BOSTON - NIGHT

The gold dome of the state house shines in the moonlight,
George Washington watches over the common, in the harbor the
tea ship sways. Further out in the Atlantic a luxury yacht
heads toward international waters.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - YACHT DECK - NIGHT

A BUTLER drags the body of a beaten BLONDE WOMAN (20) across
the deck, hefts her into the ocean.

INT. HANGZHOU HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - MORNING

Anna hangs up the video call with her parents.

ANNA
I miss Mom and Dad.

HAILEE
Me too.

They lean on each other, lost in their thoughts.

ANNA
You think they'll ever let me out
of their sight again?

HAILEE
Nope.

INT. WAN FAMILY MANSION - FOYER - DAY

Returning home, a SERVANT takes Ryan's coat as he runs a hand over his exhausted face. His jaw tightens as he checks his phone again. Nothing.

Ryan steels himself as the servant guides him outside.

EXT. WAN FAMILY MANSION - GARDEN PAVILION - CONTINUOUS

At a tea table, overlooking a rockery that slopes down to a koi pond, sits Ryan's grandfather, WAN CHONG JIN. The invincible man from his childhood is now thin and frail, but with his razor-sharp mind, he should not be underestimated.

The table is set with Jingdezhen porcelain and jade-handled utensils, a set reserved for honored guests.

Bowing slightly, Ryan greets him.

RYAN

Wàigōng

Wan Chong Jin's shrewd eyes scan his grandson, taking in his tense jaw and the dark circles under his eyes.

WAN CHONG JIN

Weren't you supposed to return to the USA?

RYAN

I adjusted my schedule. I couldn't miss your birthday. Mom is sending the coffee you like.

Wan Chong Jin gestures for Ryan to sit.

WAN CHONG JIN

Your Uncle Song will be arriving shortly, his daughter too.

Ryan nods, careful to keep his expression neutral.

RYAN

Then it's fortunate I stayed.

The Servant announces the guests' arrival.

Song Li Jun (50s), one of the richest and most powerful men in the country, arrives alone. Ryan relaxes a bit as the servants remove the extra place setting.

RYAN (CONT'D)
*We are honored you could join us
 today, Uncle Song.*

SONG LI JUN
*How could I refuse an invitation
 from one of my oldest friends?*

Song Li Jun greets Wan Chong Jin.

SONG LI JUN (CONT'D)
*Rumor is you are letting your
 grandson take over your business.*

WAN CHONG JIN
Soon.

SONG LI JUN
*I trust your loyalties will remain
 unchanged.*

Song Li Jun addresses the question to his grandfather, but his eyes are on Ryan.

RYAN
*Of course. The Wan family doesn't
 forget those who have taken care of
 us.*

Ryan pours the tea.

SONG LI JUN
But you're not a Wan, are you?

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Kang pours a bottle of Baijiu over a grave, the memorial photo of a soldier stares back at him. The date on the stone is just over a year ago. He bows deeply to his comrade.

KANG
*I failed, but I won't give up on
 finding the man responsible for
 both of your deaths.*

His gaze shifts to the headstone beside them, where a young woman's name is etched. The date of her death is only a week before the soldier's. He pays his respects.

KANG (CONT'D)
*You said you couldn't live without
 her. I guess you were right.*

He turns away, but his shadow lingers on the grave as the sun sets.

INT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Anna settles on the couch while Man Zhu Bai checks out the apartment, a small one-bedroom, decorated in an uncluttered feminine style. Hailee prepares tea.

KNOCK, Man Zhu Bai opens the door to Kang. Kang looks past him into the apartment his gaze sweeping from Anna to Hailee.

KANG
Is this a good time?

HAILEE
Please come in.

Man Zhu Bai steps aside to let Kang pass.

Kang takes a seat on the couch next to Anna. Anna scooches up against the arm of the seat.

Hailee brings Anna a cup of water, Tylenol, and a cold pack for her shoulder. She returns to the kitchen for the tea.

Man Zhu Bai pulls a kitchen chair into the living room, leaving the last comfortable chair for Hailee.

Hailee brings the tea in.

KANG
*Teacher Westcott, please help
translate.*

HAILEE
Sure.

Kang opens a recording app on his phone.

KANG
*Permission to record this
conversation?*

Anna nods. Kang stares at her waiting for it to click. When the lightbulb comes on, Anna glares at Kang like it's his fault. Hailee and Man Zhu Bai resist the urge to laugh.

ANNA
Yes, you can record.

Kang shows her photos of Jock & Skater Boy.

KANG
Do you know these two men?

ANNA
Hard to forget.

KANG
Before you arrived in Hangzhou?

ANNA
No

He puts a photo of Cao Niu Ju on the table.

KANG
What about her?

Anna shakes her head.

HAILEE
(whispers)
Out loud.

ANNA
We were strangers.

KANG
*What's your relationship with the
two men? Why did you meet them in
the bathroom?*

ANNA
I told you, I didn't know them. I
didn't even see them until they
barged in.

KANG
*This will go easier if you tell the
truth.*

ANNA
I am telling you the truth!

Hailee glares at Kang but continues to translate. Man Zhu Bai remains neutral.

Kang opens a file on his phone, showing footage from her rescue at the airport. He points to the figures of Skater Boy stopping the security guard and Jock behind him.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Never noticed them. If you couldn't
tell, I was a little busy at the
time.

KANG

What did he say to you?

ANNA

Nothing, he didn't even speak English.

KANG

I thought you didn't talk to him?

Anna's eyes flash and her nostrils flare. Kang waits for the explosion, but she takes a deep breath instead.

ANNA

I didn't. The security guard was getting in the way, and the guy didn't speak English, so he must've said something to him in Mandarin to make him back off.

Anna holds Kang's gaze, onto his game.

KANG

Why did they follow you to the bathroom?

ANNA

They didn't. I was in the stall. They didn't even know I was there.

KANG

A witness said there were drugs—pills and needles. Were you the buyer or the seller?

Hailee translates with a noticeable edge to her voice.

ANNA

You're a cop, you might've gotten a clue from the scars on my chest. I had a heart transplant. I take immunosuppressants and a laundry list of other medications.

A slight frown is the only reaction Kang has to learning the extent of her condition.

KANG

What about the needles?

ANNA

The assholes drugged us.

KANG

*Then why are you fine, and the
other girl is still unconscious in
the ICU?*

Anna winces as if he physically struck her.

ANNA

What is her name...please?

Kang stares at Anna for a minute.

KANG

Cao Niu Ju.

ANNA

Thank you. Is she ok?

This time Kang doesn't answer, it's a game of tit for tat.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I've had a lot of surgeries. My
tolerance for opioids is higher
than normal. Cao Niu Ju had an
allergic reaction to whatever drug
they used.

KANG

*She is still unconscious, but the
doctors are optimistic.*

The interrogation gets into a rhythm as the hours fly by
(M.O.S). Anna has a hard time keeping her eyes open.

KANG (CONT'D)

*Did you see anyone at the cargo
yard?*

ANNA

The men who brought me to the
house.

Kang pulls out a series of photos. Anna examines them closely
then points to one.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Neck tattoo, definitely. The
others, I'm not sure.

KANG

*Think back. Did you hear or see
anyone that stands out?*

Anna hesitates.

ANNA

Nothing.

Man Zhu Bai catches the uneasy expression on Anna's face.

MAN ZHU BAI

*Even if you think it's nothing, the
smallest detail could be important.*

ANNA

It's nothing.

KANG

Tell us.

ANNA

There was a guy I thought I saw,
but it can't be him.

KANG

Tell us anyway.

ANNA

Ryan Anderson, my patient in the
airport video.

Anna closes her eyes and thinks back.

FLASHBACK - I/E. CONTAINER YARD - DUSK

The BANG of the door as it closes and the CLANG of chains
echo as Anna is dragged away. Despite her struggles, she is
restrained and thrown into a car.

It drives past endless rows of containers.

Near the exit, another car drives in, the back window rolled
down. Anna recognizes Ryan. She bangs on the window.

ANNA

Ryan! Ryan! Ryan!

He never looks up as the car passes.

RESUME SCENE

Kang and Man Zhu Bai both examine their timelines, their
expressions unreadable.

KANG

*Tell us everything you can about
Anderson.*

Anna gathers the last of her energy.

LATER

Kang notices Anna's struggle to focus, her fingers tremble. He turns off the recorder.

KANG (CONT'D)
Thank you for your time.

Hailee gets up from the chair stiff from sitting too long. She shows Man Zhu Bai and Kang out.

HAILEE
You ok?

ANNA
My brain is done. Where do I sleep?

INT. HAILEE'S BUILDING - STAIRWELL - DAY

Kang and Man Zhu Bai don't acknowledge each other as they make their respective phone calls.

KANG	MAN ZHU BAI
<i>Get me everything you have on Ryan Anderson, American national, he may or may not currently be in Hangzhou.</i>	<i>Beef up patrols around the address I text you.</i>

INT. HANGZHOU HOSPITAL - PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT

Wu opens his eyes to find Kang beside him.

KANG
This your boss?

Kang holds up Ryan's photo, assesses Wu's reaction.

Wu's eyes widen in recognition.

KANG (CONT'D)
Anything you want to tell me?

Wu's lips form a tight seal.

KANG (CONT'D)
That's what I thought.

INT. HANGZHOU ANTI-SMUGGLING BUREAU - CHIEF OFFICE - NIGHT

Kang hands a file to the Chief. The first page is a copy of Ryan's American passport photo. The second is his Chinese.

CHIEF
*Dual citizenship hasn't been
allowed since the 80s.*

KANG
*His father is former diplomat
Charles Anderson, his mother is Wan
Chang Yin, the manufacturing
magnate's daughter.*

CHIEF
Politics and money.

Chief looks up from the file.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
What evidence do you have?

KANG
*A witness—an American tourist—can
place him at the container yard.*

Chief closes the file.

CHIEF
It'll never hold up. What else?

KANG
He checks all the boxes.

CHIEF
*I'll pass it to a team to
investigate.*

He studies Kang's face for signs of protest.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
*A week of operational rest.
Decompress. Then I'll reassign you.
Dismissed.*

Kang nods but doesn't move.

KANG
*It's my case. Based on how this
organization operates, there's a
high probability they have an
insider.?*

CHIEF

*The case is too big for one person.
Are you willing to lead the team?*

Kang doesn't respond, his face impassive.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

I didn't think so. Dismissed.

INT. HANGZHOU PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU - OFFICE - NIGHT

Man Zhu Bai studies the pile of victim reports, crime scene photos, and criminal records.

The CAPTAIN (60s) comes in.

CAPTAIN

*It's not your case anymore. Go
home, read your kid a bedtime
story.*

MAN ZHU BAI

I will; after I wrap up.

The Captain backs out. Man Zhu Bai goes back to work.

INT. WAN ESTATE - STUDY - NIGHT

Ryan leans against his desk with a glass of whiskey. Li stands at attention between two THUGS while he awaits Ryan's verdict.

Ryan places the whiskey glass down. He draws Li's shirt up to inspect a roughly sutured wound.

RYAN

How many stitches?

LI

Eight

Ryan lets the shirt drop. Places his hand on Li's shoulder.

RYAN

Another reason to kill those pig
bastards. No one is allowed to hurt
you.

Tension in the thugs' shoulders loosens, but Li's tightens.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Except me.

Ryan punches Li on the healthy side of his torso. He gives Li a brotherly pat on the head while he is folded over.

RYAN (CONT'D)
*Little brother, you know how much
 it hurts me to punish you.*

The two Thugs take Li's arms to hold him up.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 But you failed. Two years without
 any incident then days before
 grandfather gives control--

Li's body curls in from a kidney strike.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 Wu, that stupid greedy--

Li's leg buckles from a knee kick.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 --is still alive. You let an
 undercover into my company.

Li's head is knocked back by a hook punch. Ryan holds Li's head straight with two hands. He looks into Li's eyes.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Why do you make me do this to you?

INT. MAN FAMILY HOME - LI NA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Man Zhu Bai, with his coat still on, brushes a piece of hair from his daughter's sleeping face, LI NA (10), every parent and teacher's dream child. He tucks the blankets tightly around her.

MAN ZHU BAI
Happy dreams.

INT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Anna stares at the dark ceiling wide awake on the couch. Her sister cries out. She peeks in Hailee's room.

INT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anna slides into the bed, hugs Hailee without waking her. She stares into the dark, afraid to sleep.

MONTAGE - Moody Solemn Music

- Chai Lai Luan watches her mom make shadow puppets on the wall, to scare away the monsters.

- Huan Rong does sit-ups in a room filled with COUSINS and baseball bats.

- Princess sleeps propped up in her mom's arms. In the background, her dad talks to a security company.

- Fairy hugs a stuffed animal, cries in her bed. Her mother's WAILS sound through the walls.

- Doll alone in her bedroom, stares vacant into the bright light.

- Cao Niu Ju unconscious hooked to machines in the ICU.

- Anna draws her knees to her chest, head down tears distort her vision.

INT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - LATE MORNING

Hailee wipes steam from the mirror. She uses a tissue to fix a makeup smudge. Anna comes out of the bedroom with Hailee's clothes on.

ANNA

Why is everything you own so girly?

Hailee inspects Anna's face and arms.

HAILEE

You can barely see the bruises.

ANNA

Online tutorial. Don't be surprised if you get some domestic abuse pop-ups.

Anna passes Hailee a jacket and puts hers on.

HAILEE

Are you sure you're up for this?

ANNA

I didn't die, this time.

HAILEE

Not funny.

INT. HAILEE'S BUILDING - HALLWAY - LATE MORNING

Kang finds Man Zhu Bai waiting for him.

MAN ZHU BAI
Anderson is the guy.

KANG
*No evidence. Why are you clinging
to my case?*

Man Zhu Bai glances at the closed door.

MAN ZHU BAI
*It's my daughter's teacher's
sister.*

Kang isn't buying it.

MAN ZHU BAI (CONT'D)
Anna Westcott doesn't trust you.

Kang stiffens at Man Zhu Bai's well aimed jab.

INT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - ENTRY - LATE MORNING

Hailee cleans up Anna's messes on her way to the door. She startles when she discovers Kang and Man Zhu Bai in a silent face-off on the other side.

HAILEE
Is there a problem?

MAN ZHU BAI
*No, a few follow-up questions. On
your way out?*

HAILEE
Groceries and shopping.

Hailee flushes as she tucks her hair behind her ear.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
We can go later.

MAN ZHU BAI
Let's get lunch. My treat.

Anna comes up from behind nudges her sister's shoulder.

ANNA
What's up?

HAILEE
He wants to take us to lunch.

ANNA
I'm starving. Let's go.

Anna spots Kang.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Suddenly I lost my appetite.

INT. HANGZHOU - RESTAURANT - DAY

Man Zhu Bai and Kang hold out chairs next to each other for Anna and Hailee.

Hailee sits down, but Anna bends over to Amie's ear.

ANNA
You owe me.

Anna sits on the opposite side. Kang takes the seat beside Anna leaving the seat next to Hailee empty for Man Zhu Bai.

HAILEE
*Please order what you like, my
treat for saving my sister.*

MAN ZHU BAI
I already said it's on me.

HAILEE
I insist on thanking you.

MAN ZHU BAI
Next time.

Hailee concedes. Man Zhu Bai signals the WAITER.

Kang orders foods that are bitter and cold, traditionally good for heart health.

MAN ZHU BAI (CONT'D)
What are your plans?

HAILEE
*Spend as much time together before
her passport is replaced.*

While Hailee and Man Zhu Bai chat, Anna tries to figure out how to use chopsticks.

Kang clicks his together for attention as he demonstrates. Anna adjusts her fingers, but they are still wrong. Kang moves Anna's fingers into the correct place.

KANG
Like this.

ANNA
I can do it.

The waiter brings the food. Anna watches what Hailee chooses.

She attempts to put some in her bowl, but it slips off.

Hailee reaches to help, but Kang is ahead of her. He puts an assortment of meat and vegetables into Anna's bowl.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

KANG
You're welcome.

After a few more bites, Anna kicks Hailee under the table. She uses her eyebrows to urge Hailee.

Hailee sets her chopsticks across the rim of her bowl.

HAILEE
What did you need to talk about?

Kang pauses eating.

KANG
*What is the extent of Anderson's
relationship with Anna?*

He gestures for Anna to eat. Anna ignores him impatient for the translation, but Hailee questions Man Zhu Bai.

HAILEE
Is he a suspect?

MAN ZHU BAI
He's a person of interest.

Anna waves to get Hailee's attention.

ANNA
Hello, what is it?

HAILEE
Your guy is a suspect.

Anna knocks her water glass. Kang rights it before it spills.

ANNA

How? Why? Will he be arrested?

Hailee translates.

MAN ZHU BAI

There's no evidence.

KANG

I was undercover investigating an arms smuggler, but thanks to you, we now know weapons aren't the only thing being trafficked. Your guy might be involved.

ANNA

He's not my guy! He was my patient. I already told you everything: he lives in Boston, travels a lot, and mentioned something about merging his family business.

KANG

That's it?

ANNA

It's not like he'd say, 'Thanks for saving me, by the way, I'm a mob boss.'

Kang doesn't look amused.

ANNA (CONT'D)

He was friendly, I excused myself to go to the bathroom, and.. well, you know the rest.

KANG

Did you exchange numbers?

MAN ZHU BAI

If he has her passport, he can easily find out where she lives, works- everything.

HAILEE

But she saved him. He has no reason to hurt her.

KANG

*It's only a matter of time before
he pieces together what happened
that night. There aren't many
redheads in Hangzhou, it's doubtful
he'll believe it's a coincidence.*

Hailee's knuckles are white. Man Zhu Bai places his hand
beside hers, almost touching.

HAILEE

But it is!

Anna tries to de-escalate Hailee's fear.

ANNA

He's probably forgotten about me
already.

KANG

At the time I was supposed to meet
the boss of the organization, Ryan
was caught on an airport garage
CCTV putting what looks like your
luggage in his car.

HAILEE

What if he finds you when you go
back?

ANNA

I'll get a new apartment.

MAN ZHU BAI

You should also change jobs.

ANNA

I'm not giving up my job.

HAILEE

What if--

ANNA

Let's not borrow trouble. I won't
see him again.

HAILEE

What if you do?

Anna shrugs.

KANG

(makes phone gesture)
Call me.

MAN ZHU BAI

We will do everything we can.

ANNA
What can you do from 7,000 miles
away?

Anna's chopsticks tremble as she attempts to eat. Kang flags the waiter.

KANG
Do you have a fork?

INT. WAN ESTATE - LI'S ROOM - DAY

Ryan brings in a bowl of soup.

RYAN
Pork rib soup. Your favorite.

Li winces as he sits up, large bruises cover his torso. Ryan puts the bowl down on the nightstand while he checks Li's bandage.

RYAN (CONT'D)
No bleeding.

Li reaches for the bowl, but Ryan sits down, blocking it.

RYAN (CONT'D)
I need to find the undercover
before Waigong uses this incident
as an excuse.

Ryan stands back up to pace.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Why the hell were the police at
Wu's house in the first place?

Li opens his mouth to answer, but Ryan's phone rings.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Can't anyone do anything without
me?
(Pats Li's shoulder)
Heal up quick. I need you.

When the door closes Li stretches for the bowl, blood spreads across the white gauze.

INT. HANGZHOU - KANG'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Two white towels hang outside the shower where Kang stands, letting the scalding water run over him.

He turns off the shower. He wraps one towel around his waist and wipes down the stall with the other. Then he throws it along with his dirty clothes into the washing machine. The rumble of the machine breaks the oppressive silence.

He dries his hair, wraps the cord around the dryer, puts it away in an organized drawer. The sound of rain tapping against the window fills the room. He rubs his knee, a mess of scar tissue.

INT. HANGZHOU - KANG'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kang opens the drawer of the nightstand, his fingers brushing over a badge and a creased photograph. He unfolds it, in the picture his arms are linked around the shoulders of his comrades in a celebration of survival and homecoming. He smooths his thumb over their faces.

KANG
Forward without hesitation.

Kang picks up his phone.

KANG (CONT'D)
*I want to choose my team and I have
a few special requests.*

INT. HANGZHOU - KANG'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kang has his computer opened to the Boston police website.

BOSTON POLICE INTERPRETER
*Thank you for waiting, I am your
interpreter how may I help you?*

KANG
*Hello, this is Agent Kang, Anti-
Smuggling Bureau, The People's
Republic of China.*
(Beat)
No, I don't want the FBI or DSS.

Kang checks the name under a news article about a massage parlor sex trafficking raid.

KANG (CONT'D)
I want to speak to Lt. O'Shea.

EXT. BOSTON HARBOR SHORE - MORNING

LT. MICHAEL O'SHEA (50s) an old-school, rough-hewn cop and
SGT. HUNTER ERICKSON (40s), a stiff world-weary officer,
stand over the body of the Blonde Woman found washed up.

ERICKSON
It wasn't an accident.

Erickson points to tether marks around her feet.

LT. O'SHEA
Wasn't in long either. Find out the
TOD and talk to the NOAA, see if we
can use the current patterns to
find where she came from.

The crime scene techs put her in a body bag and zip her up.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - YACHT DECK - MORNING

A RICH PLAYBOY positions sunglasses over bloodshot eyes as
his Butler hands him a mimosa.

RICH PLAYBOY
Tell Anderson I need another
special order and bring me some
antibiotic cream.

The Butler bows.

The Rich Playboy shakes the pain from his scraped knuckles.

RICH PLAYBOY (CONT'D)
Another feisty one!

INT. HANGZHOU - MAN FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Man Zhu Bai strolls into the kitchen. His dad, MAN CHIN NING,
briefly looks up from the television show to greet him. His
mother, BAI JIE SU cleans up from dinner while Li Na reads a
book at the table.

BAI JIE SU
*Xiao Bai, you are home. I'll make
you something to eat.*

Man Zhu Bai kisses Li Na on the forehead before he sits down
to let Bai Jie Su fuss over him.

MAN ZHU BAI
No need, I already ate.

BAI JIE SU
*Takeout doesn't count. You need
 something nutritious.*

Bai Jie Su takes side dishes out of the fridge.

MAN ZHU BAI
What are you reading?

Li Na holds up Curious George in English.

LI NA
*Teacher Westcott said it was one of
 her favorites.*

MAN ZHU BAI
You like Teacher Westcott?

LI NA
She is very pretty and very nice.

MAN ZHU BAI
She is. Nice, I mean.

Bai Jie Su detects a tone in her son's voice.

BAI JIE SU
How did you meet Teacher Westcott?

She eyeballs Li Na.

BAI JIE SU (CONT'D)
Was there a problem at school?

MAN ZHU BAI
*No, she had business at the
 station.*

BAI JIE SU
*What business could she have at a
 Public Security Bureau?*

Li Na's brow knits with concern for her teacher.

MAN ZHU BAI
*You know I can't talk about it, but
 she is perfectly fine and will be
 back to school as scheduled.*

Li Na lets out her breath. She pretends to read for a moment
 then she looks sideways at Man Zhu Bai.

LI NA
You should ask her on a date.

Bai Jie Su drops a plate in front of Man Zhu Bai.

BAI JIE SU
Li Na, don't be silly.

LI NA
Why? I thought you wanted Dad to remarry.

BAI JIE SU
(bemused)
She isn't suitable.

LI NA
She is single, pretty, and nice.

BAI JIE SU
She is an American.

MAN ZHU BAI
Mother-

LI NA
If they fall in love, she'll stay.

BAI JIE SU
That's not the point. She isn't suitable-

Man Chin Ning chimes in from the other room.

MAN CHIN NING (O.S.)
Wife, 'Journey to the West' is on, come watch it with me.

BAI JIE SU
When the dishes wash themselves!

Man Zhu Bai takes advantage of the distraction.

MAN ZHU BAI
Li Na grab your math workbook. We'll do some problems.

Man Zhu Bai and Lina leave the tension, and the mess, behind.

INT. HAILEE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Hailee grades papers at the table while Anna, is on a video chat with their parents.

LIV (V.O.)
Help your sister pack and let me
know how many bags she will need to
check.

Anna waves goodbye and hangs up.

ANNA
Why didn't you talk to them?

HAILEE
I talked this morning, they're
checking on you.

Anna nudges her sister. Hailee stops grading.

HAILEE (CONT'D)
What?

ANNA
Are you mad at me?

HAILEE
No

ANNA
You've been grumpy since lunch.

HAILEE
I'm fine.

ANNA
Did the cute cop say something?

HAILEE
He didn't say anything.

Anna's eyes twinkle as she takes a seat.

ANNA
So you admit you think he is cute.

HAILEE
Are you twelve?

ANNA
Hey, you should go for it. A last
hurrah before we head home.

Anna winces as she rotates her shoulder.

HAILEE
I'm not going.

ANNA

Why?

HAILEE

Let's not talk about it now. Do you want a cold pack?

ANNA

If I want ice, I can get it myself.

Anna goes to the freezer.

HAILEE

No ice, cold packs are in the first aid kit under the sink.

Anna looks in the freezer, pulls out frozen vegetables.

ANNA

This works better. You don't want to come home, because of me, right?

HAILEE

Not everything's about you. My job is here.

ANNA

That's a bullshit excuse. You want me to quit my job, but you can keep yours.

HAILEE

I'm not the one flirting with human traffickers.

ANNA

Since when is sticking your fingers down a guy's throat flirting?

Hailee raises an eyebrow, but instead of continuing the argument she picks up her papers.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Plus, I wanted to set him up with you.

HAILEE

No thanks, Your taste in men sucks.

ANNA

Admit you don't want to come home because of me?

Hailee thunks the papers on the table, pens roll to the floor.

HAILEE

Sure it has nothing to do with me
or what I want. The whole world
revolves around you.

ANNA

It's not my fault, all I want is a
normal life.

HAILEE

Well, you're not normal. You throw
everyone around you's life into
chaos. Hell, you weren't even in
China for 5 minutes--

Anna's fingernails bite into her palms.

ANNA

What? You want an apology?

HAILEE

For what! Getting kidnapped? Being
born with a shitty ass heart?

ANNA

For screwing up your life.

HAILEE

It's not your fault.

ANNA

Then why are you mad?

HAILEE

Because life sucks!

Hailee and Anna's frustrated breaths are the only sound in
the room. Hailee flees into the bedroom.

Anna picks the pens up from the floor.

INT. WAN ESTATE - STUDY - NIGHT

Ryan and Wan Chong Jin study the Xiangqi board. Li sits
nearby, folds a paper crane.

Ryan plays his horse.

RYAN

Your palace is in danger.

Wan Chong Jin makes his move, takes Ryan's Chariot.

WAN CHONG JIN
*I've decided to postpone my
retirement.*

Ryan's hand hesitates over the pieces. Wong Chong Jin signals to the SERVANT. Ryan is presented with a document envelope.

Inside is a dossier on Kang.

WAN CHONG JIN (CONT'D)
*I'm curious how you will play out
the game, but it's late. Let's
finish tomorrow.*

Ryan helps Wan Chong Jin to his feet. The Servant takes over to assist the old man to his room.

RYAN
Call every gangbanger in the city.
The bureau was looking for guns,
we'll help them find them.

Li makes the final fold in his crane.

RYAN (CONT'D)
We'll flood the market and start an
arms race. The police will be too
busy to worry about a few missing
bitches.

Li places the crane on the table.

LI
Are you sure that's what you want?

Ryan pours himself a drink of whiskey.

RYAN
What I want is a redhead in my arms
and a dead cop at my feet.

Ryan slams his glass down, the chess pieces scatter.

LI
Redhead?