

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALICE (30), of Asian decent, unpacks a box of wedding memorabilia.

She takes out a framed photo of her and a clean-shaven groom, MATT, she tries not to let it upset her, she wipes it with her sleeve and sets it on her coffee table.

She replaces a painting on the wall with a poster size close-up of their hands and rings.

She steps back and considers the space.

Everything is clean and in its place. Flowers, lace, a display of Asian fans, an antique doll, Elle magazine -- clearly a woman lives here -- ALONE.

Alice digs deep in the box and pulls out a football jersey, she tosses it on an armchair and nods, *that's better*.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Alice unpacks a drugstore bag and stocks the room with a second toothbrush, men's deodorant and shave cream.

She considers the perfect hand towels, potpourri and female touches. She squirts the shave cream and too much comes out, she cleans it up with a decorative hand towel, hating to mess it up.

Something occurs to her and she runs out.

Alice runs back in with the sports section of the newspaper and sets it by the toilet, texts on her phone.

ALICE
Where are you?

She looks around the bathroom, lifts up the toilet seat and exits.

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INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Alice juggles her phone and purse, gets the moon cakes out of the decorative box, and sets a casserole dish in the oven as,

Her Phone BEEPS.

She accepts a call from MATT, ON SPEAKER.

ALICE
I'm leaving to get him, you should
be here --

MATT (OVER PHONE)
We can't keep doing this.

ALICE
What? It's once a year --

The DOORBELL RINGS.

INT. FOYER - DAY

Alice opens it to see MATT (34), standing there in his
business suit, phone to ear scratching his beard.

MATT
You know this is different.

ALICE
My father's heart is failing, if he
knew, it would kill him. You could
at least be on time.

She leaves the door open for him to enter as she gets her
purse and keys.

He follows...

MATT
You can't boss me anymore, that's
the whole point of divorce.

ALICE
I thought the whole point was
sleeping with the boss's wife. I
still see him at the gym...

Matt gets the threat.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Turn the oven off in twenty
(she shows him the control)
we'll be here in thirty.

MATT
I quit.

ALICE
Your job?

Matt grabs the football jersey and turns toward the door.

MATT
No. You. This.

Alice grabs his arm.

ALICE
No, Matt, please. You know my dad
will be devastated... He'll worry,
make me move in with him.

Matt nods.

MATT
It's amazing how you let him
control your life even though you
hardly see him -- yet you couldn't
give just an inch to someone you
willingly committed it to --

ALICE
You're the one who ruined us.

MATT
There can't be an us, when one was
never free.

This floors Alice. Matt immediately regrets it.

ALICE
I have to go.

MATT
Last time, Al. Find a way to tell
him.

INT. ALICE'S CAR - DAY

Alice bites back tears as she drives and works it out in her mind.

ALICE
Daddy. Dad. Hey, my man. You know
how you always say there's nothing
stronger than the truth? Ugh. I
need to tell you something, and
just hear me out before --

She pulls to the curb and sees, HONG, (75), frail and leaning
on a cane. His sharp dress clothes hang loosely.

Alice is shocked at his condition.

EXT. ALICE'S BUILDING - DAY

Alice helps Hong to the door.

ALICE
I've got a healthy meal ready, I
just need to prepare the salad.

HONG
What is it?

ALICE
Cucumber salad.

Hong stops before they go in.

HONG
Not the food, tell me what's wrong.

ALICE
No. Nothing. I just want you to be
comfortable.

Hong let's it go.

INT. FOYER - DAY

Alice helps Hong inside, he waves her off.

ALICE
We're here.

Matt comes out of the kitchen. Alice picks up his football jersey from the hall table and hands it to him, avoiding any affection in their greeting.

Hong watches the exchange closely.

MATT
I turned off the oven.

ALICE
Perfect. Just give me a few minutes
to get everything set up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Hong sits before the coffee table, his eyes on the wedding photo. Matt searches the entertainment center,

MATT
How are you feeling?

HONG

I'm happy to be here, it was worth
the effort to see your new home.

Alice sets the table in the adjacent DINING ROOM.

ALICE

We should do this more.

Matt grows frustrated, not able to find what he wants.

HONG

I would if I had a grandchild.

Alice pretends not to hear and goes back to the kitchen.

Hong folds Matt's jersey.

HONG (CONT'D)

You must tell me your secret.

Matt's frustration peaks. He pauses at Hong's request,
scratches his beard.

MATT

Al where's the remote?

Alice brings cucumber salad to the table.

ALICE

Oh. No TV. Dinner is ready.

MATT

I was going to put on music.

Alice steps toward the living room, her gaze falls to the
entertainment center which is clearly void of any stereo.

ALICE

The stereo broke, yesterday. I
guess I forgot to tell you.

Hong puts down the jersey and pulls himself to stand. Alice
and Matt go to help him.

HONG

I need to use the men's room before
dinner.

He steps without help, they give him room. He passes closer
to Matt,

HONG (CONT'D)
You still have to tell me your
secret.

Matt and Alice give each other a panicked look.

HONG (O.S.) (CONT'D)
When you have children, you'll need
a separate bathroom.

The bathroom door SHUTS.

ALICE
What secret?

MATT
Really?

Alice can't deal with it, she moves to perfect the table.

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Hong washes his hands, he goes for a hand towel and notices
the decorative towel a mess with shaving cream, this gives
him pause.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Alice pours peanut sauce into small dishes.

HONG (O.S.)
Matt, could you come here?

Alice steps out of the kitchen.

ALICE
I'll go.

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

Alice taps on the bathroom door.

ALICE
Dad?

HONG (O.S.)
I asked for Matt, it's a man's,
job.

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Hong bends down to pick up the sports page and his cane slips. He falls.

ALICE (O.S)
Dad! Matt, hurry!

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

Matt runs up to Alice.

ALICE
He asked for you, he said it was
male, I think he fell...

Matt pulls a pocket knife out and pops the lock.

Alice moves to check on him. Matt stops her.

MATT
I got it, you don't want to
embarrass him.

ALICE
(whisper)
Don't tell him.

MATT
You're really something.

Matt slips in the door. Alice checks herself.

INT. BATHROOM - EVENING

Hong sits on a closed toilet, a tear streams down his face.

Matt helps him up.

MATT
Are you sure you're okay?

HONG
It's only my pride. I hate for her
to think I'm weak.

MATT
I know where she gets it.

This brightens Hong's face.

HONG

I pushed her schooling. Now you're both career driven and I won't live to see a grandson. Between you and me I messed up.

Matt scratches his beard, at a loss for what to say.

HONG (CONT'D)

Wash your hands, let's eat before I ruin everything.

Matt washes his hands. He looks at the can of shaving cream, scratches his beard.

Hong puts his hand on Matt's shoulder.

HONG (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Matt covers; picking up the can and putting it in the shower.

MATT

Oh, because... My beard, this? No. See, Al likes to use this on her legs.

Matt helps Hong with his cane. Hong looks at the messed up hand towel as they leave.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

They sit at the table. Alice dishes out the casserole.

HONG

So, Matt, work is good? Your boss? I recall he was fond of you.

MATT

Yeah, it's fine, great. It's to the point of routine, you know -- My boss is divorced so he's been out a lot.

This is news to Alice.

Matt scratches his beard they exchange a look.

Hong cleans up his casserole.

HONG

I don't understand why people are so quick to divorce.

ALICE
Well, in his case I think --

Hong waits for her response.

ALICE (CONT'D)
I think sometimes there's good
cause.

HONG
Why the change of belief?

Matt's loving this, he pours the peanut sauce over his
cucumber salad and takes a healthy bite.

Alice shoves salad in her mouth just so she won't have to
answer.

HONG (CONT'D)
(to Matt)
Now about that secret of yours?

Alice and Matt share a wide glance, sweat beads on Matt's
forehead. He loosens his tie.

ALICE
Secret? Matt doesn't have any
secrets.

Matt shakes his head, his face is flush.

HONG
The secret of how he stays so fit
that he can wear a jersey from
eight years --

Alice breaks out in wide grin.

Matt's hand bangs on the table.

Alice and Hong look to Matt, he's asphyxiating, red and
sweaty.

MATT
Peanuts, ambulance...

ALICE
Oh my god, the peanut sauce, I
completely forgot.

Hong hops up as fast as he can to get to the phone on the
wall.

Matt has already pulled his smartphone out and pressed emergency.

OPERATOR (OVER MATT'S PHONE)
What's your emergency?

Alice grabs the phone as Hong talks into the wall phone.

ALICE	HONG
Allergy, hurry, he can't eat peanuts.	My daughter gave, her husband, peanut sauce...

EXT. ALICE'S BUILDING - NIGHT

The ambulance lights bounce off of Hong and Alice's faces.

Matt, unconscious, is rushed into the back of the ambulance on a gurney.

An EMERGENCY ASSISTANT (30), comes to Alice with a clipboard.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANT
If we need to resuscitate, we need
a family member's signature.

Alice has to think fast.

ALICE
His sister is close.

HONG
You're closer.

Alice looks between Emergency Assistant and her father and runs off with her phone to ear.

INT. ALICE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Alice picks up the wedding picture and puts it in the box. She closes her eyes and shakes her head at the ridiculousness.

Hong steps down the stairs quietly. Alice doesn't see him.

She goes to take down the big portrait of their hands.

As she reaches, Hong pokes his cane up to help her lift it off the wall.

HONG
It's a nice picture.

Alice can't look him in the face.

HONG (CONT'D)
We all need a hand.

Alice takes down the picture.

ALICE
I can manage.

HONG
Maybe you could get the rings
painted out or sell it to some
newlyweds.

ALICE
Enough. I screwed up. I'm sorry.

HONG
Sometimes, when we've lived a lie
so long, we subconsciously put
ourselves in a position to be
caught.

ALICE
I didn't feed him peanut sauce on
purpose. I'm not that... driven.

Hong laughs.

HONG
I was referring to myself, it's my
fault. I should have never put you
in the position where you felt you
had to pretend to be married.

Alice lets Hong hug her.

ALICE
Why are you so against divorce?

HONG
You didn't let me finish. I've
known about your divorce since it
happened two years ago.

Alice is shocked. Hong hands her his cane.

ALICE
But why did you?

HONG

I thought maybe by you two, us,
getting together as family, you
would change you mind.

Alice let it sinks in.

ALICE

You let me --

Hong calms her.

HONG

No more ambulances. I just didn't
want you to get to be my age and be
all alone.

This breaks Alice's heart a little. She hugs Hong so hard,
she has to catch him.

HONG (CONT'D)

What do you say we see Matt, while
visiting hours are on? We can
return his jersey.

Alice smiles and tosses the jersey in the box.

ALICE

I don't think he ever wants to see
me again. But I have another idea.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

A Photographer takes a close up of Alice holding Hong's frail
hand.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hong sits on the sofa, watching TV, cozy and at home. On the
far wall, the large portrait his and Alice's hands, hangs.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

Alice dresses for a night out. She kisses Hong on the head.

ALICE

I won't be too late.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

Alice opens the door to find her date, a clean shaven MAN in a suit and tie.

HONG (O.S.)
Stay out as late as you want, but
no peanuts.

FADE OUT.