

JOY FUCK CLUB

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EXT./ESTAB. LAFAYETTE, INDIANA - 1998 - DAY

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A car drives down a pretty suburban road. CHYRON: 1998.

*

INT. CAR - SAME

JOE SULLIVAN drives with his wife MARY in the passenger seat. They're white, pleasant-looking, in their 40s.

JOE SULLIVAN
Well, Mary, I think it's about
time, don't you think?

MARY SULLIVAN
I think so, Joe. What about you,
Audrey?

Mary turns around and we see her from a BACKSEAT POV. We hear their daughter, AUDREY (age 4).

AUDREY (AGE 4) (O.S.)
Yes!

MARY SULLIVAN
Okay!

MARY/JOE/AUDREY
A PLAYGROUND WE WILL GO / A
PLAYGROUND WE WILL GO / WE'LL PET A
DOG AND SIT ON A LOG AND THEN WE'LL
GO BACK HOME

OFF the car driving as the little family sings merrily...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - LATER

Several kids play in the sandbox and on the jungle gym as their parents look on. Everyone is Midwestern, wholesome, corn-fed, and white, except for...

JENNY and WEY CHEN (early 30s) approach with their daughter LOLO (age 4). Jenny looks nervously to her husband.

JENNY CHEN
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
Look at all these white people.

WEY CHEN
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
*I've never seen so many of them in
one place before. It's like a bar
that has board games.*

JENNY CHEN
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
Or an episode of Friends.

WEY CHEN
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
*Indiana is like one giant episode
of Friends.*

Lolo tugs at her Mom's pant leg.

LOLO (AGE 4)
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
I'm going to make a sandcastle!

Lolo runs to the sandbox and starts digging with her toy pail and shovel. A little BOY comes up to her.

BOY
Ching chong ching chong choo!

Lolo SLUGS him. The Boy yelps, rushing off to find his mother. The Chens look down at Lolo.

JENNY CHEN
Lolo...

LOLO (AGE 4)
I know, I know. Sorry.

Jenny and Wey can't help but smile at their feisty daughter, then look up as Joe and Mary Sullivan approach.

JOE SULLIVAN
Hey there. You must be new in town!

JENNY CHEN
Sorry, are you the parents of that racist boy?

MARY SULLIVAN
Oh no. Just curious: Are you Chinese?

WEY CHEN
(warily, "here we go")
Yes...

JOE SULLIVAN
Great! Do you mind if our daughter plays with your daughter?

JENNY CHEN
Why our daughter?

MARY SULLIVAN
Well... we thought Audrey might like to meet her.

The Sullivans coax their daughter out from hiding behind them. It turns out Audrey, whose voice we heard earlier, is also Asian! Audrey's eyes go wide at the sight of Lolo.

AUDREY (AGE 4)
(shyly)
Hi.

LOLO (AGE 4)
Hi, I'm Lolo, I'm four. Wanna play
sandcastle?

Audrey nods, yes. As the girls play...

BEGIN STYLIZED MUSIC MONTAGE OF THE GIRLS GROWING UP:

- The Chens and Sullivans send Audrey and Lolo to preschool, where they stand out amid their white classmates. Audrey looks a little scared until rambunctious Lolo grabs her hand and they head in, smiling.

- Audrey and Lolo, now in grade school, stand among a group of GIRL SCOUTS. Audrey's uniform is perfect and her sash displays DOZENS of badges; her TROOP LEADER hands her another one and Audrey's face lights up. Meanwhile, Lolo has no badges, eats straight out of a box of Thin Mints, and wipes her chocolatey fingertips on her uniform between bites. *

- A ROAST HAM HITS THE TABLE. WIDER to see the Sullivans hosting the Chens for Christmas. Perfect table settings, super civilized. Audrey wears a cute J Crew dress; Lolo wears an oversize Champion t-shirt. The Sullivans say grace.

- A ROAST DUCK HITS THE TABLE. WIDER to see the Chens hosting the Sullivans for Chinese New Year. The extended Chen clan is there (including Lolo's weird, unblinking cousin DEADEYE, 10), diving into the food in a mad scramble. Lolo and her mother are in matching qipaos. Audrey looks wistfully at how much they look alike. Then she shakes it off and wraps an arm around her mom, Mary. Mary beams.

- High school. On a sign: "AUDREY FOR PRESIDENT!". Audrey, 17, hands out stickers to classmates in the hall. Nearby, Lolo, 17, stands under a sign: "SENIOR ART SHOW". She proudly displays a weird photograph of a cat that's been altered with splotches of paint, feathers, yarn, etc. People walking by avert their eyes, disturbed. *

- FLASH! Audrey, 21, in college has her picture taken as she receives a Top Scholar Award. More FLASHES as she receives various accolades: Student Bar Association! Captain of the Crew Team! President of Chinese Students Association (with her co-president, KAREN. We'll see more of her later). *

- FLASH! Lolo, 21, nude and smeared with colorful paint, poses for an aggressively artsy photo. WIDEN TO REVEAL it was taken by a camera on a timer against a hastily-hung background. After a moment, Lolo's mom Jenny enters with a laundry basket and tears down the background, revealing the washing machine behind it. She and Lolo get into an argument. *

END SEQUENCE.

CHYRON: "2021"

INT. WINSTON FREED & ASSOCIATES - NIGHT

Big giant law firm, dead of night. Silent and dark, except for a crack of light under one closed office door. We hear a faint PHONE ALARM...

INT. AUDREY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Multiple framed degrees and certificates hang on the walls of this immaculately-kept office, and a long line of AWARDS are neatly displayed on a shelf. On the desk, a name plate that reads "AUDREY HAN SULLIVAN" and photos of Audrey and her parents. *

UNDER THE DESK - curled up on the floor: AUDREY, now 27, is asleep in her work clothes. That is, until she finally hears her phone alarm. She grabs the phone and silences it. She emerges from under the desk, shakes off the grogginess, and sits back in her chair, all business. Back to work! *

QUICK CUTS of Audrey working:

4AM: Audrey's on a video call with a client in Berlin.

AUDREY (INTO PHONE)
--Guten Tag, Fraulein Lingenfelter?
 I updated the Disclosure Schedules
 ahead of schedule. They're good to
 go--

7AM: A chipper Audrey greets a groggy associate, BECKETT, who has just come in.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
 Beckett! I went over your Blitz.com
 file-- some references were off, I
 went ahead and fixed them for you.
 Love the jacket, by the way, I'm
 gonna get another coffee, you want?
 You look like you want.

She hands bleary Beckett the file as she exits.

10AM: In a conference room, Audrey and a senior partner, FRANK (white, 50s, Midwestern), meet with CLIENTS: *

AUDREY (CONT'D)
 ...We'll push back on some of these
 terms-- they're way off-market.

CLIENT

(worried)

Yes, but the Japanese firms have considerable capital, we don't want to lose out--

FRANK

I agree with Audrey, it's worth a shot. She's obviously an expert on Asian markets.

*
*
*

Audrey looks panicked for a split second-- she's not an expert, actually-- but then recovers and smiles, too used to microaggressions like this to be offended. She nods, happy for Frank's approval.

*
*
*
*

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (LATER)

Glasses CLINK as Frank pours champagne for Audrey and a few ASSOCIATES.

FRANK

Congratulations, team, on closing Heartland Poultry! Big shout-out to Audrey for taking the lead!

Everyone cheers. Frank comes over to Audrey.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Now that this is done you can roll onto the WestStar deal.

AUDREY

Actually, I'm not going to be on that one. I'm leaving on vacation tonight--

(off his disappointment;
quickly)

Only because HR said I had to since I'm 600 hours over.

FRANK

Right. Just too bad it's happening at crunch time for us. You know, I shouldn't be telling you this, but--
(confiding)

--I'm planning on backing you for partner.

Audrey is stunned, delighted.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(passive aggressive)

But this vacation throws a wrench into things. Where are you going again?

AUDREY
Beijing.

FRANK
Ah, China, isn't that where you're
from?

AUDREY
Well, I was born there, but I'm
from Indiana.

FRANK
Right, right. Chinese food is tough
for me. Too many flavors.

Audrey lets this comment roll right over her.

AUDREY
I'll be back before you know it.
While I'm in China I can get even
more familiar with Asian markets.
And with regards to WestStar, I'm
back the day before the pitch.
(wants to be team player)
I can still lead the team, I'll
just prep while I'm in Beijing.

FRANK
All right, you're on. That's future
partner attitude. I love it.

Audrey beams.

AUDREY
You can always count on me to
positively represent the firm--

LOLO (O.S.)
Heeeeeyyyyy Bitch!!!

Audrey and Frank turn to see LOLO, 27, entering, in an outfit
somehow tight and raggedy at the same time, and slept-in eye
makeup. Audrey is surprised, a little embarrassed.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Who's ready to vacay?!
(sees Frank)
Hello lawyer.
(sees everyone else)
Lawyers.

Audrey looks apologetically at Frank; good thing he's merely
amused (and probably staring at Lolo's booty shorts).

INT. LOLO'S CAR - EVENING

In contrast to Audrey's ultra-together vibe, Lolo is a hot mess and doesn't give a shit. Her car is filled with photography equipment, paint cans, spools of yarn, wood blocks, empty Cheetos bags and water bottles. She bounces along to a track by Dumbfoundead as she drives.

*
*

AUDREY

You should have given me a heads up you were coming.

LOLO

I wanted to make sure your ass left work. You realize we haven't taken a trip since you started this job?! Pro tip for Beijing: try all the wack fruits, they're delicious. And we gotta hit up a night market and get *jianbing*, it's basically like a Chinese pancake-- what are you doing?

*
*
*
*
*
*

Audrey doesn't answer, immersed in a work file. Lolo grabs it and chucks it in the back.

AUDREY

Hey?!

LOLO

That's work. I could see it on your face, you had workface.

AUDREY

I just have to read this one thing. It's a crazy time for the firm-

LOLO

Boo-boo, it's always a crazy time. We're on VACATION.

*

Audrey reaches back to get her work file, then sees amongst the clutter in the backseat a large framed photo of a cornfield splotted with paint, yarn strewn over it, etc. It's got a messy, cool vibe to it.

*
*
*
*

AUDREY

Hey, is this the one Cafe Zola let you hang? Nobody bought it?

*
*
*

LOLO

Yeah, they said the customers thought it was too distracting.

*
*
*

AUDREY

Distracting is good, that's what art is! They're idiots!

*
*
*

LOLO
Yeah I already fucked up their Yelp
page.

Lolo notices that Audrey is looking back at her work file.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Hey. HEY! Stop thinking about work!
Don't make me ear flick you--

Lolo starts ear flicking Audrey. Audrey tries to fend her off,
laughing.

LOLO (CONT'D)	AUDREY
Ya like that? Ya like that, ya workaholic idiot!	Stop! Fine, I'll just work tonight! Keep your hands on the wheel, Jesus! You psycho!

Off on the girls, play-slapping, laughing...

INT. SULLIVANS' DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Audrey and Lolo sit with their parents, it's an informal
dinner. Audrey's mother dramatically unveils a beautiful,
homemade cake with "BON VOYAGE" written on top.

AUDREY
Aw, you didn't have to do that!

MARY SULLIVAN
Of course we did, we want to
celebrate you! It's a big deal,
going to your birth country.

AUDREY
It's not, it's just a vacation.
Plus Karen's been hounding me to
come visit her ever since she got
engaged, so...

JOE SULLIVAN
Well, it's a well-deserved
vacation. You work so hard.

WEY CHEN
(to Lolo)
You hear that? She works hard. You
should try it sometime.

Lolo rolls her eyes: she's heard this before. Jenny quickly
steps in to change the subject.

JENNY CHEN
So Audrey, how do you like your new
place in Chicago?

AUDREY
It's nice! It's small, but it's
good to have my own space.

LOLO
She's being modest, bitch has an in-
unit washer dryer!
(to Audrey)
Your rent must be stupid high, what
is it?

AUDREY
It's not that bad.

WEY CHEN
Well, congratulations, Audrey.
Maybe you can convince Lolo to move
out too.

LOLO
Why would I move out, I have an in-
unit washer dryer at home!

Everyone laughs, but Lolo's parents keep poking.

WEY CHEN
You know, my co-worker's daughter
just got into school to become a
dental hygienist.

LOLO
I'm an artist, Dad.

JENNY CHEN
Then you should apply to art school
somewhere.

LOLO
I don't need to waste money on an
MFA.

WEY CHEN
Then you should make money. Doing
dental hygiene.

LOLO
(getting annoyed)
If I want to make money, I'll start
an OnlyFans, how about that?

JENNY CHEN
You'd never make it on OnlyFans.
You're no Asa Akira.

LOLO
(impressed)
Okay Mom!

Mary brings out a box.

*

MARY SULLIVAN
So, I thought it would be fun to
see some pictures of Audrey the
last time she was in China!

*

*

AUDREY
Oh, the Chens don't want to--

But Mary is already passing out photos of baby Audrey in China
being carried by a young Joe and Mary.

MARY SULLIVAN
Wasn't she precious? This one's the
first time I ever held her-- oh my
god, I'm going to cry...

JOE SULLIVAN
Oh, honey. Me too!

LOLO
(looking at pics)
Heh, you had a big old head.
Adorable Chinese pumpkin baby.

Audrey rifles absently through the box, which also holds old
keepsakes: folders, random paperwork, mostly in Chinese.

*

Then she sees the edge of something sticking out of the box
lining. It must have gotten stuck there. She pulls it
out...it's a faded photo of a YOUNG ASIAN WOMAN in a hospital
gown, holding a newborn Audrey. The woman's hair hides half
her face; the other half is obscured by shadows. Audrey feels
her breath catch... she turns the picture over to see her
birthdate and the words "Birth Mother." Mary notices.

MARY SULLIVAN
Oh! I thought we lost that picture--

LOLO
Who's that?

MARY SULLIVAN
Audrey's birth mother. It's the
only picture they had.

LOLO
Wow.

AUDREY
I've never seen this before. It was
stuck to the side.

MARY SULLIVAN
Look at her. So young. I wish we
could see her face better, I'm sure
she was beautiful, just like you.

Audrey is overwhelmed from seeing the picture; she quickly puts it aside. *

AUDREY
Not as beautiful as you though! *

MARY SULLIVAN
Stop, honey, you're such a
sweetheart, okay I'm crying
again... *

Joe puts an arm around her; she dabs at her eyes; Audrey smiles at them both. This trio fucking loves each other. Lolo takes a picture of the birth mom photo. *

LOLO
Remember we used to guess who your
biological mom was? My money was on
Lucy Liu, 'cause she was the only
Chinese person on TV.

Audrey is uncomfortable with the topic of her birth mother. She puts the picture away:

AUDREY
Ha. Yeah. That was stupid.
(then)
More cake, anyone?

It's clear Audrey wants to move on, but Lolo studies the picture of Audrey's birth mom. *

LOLO
No offense, but...would bang.

EXT. LAX - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

INT. LAX - INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL - DAY

Audrey sits in a bustling terminal. She messages her parents: "Layover in LA! Boarding soon! (string of heart emojis)". She gets back to working on her laptop when Lolo collapses in the seat next to her. *

LOLO
I tried sneaking into the lounge,
but that was a fail. Told them my
name was Business McBusinessWoman,
they were... not amused. *

Lolo looks over Audrey's shoulder

LOLO (CONT'D)
Ugh, stop WORKING! You're such a
Lawyer McLawyerlaw--
(MORE)

LOLO (CONT'D)
 (losing steam, then)
 --whatever. Hey. Check this out.

Lolo shows her phone to Audrey - it's the photo of Audrey's birth mom, but painted over in an artsy way.

AUDREY
 Oh. That's... interesting.

LOLO
 It's cool that you actually know what she looks like now, right?
 (then)
 Hey, now that we're going to China, maybe we could look for her. Is that crazy?

AUDREY
 What? We're not doing that. There are a billion people in China, the odds are basically zero.

LOLO
 The odds aren't zero. You have a picture now and the name of the adoption agency, it'll be so easy. You could be like these people!

Lolo taps on her phone, showing youtube videos of adult Asian adoptees reuniting with relatives in their home countries.

LOLO (CONT'D)
 Look how emotional, this chick's mascara is crying right off--

AUDREY
 That's them, not me. My parents are my parents, I don't need any other ones. Besides, we're going to be too busy. Karen has a whole itinerary set up for us already.

LOLO
 Ugh. Karen.

AUDREY
 Come on. She was my college best friend!

LOLO
 Yeah, the college version of me. Lolo two point worse.

AUDREY
 Well you only met her once, you'll like her once you get to know her. It's gonna be so much fun! You, me, and--

DEADEYE (O.S.)
Greetings.

*
*

Audrey recoils to see DEADEYE, 28, who's appeared next to her. Wearing an "It's an Honor Just to be Asian" shirt, a fanny pack and lots of eye-liner, she's specific AF. With her flat voice and blank stare, Deadeye is an apt name.

LOLO
(lights up)
Deadeye, you made it! Audrey, you
remember my cousin?

Audrey does, it's not a good memory. Deadeye, who doesn't blink or smile, stares at Audrey, who looks uncomfortable.

AUDREY
Yeah, you visited when we were
twelve. I remember you used to
snort Fun Dip.

*
*

DEADEYE
Still do. My favorite flavor is
green.

*
*

She matter-of-factly takes out some Fun Dip and snorts it.

*

AUDREY
So, uh, what are you doing here?

DEADEYE
Lolo said you guys were going to be
in Beijing and I was planning to
visit Nai Nai anyway, so I decided
to come with.

*
*
*
*
*

AUDREY
Okaaaay. Could you give us a second?

*
*

Audrey pulls Lolo aside:

AUDREY (CONT'D)
What the hell? You told Deadeye
about our trip?

*
*

LOLO
(apologetic)
Yeah, her parents asked my parents
if she could come with. I wasn't
sure she was even gonna show! Look,
she doesn't have a lot of friends--

*
*
*

ANGLE ON Deadeye, talking to a random child.

DEADEYE
Greetings.

The child's parent grabs the kid away from Deadeye.

LOLO
 --Any friends. *
 (then)
 C'mon, she's family, it's fine! *

Audrey sighs, doesn't love it, but concedes. They head back to Deadeye.

LOLO (CONT'D)
 (to Deadeye and Audrey)
 This is gonna be awesome! Epic
 trip, the three amigas! Squid
 squad!
 (to Audrey)
 There's a lotta dried squid in
 China.

Deadeye pulls something out of her fanny pack.

DEADEYE
 Would anyone like a glow stick for
 the flight.

AUDREY
 Why?

DEADEYE
 Just to hold and enjoy.

LOLO
 (makes sense to her)
 Yeah, sure!

Lolo and Deadeye cheerfully break their glow sticks which light up. Audrey has no idea how to react. Lolo checks Deadeye's boarding pass.

LOLO (CONT'D)
 Cool, you guys are sitting next to
 each other! C'mon, we're boarding!

OFF Audrey, this trip isn't off to a great start. *

EXT. AIRPORT - LATER

Their plane takes off.

INT. BEIJING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Audrey, Lolo and Deadeye push their luggage trolleys through the airport, heading for the exit. Deadeye charges ahead, she's been here before. Audrey looks around in amazement, taking it all in. *

AUDREY
 We're really here. China.
 (bad Chinese accent)
Zhong Guo.

*

LOLO
 Your tones are all off, but yeah.
 We in Beijing, baby!

AUDREY
 Beijing!
 (bad Chinese accent)
Wo men zai Bei-jing!

LOLO
 Yup!

AUDREY
Tai gui le! Dui bu qi. Wan an.

LOLO
 Are these all the Chinese words you
 know?

AUDREY
Hen hao chi.

LOLO
 Oh you have more.

AUDREY
 It's crazy, we look like everyone
 else for once. We blend right in.

LOLO
 Nah, people here can tell Chinese-
 Chinese from American-Chinese.

AUDREY
 What do you mean?

Lolo points to a man dressed in a business suit talking into a
 Bluetooth headset. *

LOLO
 Hong Kong-Chinese.

She points to a family dressed in all Gucci clothes.

LOLO (CONT'D)
 Shanghai-Chinese.

She points to a woman wearing a shirt that reads "I HeArt
 Cat!!!".

LOLO (CONT'D)
 Taiwanese.

AUDREY
How do you know all this?

LOLO
I dunno. It's kinda like how you
can tell a Texan from a Boston
scumbag.

AUDREY
What about them?

Audrey points to a group of HOT YOUNG WOMEN in tight outfits. *

LOLO
What is wrong with you, those are
Koreans. *

DEADEYE
It's Momoland, they're a kpop
group. See, they're bypassing
security. *

As the group swans right through security, surrounded by fans
taking photos: *

LOLO
(to Audrey)
They have all the same face. That's
how you know. *

INT. TAXI/EXT. BEIJING VARIOUS - DAY

The girls are in a cab as beautiful city sights whiz by; Lolo
is taking photos with her professional camera out the window.
ANGLE ON Audrey staring at work emails on her phone, missing
all of this. Lolo notices, then flicks Audrey in the ear. *

LOLO
Hey! Stop working!

AUDREY
I'm sending one thing-- Okay it's
sent! (notices) *

Is that a new phone? *

LOLO
Yeah, pro tip: I always get a
Chinese burner phone. Cheaper than
paying for roaming. *

AUDREY
Oh. Should I have gotten one? *

LOLO
 Nah, it's fine, this thing doesn't
 even make calls, I'm pretty much
 just using it to slide into the DMs
 of CBA players. You know I've been
 texting with Stephon Marbury?

AUDREY
 Who?

LOLO
 Stephon Marbury. Two-time NBA All
 Star. Famously ate Vaseline and
 cried on camera? He's coaching the
 Beijing Royal Fighters. I'm gonna
 bang him, AND 1. AND 1 is a brand
 of shoes he had, I didn't expect
 you to know that.

AUDREY
 See, this is why I think you and
 Karen are gonna get along. She's
 also, ya know... very sexually...
 free.

LOLO
 Just say proud slut. Like, "I am a
 proud slut." Wut.

AUDREY
 In college she smashed five of her
 professors.

LOLO
 Not sure you get proud slut
 membership with just that--

AUDREY
 She made out with Andy Roddick...

LOLO
 Kinda child's play, tbh--

AUDREY
 And she has a tattoo on her vagina.

This stops Lolo cold.

EXT. KAREN'S TOWNHOUSE - EVENING (CONTINUOUS)

They exit the taxi and step onto a high-end street lined with
 sleek townhomes.

LOLO
 Hold up, Karen has a pussy tatt?

DEADEYE

Respect.

LOLO

What's it of? Color or monochrome?
How big is it?

AUDREY

I don't know, I've never seen it--
(checks house number)
This is it.

Audrey presses the BUZZER. As they wait:

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Don't say anything about her
tattoo. I shouldn't have mentioned
it.

LOLO

Fine, I won't. I just gotta get it
out of my system.

(stream of shouting)

KAREN GOT A PUSSY TAT, PUSSY TAT
KAREN, WHATCHU GOT DOWN UNDER, A
TATTOO ON YA PUSSY, OK MATE!

(then)

Okay I'm good.

The door OPENS.

INT. KAREN'S TOWNHOUSE - EVENING (CONTINUOUS)

Audrey, Lolo and Deadeye enter the luxuriously-appointed home
as KAREN, 27, greets them.

KAREN

Audrey! You're here!!!

AUDREY

Karen!

Karen and Audrey squeal and hug. Karen is serene, elegant, and
sports a giant diamond engagement ring-- she looks nothing at
all like a woman with a pussy tattoo.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Oh my god, you look amazing!

KAREN

You look amazing!

AUDREY

This house is amazing!

Lolo looks around and rolls her eyes-- Karen's wall decor
consists of framed articles and magazine photos of herself.

Karen, meanwhile, takes in Lolo's absolutely ratchet outfit and makeup vibe. Doesn't love it. *

KAREN
(faux enthusiastic)
Lolo.

LOLO
Karen.

KAREN
(to Deadeye)
And you must be the last minute
cousin. What was your name? *

DEADEYE
My legal name is Vanessa. Call me
Deadeye.

KAREN
(weirded out)
Oh. Lovely.

Karen glances at Audrey who tries to cheerfully move past it:

AUDREY
Thanks again for having us and
making extra accommodations.

KAREN
No trouble, I have plenty of guest
rooms.
(pointed)
I mean, I planned our itinerary for
three, BUT the more the merrier...
And how often do I get to see my
bestie!

Karen squeals as she links arms with Audrey. Lolo looks
annoyed to be edged out.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Tonight we're going to Radiance,
they know me there, so the dress
code will be no problem.

She looks at Lolo's outfit disdainfully. *

LOLO
Radiance, never heard of it. Sounds
lame. *

SMASH TO: *

INT. RADIANCE CLUB - NIGHT

A massive, luxe club spanning several floors. Lolo's jaw drops: nothing about this place is lame. It's fucking awesome. She and Audrey are wide-eyed as Karen leads them through the club, which has oversized chandeliers and MODEL WAITSTAFF ferrying silver buckets of champagne to Beijing's colorful "it" crowd. They head towards a VIP booth, where their table is laden with cocktails, dumplings, and treats.

AUDREY

Karen, I love this place!

KAREN

Right?

(then)

Let's get a picture!

Karen takes a group selfie, checks it. Sees Deadeye's face.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Not everyone is smiling, redo!

(sees Deadeye's look)

Nevermind. Ooh, Clarence is here, he just texted!

DEADEYE

Who's Clarence.

KAREN

My fiance.

LOLO

(aside to Deadeye)

Dork name.

KAREN

There he is!

Karen waves at CLARENCE, 30, who is wending his way towards them. The crowd looks like it's almost magically...parting for him? Because HOLY SHIT: this dude is the hottest piece of ass in the Middle Kingdom (think Harry Shum, Jr.). He's so good-looking, it's distracting.

LOLO

(low, to Audrey)

Why does she get to fuck this guy?

This is so unfair.

Clarence arrives at their booth and Karen slips her hand into his. He raises it to his lips and kisses it, looking lovingly at Karen the whole time. Lolo can't believe this shit.

AUDREY

(to Karen)

So! Tell us about the TV show you're on.

(MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

(to others)

Karen's a big time actress now!

*
*

KAREN

Oh, stop, you're too kind. But yes, it's called *Unit 8*, I play *Chunhwa*, the good girl. I was the good girl on my last two dramas, too. It's kind of my brand.

*
*

CLARENCE

It's what drew me to her. She's as pure and beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside.

Audrey reacts surprised, pure? Clarence and Karen nuzzle. Lolo, still thirsting after Clarence, pours herself an entire glass of vodka, then sees Karen looking at her, judgy.

*
*

LOLO

Did you want some?

KAREN

Oh, we don't drink.

CLARENCE

We just get high on Jesus.

LOLO

HAHAHAHA!

(off Karen and Clarence)

Oh, you're not joking...

KAREN

(hurriedly)

Why would we joke about that? Audrey, that was one of the first things I told you when we met, remember? That I was a good, Christian girl saving myself for marriage?

AUDREY

(confused)

Did you...?

LOLO

So you guys have never had sex--

KAREN

(quickly)

Our connection is based on spiritual, not physical intimacy.

LOLO

Did you have a spiritual connection with Andy Roddick's taint?

Karen glares at Lolo, but it all goes over Clarence's head.

CLARENCE

You girls are so funny. I love when
old friends get together, they
always have inside jokes no one
else would get.

KAREN

Darling, maybe you should get some
air.

(to girls, re: Lolo's
drink)

If he gets too close to alcohol his
skin gets itchy.

*

CLARENCE

My dewdrop. Always thinking of me.
I am a little itchy, actually.

He gets up and takes off his sweater, his T-shirt riding up
to show a perfect six-pack. Lolo's mouth falls open. Clarence
pecks Karen on the cheek and exits. Lolo turns to Karen:

LOLO

How are you not fucking that?!

KAREN

You're being vulgar. Also it's none
of your business.

LOLO

You're right, I apologize.

(beat)

So has Clarence ever seen your
pussy tat?

Audrey chokes on her drink. Deadeye calmly eats a dumpling.

*

KAREN

It's gone. Lasers can work
miracles. Lasers and prayer. Gone.

LOLO

Prove it.

KAREN

(cold smile)

Yolo Lolo. I used to be a bit of a
mess like you... but I grew out of
it.

*

*

This stings Lolo, but she quickly recovers.

LOLO

Are you sure, because some strains
of HPV never leave the immune sys--

Audrey jumps in.

AUDREY
Hey, does anyone wanna dance? Let's go!

KAREN
I would love to, but first--
(pointedly to Lolo)
I have a very important question
for my best friend Audrey.
(to Audrey)
Would you be my maid of honor?

AUDREY
Ohmygod, YES! Of course!

Hugs. Squeals. Lolo stares at them, sullen.

KAREN
Wait, wait, that's not all--
(dramatic pause)
Guess where I'm going to be next
summer. Chicago!

AUDREY
What?

LOLO
WHAT.

KAREN
(giddy)
I got a part in a movie that's
shooting there! Top secret, so I
can't say anything but isn't it
exciting!!!

More hugs. More squeals.

AUDREY
Oh my god that's AMAZING!
Congratulations! And we finally get
to hang out again?!

KAREN
REUNITED!

AUDREY
I'm so happy for you!

KAREN
I'm happy for us!

Audrey's delighted. Karen's delighted. Lolo's shocked and
rapidly getting to enraged-- this is a NIGHTMARE scenario for
her-- which makes Karen even more delighted.

KAREN (CONT'D)
I can't wait to see your new place,
Miss Homeowner!

LOLO
(to Audrey)
Wait, your new place... you bought
it?

AUDREY
(slightly awkward)
Oh yeah, it's no big deal, it's
just a condo.

LOLO
Why didn't you tell me?

AUDREY
I just, uh... you know...

It's clear why Audrey didn't tell Lolo: she didn't want her
broke-ass friend to feel bad/less successful.

KAREN
Who knows, maybe if I like Chicago
I'll end up staying there for good!

Karen is really sticking it to Lolo now. She turns to Audrey.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Now let's go dance! To celebrate!
(re: music)
Remember this song?!

"OMG" by Usher is playing.

AUDREY
Winter formal!

Karen grabs Audrey's hand and leads her to the dance floor,
leaving Lolo and Deadeye at the booth.

LOLO
(snippy)
What even films in Chicago??

DEADEYE
Chicago Hope. Chicago Fire. Chicago
Med. Chicago PD.

LOLO
Shut up.

DEADEYE
The Chi.

LOLO
Stop!

DEADEYE
 (getting up)
 I like this song.

*
 *
 *

Deadeye stands up in her seat and begins a weird dance with her arms in front of her like a cat. OFF Lolo, angrily looking at Karen and Audrey having a great time on the dance floor.

*
 *
 *

INT./EXT. BEIJING - VARIOUS

We see a MINI-MONTAGE of the girls enjoying Beijing:

TEMPLE: Audrey and Karen, arm-in-arm, walk the peaceful grounds as Lolo takes photos of the temple and garden. Deadeye, lagging behind everyone, has earbuds in and is listening to BTS.

*
 *
 *
 *

MUSEUM: Audrey and Karen walk up to the ticket booth as Lolo scrounges in her bag for cash. Deadeye, earbuds in, listening to Girls' Generation, ends up buying her ticket for her.

*
 *
 *

HIGH-END BOUTIQUE: Audrey and Karen happily shop for bags. Lolo checks a price tag and recoils. She sullenly goes to sit down next to Deadeye, who is listening to After School.

*
 *

KAREN'S HOUSE: Lolo lies around, bored, as Audrey works on her laptop. Karen enters and surprises Audrey with a gift-- she's bought her one of the bags! Deadeye has earbuds in and is listening to Blackpink.

*
 *

Off Lolo, feeling left out...

EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY

Lolo leads the group as they walk through a painfully generic industrial park. Audrey and Karen look around, unsure what they're doing there.

*

LOLO
 Just down this way!

Audrey looks at Deadeye, who's still got her earbuds in.

AUDREY
 What are you listening to?

DEADEYE
 BTS. I'm proud ARMY. I would let RM and Suga spitroast me while Jungkook filmed it with one hand and jerked off Jimin with the other. No disrespect to the other three.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

On Audrey, okay then. She calls to Lolo.

*

AUDREY

Uhh... So where are we going?

LOLO

Listen, we've been doing Karen's itinerary this whole time. And it's been great-- I stole two robes from the Mandarin hotel spa. But you should also see the real Beijing, ya know? Get back to your roots.

KAREN

(looking around,
unimpressed)

We're in a business park.

LOLO

Here it is!

Lolo turns the corner, gestures to a sign on one of the offices: "Gladwell Adoption Services."

AUDREY

What?

Deadeye, seeing the sign, finally takes out her earbuds.

DEADEYE

Interesting.

LOLO

This is the agency that handled your adoption. So you can finally find your birth mom!

AUDREY

(thrown)

Wow. This is a lot--

KAREN

It's too much.

LOLO

Oh, so sorry that I planned a cool surprise instead of another museum tour with a docent.

(to Audrey)

Come on, I made an appointment and everything!

AUDREY

Our schedule's pretty packed already...

LOLO

Remember in fourth grade when we had to draw family trees and you put Mary and Joe, but you also left a branch open for your birth mom? I know you think about her.

*

AUDREY

Thinking about her doesn't mean I was trying to find her...

LOLO

Yeah, but we're here! You're back in China for the first time since you were a baby. Aren't you curious? Like, where is she now? What does she do? What's her name, even?

*

Lolo holds up her phone, showing the picture of Audrey's birth mom. Audrey finally sighs, relenting to Lolo's enthusiasm.

*

AUDREY

Okay, I guess it can't hurt. They'll either know or they won't, right? And then we can move on.

*

LOLO

Right!

As they head in...

KAREN

Just a reminder, we have the oxygen bar at six.

*

*

Lolo sighs, shakes her head; Karen is so lame.

INT. GLADWELL ADOPTION SERVICES - OFFICE - LATER

*

Audrey and the gang sit across from a PERKY ADOPTION AGENT (40s, American, think Michelle Buteau). There are multiple portraits on display of happy American couples with their Chinese babies.

*

*

*

PERKY AGENT

(warm, reassuring)

...on top of providing adoption services, we also reunite adoptees with their birth parents every day! We are honored to be part of your journey of discovery.

LOLO

Hear that? A journey of discovery.

*

PERKY AGENT
I just need your passport to
confirm your ID.

*
*

LOLO
Sure!

Lolo hands Audrey's passport to the Agent, who takes it, types
it into her computer.

LOLO (CONT'D)
(off Audrey's look)
I took it out of your travel bag
this morning.

*
*

KAREN
That's a huge violation of privacy.

LOLO
K calm down, Karen. Audrey and I
are pretty much family, she's fine.

*
*
*

PERKY AGENT
(typing, off passport)
Audrey Han Sullivan. I'm just going
to notify the U.S. Embassy of your
visit, it's standard procedure...

*
*
*
*
*

AUDREY
Is that really necessary?

*
*

PERKY AGENT
It's just a formality. The Embassy
requests a log of all returning
adoptees.

*
*
*
*

Audrey looks a bit uneasy. As the Perky Agent types:

*

LOLO
(to Perky Agent, off
nametag)
So, Tina. What brought you to
Beijing? Chinese husband?

*
*
*
*
*

DEADEYE
Chinese wife?

*
*

LOLO
Or are you like secretly a quarter
Chinese?

*
*
*

KAREN
I apologize for my nosy friends--

*
*

LOLO
Ya know, I'm starting to see it
around the ears. You got a lowkey
Asian grandpa or something?

*
*
*
*

PERKY AGENT

Uhp, I found your file Audrey! Your adoption happened before everything was digitized, so I don't have much information here. But I have your file number and whether your birth mother agreed to be contacted. Good news! She agreed!

At this, Audrey looks surprised but also a bit intrigued -- *this is the first moment that sparks a genuine interest in her birth mother.*

LOLO

Oh shit! Your mom wanted to meet a bitch!

PERKY AGENT

I can go into the archives and pull the full file, if you'd like.

The Perky Agent looks to Audrey. Everyone else looks to her too, waiting as Audrey considers. Finally:

AUDREY

Okay. Yes. Sure.

PERKY AGENT

I'll be right back!

The Perky Agent exits.

LOLO

FUCK YEAH BABY, WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND MOMMALA! THIS IS EPICCCC--

SMASH TO:

INT. GLADWELL ADOPTION SERVICES - OFFICE - LATER

A couple hours later. The girls are getting antsy.

AUDREY

Why's this taking so long?

KAREN

I guess I'll call and cancel the oxygen bar... Thanks Lolo.

The Perky Agent enters with a folder, followed by a stern-looking, humorless U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIAL (think Jon Hamm).

PERKY AGENT

Okay, so sorry to keep you waiting! This is Agent Lindstrom, from the U.S. Embassy.

LOLO
You are distractingly hot, are you
aware of that?

EMBASSY OFFICIAL
(subtitled, perfect Mandarin)
Thank you, that's very kind of you.

LOLO
(surprised and impressed)
Okay, white guy who speaks Chinese?
I am full WAP right now.

PERKY AGENT
I've asked him here because we
found a little something funky in
your file.

AUDREY
Is something wrong?

PERKY AGENT
I wouldn't say something's wrong,
it's just interesting! When I
retrieved your file, it turns out
that your adoption papers were
unsigned.

AUDREY
So...

EMBASSY OFFICIAL
Without a signature from a birth
parent, according to Hague
Convention laws enacted in 1995,
the year you were born, the
adoption is technically void. And
by extension, so is your birth
certificate, social security
number, and passport.

AUDREY
Excuse me?

KAREN
I knew this was a bad idea!

LOLO
Wait, I III know what's going on
here. This is some kinda scam,
right? Tina, are you trying to make
us pay some bribe to your fake hot
Embassy Official?

Lolo takes out her burner phone, starts filming the scene.

LOLO (CONT'D) *
 (into phone) *
 "Wassup you guys, I'm here on Insta *
 Live, about to uncover a scam!" *

The Embassy Official sighs, annoyed. *

EMBASSY OFFICIAL *
 For the record, the U.S. Embassy is *
 not asking for a bribe. But in *
 accordance with Hague Convention *
 rules, Ms. Sullivan's adoption *
 papers needs to be legally signed *
 by a birth parent. *

PERKY AGENT *
 If you hadn't come in here and had *
 us pull the file, we wouldn't have *
 known this was an issue! *

LOLO *
 Are you guys serious? Is this one *
 of those wack hidden camera shows? *

Lolo gives Deadeye her phone to continue filming, then she *
 starts pacing around, opening drawers, cabinets, etc. *

LOLO (CONT'D) *
 Where are you Ashton Kootcher?! *

Audrey's trying to remain calm. *

AUDREY *
 I'm sorry. How do we fix this? *

PERKY AGENT *
 It's not a big deal, really! You *
 just need to track down your birth *
 mother and get her to sign the *
 adoption papers. We have all the *
 information here. *

KAREN *
 But what if we can't find her? *

EMBASSY OFFICIAL *
 If you don't get the signature, *
 Audrey's adoption case will be put *
 under review. There's a backlog of *
 cases, so it may take up to six *
 months. *

AUDREY *
 Six months?! *

EMBASSY OFFICIAL
 I wish I could expedite, but I
 wouldn't want to be accused of any
 impropriety given that we are 'live
 on Instagram'.

LOLO
 Are you wearing a wire? I'm gonna
 need you to take off your shirt.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL
 (to phone)
 Again, for the record, everything
 I'm doing is standard procedure.
 This woman is sexually harassing
 me.

LOLO
 I'm not sexually harassing you, I
 am merely trying to confirm... IF
 YOU'RE A FAKE AGENT OR NOT!

Lolo darts forward and grabs the Embassy Official's badge and
 shows it to Deadeye, who is still filming.

LOLO (CONT'D)
 Look at this, this is clearly
 photoshopped, nobody hot is named
 Gary, this is obviously fake--

The Embassy Official snatches his badge back.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL
 I'm named after my father. In the
meantime, we will be keeping Ms.
 Sullivan's passport at the Embassy.
 Until your case is resolved, you
 can't leave China.

AUDREY
 But I'm spearheading a major client
 pitch, I have to be back in Chicago
 in a week!

EMBASSY OFFICIAL
 You'll be fine as long as you get
 the signature by Friday. We close
 at 5pm.

PERKY AGENT
 Welp, we promised you a journey,
 right ladies? Here's the file! Good
 luck!

The Perky Agent hands Audrey the file. The girls look
 dumbfounded as they walk out: wtf just happened?

EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

As soon as they're out of sight of the agency doors, Audrey smacks Lolo.

LOLO
Okay that didn't go as planned--

AUDREY
They took my passport because of you! What am I supposed to do, I have to be at work next week and I can't leave the country!

Lolo takes the file out of her hands and flips through it.

LOLO
Just chill out! All we need to do is track down your birth mom and get her to sign the papers.

KAREN
Yes, in three days.

LOLO
So we work fast. There's an address and a phone number--

Deadeye looks at the file and dials the number...

DEADEYE
The phone number doesn't work.

KAREN
Let me try.

She dials as Deadeye studies the file.

KAREN (CONT'D)
(hanging up)
It's an old number, it's not surprising...

DEADEYE
(studying file)
Your mom is listed as Wu Ming Shi.
"Nameless person."

KAREN
(off Audrey's look, softening it)
It translates more as "Jane Doe".
That's not going to help. But we do have an address in Xitang. Where is that?

DEADEYE
 (googling)
 An hour outside Shanghai.
 (to Lolo)
 Near Nai-Nai's.

LOLO
 Great, let's go! We'll take the
 train, easy-peasy.

KAREN
 Audrey, I can tell you're
 traumatized. Let's just take a
 black car. I have a service I use,
 it'll be simpler. And frankly, I
 prefer to avoid public
 transportation when I can. I get
 recognized a fair amount.

LOLO
 You're not famous, Karen.

KAREN
 (pleasantly)
 Maybe not in America. We'll see
 once I get to Chicago. But here...

Karen ever so subtly tips her head towards a few people down
 the street; they're pretending to take a photo, but it's
 clearly to get Karen in the background.

LOLO
 I'll believe you when I see that
 happen forty more times today.

AUDREY
 (thinking)
 If the car has wifi--

KAREN
 It does!

AUDREY
 --then let's take the car. I have
 an important Zoom call tomorrow and
 I don't want any distractions.

KAREN
 Great! I'll set it up.

AUDREY
 Thanks!
 (pulling herself together)
 Let's just get this done.

Karen puts an arm around Audrey and they begin to walk away as
 Lolo looks on, scowling. As they pass the giggling fans who
 were taking a stealth pic of Karen:

LOLO
 (subtitled in Mandarin)
She's a huge bitch, FYI.

The fans eyes' widen, horrified that someone insulted their idol, and raise their phones to film Lolo, who flips them off as she walks away.

EXT. KAREN'S TOWNHOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY (NEXT MORNING)

Audrey, Lolo, and Deadeye are putting overnight bags into a black Escalade with the help of the driver, ARTHUR (think Jimmy O. Yang). Clarence and Karen emerge; Clarence is holding a GIANT fucking Louis Vuitton suitcase.

LOLO
 What the FUCK, this is a two-day trip.

KAREN
 I have to look my best at all times. None of my fans want to see Chunhwa with a hair out of place or anything less than perfect makeup, much less repeating outfits.

LOLO
 We're going to a village in the middle of nowhere, I'm sure it's fine if Chunhwa looks raggedy.

Clarence faces Karen to say goodbye.

CLARENCE
 Goodbye, my dewdrop. Have an amazing trip.

KAREN
 I'll miss you.

CLARENCE
 I'll miss you too, but I'll be tracking your every move.

He holds up his phone-- he and Karen have each other's locations on.

LOLO
 (to Audrey)
 Ugh, of course they're one of those couples that have location sharing on.

CLARENCE
 And if you need me, just send me our bat signal and I'll be there.

AUDREY
Bat signal?

KAREN
It's for emergencies. Like if
something happens and I need
Clarence to come right away, I send
him a bat emoji. It's cute.

LOLO
Celibate and smothering, worst of
both worlds.

CLARENCE
(to Karen)
I'll check in every hour on the
hour, of course.

KAREN
Of course.
(leaning in)
And I'll be thinking about you in
between.

She glances over at Lolo; she's playing it just the slightest
bit sultry, on purpose. Lolo rolls her eyes, Karen leans in to
give Clarence a kiss...and he beats her to it, pecking her
ever so lightly on the lips.

CLARENCE
I love you. Have fun!

He exits. A beat, the Lolo laughs.

LOLO
Wow. Denied.

KAREN
(stiffly)
I don't know what you're talking
about.

LOLO
You were going for an actual smooch
there, like maybe even slip him
some tongue, and Saint Clarence was
like NOPE. He blueballed you. Your
balls are aching.

KAREN
(icy smile)
If you're ever actually in a
genuine, adult relationship, you'll
realize how trashy and unnecessary
that sounds.

LOLO
 (holding phone out to her)
 How long's it been since you've
 seen a dick? Look at this one!

Karen ignores her as she gets in the car. Lolo shrugs and
 shows the pic to Deadeye instead.

DEADEYE
 (looking)
 Why is it hole-first.

LOLO
 I dunno, people try things. I'll
 take a bold choice, even if it's a
 bad choice.

INT. BLACK CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Arthur greets the girls.

ARTHUR
 (subtitled in Mandarin)
Ni hao, I am your driver for today.
So happy to meet you.
 (in accented English)
 I am Arthur.

KAREN
 (subtitled in Mandarin)
Hi Arthur! You must be new, I
haven't seen you before.

ARTHUR
Yes, I recently joined the company!

Lolo whispers to the other girls.

LOLO
 Arthur has crazy eyes.

KAREN
 What are you talking about?

LOLO
 I'm an expert on crazy eyes and I
 can tell, this dude is crazy.

KAREN
 Don't be ridiculous.

Audrey pulls out her laptop.

AUDREY
 Ooh, the wifi's working, I have so
 many work emails to get through.
 (MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Thanks for setting up the car,
Karen!

KAREN

Of course. I'll have car service in
Chicago too, so get used to this
kind of luxury when we're hanging
out ALL THE TIME!

Lolo's eyes narrow. Deadeye puts in her headphones.

DEADEYE

Let me know if my music is too
loud.

Deadeye closes her eyes. The music is pounding out of her
headphones.

KAREN

Is that-- how does she sleep
through that?

Everyone shrugs. Arthur turns back to Karen.

ARTHUR

*Miss Karen, I am a big fan of your
show. I never miss an episode.*

KAREN

*Oh my god, really?! Tell me all
about your favorites!!!*

Lolo looks like she's about to murder/suicide someone.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. BLACK CAR - LATER

The car drives along. Karen is now sitting in the passenger
seat, next to Arthur.

ARTHUR

(excitedly)
*And then last season, when Rocky
betrayed you at your sister's
wedding?! So good!*

KAREN

*Aww, thank you, Arthur! You're too
sweet.*

As Karen continues chatting pleasantly with Arthur, Lolo
watches them, whispering to Audrey and Karen.

LOLO

*She's gotta have set this whole
thing up, right?*

(MORE)

LOLO (CONT'D)

It's just such a coincidence that
the driver is a huge fan of hers.

AUDREY

(absentmindedly, still
focused on her laptop)
Lay off. It's nice that she has
fans.

In the front of the car, Arthur is still excitedly fanboying
to Karen about the show.

ARTHUR

*...Chunhwa should not be with Rocky
anyway. You went to medical school,
you could have been a doctor. Qiang
was a better choice!*

KAREN

*Wow, Qiang was from Season 1! You
really know the show!*

ARTHUR

It's my favorite. In fact...

Arthur lifts up a sleeve to reveal that he has a tattoo of her
character Chunhwa's face on his wrist.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

*I am such a big fan, I got a
"Chunhwa" tattoo.*

In the backseat, the others register this: WTF? Karen pats
Arthur on the hand.

KAREN

I love it, Arthur.

Arthur beams, stares in awe at the hand Karen touched.

ARTHUR

*Now I am never washing this hand!
Thank you, Chunhwa!*

KAREN

*Aw, you don't need to call me
Chunhwa, just Karen.*

ARTHUR

Of course, Chunhwa.

Lolo and Deadeye clock this and exchange a glance. Weird.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BLACK CAR - LATER

An empty stretch of road. As Arthur drives, PAN over everyone sleeping. In the back seat, Deadeye is snoring loudly even as music blasts from her headphones. Audrey is finally taking a break from her laptop and work files. Lolo is drooling, her phone propped up, mid-text. In the passenger seat, Karen is also asleep, but as the camera gets closer, she senses something in front of her face.

She opens her eyes to see Arthur STARING OVER HER.

KAREN

AAAAAA!

ARTHUR

AAAAAA!

Arthur swerves.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Sorry Chunhwa, you just looked so beautiful sleeping!

KAREN

I-- I'm not Chunhwa!

ARTHUR

You have amnesia! I will make you remember, Qiang is your one true love!

KAREN

What?!

By now the other girls are wide awake.

AUDREY

What's going on?

KAREN

Arthur, I'm going to need you to pull over.

ARTHUR

No, Qiang must get Chunhwa back from Rocky!

LOLO

Who the fuck is Qiang?!

DEADEYE

Qiang is Chunhwa's ex-boyfriend who she left for Rocky. He went crazy and killed himself in a car accident at the end of Season 1.

LOLO
Ummmm. 'SCUSE ME?

KAREN
Aw Deadeye, I didn't know you
watched Unit 8?

AUDREY
He killed himself in a car
accident?! We're in a car right
now!

Arthur starts ranting, driving errantically.

ARTHUR
*You're making a big mistake! Qiang
and Chunhwa must be together! This
is why I took the drivers' service
exam, to make this happen!*

KAREN
Arthur, please, just pull over--

ARTHUR
(deranged)
*Chunhwa and Qiang forever. There is
only one true love!*

AUDREY
Oh my god he's going to kill us
all!

LOLO
DO SOMETHING!

As Arthur continues babbling nonsense and driving dangerously,
Karen lunges for the wheel. A scuffle ensues as everyone
shouts.

ARTHUR
Chunhwa, don't do this!

KAREN
Just stop, please!

Finally Deadeye THWACKS Arthur on the head with Karen's
handbag, one SWIFT, HARD HIT. He's instantly out, falling
forward, unconscious, onto the wheel as the car spins out of
control. As everyone screams, Karen finally is able to
scramble partway over to grab the wheel and stick a foot on
the brake, but she can only slow the car down a little before
it crashes into the guardrail.

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD - LATER

The girls exit the smoking car. Arthur is unconscious and
bleeding, slumped over the wheel.

AUDREY
Ohmygod ohmygod. What do we do
now?!

LOLO
Let's not panic, okay?--aaaaah,
fuck! That's a whole lotta blood.

AUDREY
We need to call the police!

Karen holds up her phone.

KAREN
I don't have any service, we're in
the middle of nowhere.

DEADEYE
I don't have service either. And
the wifi is out too.

LOLO
Well well well. Look who's coming
to the rescue.

Lolo holds up her janky phone.

KAREN
You have service?

LOLO
Yeah, four bars. I can't make
calls, but I'll DM my grandparents
to come pick us up. Fuck it, I'll
just DM Stephon Marbury too, might
as well keep it going.

KAREN
Can you DM Clarence? He's going to
be so worried.

LOLO
Sure, what's his handle,
@drydickthreeinches?

DEADEYE
Um, you guys.

Deadeye points to Arthur who stirs and opens his eyes.

ARTHUR
(screams)

The girls react, panicky, but then he drops his head and
passes out again.

LOLO
We need to get the fuck away.

AUDREY
But he's hurt.

KAREN
I hate to agree with Lolo but I do
not want to be stuck in the middle
of nowhere with this psycho when he
wakes up.

Arthur stirs again, this time with a groan. The girls look to
each other and start rapidly walking away.

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD - LATER

Hours later. The girls, hot and cranky, looking bedraggled,
haul their stuff down the road. Audrey looks around at the
desolate scene as she listlessly holds up a hitchhiking hand.

AUDREY
How has it been hours and we
haven't seen one car?

LOLO
Maybe it's because everyone's
taking the train...

Lolo glares accusingly at Karen, who looks too weak to fight.

KAREN
Do we have any water? I need water.

Audrey turns to Lolo.

AUDREY
Have your grandparents responded
yet?

LOLO
No, not yet. They're probably
napping, they nap a lot. I hope
they respond soon though, my
battery's at like, 7%.

Karen dabs her face.

KAREN
At this point I don't even want to
be rescued. I can't be seen in
public looking like this.

LOLO
Like what, a melted-contour paste
monster?

Lolo picks up her camera and snaps a picture of Karen.

KAREN *
 Stop! *

LOLO *
 What, I'm just-- *
 (noticing) *
 Oh shit my phone just died. *

AUDREY *
 What?! You were just at 7%! *
 (off Lolo's shrug) *
 What are we going to do now?? *

DEADEYE *
 (squinting) *
 There's a sign up ahead. It says... *
 the next town is... 27 kilometers *
 away. *

AUDREY *
 That's going to take forever! *
 (spiraling) *
 That's just great. My work call is *
 in ten minutes and we're in the *
 middle of nowhere with no phones, *
 no food, no water... We are so *
 screwed. *

Just then, they hear a vehicle coming towards them. They turn *
 and see headlights. A glimmer of hope! *

KAREN *
 There's someone on the road! *

LOLO *
 It's a bus. Is there a bus stop on *
 this highway? *

The girls wave at the bus, trying to flag it down. *

AUDREY *
 It's slowing! *

As the bus gets closer, they can start to make out the logo on *
 the side... *

LOLO *
 Wait, Beijing Royal Fighters... *
 (gasps) *
 It's him. *

The bus stops. The doors open. STEPHON MARBURY appears, bathed *
 in light, gorgeous and god-like. *

STEPHON MARBURY *
 Hello. *

LOLO *
 Oh my god, Stephon Marbury. *

The other girls look shocked -- it really is him. *

STEPHON MARBURY *
 You must be Lolo. Do you still need *
 a ride? We're on our way to *
 Shanghai for a game. *

LOLO *
 Hell yeah we need a ride! *

STEPHON MARBURY *
 The only thing is... our A/C is *
 out, so... *

INT. CBA BUS - CONTINUOUS *

REVEAL: a bus full of SMOKING HOT, SWEATY, SHIRTLESS *
 BASKETBALL PLAYERS. Lolo smiles wide. Audrey's jaw drops. *
 Deadeye's jaw drops. Even Karen can't hide a hint of delight-- *
 this bus is heaven. *

KAREN *
 (breathless) *
 My goodness. *

Lolo settles into a seat next to Stephon and plugs her phone *
 into an outlet. The bus is tricked out with leather seats, TV *
 screens, and even a skylight. *

LOLO *
 The bus has wifi, Audrey, you can *
 do your Zoom call! *

AUDREY *
 (relieved) *
 Oh thank god! *
 (to Stephon Marbury) *
 You really saved us. *

STEPHON MARBURY *
 Of course I did. When someone asks *
 me for help, I'm there. *

Stephon Marbury looks intensely at Lolo. *

LOLO *
 Come murder my pussy. *

They start making out, hard. Audrey takes out her laptop to *
 set up her zoom call, then turns to Karen. *

AUDREY	*
Can we call the cops about Arthur?	*
We just left him in the car and he	*
could have a concussion or	*
something.	*
KAREN	*
Frankly, an insane stalker who	*
tried to murder us all might	*
deserve a concussion.	*
AUDREY	*
Right, well, at least the cops can	*
get him help? It's the right thing	*
to do.	*
KAREN	*
(sighs)	*
I know, I know...	*
VOICE (O.S.)	*
Karen? Karen Huang?	*
TODD (28, American, smoking hot and shirtless, of course) taps	*
Karen on the shoulder.	*
TODD	*
Sup chica. Fancy seein' you here.	*
KAREN	*
Uhhhh, I have no idea who you are.	*
AUDREY	*
Todd? From Northwestern?	*
TODD	*
Oh hey Audrey! Didn't see ya there.	*
AUDREY	*
It's so crazy running into you!	*
What are you doing in China?	*
TODD	*
Playing basketball professionally.	*
After college I didn't want to slum	*
it in the G-League, so I came here.	*
Now I'm the captain of the Royal	*
Fighters.	*
Todd nods at Karen, who is trying to look away.	*
TODD (CONT'D)	*
Why's Karen pretending not to know	*
me?	*
KAREN	*
My name's not Karen...	*

TODD *
 C'mon Huang. You don't remember *
 that weekend after finals? We set a *
 record, 23 times in a day. *

Lolo tears herself away from sucking face with Stephon Marbury *
 just in time to hear this. *

LOLO *
 Oh shit, did you bang this dude? *

KAREN *
 No! *

DEADEYE *
 She did, she's exhibiting every *
 telltale sign of lying. *

TODD *
 (to Karen) *
 Do you still have the tattoo? *

LOLO *
 Wait, you've seen the pussy tat?! *

KAREN *
 (panicky) *
 Excuse me but I have a really *
 important call that Audrey needs me *
 to make, right Audrey? *
 (to phone, in Mandarin) *
Hello? Is this the police? I'd like *
to report an accident I saw... *

Karen hurriedly moves away. ANGLE BACK ON Lolo and Marbury. *

LOLO *
 So. Wanna bang? *

STEPHON MARBURY *
 Oh hell yeah. But let me get to *
 know you a little first. *

LOLO *
 Aw, you're a romantic. Well I'm a *
 Capricorn with a Leo rising, I once *
 won \$300 on Wheel of Fortune, and *
 I'm an artist. But it's not like *
 I'm famous or anything. *

STEPHON MARBURY *
 Fame doesn't matter. What really *
 matters... is in here. *

Stephon Marbury reaches over as if to point to her heart, but *
 then cups her full breast. She smiles, into it. *

STEPHON MARBURY (CONT'D)
 Well now that we know each other,
 I'm thinking maybe we start with a
 little--
 (whispers)
 --and then some--
 (whispers)

LOLO
 (eyes wide)
 You can do that?

STEPHON MARBURY
 Only one way to find out.

Lolo and Marbury take off towards the back of the bus. ANGLE
 ON Audrey, headphones on, talking to Frank on her computer
 screen. INTERCUT WITH: Frank at the office.

FRANK (ON ZOOM)
 Audrey! How's China?

AUDREY
 Great so far, thank you! It's been
 a really educational trip.

FRANK (ON ZOOM)
 Fantastic. I wanted to give you an
 update. The WestStar pitch moved up
 a day -- is that a problem?

AUDREY (ON PHONE)
 Well my flight is supposed to get
 in that morning--

FRANK
 That's not good.

AUDREY
 No it's fine, I can come straight
 from the airport. I'll be there!

ANGLE ON Karen, sitting in the back of the bus, finishing her
 phone call. Deadeye comes by with a water, which Karen
 gratefully takes.

KAREN
 Thanks.
 (then, cautiously)
 Is Todd still looking?

Deadeye looks over at Todd.

DEADEYE
 No, he's playing Switch.

KAREN

You don't judge me, right Deadeye?
Because I'm different now. Now I
have Clarence and a great
relationship with Christ.

But Karen can't help looking around-- it's like every single
bball player on the bus is moving in SLOW-MO, flexing biceps,
stretching, showing off their sinewy muscles... Karen makes a
squeaky, pained noise.

DEADEYE

Are you audibly groaning from the
physical torture of years of pent-
up sexual frustration.

KAREN

(frantic)

Shut up!

ANGLE BACK ON Audrey on her zoom.

AUDREY

Frank, I promise you, I got this.

FRANK (ON ZOOM)

Just in case, we'll have Beckett
prepped to take over for you.

AUDREY

(insulted)

Beckett? He's a second year.

FRANK (ON ZOOM)

He's really stepped up since you've
been gone.

AUDREY

I just left! Look, you don't need
him. I'll make it work.

FRANK (ON ZOOM)

Audrey, I-- what's going on in the
background there?

Behind Audrey, two of the shirtless basketball players are
horsing around, throwing a mini basketball.

AUDREY

Oh, uh, nothing--

Suddenly, we hear a loud noise coming from outside the bus.

FRANK

What's that? Are those sirens?

Yes they are-- SIRENS BLARE as a police car appears behind the
bus, pulling it over.

Just then, one of the shirtless basketball players behind Audrey pantses the other, revealing his BUTT right in the Zoom frame. *

FRANK (CONT'D) *

Is that a butt?! What is going on-- *

AUDREY *

(frantic) *

I think the wifi on this bus is *

about to go out I'll have to catch *

you later Frank! Thanks! *

She shuts the zoom window. The police sirens continue as the bus driver pulls over, opens his door, and begins talking in Mandarin to a couple of POLICE OFFICERS who have approached the door and are standing outside. Audrey turns to Karen and Deadeye. *

AUDREY (CONT'D) *

Is this about Arthur? *

KAREN *

Yes, the cops found him. *

(listening) *

Oh shit. *

Karen and Deadeye share a look of concern as they listen in on the conversation in Mandarin. *

DEADEYE *

You never should've called the *

police. *

KAREN *

I didn't want to, but-- *

Karen doesn't want to say it's Audrey's fault. *

AUDREY *

What's happening?? *

DEADEYE *

Apparently Arthur is the son of a *

government official. He told the *

cops the actress who plays Chunhwa *

and three of her friends attacked *

him and left him for dead. *

AUDREY *

What?!

KAREN *

They want to bring us in for *

questioning. *

AUDREY
We can't! We don't have time, we
have to get to Xitang tonight!

DEADEYE
He's coming on the bus.

ANGLE ON one of the police officers ascending the bus steps.
He's a huge, scary-looking man with Khal Drogo vibes. The
girls all reflexively duck down.

AUDREY
We have to hide!

Audrey, Deadeye, and Karen run for the bathroom in the back--

INT. CBA BUS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The girls rush into the tiny bathroom, which is occupied by...
Lolo, propped up high against the wall, legs wrapped around
Stephon Marbury's face.

LOLO
AND 1! AND 1! AND 1!

AUDREY
Shhh!

STEPHON MARBURY
(muffled)
The fuck?

As the girls cram on in, Karen can't squeeze in.

KAREN
We're not all gonna fit--

INT. CBA BUS - CONTINUOUS

Karen is left outside as the bathroom door slams shut. As the
Police Officer steps onto the bus, Karen is going to be caught
until Todd suddenly grabs her and covers her with a blanket.
Karen is left with her face in Todd's lap. The Police Officer
steps up, addresses the bus.

POLICE OFFICER
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
*Attention! The driver says four
girls came onto this bus. Where are
they now?*

The Basketball Players all look at each other: what to say?
Todd pipes up.

TODD
*They're gone. They jumped out the
 window about fifteen minutes ago.*

The Police Officer slowly walks over, stares at Todd.

POLICE OFFICER
Four girls? Jumped out the window?

TODD
*Yes, it was crazy. They couldn't
 stand the A/C being out I guess.*

POLICE OFFICER
Why were they even on the bus?

TODD
*They were guests of our coach,
 Stephon Marbury.*

POLICE OFFICER
Ah, Coach Marbury. Where is he now?

TODD
Umm...

INT. CBA BUS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Inside the bathroom, Lolo, Stephon Marbury, Audrey, and Deadeye are all crammed against each other. They whisper.

LOLO
Shit. What are we gonna do?

AUDREY
Just be quiet, maybe he'll leave!

DEADEYE
Is that your erection.

STEPHON MARBURY
Yeah.

LOLO
*What if we Shawshanked our way out?
 I'll climb into this toilet right
 now.*

STEPHON MARBURY
*Maybe we hijack the bus. Does
 anyone have a weapon?*

LOLO
(intense)
I know where there's a weapon.

She reaches below frame, making heavy eye contact with him,
and they start making out furiously again. Audrey and Deadeye
both squirm, trying to avert their eyes. Audrey uncomfortably
looks towards the ceiling, only to see Lolo's camera mounted
on the wall and pointing down at them.

AUDREY
Ew, you guys were filming?

STEPHON MARBURY
I love breaking down game tape. It
only makes me better.

Audrey, wheels turning, points to the camera...

AUDREY
I have an idea...

INT. CBA BUS - CONTINUOUS

The Police Officer is now having a conversation with Todd as
Karen tries hard not to move... which is difficult given that
she's sweating under a blanket, in the lap of an ex-boyfriend.

POLICE OFFICER
*...I lost 200 yuan last game when
you missed that shot at the buzzer.
Next time maybe you pass to your
teammates who are open.*

TODD
(getting annoyed)
I'll do that, Officer.

The Police Officer smiles thinly, then looks around.

POLICE OFFICER
*If you see those four girls, please
tell them the Jiashan Police want
to bring them in for questioning.*

The Officer turns to go. Under the blanket, Karen can't hold
it in any longer. She SNEEZES. The Officer whips back around.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
What was that?

TODD
That was... me.

The Officer looks down at the blanket.

POLICE OFFICER
Is your lap cold, captain?

TODD

*Yes, I like to balance being
shirtless with a warm lower body.*

It's stifling under the blanket. Karen can't help but fidget.

POLICE OFFICER

*Captain, I think you're hiding
someone under there.*

The Police Officer reaches for the blanket...AND SUDDENLY,
FROM THE BATHROOM, Marbury steps out, in his tighty-whites,
his arms behind him.

STEPHON MARBURY

(uber-polite)

Excuse me Officer, is there a
problem--

And suddenly he whips Lolo's camera out from behind his back
and snaps a picture, unleashing a BRIGHT FLASH which
temporarily blinds the officer.

POLICE OFFICER

Aaaa!

Marbury drops Lolo's camera, then charges down the aisle,
grabbing the Officer's cap as he rushes out the door.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

(high-pitched)

My hat!

The Officer runs after Marbury, allowing the girls to burst
out of the bathroom (and Karen to emerge from Todd's lap).
Lolo puts her camera around her neck, points at the skylight.

LOLO

Let's go!

Todd helps the girls as they start climbing out of the raised
skylight. As soon as they're all up, Karen turns and kisses
Todd on the cheek.

KAREN

Thank you!

EXT. CBA BUS / EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The girls climb out of the skylight and onto the roof of the
bus. Freedom! In the background, Stephon Marbury runs down the
highway as the Officer chases. As the other Officer in the car
calls for backup, the girls climb down a ladder from the roof
of the bus and start running down a side road.

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - LATER

The girls are in the clear. Karen looks around, realizes.

KAREN
Shit. My suitcase is still on that
bus-- Fuck. Fuckity fuck fuck FUCK!

LOLO
Wow. Do you kiss your fiancé with
that mouth? Oh wait.

KAREN
Hahahaha, you're SO funny Lolo,
FUCK YOU!

LOLO
Whoa. Are you mad about the
suitcase or because we're no longer
on the bus with your super hot ex?

KAREN
Shut up! This is all your fault. I
welcomed you into my home, you and
your weird cousin--

LOLO DEADEYE

Don't call Deadeye weird! Fair.

KAREN
And we should've been having high
tea at the Waldorf right now but
instead we're here and it's all
because of you!

LOLO
Hey. It's not ALL my fault--

AUDREY
I mean, it kinda is.

LOLO
You're taking her side??

AUDREY
I'm not taking anyone's side, but
we are here because you made me go
to the adoption agency. If we'd
never done that...

LOLO
Wow. Well, I'm sorry I messed up
all of Karen's dumb plans.

KAREN
It's fine, Audrey and I can do all
my dumb plans next summer in
Chicago.

LOLO

Maybe I'll move to Chicago too and
then me and Audrey will hang out
without you!

KAREN

Hmm, why do I have a feeling that
you'll never leave your parents'
house?

LOLO

You know what, fuck you, we're
never hanging out again after this.

KAREN

That's the best news I've heard all
day!

Karen and Lolo start shouting at each other as Audrey tries to
get in the middle.

AUDREY

Stop it! Stop fighting!

Finally, Deadeye whistles loudly, getting all their attention.
She holds up her phone.

DEADEYE

Grandma called. They sent our
cousin Deng to come get us. He's
already at the bridge in town.

Deadeye points into the village.

DEADEYE (CONT'D)

It's a five-minute walk from here.
Are you coming.

Deadeye looks to Audrey and Karen. Karen looks uncertain.

KAREN

I already sent Clarence the bat
signal, he's on his way.

DEADEYE

But Deng is already here.

Deadeye shows Deng's location nearby on her phone. Audrey
studies it, then:

AUDREY

Let's just go with Deng. We're so
close to Xitang, I'll just get the
signature and get back.

KAREN

Fine. Just let me get my things, oh
that's right, I have nothing now.

Lolo can't help but smile as Karen reluctantly follows.

EXT. RURAL VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The girls walk through an idyllic water town. Ancient buildings and shops line the streets.

AUDREY
This is a cute little village.

DEADEYE
It's an historic Chinese water town. It runs completely off hydroelectric power.

LOLO
We went to a water town once with the family years ago. There are a lot of them near Nai Nai's.

KAREN
Oh look! There's a wedding happening right now!

Several people carrying a red, ornate bridal sedan chair march past as onlookers gather to catch a glimpse of the bride in her traditional red gown.

DEADEYE
(to Audrey)
Xitang is also a water town. Your mom probably grew up in a place like this.

Audrey reacts at the mention of her "mom"... She looks around at the charming and colorful town, at the Chinese families, at a cute young mom and her daughter - she's starting to warm to the idea of connecting with her roots/mom... when a scary SNORTING WATER BUFFALO snaps her out of it -- it's one of many being herded by a gruff man towards the river.

GRUFF MAN
(in local dialect)
Be careful!

AUDREY
Sorry! *Dui bu qi!*

KAREN
They probably don't speak Mandarin here, just dialect. But you sounded good there, the accent was good!

Deadeye gently directs the girls around the corner.

DEADEYE

The bridge is this way. I think
Deng's just on the other side.

They turn the corner, only to see...

EXT. BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

A flooded bridge. Muddy river water has completely wiped out
the road. Fuck. A faraway figure waves from the other side of
the river. It's DENG. Deadeye looks up from her texts.

DEADEYE

That's Deng. He can't get across.
He says we have to wait until the
water recedes.

AUDREY

How long is that going to take?!

DEADEYE

I don't know. At least several
hours. Maybe a day or two.

AUDREY

We don't have that kind of time!

Audrey looks to the river, then back at the shore, where there
is a boathouse nearby. She points to several dragonboats
outside.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

What are those?

DEADEYE

Dragonboats. The Dragonboat
Festival is coming up soon, it's a
national holiday.

Audrey looks back at the river, wheels turning.

AUDREY

It can't be more than a thousand
meters across... The water is very
calm, super flat conditions, no
wind... What if we rowed across?

KAREN

You're not serious.

AUDREY

(getting excited)
I rowed crew in college. Well, I
mean, I was the coxswain, but
still. It's not far at all, we can
take these sculls--

DEADEYE
They're dragonboats.

AUDREY
--And row them across, easy! It's
basically a dash, it'll take like
five minutes max.

DEADEYE
I'm down. I set a record on the row
machine at the Alhambra LA Fitness.

LOLO
Okayyyy. Why not, let's fucking GO!

KAREN
Can't we just wait? I mean,
Clarence might be here soon. Or
maybe they can drain the bridge...

LOLO
Ugh, what is it, you don't want to
get sweaty and ruin your makeup?

KAREN
No, it's not that--

LOLO
Oh, so you're just a bad friend
then? Okay, cool!

KAREN
Shut. Up. It's just-- I can't swim,
okay??

She looks genuinely fearful.

AUDREY
You'll be fine, we're not going to
be swimming, we're going to be in a
boat.

KAREN
But what if something goes wrong?

AUDREY
Listen, I've spent like a thousand
hours on the water in crew and I've
never, ever had anyone catch a crab
and go overboard. Catch a crab,
crew term.

LOLO
(pointedly)
We're going with Audrey. If you
want to wait for Clarence, then you
can stay here!

Karen hesitates, then looks to Audrey. *

KAREN *

You promise you won't let me drown? *

AUDREY *

I promise. *

KAREN *

Alright... *

The girls approach a boat. Audrey grabs the waterproof boat bag and sticks her adoption file in it along with everyone's phones and her laptop; at the last second, Lolo manages to cram her camera in there as well. Audrey starts barking directions. *

AUDREY *

Okay. Hands on! That's a crew term for "grab it". Now, let's walk it forward! *

On the shore, they see a MAN emerge past the boathouse, waving at them from afar. *

KAREN *

(subtitled, in Mandarin) *

Sorry, we don't understand dialect! *

We're just renting the boat! *

Karen waves some money and puts it into a collection box near the boathouse. The girls push the boat onto the water as the man continues yelling at them in local dialect, waving, pointing at his watch, almost as if he's warning them not to get on the water right now... *

EXT. RIVER - CONTINUOUS *

The gang sets out across the river. Audrey is in the back, shouting directions as they paddle. *

AUDREY *

Left! Right! Left! Right! Three, you're late! Good work, one! All four, on the square, gimme a power ten, now! *

They're doing really well, already midway across the river. As they get there, Audrey shouts out a command. *

AUDREY (CONT'D) *

Hold water! *

LOLO *

(still paddling) *

What?! *

AUDREY
Stop!

LOLO
Then just say that!

Everyone stops paddling for a little break. Audrey looks out onto the water.

AUDREY
Sorry, it's just that I wanted to look at the view. It's beautiful out here.

It really is. They all take a quiet beat to admire the scenery, take it all in. And then...the boat starts moving. Lolo looks around, confused.

LOLO
Wait, we're not paddling.

DEADEYE
The water's moving.

KAREN
What? What's happening?!

The boat is now moving fast down the river as the water around them churns.

DEADEYE
The dam must be on a timer. That's why no one was on the river, they probably have some hydropower release schedule.

LOLO
So where are we headed?

DEADEYE
Probably intake turbines?

AUDREY
Oh shit! Row backwards, let's get back to shore!

They all start paddling backwards, but the water is churning too fast.

KAREN
(starting to cry)
Oh my god we're going to die!!!

AUDREY
Keep going, let me just see--

Audrey stands up to quickly survey the situation.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Shit. We're headed to a turbine,
but there's a safe overflow to the
right! We just need to go right,
it's gonna be okay-- AAA!

Audrey's oar suddenly catches the water, breaking the blade
off completely.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

SHIT SHIT SHIT! I caught a crab.

KAREN

What the fuck does that mean?!

AUDREY

Just keep rowing right!

The boat is fast approaching the fork in the river, marked by
a buoy: in front of them is the dam intake/turbine situation,
to the right is the safe zone of river overflow. Karen starts
sobbing.

KAREN

I never wanted to get on the boat!

LOLO

Oh FUCK when you said turbines,
it's like...fuckin' TURBINES!

The turbines are now clearly in view as the water churns even
faster. Lolo and Deadeye frantically paddle on the left side,
trying to make the boat turn right, but they're coming up on
the fork, fast.

LOLO (CONT'D)

We're not gonna make it!

AUDREY

We are, we're just gonna need to
abandon ship!

KAREN

WHAT?!

Audrey grabs Karen's oar.

AUDREY

On the count of three, I need you
all to take your oars to the right,
jump, and hold on, okay?! Do you
hear me? On THREE!

LOLO / DEADEYE

Yes captain! / Yes.

Audrey wraps Karen's arms around her as the boat barrels
towards the open dam turbines.

AUDREY
 Karen, hold on to me, okay?
 (then shouting)
 ONE! TWO!

LOLO
 We're so close!

AUDREY
 (beat)
 THREE!

Audrey, Lolo and Deadeye stick their oars straight across right as they get to the buoy, timing it just so that the oars slingshot the girls into the safe overflow zone. The boat they were on continues through, straight into the turbines, splitting into thousands of pieces.

LOLO
 FUUUUUUCK THAT WAS SO METAL!

AUDREY
 (looking around, frantic)
 Oh my god, my work computer, my
file!--

LOLO
 --my camera!--

DEADEYE
 I got it.

Deadeye holds up the waterproof boat bag as Audrey and Lolo sigh in relief. The girls have now been safely washed past the fork, downriver, but they're still on the open water. And now with no boat. The girls, treading water, struggle to keep Karen afloat. Audrey points to the faraway shore.

AUDREY
 Now we just need to swim. The
 shore's not far that far, it's
 maybe only like two hundred meters.

KAREN
 I'm gonna drown!

AUDREY
 You're not gonna drown, we've got
 you!

As the girls try to keep Karen from dipping underwater, she begins hysterically sobbing.

KAREN
 I'm gonna drown and the pictures
 will be so ugly and Clarence is
 gonna meet a girl at my
 funeralllllll.

AUDREY *
 Don't freak out, we're so close! *

But Karen is weighing down Lolo and Deadeye who's now on the *
 other side of her. *

LOLO *
 (bobbing) *
 She's dragging us down! Are you *
 sure we can't just leave her? *

AUDREY *
 No! *

LOLO *
 Kidding! *
 (to Karen) *
 But will you just stop struggling? *
 You're making it worse-- *

DEADEYE *
 Uh oh. *

HOLY FUCK. A whole herd of water buffalo (like the one we saw *
 before in town) is now swimming towards them. *

LOLO *
 Oh fuck! Water buffalo! *

AUDREY *
 Come on! *

The girls attempt to swim, but of course, the water buffalo *
 are quickly upon them. *

KAREN *
 Oh my GOOOOOOOOOOD, don't kill me, *
 I don't even eat meat! *

As the buffalo swarm around them, they're really gonna die *
 now... Except not, because a passing water buffalo bumps into *
 Karen, accidentally scooping her onto its back, saving her! *

AUDREY *
 Holy shit! Grab a buffalo! *

The girls all grab a buffalo as they ride their way to shore! *

EXT. SHORE - CONTINUOUS *

As the girls reach the shore, they tumble off their buffalo *
 rides. They collapse onto the ground, clothes torn, relieved, *
 grateful to be alive. A beat, then Audrey starts laughing. *
 Then they all start laughing at the absurdity of what just *
 happened. *

LOLO *
 So what's the crew term for *
 buffalo? *

Everyone laughs harder. *

AUDREY *
 Hey, we made it at least! *

KAREN *
 I really thought I was going to *
 drown. *

LOLO *
 If you weren't gonna drown I was *
 gonna kill you! *

KAREN *
 Fair enough! *

All tension from before has dissipated as the girls laugh it *
 off. Lolo looks down, notices that her pants and underwear are *
 torn. *

LOLO *
 Oh shit, my ass is like completely *
 out! *

AUDREY *
 Hell yeah girl, work it! *

Lolo starts twerking on the ground as everyone hoots. Karen, *
 laughing, flips over onto her back. *

KAREN *
 Oh my goodness, we need to get some *
 clothes, we're basically all nude-- *

ANGLE ON all of the girls staring at her, their faces shocked. *
 REVERSE ANGLE ON what they're staring at: Karen's HUGE PUSSY *
 TATTOO: a SCARY DEVIL that covers not only her vagina but a *
 large part of her entire pelvic region. Karen quickly hunches *
 over to cover it, but it's too late. *

LOLO *
 (pointing) *
 What the fuck is that?! *

KAREN *
 Nothing, I-- *

LOLO *
 (laughing) *
 Oh my god, is that your pussy tat?! *
 You still have it! *

AUDREY *
 It's even bigger than I imagined! *

LOLO
Of course you won't have sex with
Clarence! It's HUGE!

DEADEYE
Who's your artist, it's very
impressive work.

LOLO
Dude, that thing is fucking
AMAZING! Karen, you fucking ROCK
STAR, I bow down! Pussy tat queen!

Karen, seeing everyone's positive reactions and just happy to
have not drowned, can't help but laugh as well. She lies back -
- there's no need for modesty now that everyone's seen it.

KAREN
I drunkenly got it one night in
college. You know how I was,
Audrey, I was a mess. I was going
to get it lasered off before the
wedding. It's just...
(then, teasingly)
No, I shouldn't show you.

LOLO
What?! SHOW US!

KAREN
(laughing, finally)
It's on the inside too!

And she reaches down and yanks the whole situation open-- we
don't see it, just the girls' faces, which is enough. ANGLE ON
Audrey, Lolo, and Deadeye, giddy with shock and horror.

AUDREY/DEADEYE/LOLO
AAA! / AAAA!!!!!! / AAAHAHAHA!!!!!!

CLARENCE (O.S.)
AAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

REVEAL Clarence, on the shore, staring RIGHT into Karen's
pussy tat. His jaw drops. Karen quickly moves to cover
herself.

KAREN
Clarence?!

CLARENCE
You said you were in trouble...

Clarence holds up his phone (location sharing is on, showing
the bat signal).

KAREN
I can explain!

CLARENCE

I-- I thought you were a precious
flower.

Clarence runs away, shocked. Karen goes to run after him but
given that she's partially nude, she doesn't get very far.
He's gone.

KAREN

Oh my god. Ohmygod ohmygod,
Clarence! FUCK!

AUDREY

I'm sure it'll be okay. He'll
understand...

KAREN

(thinking fast)
What if I told him it was a dare?
Like what if Lolo dared me to get
temporary pelvic body art?

LOLO

That's ridiculous.

KAREN

(frantically texting)
No it's good! He knows you're
crazy!

From afar, we see a FISHERMAN on the shore taking a photo of
Karen, but the girls don't notice. Deadeye checks her phone,
straightens up.

DEADEYE

Deng is here!

The girls all try to cover themselves, as Lolo's young cousin
DENG approaches.

DENG

Hello! I am here to take you to
Xitang...

Lolo, indicating to the girls' lack of clothes:

LOLO

I think we may need to go to Nai
Nai's first.

DENG

Ok! We go to Nai Nai's!

Deng gestures to a motorcycle.

DENG (CONT'D)

Let's go!

AUDREY
All of us? On this?

LOLO
That's China for ya babe.

As they all climb onto the motorcycle, packing in tight:

AUDREY
How old is Deng?

DEADEYE
Twelve, counting the Chinese way.
So eleven.

Audrey yelps as Deng revs his bike and they're off!

EXT. MOTORCYCLE - MOMENTS LATER

The four girls, clinging to Deng and each other, whiz past the countryside on his motorcycle.

EXT. LOLO'S GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - EVENING

Deng deposits the girls at the front door and speeds away to park the motorcycle. They're pretty dry by now after the breezy ride, but are still a bedraggled mess. Audrey and Karen try desperately to arrange their hair and clothes as Lolo rings the doorbell.

AUDREY
Are you sure it's okay for all of us to crash here?

LOLO
Of course! It's way too late to hit Xitang now.

DEADEYE
We have a problem.
(holds up phone)
The cops are still looking for us. They put us on a no-fly list, like we're criminals or something.

AUDREY
What?!

LOLO
Great, even more reason to hide out tonight. We'll clear it all up tomorrow once we've gotten the signature.

Audrey still looks worried.

LOLO (CONT'D)
It'll be fine. We didn't do
anything wrong.

AUDREY
Okay. But I kinda feel bad meeting
your grandparents for the first
time looking like this...

LOLO
(amused)
Don't even worry about it.

She and Deadeye exchange a glance as the door opens and we
SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LOLO'S GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The girls sit as GRANDMA and GRANDPA CHEN fuss about them. In
the b.g. dozens of ASSORTED RELATIVES are crowded into every
corner and spilling out to other rooms. Every single Chen is
chatting, laughing, smoking, yelling, and most of all
drinking. This family is full of joyous, raucous-- and okay
let's just say it, trashy-- energy. ANGLE ON Karen and Audrey,
taking in the merry chaos.

KAREN
(quietly)
Dear god, it's a thousand Lolos.

AUDREY
It's cute! A little scary, but
cute.

Grandma fusses over her granddaughters:

GRANDMA CHEN
(subtitled Mandarin)
*Lolo, you're so skinny! Deadeye,
you need a haircut!*
(to Lolo)
*Do you have enough money? Here's
five dollars--*
(to Deadeye)
*You look haggard, how's your
health?*

GRANDPA CHEN
(to Audrey)
*Are you hungry? Of course you're
hungry! Stupid grandpa should have
bought more food for the house!
Here, have all our fruit!*

He grabs a huge platter of fruit off a nearby table and plunks
it on Audrey's lap. As he peels an orange for her:

GRANDPA CHEN (CONT'D)
How do you like China?!
 (to everyone)
*Audrey was born in China but
 adopted by white parents. That is
 why she is so tan and her face is
 so round.*

Everyone laughs.

AUDREY
 What are they saying?

LOLO
 They think you're very beautiful.

Grandma yammers on, affectionately pinching Audrey's cheek.

LOLO (CONT'D)
 (translating)
 Nai-Nai says any mother would be
 lucky to have you as a daughter.

AUDREY
 (surprised; touched)
 Thank you. *Xie xie.*

GRANDMA CHEN
Her accent is terrible! So cute!
 (to Audrey)
 In this house you are family! *Gan
 bei!*

She presses a brimming shot glass into Audrey's hand and
 everyone toasts! Audrey throws back the shot, winces at the
 baijiu, but as the relatives pat her back and cheer, we see
 she enjoys being part of the family. DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LOLO'S GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone's still partying, the dining table now piled with the
 remnants of a late night dinner and of course, more liquor
 bottles. ANGLE ON Lolo and Audrey, both slightly tipsy.

AUDREY
 You know what my favorite was?
 (holding up bones with
 chopsticks)
 Chicken foot. I don't care it's a
 foot, it's delicious.

LOLO
 Of course it's delicious,
 everything in China is delicious!
 Maybe not yak penis, I probably
 shouldn't knock it till I try it
 though.

AUDREY

Is it weird that even though I've
never been here before...it kinda
feels like home?

LOLO

Not weird at all, you are home!
Let's get a photo!

She takes a picture of Audrey; Audrey's wide, genuine smile
and the scattered empty dishes with Lolo's family in the b.g.
make it a warm, endearing portrait. Audrey scrolls through
Lolo's photos on her camera.

AUDREY

Wow, look at all your China
pictures, these are great!

LOLO

Yeah, it's been kinda nice not
messing with them. They sort of
speak for themselves.

AUDREY

You know, your mom was right, you
should apply to art school with
these.

LOLO

Eh, I would never get in. Plus
don't you have to like, write an
essay? Uch.

ANGLE ON Karen looking at her phone, her face creased with
worry. The food in front of her is barely touched.

AUDREY

You okay?

KAREN

(looking up)

It's just...Clarence hasn't
answered any of my texts. Or my
calls.

LOLO

Maybe it's because he knows you're
lying about the tat.

KAREN

Of course I'm lying! If Clarence
knew who I used to be, that my
nickname in college was Triple
Input Karen--

DEADEYE

What's the third input -- oh, the
mouth.

LOLO
If you love him, shouldn't you just
be honest?

KAREN
I do love him, which is exactly why
I shouldn't be honest! The truth
would only hurt him.

Lolo stops trying to argue as Karen pours a generous amount of
whiskey into a glass and throws the whole thing back.

LOLO
(impressed)
OKAY! We're doin' it!

Karen grabs the bottle and pours herself more. Lolo and Audrey
are delighted.

DISSOLVE TO LATER: The party continues. Everyone is WASTED.
Karen's at the center of a group of Chen cousins, rapidly
taking shots of whiskey, SLAMMING each empty down.

LOLO (CONT'D)
OH FUCK. I LOVE PARTY KAREN!

Everyone cheers as Karen pours more shots.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Party Karen is the BEST! I bet
Clarence would like Party Karen
better than Boring Fake Virgin
Karen.

KAREN
Clarence takes his faith seriously
and I love that about him. I want
to be better for him.

LOLO
You really do love him, huh? That's
cool. You're cool.

KAREN
You're cool too.

LOLO
I know. Wanna kiss?

Karen stares at her for a beat, then laughs hysterically, and
then Lolo does as well. They both keep drinking as we continue
the party...

INT. LOLO'S GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Audrey is on her laptop, finishing up a work zoom with Frank.

FRANK (ON SCREEN)
...alright, seems like you have a
handle on everything.

AUDREY
Absolutely. And it's been great
being here, I'm really starting to
feel like an expert on Asian
markets.

Meanwhile, Deadeye blearily stumbles in, hung over, and starts
downing multiple glasses of water.

FRANK (ON SCREEN)
Amazing. See you soon.

AUDREY
(waving, cheerful)
Bye Frank!

FRANK (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)
(gestures to someone who
has just entered)
Beckett, take a seat! Nice to-

Frank closes his zoom. Audrey sighs, annoyed at the sight of
Beckett. Deadeye looks over.

DEADEYE
You're working? You must really
like your job.

AUDREY
I mean, it's fine. It pays well,
it's "prestigious" or whatever. And
it means my parents don't have to
worry about me, which is the least
I can give them after all they've
done for me, so...

Deadeye nods, then:

DEADEYE
Excited to meet your birth mom?

Audrey's surprised that Deadeye, of all people, asked, but...

AUDREY
(beat)
You know what? Yes. I mean, I know
we have to, to get my passport
back, but it actually...it would be
amazing to meet her. If we do. I'm
not trying to get my hopes up.

Grandma Chen enters, sees Audrey.

GRANDMA CHEN
Big day today, meeting your mother!
Here, you have to wear this!

Grandma Chen hands Audrey a beautiful traditional *qipao* dress.
A few of the young cousins chatter excitedly as an adorable
LITTLE GIRL scampers up to Audrey.

LITTLE CHEN GIRL
Pretty dress for big sister Audrey!

DEADEYE
It used to be Nai-Nai's. They want
you to wear it for today.

AUDREY
Oh, it's beautiful, I couldn't
possibly...

DEADEYE
It's yours now, it's a gift. Go on.

EXT. XITANG - MORNING

The girls walk through a small village, Audrey now wearing the
qipao.

KAREN
You look gorgeous in that!

LOLO
Yeah some of us who've got badonk
can't cram in. But China looks good
on you!

AUDREY
(smiling)
I kinda love it.

The attitude is cheerful. Lolo strides purposefully, singing a
made-up song to a marching cadence:

LOLO
TIME TO FIND / A BIO MOM / GET HER
SIG / AND THEN GO HOME / MAYBE NOT
/ MAYBE STAY / PARTY A LOT / WITH
BIO MOM

DEADEYE
(pointing)
That's it. We're here.

The girls look at where Deadeye's looking, a small, neatly-
kept house. Audrey takes a deep breath.

LOLO
You ready?

AUDREY
Sorry. I need a second. It's
just...

(MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)

(then)

My life would've been so different
if I'd grown up here. I'd be just
like everyone else... People
wouldn't stare at me in the grocery
store. Or ask my parents where they
got me from...

A beat as Audrey collects herself. Finally...

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Okay.

(to Lolo)

Thank you for making me do this.
You were right-- I'm...I'm glad
we're here.

Lolo, touched, hugs her. Audrey hugs back, then heads
purposefully for the front door of the house. Lolo snaps a
photo: Audrey's face filled with emotion as she goes up to the
door and knocks. The door opens to reveal an elderly woman,
HELEN. Audrey reacts, surprised. Helen has to be in her 90s;
way too old to be her mom.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Hi. My name is Audrey. I'm looking
for... my mother?

Helen shakes her head. Audrey holds out her adoption file.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry but, the only reason we
know this address is because we got
it from the adoption agency, so...

HELEN

(taking file)

Adopted?

AUDREY

Yes.

A beat as Helen flips through the file, then nods.

HELEN

Come inside.

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Sparsely furnished, but filled to the brim with knickknacks,
books, and stacked boxes...if Helen's a hoarder, she's at
least a very organized one.

HELEN

Tea?

AUDREY
Oh it's okay, no thanks...

HELEN
(with finality)
Tea.

She plunks a teapot and cups on the table and indicates for the girls to sit down, then takes Audrey's file into another room. The girls sit and look around at Helen's controlled chaos of random stuff.

LOLO
Should we be concerned about her
giant display rack of empty glasses
frames?

DEADEYE
Who's taller, me or that stack of
encyclopedias?

KAREN
Do not go stand next to it--

DEADEYE
I'm gonna go stand next to it.

She's about to get up when Helen returns with a thick file folder of her own. She sits down, all business, opens her folder, takes out a logbook. Finds a page. Points.

HELEN
See, here. You. Female, born June
1994.

AUDREY
(eagerly)
Yes? And is there information on my
parents?

HELEN
No, I never have real names.
Confidential. They are teenagers,
their parents don't want anyone to
know. Just want them to have baby
fast, go back to Korea fast.

A beat.

AUDREY
(confused)
Korea?

HELEN
(matter of fact)
Yes.

AUDREY
 (hesitant)
 My parents were from Korea?

HELEN
 (looking at Audrey's file)
 Dad I don't know. Probably. Mom
 yes, Korean, of course. Everyone
 was Korean. See, your name. Han.

AUDREY
 Yes, Han is my Chinese last name.

HELEN
 (shaking head)
 No, Han means Korean.

AUDREY
 I don't understand--

But the other girls exchange glances...they get it. Helen
 sighs, a little impatient.

HELEN
 1978, I came here from Seoul. Took
 over a business helping Korean
 girls who got pregnant. Their
 parents send them here, they have
 the babies, I get the babies to
 adoption agency, Korean moms go
 home. Nobody knows, so no shame on
 the family. I did this many, many
 times. You are number...
 (consults logbook)
 603.

AUDREY
 (beat, whispering)
 I'm Korean?

HELEN
 Yes.
 (to other girls)
 She looks Korean, yes?

From their faces, we see that they kind of see it.

AUDREY
 I can't be Korean.

HELEN
 You are. We are.

AUDREY
 But I went to Chinese school...I
 celebrated Chinese New Year...

Lolo jumps in.

LOLO

Okay, well, we still need to find
her parents. Do you have any
information on them?

HELEN

No.

She pushes the logbook at them, points at Audrey's page.

HELEN (CONT'D)

No father. Mom, teenager. I called
her "Freckles" because
(indicating face)
She has some spots. But I don't
know her real name.

KAREN

And there's no contact information
of any kind...

HELEN

No. All in secrecy. When parents
request, I get these girls here,
then I send them back and never see
them again. Never hear from their
families.

(to Audrey, fondly)

You are the only one who has ever
come back.

Helen's warmed up now, but Audrey's too upset to appreciate
it; she looks like she's about to cry.

AUDREY

You don't even have a name? I
don't...I don't know what...
(blurting)
I can't be Korean! My whole life is
a mistake?!

She abruptly stands, shoving back her chair, which hits a
large display case of decorative plates. Most of them fall and
shatter.

HELEN

(angry, in Korean,
subtitled)

Hey! What are you doing?!

So much for the warmth, Helen is pissed...

KAREN

(standing up, hastily)

Well, thank you so much! You've
been really helpful, and we're so
sorry, we'll just get out of your
way...

Karen drops a bunch of cash on Helen's table and drags a distraught Audrey out the door. Deadeye and Lolo quickly follow.

EXT. XITANG STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The girls rapidly walk away from Helen's house, Audrey looking like she's about to fucking lose her mind.

KAREN
(reaching out)
Audrey?

AUDREY
(panicky breathing)
My whole life has been wrong.

LOLO
It hasn't--

AUDREY
We're only friends because my
parents were like oooh, another
little Chinese girl!
(to Karen)
We met at Chinese Students
Association!

LOLO
Okay in everyone's defense, we were
the only Asians in our whole town,
so we still would've been friends.

AUDREY
I don't even know who I am anymore!
I know nothing about Korea!

DEADEYE
K-pop, Samsung, bulgogi. That'll do
it.

Audrey ignores her; she's beginning to have a panic attack.

AUDREY
(wheezing)
And we still don't know where my
mom is, I still don't have her
signature, I'm never gonna get my
passport back and I'm never gonna
get back to work on time--

KAREN
You will, we'll find a way--

AUDREY
Fuck!

Audrey, in full blown panic attack now, sinks onto a nearby bench. A few long, labored beats as she struggles to breathe.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
This can't be it. This can't be the
end, we have to find her...

KAREN
(gently)
Helen doesn't have any contact
information...

AUDREY
No, no, no, we're finding her. I
need this signature. I need to find
her.
(beat, voice shaking)
I want to find her.

The other girls see it in her face: oh shit. For the first
time, it's not just a matter of the passport. It's emotional.
It's her mom. Audrey's panic attack ramps up again...

Lolo turns to Deadeye and Karen, worried.

LOLO
She hasn't had a panic attack since
we were kids, maybe I should call
Mary and Joe...
(to Audrey)
Hey Audrey, can I see your phone?

Lolo gently takes Audrey's phone and pulls up her parents'
contact info.

LOLO (CONT'D)
(to Karen)
Do I need to dial the country code
first, or--

AUDREY
(getting idea; looks up)
Give me my phone.

LOLO
No, it's fine, I'm just calling
your parents--

AUDREY
(getting up)
No, the phone number from my file!
We thought it was a Chinese number,
what if it's in Korea and that's
why it didn't go through before?

She grabs her phone back and dials.

KAREN
It's still a number from decades
ago, the odds are--

AUDREY
(into phone)
Hello?

Everyone's eyes widen-- someone actually answered?!

AUDREY (CONT'D)
English? Mandarin? No, oh god, none
of us speak Korean, right?

LOLO
(already running off)
We'll find someone!

EXT. XITANG STREET - LATER

Back at Audrey's bench, where a XITANG VILLAGE GUY now holds
Audrey's phone.

XITANG VILLAGE GUY
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
I only speak a little Korean.

KAREN
It's fine, thank you so much.

They hear a muffled voice answer the phone. Xitang Village Guy
begins to speak in halting Korean. Every once in a while, he
turns to the girls and translates it to Mandarin, which Lolo
then translates for Audrey:

XITANG VILLAGE GUY
...caretaker of a house in Seoul.

LOLO
Okay, the guy on the phone used to
be the caretaker of this house.
It's in Seoul.

AUDREY
She's from Seoul?!

Audrey can barely contain her excitement at learning this new
bit of information about her mother.

LOLO
...he owns it now, I guess the
family moved out a long time ago
and left it to him... Yes! The
owners had a teenage daughter...
that must be them!

Audrey's face is tense with both excitement and joy; Karen and Lolo are excited too. They're SO close! As the Xitang Village Guy continues listening and translating...

AUDREY

Did he know my mother?! Does he know her name?

LOLO

Yes! It was the Lee family. Min Lee. Your mother's name is Min Lee.

Just hearing her mother's name makes Audrey tear up.

AUDREY

(hopeful)

Oh my god. Does he still have her contact info? Can he get in touch?

Another few moments as Xitang Village Guy talks on the phone and translates to Mandarin for Lolo and Karen. If we're paying attention to them, we see their faces falter for a split second-- but we're paying attention to Audrey, whose face is filled with hope and anticipation. Another few beats of Mandarin and then:

LOLO

(long beat)

Yes!

Karen reacts in surprise. Lolo speaks to the guy in Mandarin for another few moments, then:

LOLO (CONT'D)

He's gonna figure it out and set up a meeting!

AUDREY

Aaaaaaaa!

LOLO

Aaaaaaaa! We just have to get to Seoul!

AUDREY

Oh my god! Okay! Oh my god this is amazing...

(to Xitang Village Guy)

Xie xie! Xie xie!

(noticing)

Karen? Are you okay?

Karen's face is a little shocked.

KAREN

Yes, I'm fine, just so surprised!

Audrey's freaking the fuck out with joy as Lolo and Karen have a rapid-fire convo with Xitang Village Guy off to the side. They finish and thank him; he exits as Lolo turns to Audrey, aglow with excitement.

[NOTE: what the audience and Audrey don't know at this point is that Lolo and Karen have heard via translation to Mandarin that Audrey's birth mom is dead; before they got a chance to decide whether or not to tell Audrey, Lolo jumped the gun and said the mom wanted to meet her]

LOLO
(arms up)
Korea, baby! We're going!

AUDREY
Yes! Korea!

KAREN
But-- but the police are still
looking for us -- we're on a no-fly
list!

AUDREY
No, no, we have to get to Korea. We
have to.

LOLO
Okay, so we'll have to sneak out of
the country.

A beat. Everyone is at a loss, then...

DEADEYE
I can get us there. Just do
everything I say and we'll be in
Seoul by the end of the day.

KAREN
What? How is this supposed to
happen?

DEADEYE
You know who can bypass security at
airports? Kpop stars.

KAREN
We aren't kpop stars!

DEADEYE
Not yet.

INT. SHANGHAI AIRPORT - DAY

We see a SLOW MOTION POWER SHOT of Audrey, Lolo, Karen, and Deadeye walking into the airport, looking FUCKING HOT AS HELL: they are now dressed as a KPOP GIRL GROUP. Short skirts.

High heels. Makeup and hair on fucking POINT. WIDEN TO REVEAL they have a few other PEOPLE DRESSED IN SUITS scurrying around them, chattering away on headsets.

As they stride through the airport, we see that Lolo's having a ball, Deadeye is unfazed as ever, Audrey's nervous, but determined, and Karen, treating this like an acting job, is matter-of-factly killing it. All around them, people in the airport stop to gawk, take photos...who ARE these girls?

LOLO
Deadeye, I truly do not know how
you pulled this together.

DEADEYE
It wasn't just me, it was BTS ARMY.

LOLO
Even if it doesn't work I'm already
having the best time and will
happily go to jail.

AUDREY
(murmuring)
It'll work. It has to. Right?

DEADEYE
Of course. The BTS Army is the most
powerful fandom in the universe. We
always help those in need,
including ourselves. They even
brought their own suits.

ANGLE ON one of the PEOPLE IN SUITS walking with them, who drops his stern facade for a moment and does a cute, whispered aside to the girls:

GUY IN SUIT
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
Jungkook would be so proud of us!

KAREN
You knew all these people online
before?

DEADEYE
Some of them. The guy pretending to
be our manager, yes--

We ANGLE ON the various people as she describes them--

DEADEYE (CONT'D)
--our fake assistant, no, our
stylist yes, those fake fans over
there, yes--

There are about a DOZEN "FANS" hustling along after them through the airport, cheering and taking photos.

DEADEYE (CONT'D) *
 --our bodyguard, no, the guy *
 pretending to my dogwalker, yes. *
 Thanks for coming, Jaebock. *

Deadeye's internet friend, JAEBOCK (think Joel Kim Booster), *
 strides along with them carrying a tiny white Pomeranian. *

JAEBOCK *
 Marshmallow and I wouldn't miss it. *

AUDREY *
 We needed a dog? *

DEADEYE *
 For realism and texture. *

JAEBOCK *
 (to Audrey) *
 The ARMY prides itself on attention *
 to detail. We also took down the *
 Dallas police scanner for Black *
 Lives Matter, if you didn't hear. *

AUDREY *
 We heard! *

JAEBOCK *
 Amaze. *

DEADEYE *
 So don't worry. Kpop fans break the *
 internet daily, I'm sure we can get *
 four hot girls through airport *
 security. Isn't it cool we're all *
 hot now? *

LOLO *
 Fuck yeah it's cool! *

They keep walking; the security checkpoint is up ahead. *

DEADEYE *
 Just act confident. We're Brownie *
 Tuesday, we're a brand-new group, *
 we just did our Shanghai debut, our *
 first single already has 9 million *
 downloads. Everyone remember their *
 name? *

AUDREY *
 Sassy. *

LOLO *
 Cutie. *

KAREN *
 Lisa. *

DEADEYE *
Lisa 2. *

LOLO *
We got this. *

AUDREY *
We got this. *

SMASH CUT TO: *

INT. AIRPORT SECURITY GATE - MOMENTS LATER *

Yeah, they might not have this. CLOSE ON the stern, skeptical *
face of an AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICER. The girls and their *
"entourage" all try not to look worried as he studies their *
documents, then gestures for another officer to come over. *
They look at the girls, look back at the documents... *

AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICER *
How long were you in China? *

DEADEYE *
(confident) *
A week. *

AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICER *
You're singers? *

KAREN *
(fake Korean accent) *
I am actually the rapper. *

The Security Officer studies a visibly nervous Audrey. *

AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICER *
You don't look like singers. *

Audrey's sweating bullets, about to crack-- and then Deadeye *
shoots Jaebock a look. He hoists the Pomeranian menacingly and *
steps forward. *

JAEBOCK *
That is an insult. While they have *
just debuted and therefore may not *
yet have the seasoned charisma of a *
veteran group like BTS or even *
Blackpink, I assure you these are *
professional idols who, like every *
other idol, have been training *
since they were 14, 15 years old. *
They are dedicated and they are *
talented. Show them, girls. *

ANGLE ON the girls: Karen, Audrey, and Lolo go wide-eyed in *
panic: "what?!" What are they supposed to do now? But then *
Deadeye produces a microphone, opens her mouth and SINGS. *

Holy SHIT, Deadeye's voice is AMAZING! The other three girls are shocked and struggle not to show it. All around them, people stop to listen, not even just the fake fans, now there are real ones that Deadeye's literally acquiring in real time. It is a MOMENT! And the security agent lets them through!

And with that, we're into a STYLIZED MUSICAL SEQUENCE: the song Deadeye was singing continues as the girls strut through security, towards their gate, stopping for photos, stopping to wave at fans, generally behaving like kpop stars. They get on the plane with no problem at all, settle into seats, toast with champagne glasses...

EXT. AIRPORT - LATER

The plane takes off...

EXT./ESTAB. SEOUL - DAY

The plane lands at Incheon Airport as the SONG ENDS. We're in Korea!

INT. INCHEON AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

The girls walk through the airport.

AUDREY

I can't believe we're here. *Wo men zai...*

(then, realizing)

I don't know any Korean.

LOLO

It's okay, you'll learn it. Everyone says it's mad easy to pick up new languages as an adult.

AUDREY

It's not just the language, it's everything...

She looks around; at all the people, the ads with Korean products, Korean words... It's overwhelming.

LOLO

(gently, to Audrey)

Are you ready to meet your mom?

AUDREY

She's here?

KAREN

(nods)

She said she wanted to meet you at the airport, so...

Karen gestures out at the airport doors. Audrey nervously walks through, and suddenly... there she is. Even though there are hundreds of people waiting in the welcome area, Audrey zeroes in on her. A woman, MIN, early 40s, her face open and kind, clutching a sign: "AUDREY". Holy shit. Her mom. The two women lock eyes, as Min smiles, gives a little wave. Audrey approaches.

AUDREY
(shy)
Hi... I'm Audrey...

Min beams, tears in her eyes, as she pulls Audrey into an embrace. Audrey is overwhelmed, but hugs back. CUT TO:

EXT. CAFE - LATER

Min and Audrey sit together at an outdoor cafe on a bustling street in Seoul. Min speaks in halting English:

MIN
You're grown! And so beautiful.

AUDREY
Thank you.

MIN
I've imagined this moment so often.
I--
(abruptly)
Can you ever forgive me?

AUDREY
What? Of course! I mean, but,
there's nothing to forgive--

MIN
(emotional)
I'm sorry, I just...I was so young,
and my parents...

AUDREY
It's okay, I understand! I'm just
glad you were looking for me too,
I'm so happy we found each other...

Off Audrey and Min, both smiling, we see Lolo, Karen, and Deadeye watching them from a table nearby.

KAREN
How's it going? Does Audrey look
happy? Are they getting along?

LOLO
Will you chill? It's going great.

BACK ON: Audrey and Min, laughing warmly.

AUDREY

--I have so many questions too, I don't know where to start... Where do you work? Do you have a family?

MIN

(shakes head)

I have a simple life. I'm a teacher in a small village south of here.

*
*

AUDREY

Oh, what do you teach?

*

MIN

English. It's what I studied in university.

*
*

AUDREY

That must be why your English is so good.

*
*
*

MIN

I learned it after I had you. Because I knew, one day we would meet. And I want to be able to talk to you.

*
*
*
*
*

Audrey smiles, but there's something that feels off and she can't quite put her finger on it. She studies Min's face...

*
*

MIN (CONT'D)

So tell me about you! I heard you are a lawyer? That's impressive.

*
*
*

AUDREY

Thank you! I mean, I'm trying. My boss told me recently that if I keep doing well I'll be promoted soon...

*
*
*
*
*

MIN

I knew my daughter would be a hard worker!

*
*
*

AUDREY

Yeah, it can be tough sometimes, but it's worth it.

*
*
*

MIN

You are so smart.

*
*

AUDREY

Thank you!

*
*

MIN

I knew you would be smart.

*
*

AUDREY
Thank you. *

Awkward pause. Their first. Min smiles gamely. *

MIN
I'm sorry, I just can't believe I
am finally looking at your face
again. Do you have any other
questions? *

AUDREY
(bursting)
YES! *

Min laughs. Audrey giggles too. BACK AT THE TABLE: *

LOLO
Okay, look at them. They love each
other. *

She pokes Karen, but Karen's looking at her phone. *

KAREN
(tense)
Clarence just read all my texts.
Finally. *

LOLO
Of course you guys would have your
read receipts on. *

KAREN
Oh my god, he's typing... *

Lolo spots Audrey approaching. *

LOLO
That's great, good for you--
(to Audrey, cheery)
Hey! How's it going? Seems like you
two are hitting it off. *

AUDREY
We are! But... *

Karen tries to look engaged, but keeps sneaking glances at her
phone. *

LOLO
But what? *

AUDREY
It's probably nothing, but she said
she majored in English in college.
But she only started learning after
she had me... *

LOLO
So? Obviously she was a fast learner. She's smart, like you!

AUDREY
I guess. But also. Her skin is like, amazing--

LOLO
Yeah, right?! Like, spill on that skincare routine Min!

AUDREY
But she doesn't have any freckles. Wasn't that her nickname?

LOLO
She probably got them lasered. Or covered them up with makeup, Asian people don't really like freckles.

AUDREY
Yeah, sorry...I'm overthinking it.

LOLO
Is she nice though?

AUDREY
(brightening)
So nice! We're having a great time--

KAREN
(looking at phone)
Oh my god, NO! Clarence! FUCK!

Audrey looks over at Karen, whose face is crumpled with shock and devastation.

AUDREY
What's going on?

KAREN
He texted me back... finally... but...

She starts to sob, flings the phone away. Audrey reaches to grab it off the ground, and sees the text from Clarence: "Stop texting me. We're done" followed by a screencap from a trashy-looking website: it's a picture of her PUSSY TATT that the fisherman took on shore, accompanied by text in both Chinese and English: "GOOD GIRL GONE BAD!"

AUDREY
Wait, what is this?

DEADEYE
(looking)
It's kind of like Chinese TMZ.
(MORE)

DEADEYE (CONT'D)

Looks like someone got a photo of
her tat. There's already a gif with
Tweety Bird saying "I thought I saw
a--"

KAREN

(increasingly hysterical)
DON'T SAY IT!

AUDREY

(firmly)
Karen, don't worry about this
tabloid trash, I'm sure Clarence
will come around.

Audrey gives Karen's shoulder a reassuring squeeze, taps off
the Clarence thread so that the tatt photo isn't on the screen
anymore and starts to hand the phone back...then pauses. Keeps
the phone. Looks at the screen more closely.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Wait. Is that--?

She leans in, looking at Karen's recent texts. One of the text
threads has a photo of Min...but under the name HEATHER CHOI.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

That's Min... Why is she in your
phone as Heather Choi?

Karen grabs her phone back.

KAREN

I don't know what you're talking
about.

Just then, one of the nearby rolling ads on a bus stop flashes
to an ad for sunscreen... and the woman in the ad,
enthusiastically spraying it on, is Min.

AUDREY

Wait a minute...

Audrey runs back towards Min. The other girls follow, but it's
too late-- she reaches Min, points to the ad.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Is this you? Are you an actress?

The ad flashes, changing to something different.

MIN

What? No, I told you, I'm a
teacher.

AUDREY

Yeah, an English teacher in a small
village north of here--

MIN
Yes, exactly.

AUDREY
No! YOU SAID IT WAS A VILLAGE DOWN
SOUTH!
(spinning out)
Why are you-- is this some kind of
con? Am I being catfished? Are you
even my birth mother?
(off Min's face)
You're NOT!

Audrey steps forward-- is she about to fuck her up? "Min"
backs away, scared, and lapses into AN AUSTRALIAN ACCENT.

MIN
I'm sorry, this was just a job.

Min quickly hustles away, squeezing Karen's elbow as she
passes her.

MIN (CONT'D)
See you later Karen.

Min's gone. Audrey turns to her friends, red hot.

AUDREY
You know her??

KAREN
(busted)
I know this looks bad--

AUDREY
You did this? You hired an actress
to pretend to be my birth mother?!

KAREN
(quickly)
It was Lolo's idea!

Audrey whips around to look at Lolo.

AUDREY
WHAT. What reason could you
POSSIBLY have to do something THIS
fucked up?! TELL ME!!

Lolo gapes, grasping for the words, but she can't bring
herself to say it. Finally Deadeye breaks the silence.

DEADEYE
(quietly)
Your mother passed away, Audrey.

AUDREY
 (whispers, tears in eyes)
 What?

*
 *
 *

Audrey is stunned. Lolo finally musters the courage to look her in the eye.

LOLO
 (quietly)
 It's true. The caretaker said Min
 passed away... Cancer.

*
 *

AUDREY
 Oh my god.

*

Audrey reacts, it's a gut punch. A tear runs down her cheek.

LOLO
 We're so sorry, Audrey.

Lolo reaches for her, but Audrey shrinks back.

*

AUDREY
 (as it sinks in)
 So. Instead of telling me my mother
 was gone, you thought this was the
 way to go?

LOLO
 You had that panic attack! And I
 didn't want you to go through this
 whole journey and have this be the
 end, so I just... I... I fucked up.
 I'm so sorry.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *

Audrey shakes her head.

*

AUDREY
 This is not "fucking up". Fucking
 up is that time you ended up in the
 hospital because you tried to do
 the cinnamon challenge. Or when you
 missed our high school graduation
 because you "just forgot". Fucking
 up is what you've done your whole
 life.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

LOLO
 Whoa, that's harsh--

*

Audrey's no longer crying.

AUDREY
 Fucking up is being so talented but
 too chickenshit to ever take a
 chance on yourself.
 (MORE)

*
 *
 *

AUDREY (CONT'D)

So instead, you go through life
being wild and reckless, saying
it's because you're an "artist" who
doesn't care about money or what
anyone thinks -- but guess what --
you're really just a fucking loser
who never grew up. You've never had
a real job. You still live with
your parents. Grow the fuck up,
Lolo.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

LOLO

But--

*

AUDREY

The grownup thing to do would've
been to tell me the truth. Because
I can handle it. I'm not a child
like you.

Lolo's in such fucking SHOCK that Audrey would actually say
all this out loud, she can't even defend herself. Karen steps
forward.

KAREN

Audrey, I'm sorry, I should've
talked her out of it.

Audrey stares at her, suddenly quiet.

AUDREY

I'm not surprised you didn't. You
lie to everyone you say you love.
Clarence, me?

(then)

Lolo was right, you are a fake.

Karen reacts, stricken. Audrey gathers her things, fuming,
then turns back to Lolo.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

If we didn't grow up as the only
two Asian girls in town, we never
would have been friends.

(then)

I don't ever want to see you again.

Death blow. There's nothing left to say. A devastated,
completely broken Audrey walks away.

*

EXT. SEOUL STREET - MOMENTS LATER

*

Audrey is stalking away down the street when Deadeye runs up
to her. She holds out a piece of paper.

*

DEADEYE

You should have this. It's where
your mom is buried.

Audrey barely even looks at her as she grabs it, continues
down the street. She's gone.

POST FIGHT MONTAGE

Over music, INTERCUT between Audrey, Karen, Lolo and Deadeye:

INT. SEOUL HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Audrey blankly stares at her adoption form, at the empty line
for her birth mom's signature. She checks a box underneath
marked "Deceased", then places the form into a hotel fax
envelope. Audrey then looks to her laptop, where work emails
are piling up. She closes it, then curls up in bed and cries.

INT. DIFFERENT SEOUL HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Karen, dressed down with no makeup, sits alone on a rumpled
bed. On her laptop, several different tabs are open to various
gossip websites: a headline reads "WHERE IS CHUNHWA? HAS
SECRET WHORE GONE INTO HIDING?!". She winces as she sees a
video clip of Clarence, head down, surrounded by paparazzi.
She goes to close the tab, but gets a popup ad for a plastic
surgery clinic -- with tattoo removal! Hmmm. She looks back to
her phone, dials, gets Clarence's voicemail...

KAREN

(shaky)

Hi. It's me again. I'm going to be
100% honest and tell you everything
I've ever done.

(deep breath)

Freshman year of college, I...

INT. INTERNET CAFE - DAY

Lolo, depressed, posts a story to her Instagram: "does anyone
want to buy a camera? DM me for deets [string of crying
emojis]". Deadeye sits behind a computer nearby, typing. She
perks up; she's found something interesting. Beckons Lolo
over.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

A cab pulls up to a graveyard. Audrey gets out, Deadeye's note
in hand. The cab driver helps direct her to her birth mother's
grave. Audrey puts down a small bouquet of flowers.

END MONTAGE

EXT. CEMETERY - NEXT DAY

Audrey puts down another bunch of flowers at her mother's grave, arranging them with the flowers from the day before. She steps to the side as she gets a work call from Frank.

AUDREY (INTO PHONE)
(forced cheer)
Hi Frank!

FRANK (ON PHONE)
There she is! Hadn't heard from you in awhile, I was starting to worry! Making sure you're still on for WestStar.

AUDREY
Yeah I had some passport issues, it's a long story, but anyway-- I'll be there. My flight leaves tonight.

FRANK
Great! See you tomorrow. Sayonara!

Frank hangs up. Audrey puts her phone away as a man, DAE, approaches Min's grave, then looks down at Audrey's flowers. Curious, Audrey goes up to him.

AUDREY
Hi. Do you know Min?
(off him)
I'm sorry, I don't speak Korean--

DAE
I'm Dae. Min's husband.

Off Audrey's surprise, Dae smiles.

DAE (CONT'D)
You must be the daughter.

AUDREY
(beat)
Wait, are you my--

DAE
No.
(smiles)
But I'm glad to finally meet you.

Off Audrey and this unexpected development...

INT. DAE'S HOUSE - DAY

It's a warm, cozy space. Dae pours tea as Audrey looks at a few framed pictures of her birth mother. It's the first time Audrey has seen her face clearly.

DAE
--We were only married a few years
before she fell sick.

AUDREY
I'm so sorry.

DAE
Thank you...they were good years.
We never had children of our own--
sorry I could not show you a little
brother or sister today.

AUDREY
(smiling)
It's okay.

DAE
But she always talked about you.
She was a teenager when she got
pregnant, but her boyfriend didn't
want to get in trouble and denied
it. Her parents sent her to China
until you were born. But she never
stopped thinking about you, never
stopped trying to find you.

AUDREY
How long ago did she...

DAE
Two years.

AUDREY
(suddenly stricken)
If I'd taken a vacation sooner...

Audrey struggles to hold it together and not think of all the
"what if"s, but it's a losing battle.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
If I weren't so obsessed with work
all the time I might have looked
for her earlier... and maybe she
and I could have... But it's too
late...

Dae looks at her; gets an idea.

DAE
There's something you should see.

He puts on his glasses and goes his computer. Pulls up a few files, gestures for Audrey to look:

DAE (CONT'D)
 When she got sick, she made goodbye
 videos for everyone. Friends,
 family... although she was not very
 close to her parents after they
 made her give you up. Anyway. She
 made you one too.

*
*
*
*
*
*

ON MONITOR: it's MIN, smiling nervously at the camera. She introduces herself in Korean, then:

MIN (INTO CAMERA)
 (stilted English)
 Hi. I'm Min.

*

ON Audrey, amazed to see Min speaking directly to her.

MIN (CONT'D)
 Sorry, my English is not good--

Dae's voice chimes in from offscreen.

DAE (ON VIDEO, O.S.)
 It's very good!

Min gestures for him to hush. It's charming.

MIN (INTO CAMERA)
 I am sorry I could not be part of
 your life. I wanted to very much...

On Audrey, fighting back tears.

MIN (INTO CAMERA) (CONT'D)
 When you were a baby you smiled so
 big and cried so big! I wonder what
 you are like now. Are you a doctor,
 lawyer, teacher? But it doesn't
 matter, I'm proud to be your
 mother.

*

DAE (O.S., FROM VIDEO)
 It doesn't matter? Have some
 standards for your daughter--

Min smilingly chides Dae in Korean. A tear rolls down Audrey's face, but she can't help but smile; it's not just her mother she's finally seeing, but a slice of her life.

MIN (INTO CAMERA)
 I hope this message finds you. And--

Min says a heartfelt line in Korean. Audrey leans forward, what is she saying?

MIN (CONT'D)
 (translating to English)
 My daughter. I love you.

Audrey is crying, and so is Dae. *

EXT./INT. DAE'S CAR - DAY

Audrey rides in the passenger seat as Dae drives.

DAE
 Are you sure you can't stay a
 little longer? I would love to show
 you around Seoul. *

AUDREY
 (torn)
 I want to... but I have to get back
 for work. Thank you so much for the
 ride. It's so lucky you happened to
 be visiting her today. *

DAE
 Oh, it wasn't luck. Your friends
 messaged me. Lolo, Karen and... I
 must be getting this wrong, but,
 Deadeye? *

Audrey nods, surprised. *

DAE (CONT'D)
 They found me through the caretaker
 at Min's family house. They told me
 you were in Korea, said I might
 find you at the graveyard. Did they
 not tell you? *

AUDREY
 Oh, no, we... It's just, we got
 into a little bit of a fight.
 They... they lied to me. They lied
 and said Min was still ali-- *

Her voice catches. *

DAE
 (gently)
 It's okay. I'm sure they did it
 from a place of love, to protect
 you from hurt. *

(then)
 Min would do the same thing. She
 never told me when she thought I
 was getting fat, and sometimes I
 have been very fat. *

Audrey laughs. *

DAE (CONT'D)

What is most important is you have
people in your life who love you.
What Min's passing taught me is
that we all have limited time on
earth... we should spend it with
those we love.

On Audrey as this sinks in. She reaches for her phone.

DAE (CONT'D)

So where are your friends now?

AUDREY

I'm not sure...

Off Audrey, looking at Instagram. She clicks on Lolo's
story...

INT. FERRY TERMINAL - LATER

Lolo and Deadeye sit in the waiting area, tickets in hand for
the next ferry back to China. Lolo morosely sings another made-
up song.

LOLO

I FUCKED UP / LOST MY FRIEND /
EVERYTHING SUCKS I JUST WANT TO GO
HOME

DEADEYE

You okay.

LOLO

Yeah, I'm great. I sold my camera,
I'm gonna go to dental hygiene
school like my dad wants.
Everything's fine.

Lolo's obviously not fine. Deadeye pats her on the head.

INT. PLASTIC SURGERY CLINIC - LATER

Karen sits in front of a DOCTOR, who's explaining the
procedure for the laser tat removal.

DOCTOR

...With the coloring and the size
of the tattoo, it will take at
least twenty sessions. Do you want
to proceed?

KAREN

(sighs)

Yes.

Just then her phone dings with a text. Karen looks to it,
confused. Then concern.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Actually, I'm sorry. I have to go.

Karen rushes out.

INT. FERRY TERMINAL - LATER

The ferry is boarding. Lolo's phone dings: it's a text from
Audrey: the bat emoji.

LOLO
Wait! Audrey just texted.
(then)
Why is she sending the bat signal?

Deadeye holds up her phone. She got it too.

DEADEYE
She dropped a pin to share her
location too. It's weird, she's in
the middle of a street. And she's
not moving.

LOLO
Do you think she got into a car
accident?

DEADEYE
What if she just, like, walked into
the middle of traffic.

LOLO
We need to go now!

They run off.

EXT. KOREAN STREET - NIGHT

Lolo and Deadeye, holding their phones, run down a busy
street. They spot Karen, doing the same.

LOLO
You got it too? Do you think
Audrey's in trouble?

KAREN
(panicked)
I don't know!

They turn the corner, into...

EXT. SEOUL STREET - CONTINUOUS

A busy square. Audrey is standing in a pedestrian island. She waves at them. As they cross to her:

Hey. LOLO

Hey. AUDREY

LOLO
Are you okay? 'Cause you sent the
bat signal--

KAREN
--Which is for emergencies--

AUDREY
I wanted you all to see this.

She points at a nearby bus stop. The digital ad display shows one of Lolo's photos from their trip: it's a gorgeous landscape from the riverbank.

LOLO
Wait, what's happening?

AUDREY
I saw your story. You can't give up
on photography, Lolo. You're an
artist. An amazing one.

Lolo realizes that her photos are on display all around them: on billboards, bus stops, etc. Landscapes, street scenes, a few of the girls smiling and laughing. They're all simple, undoctored, and striking. People nearby look up and admire them. Lolo's floored.

LOLO
How did you...

KAREN
Are these all yours? They're
beautiful.

AUDREY
I know we left things kind of ugly,
but I figured hey, families fight
and make up all the time. I love
you guys. All of you.

Everyone reacts, especially Deadeye, who is happy to be included. Audrey reaches out and pulls them all into a group hug. A long beat, then Lolo ear-flicks Audrey, gesturing around to all the photos.

LOLO
How much did all this cost?!

AUDREY
You know what, not even that much,
Dae really hooked it up.

KAREN
You met Dae?!

AUDREY
(smiling)
We have a lot of catching up to
do...

EXT. SEOUL NIGHT MARKET - NIGHT

A packed, busy night market with tables in the middle of the street. The girls sit at a folding table full of food, happily eating.

AUDREY
I know it's not *jianbing*, but I got
us *pajeon* -- apparently it's a
Korean pancake.

LOLO
It's so fucking good.
(then)
I still can't believe you skipped
your flight.

AUDREY
Well, there will be another one
tomorrow. And since I'm already
here, I should at least see a bit
of where my birth mother grew up.

LOLO
(theatrical fake shock)
Audrey's playing hooky! Can you
believe it?!

AUDREY
(good-natured)
Yeah, yeah, first time for
everything.

A YOUNG KOREAN COUPLE approach Karen to take selfies; they speak in Korean, but we understand "pussy tatt". Audrey and Lolo are surprised when Karen obliges.

KAREN
If I can't run from it, might as
well embrace it.

Karen puts on a brave face, but Audrey senses her sadness.

AUDREY
Have you heard from Clarence yet?

KAREN
(shakes head)
He still won't return my calls. But
it's okay. I left him a really long
message-- a few, actually-- and
told him everything I've ever done.
So even if he never talks to me
again, at least I was honest. Now
he knows the real me.

LOLO
Hey, maybe he'll forgive you. Isn't
that a Christian thing? That and
that whale that ate a guy?

Audrey's phone rings; an incoming video call from Frank.

AUDREY
Shit. I gotta take this.

Audrey gets up, finds a quiet corner before answering.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Hi Frank.

FRANK (ON PHONE)
Audrey! Beckett tells me he's going
to take your place on WestStar.

AUDREY
Yeah, I did all the work, he just
has to read it off the slide. Sorry
again about pushing my flight.

FRANK (ON PHONE)
Mmm-hmm, you know, it's a good
thing Beckett stepped up. Maybe
I'll have to back him for partner
instead--

AUDREY
Beckett?

FRANK (ON PHONE)
He was here when we needed him.

Audrey can't fucking believe this.

AUDREY
Beckett. With his 6 handicap and
his 1900 billable hours, which by
the way, I had three thousand this
year, I've had three thousand every
year I've worked for you --
(realizes)
(MORE)

AUDREY (CONT'D)
 I gave up nights, weekends, my
 whole life... And for what? So you
 could back Beckett for partner?
 Just because I missed one meeting?
 (then, determined)
 I quit.

*

Audrey sees Lolo, Karen and Deadeye peering around the corner.
 They've been eavesdropping the whole time.

FRANK (ON PHONE)
 What? You can't just--

*

AUDREY
 BYE FRANK!

She hangs up. The other three girls stare at her in delight.

LOLO
 HOLY SHIT! That was crazy!

AUDREY
 (grins)
 Yeah, well...

LOLO
 GET THIS BITCH THE FINEST AH-BOONGS
 IN ALL THE LAND!!!

*

Deadeye jumps up to go get Ah-Boongs.

*

KAREN
 Okay, I have to admit, street food
 is amazing. The three of us have to
 do this again in Chicago.

*

*

*

*

AUDREY
 Oh my god, for sure!

*

*

LOLO
 Iiii don't know if I'll be there.

*

*

AUDREY
 What do you mean, just drive up
 from your parents' house.

*

*

*

LOLO
 I mean, I hope I won't be there.
 I'm going to apply to the
 photography program at NYU.

*

*

*

*

AUDREY
 What?

*

*

LOLO
 It's just, I feel like I've really
 made a breakthrough in my art
 lately, and obviously I wanna--
 (MORE)

*

*

*

*

LOLO (CONT'D)
 (teasing)
 Stop being a loser and move out,
 so...

AUDREY
 (laughing)
 That's awesome, Lo. I know you'll
 get in.

Deadeye comes back with Ah-Boongs (fish-shaped waffle cones
 filled with soft serve) from a stall. Hands them out.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
 What are these?

LOLO
 They're Ah-Boongs, do you want a
 custard or a red bean--

KAREN
 They're taiyakis--

DEADEYE
 Yeah but with soft serve.

LOLO
 Whatever, they're Asian and they're
 fucking delicious.

KAREN
 Hey, let's get a picture! Lolo,
 will you take it? You're the
 professional after all.

Lolo takes out her camera, sets a timer. The girls pose,
 holding their ice cream. FLASH! They check the picture.

AUDREY
 (re: photo)
 Deadeye! Oh my god, you're smiling!

DEADEYE
 No I'm not.

KAREN
 You are, you totally are...

DEADEYE
 I disagree.

But there's a hint of a smile on her face...

CHYRON: "ONE YEAR LATER"

INT. HOME LAW OFFICE - INDIANA - NIGHT

ON a plaque that reads "AUDREY HAN SULLIVAN". WIDER to see it's a cozier, homier office. Instead of the row of awards there's a row of PHOTOS of various young Asian children with their birth parents. *

Audrey sits at her desk with a headset, on a video call to a MIDDLE-AGED KOREAN WOMAN. Even though she's working in the dead of night, Audrey is perky and upbeat.

AUDREY
(subtitled, beginner
Korean)
*Hi, Mrs. Kim! I have good news. I
found your daughter. She lives in
Ohio and would love to meet you.*

ONSCREEN: The woman reacts, overjoyed.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Audrey hugs her parents goodbye. Mary, wearing a "BONG HIVE" tee, and Joe help Audrey take out her luggage from the trunk.

AUDREY
Thanks for the ride!

MARY SULLIVAN
Of course! Have fun, sweetheart!

JOE SULLIVAN
Annyeoung haseyo!

Mary and Joe have totally adapted to Audrey's new culture.

AUDREY
(grins)
That's not goodbye, but you sound
great! Bye! Love you!

They wave as she takes off.

INT. DARKROOM - DAY

Lolo hangs up some photos to dry. Her phone alarm goes off -- time to go! *

EXT. TISCH SCHOOL OF ARTS - DAY

Lolo, coming out of the Tisch building with her luggage, hails a cab. She made it to New York! *

INT. ARCADIA DUMPLINGS RESTAURANT - DAY

In a large banquet-style hall, servers push dimsum carts to large round tables of diners.

There's a live performance onstage: It's Deadeye singing a sultry ballad. The crowd eats it up, applauding.

DEADEYE (INTO MIC)
Thank you. I have to go, but t-shirts and CDs are available, ten dollars each. See my mom.

ON Deadeye's dead-eyed mom, manning the merch table. Deadeye grabs her luggage and rolls out.

INT. BEIJING LIVING ROOM - DAY

Karen, dressed in all black with sexy makeup. *

KAREN
(subtitled Mandarin)
*I may have lost my fiance, but
it'll be a cold day in hell before
I let you have him...*

She pulls a GUN and SHOOTS a SCREAMING WOMAN!

WIDEN TO REVEAL that it's a television set.

DIRECTOR
(subtitled, in Mandarin)
Cut! That was great.
(to script supervisor)
*She's so much better playing the
villain.*

Karen walks over to the Director in video village.

KAREN *
I'm wrapped, right? *
(director nods) *
I have a big weekend ahead of me... *

Karen looks over to the stage door and smiles. Clarence is there, waiting for her!

INT. BANQUET HALL - DAY

It's a wedding reception! KAREN AND CLARENCE KISS as the guests, including Audrey, Lolo and Deadeye, cheer. Karen rushes over to them. Over hugs and squeals: *

KAREN
Can you believe I'm married? *

LOLO
 (jokingly, smiles)
 Not really!

AUDREY
 It was definitely dicey, but...

KAREN
 Luckily Clarence is a very
 forgiving Christian...

Karen looks over to Clarence and beckons him over.

DEADEYE
 Do you still have the tattoo.

KAREN
 YEP!

CLARENCE
 And she's not alone.

Clarence drops his pants, displaying a GIANT DICK TATTOO. It's
 an angel with wings that covers his entire pelvic region, and
 there's also a PRINCE ALBERT PIERCING.

AUDREY/DEADEYE/LOLO
 AAA! / AAAA!!!! / AAAHAHAHA!!!!

OVER CREDITS:

Audrey, Lolo, Deadeye and Karen do a routine to Deadeye's KPOP
 SONG to the delight of their guests!