

THE INHERITANCE

Written by

Alyson Lo

Alyson.p.lo@emory.edu
626-755-0777

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A ball of sticky rice sits on a wooden table covered with a white placemat. Two wrinkled hands with greening fingernails come in with long bamboo leaves, expertly wrapping the rice.

PO PO (80s), a woman with gray, cropped hair and a bright red fleece, continues to wrap the rice ball. Once covered in bamboo, she wraps string around the ball, knotting it tight.

A door slams, and quick footsteps can be heard.

Grandma looks up, smiling to show her few yellowing teeth. Her bright red sweater matches red Chinese decorations scattered throughout the otherwise dull modern kitchen.

She takes her skinny turtle cane and takes a few steps towards the kitchen entrance.

[All Chinese Cantonese dialogue is in brackets.]

PO PO

[Jeje, home from school so early?]

ANNIE (15), a thin girl with straight black hair that drapes over her bright green uniform, smiles back at her grandma.

Behind her, JANE TSANG (55), rapidly walks in as the tight bun holding her back bobs. She moves past Annie and quickly leans in to hug Po Po.

ANNIE

Same time every day, Po Po.

PO PO

[Come here, help me wrap these.]

Annie moves to stand alongside the matriarch as Jane interrupts.

JANE

[Ma Ma, she needs to do her homework.]

PO PO

[If she doesn't learn how to make this now, she never will.]

Annie's eyes dart back and forth between her two elders.

JANE

[You can teach her on the weekend.]

PO PO
 [You said that to me, and now look,
 you can't make any Chinese food!]

Jane looks at her mother and sighs as Po Po happily motions Annie over, handing her bamboo leaves.

PO PO (CONT'D)
 [Move slowly, starting with two
 leaves crossed at the back, then
 folding to the front.]

Po Po demonstrates, Annie follows suit.

Jane grabs something from the fridge, eyeing them.

JANE
 Annie, honey, finish one assignment
 before practice.

ANNIE
 Can't I just finish this?

PO PO
 [Oh, give her a break, she works
 too hard already. So skinny!]

ANNIE
 What was that word?

JANE
 Grandma says you're too thin.

PO PO
 [See! You don't teach her well!]
 (to Annie)
 Skin-nee.

Annie nods in understanding.

JANE
 [She knows enough, it's just one
 word.]

Po Po ignores Jane's attempts to argue with her, turning her attention to Annie instead.

PO PO
 [Too skinny. I feed you sticky rice
 to bring those round cheeks back.]

Po Po squeezes Annie's face, pinching the cheeks, causing Annie clear discomfort.

JANE
[She's fine as is, Mom.]

PO PO
[Fine for the American girl. But
first she is Chinese.]
(to Annie)
[Keep wrapping.]

Jane is interrupted by a phone call.

JANE
[You have to listen to me, Annie.]
We're leaving after I take this.

Jane leaves. Annie wraps the leaves dutifully next to her grandmother. Po Po turns to look at Annie's work.

PO PO
[Ah, a natural, just more
practice.]

ANNIE
How much more?

PO PO
[Oh don't worry about the time
child. You work too hard. Your
Great Auntie spent hours with me
just to learn how to tie these
knots. When they visit, they'll
tell you the secret tricks.]

Annie and Po Po continue to wrap the sticky rice. When Annie's done with one ball, she wipes her hands on her uniform.

PO PO (CONT'D)
[How dirty! It's not a napkin! I
taught you to keep some clothes
safe, like me, remember?]

Po Po wipes her hands on a napkin and shows off the pristine inside of her favorite red fleece. Annie nods, cleans off her uniform, and begins to wrap sticky rice once more.

Out of the kitchen a door is slammed. Heels click.

JANE (O.S.)
Annie! It's time to go! Did you
eat?

ANNIE
I'll eat later, Mom! It's fine!

Annie hesitates. She then finishes wrapping her ball of rice. She gives Po Po a gentle hug and then rushes out of the kitchen as Jane did moments ago.

Once Annie leaves, Po Po picks up Annie's wrapped sticky rice. She smiles and shakes her head, then moves to unwrap the ball, re-configuring the wrapping.

INT. JANE'S OFFICE - EVENING

Jane sits in a polished office, one resembling a Pottery Barn catalogue. She drums her fingers on the dark wooden desk, looking down at a slew of mail on her desk.

Three white generic bills all read "OVERDUE" in bright red letters. Jane sighs.

She walks across the room, her house slippers swishing on the hard-wood floors.

Jane opens an armoire on the wall beside the desk. Inside, piles of papers, brochures, and yard signs fill the cabinet to the brim.

Mounds of these sit on top of each other haphazardly, as if one move could make all the contents of the cabinet spill onto Jane.

Jane shakes her head and briefly looks down in shame. She then moves to grab something at the top of the pile.

Suddenly, light footsteps can be heard. Jane clocks this, slams the cabinet shut, and shoves the envelopes in a desk drawer.

Annie appears. Before she has a chance to question her mother's nervous actions, Jane throws a hand up at her daughter, signaling for her to stay in the doorjamb.

JANE

[Set the table!]

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - EVENING - MINUTES LATER

Unlike the spacious home, Po Po's room is packed: shelves are filled with jars of old spices, the windowsill is lined with money trees and old framed photos.

The bed in the corner is the only thing in the room perfectly neat, completely made up with a layer of quilts on top.

At the front of the carpeted room, the television beams, filling the bedroom.

JANE (O.S.)
[Mom, dinner time!]

On the pixelated screen, the TVB Hong Kong morning news sequence blasts.

JANE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
[Come eat!]

The room is at a standstill. Only plain newscast music coming from the television.

Po Po's turtle cane lies on the floor.

Outside of the room, heavy footsteps can be heard.

Jane opens the door, which collides with another shelf with spices. Her eyes widen.

JANE (CONT'D)
Mom?

INT. JANE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jane, now dressed in all black, stands with droopy eyelids.

She opens the fridge, revealing a shelf full of wrapped sticky rice.

Jane slams the fridge closed and sits back at the counter.

Around the counter are Annie and ASHLEY (13), a slightly skinnier and shorter replica of her older sister, Annie. The two sit silently with long faces.

Annie fiddles with plates on the table as Ashley is immersed in her phone.

Annie slowly pushes a plate and some utensils towards Ashley.

Ashley pushes them back. Annie shrugs, and then keeps working.

DANNY (55), a middle-aged white man with the classic Silicon Valley tech mogul look, walks into the dining room. He is also dressed in all black like the women. He moves towards Jane and puts her hand on her shoulder.

DANNY
Honey, May's here.

Jane sighs. The two exit the dining room, leaving the daughters at the table.

EXT. JANE'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Jane and Danny step out of their house and onto their large, perfectly manicured front lawn.

On the street, a rickety Toyota Solara pulls up and brakes hard in front of the pair. Even from outside the car, you can see old soda bottles and newspapers strewn in the back.

MAY TSANG (60), hops out of the car in all white. A large white headband pulling her short bob away from her face.

She moves to meet Danny and Jane on the lawn.

JANE

We're going to an American funeral after this, why are you wearing white?

Jane gestures to May's headband.

MAY

You should put some on. Did you forget after Dad's?

May strides ahead into the driveway towards a generic banquet table lined with incense, photos, and plates wrapped in foil.

Jane follows suit, leaving Danny awkwardly on the lawn.

A shiny Honda Pilot pulls up to Jane's house and parks nicely in front of May's dented Toyota.

TAMMY TSANG (62), a frail woman from her small frame to her fragile metal glasses, steps out wearing a white sweater, white pants, and white sandals.

JOHN (60s), steps out of the car, matching his wife in stature and dress.

KENNY (30s), turns off the engine and gets out of the driver's seat. Compared to his parents, his bulky stature and all black clothing make him stick out.

The three move to join Jane and May, who stand bickering in front of the shrine.

Tammy, clutching used tissues in her slender fingers, looks at the table in dismay.

TAMMY

[No! No! It's done all wrong.]

Tammy shakes her head and dramatically fiddles with the table full of photos, incense, and food. She pushes Jane aside and completely re-arranges the table so that it faces the opposite direction than before.

As she moves plates and incense, May and Jane clumsily help, causing a plate of noodles to fall on the driveway.

Jane looks up at May, unamused.

MAY

[This is why you should have waited until we came to set this up.]

Tammy shakes her head once more in watching her younger siblings bicker.

TAMMY

[You two, arguing even now. Jane, go get another plate of those noodles.]

Before Jane can turn to complete this task, her dutiful daughter Annie walks towards the shrine, placing a fresh plate of steaming noodles back on the table.

Annie then crouches down to clean up the noodles from before.

As she rises, a sound of a loud engine makes the whole family look up.

NELSON TSANG (50), slides into the driveway on a dark Harley Davidson. He brakes harshly, stopping a foot from his sisters, Annie, and his mother's shrine.

He dismounts off the motorcycle and takes off his helmet, revealing a gloomy face and a sweep of long, shoulder-length dark black hair.

He tosses his helmet on the floor next to his bike and immediately swoops Tammy in for a hug, burying her face in his oversized black leather jacket.

He sobs. Loudly. Too loudly. It's the only sound filling the driveway.

Tammy's eyes widen, reluctant to hug her brother and unhappy with her face full of leather.

Danny, John, and Kenny, previously lingering away from the mourning women, now move to join the congregation.

Nelson releases Tammy from the hug. The other men lean in to greet Nelson.

Compared to the rest, Nelson's leather jacket, boots, and unkempt black hair make him stand out against the rest of his clean-cut family.

MAY

Nelson, where's that girl, Tina?

Nelson speaks between sniffles.

NELSON

Not her place. Also, we, uh, are no longer together.

TAMMY

(scoffs)

[There goes another one.]

Nelson ignores this and greets Jane.

JANE

I see you dressed up.

NELSON

I'm wearing black, it's fine, Jane.

Tammy silently runs up to them to toss white scarves across their necks.

NELSON (CONT'D)

I hate this.

Jane moves to comfort him. Her eyes well up.

All of the family members congregate around the shrine, some silent, some murmuring small talk with others.

Jane steps towards the table in order to gain the attention of everyone. She clears her throat. They quiet down after.

JANE

Can we start already?

MAY

Tam and I should lead.

EXT. JANE'S FRONT YARD - MINUTES LATER

On the long narrow driveway each of the families line up. Tammy, John, and Kenny stand closest to the shrine, with May second, then Jane's family, and Nelson, alone, at the end of the driveway.

The food on the table is now uncovered, revealing noodles, baos, and vegetables.

Tammy lights the incense on the table and in her hand. She distributes the ones in her hand to John and Kenny, who flank her sides.

TAMMY

[You left too soon, MaMa. It's Tammy, John, and Kenny.]

Tammy pauses, with Kenny rushing to his mother's side to comfort her.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

[We will help you on your journey.]

John, Tammy, and Kenny line up and bow in sync three times.

They turn and hand the incense to May.

MAY

[Hey Mom. It's me. I hope you're safe. Say hi to dad, and...if you can, say hi to Gary for me too.]

May stands alone and bow three times.

After a pause for May to touch the picture of her mother, she turns to Jane, handing her and Danny the incense.

Jane's eyes widen, but she steps up to the table with her mother's picture and coaxes Annie and Ashley to follow.

Danny rubs her back as Jane stares at the shrine. After a beat, she turns to Danny once more.

May clocks this and steps in, nudging Jane and causing the entire family to shuffle in order to make space for her.

May takes the incense from Jane and Danny's hands and divides them evenly among the family, forcing some into Annie and Ashley's hands.

Ashley sneezes after sniffing the incense, causing the sticks to stop burning. Annie tries to stifle a chuckle. May re-lights the incense for the girl, but not without frustration.

She then moves Annie and Ashley to stand in front of their parents.

Jane turns back to the shrine.

JANE

Mom, it's us: Jane, Danny, Annie,
and Ashley.

(pause)

I miss you.

Jane and her family stand again, uncertain.

Tammy moves to stand along side them in front of the shrine, now with the incense almost fully burned and the food growing cold.

TAMMY

You have to bow.

Tammy begins to bow, grabbing Jane's shoulder and forcing her to bend at the same speed. Jane's family does the same.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

[One bow, two bow, three bows.]

Tammy bows, with Jane's family until she stops bowing. After, the four awkwardly disperse. Annie and Ashley cling to each other as they shuffle away.

Finally Tammy brings Nelson to the front. She shoves incense into his hand as he continues to stare at the floor.

May moves next to Nelson as they both look at the shrine. May elbows Nelson, silently urging him to say goodbye.

NELSON

Hi Mom. It's Nelson. I've been
keeping up the house, just as you
asked. And I...I'm sorry.

Nelson breaks down into tears as May attempts to comfort him. Slowly, she guides him, even physically, through the bows.

MAY

[One...two...three.] There.

Nelson crumples, placing the incense in his hands on the shrine. He quickly leaves the table.

Jane returns to the shrine and stares at the picture, the flickering incense and the now cold food.

Annie, Ashley, and Ken stand together, letting the adults congregate.

Ashley accidentally loses composure, letting out a sob. Though she catches herself after, the entire family looks towards her. Annie and Ken move to comfort Ashley.

Jane stands alone as other family members cluster behind her.

Finally, she sighs and puts out the incense.

TAMMY

[We leave it on! Silly girl.]

JANE

[We're late for the funeral. The burial.]

Tammys relights the incense, bringing warmth back onto the table despite Jane's plea.

EXT. ROSE HILLS CEMETERY - DAY

Jane's shiny Audi, May's rickety Toyota, Tammy's Honda, and Nelson's Harley are all parked in a row, lining the cemetery road.

Surrounding their cars are acres of perfectly kempt green laws dotted with gravestones, each gray squares flush with the ground.

Each of the siblings stand with their families. Jane stands as the only outlier, ahead of the rest of the cohort.

She stands deeper in the cemetery, closer to where a coffin covered with lilies lays.

Jane points and Danny, Kenny, Nelson, and John each act as pallbearers. They each take an end of the dark wooden coffin and slowly walk to place it in the open pit of the grave.

Next to the grave, two gray plaques sit side by side.

Jane takes some flowers and places them in front of one of the plaques.

The coffin is lowered into the grave. Each family stands in their respective factions. They all stand around the grave, silently taking it in.

After the coffin is fully lowered into its place, everyone pauses, trying to catch a glimpse of Po Po one last time.

INT. CHINESE BANQUET RESTAURANT - NOON

Dozens of ASIAN FAMILIES fill the bustling banquet room. Each sit around circular tables with droopy mustard yellow tablecloths and lazy Susans.

A handful of WAITERS wearing white dress shirts and gold vests flutter from table to table.

Asian families talk loudly to each other. Waiters playfully yell at customers and staff.

In the dead center of the room, the Tsang extended family sits around a table. Dead silent.

The family sits in their factions, with each sibling sitting with their family around the table. Annie, Ashley and Ken sit together, sandwiched between their parents.

A WAITER (20s) with buzzed hair comes up to the table. He puts down a red tub of rice and two pots of tea.

WAITER

[Welcome to Sam Woo's-]

JANE

[I pre-ordered already. Jane Tsang.]

The waiter leaves, quickly coming with three other waiters each with plates of food: pork chop, a peking duck, and various rice dishes.

The waiters hastily place all the dishes on the table, filling the lazy Susan to the brim.

As the plate of peking duck lands on the table, Nelson swoops in to grab it but is quickly stopped by May pulling the plate away from his direction.

NELSON

What gives?

May rolls her eyes.

MAY

Nelson, we can't eat that.

NELSON

May, it's their special.

TAMMY

[Jane, this is all wrong. Only veggie until mom makes her journey.]

Ashley and Annie move to serve themselves some pork, but Tammy pulls their plates away as well.

Everyone stares at Jane.

MAY

(to Waiter)

[Mistake on the order. It's all wrong. Only veggie.]

The waiter continues to look back and forth.

JANE

[Hold on, this is fine. There's still shrimp-]

MAY

[No seafood either.]

Tammy takes a plate of walnut shrimp out from under Nelson's nose.

NELSON

This is ridiculous. We did this for dad, we have to do it for mom too?

TAMMY

(to Waiter)

[Tofu Soup stays. Vegetables stay. Take everything else away.]

NELSON

How long? It's a dumb tradition.

TAMMY

[Until she finds Ye Ye.]

Jane looks up from her menu to look at her older sisters.

JANE

[And how long is that going to be exactly?]

TAMMY

[49 days.]

Nelson leans back in his seat, exasperated.

JANE
(to Waiter)
[Bring an egg drop soup-]

TAMMY
[No eggs.]

Jane rolls her eyes and leans back in her seat. Ashley and Kenny engorge themselves on bowls of plain rice. Annie sits beside them, refusing to eat.

INT. CHINESE BANQUET RESTAURANT - MINUTES LATER

The large lazy Susan is now filled with soups, bok choy, and plates of white and fried rice.

The family eats in silence, shoveling rice with chopsticks.

May reaches to move the lazy Susan but Jane is quicker, moving the food towards her on the opposite side of the packed table.

May sighs as Jane slowly serves herself another helping of tofu. Jane then pushes it towards May roughly. May stops the lazy Susan, the dishes clattering to a halt.

Tammy swallows and places her chopsticks down.

TAMMY
[I don't know if Auntie would like this place when she comes. Maybe change the venue?]

MAY
[Or cancel the trip altogether. There's no point in them coming-]

JANE
[They've already booked their tickets. It's too late. Besides, they can say their goodbyes.]

After a beat, Jane looks up at the family.

JANE (CONT'D)
[I think we need to talk about the funeral.]
(beat)
[We should all chip in.]

Tammy looks up, as does John. All three of the children look between the elders with their eyes wide in confusion.

JANE (CONT'D)
[It was about six thousand, so,
divided by four....]

TAMMY
[You make the most money. Why do we
have to pay?]

NELSON
It's for mom, Tam.

TAMMY
[Can't Jane pay more?]

JOHN
[We are not going to pay.]

John smugly moves to turn the lazy Susan after his comment. Jane clocks this and gets to the lazy Susan before John, moving it instead.

Jane smirks. John sulks, but presses on.

JOHN (CONT'D)
[It's my money-]

MAY
[John, please-]

JANE
[Pay now, and when we find the will
you can get that money back.]

NELSON
Wait, did you say a will?

All the adults at the table stop eating and lean in, piqued with interest.

MAY
[She's right. Mom must have had
something. From dad, selling the
restaurant, she must have left it
for us. Let's get that.]

TAMMY
[Yes, we find the will first, no
one pays until then.]

JANE
[That's not what I-]

MAY

[Oh, just front the money for us
and once we get the will we can
sort it out.]

NELSON

And where would the will be?

MAY

[Jane, she lived with you. You must
know.]

All the food on the table sits cold.

JANE

[I can look in her room.]

MAY

[Then let's all look. Why should
you get all the fun?]

JANE

[That's such a hassle. It's easier
for all of us if I look and then
share it with you later.]

MAY

[And trust you? Not a chance.]

Nelson slurps down noodles, talking between bites.

NELSON

She can look. Saves me time.

TAMMY

[No, we search together or not at
all. Understand?]

Jane looks at the adults at the table except Danny.

All staring her down, eyes pleading for the right answer.

Jane nods in agreement. Tammy and May smile, pleased.

Annie and Kenny continue to listen to the conversation while
Ashley stares at her phone, seemingly unaware of the dialogue
around her.

ANNIE

What's going on?

KEN

They're going to your house, to
look for the will.

ANNIE
Is everyone coming?

ASHLEY
I hope not.

Jane swats her younger daughter's arm in response.

TAMMY
[Let's go after this.]

JANE
[Oh no, I-]

MAY
[We're all together. Now, Jane.]

Nelson sits back once again, wolfing at his food.

Danny pours Jane more tea. Steam rises from the ceramic cup, all too warm next to her cold, limp meal.

INT. JANE'S LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jane and her family, still dressed in clothes from the funeral, scramble around a living room filled to the brim with cardboard boxes.

The parents grab boxes and hastily hand them to their daughters, who shove them in closets around the house.

Annie trips and the box in her hands clatters onto the floor, revealing dozens of unused brochures for "TSANG REALTY" with Jane's face plastered on them. She hastily cleans up the mess and continues to hide boxes.

ASHLEY
Why are we doing this again?

DANNY
She's right, Jane-

JANE
They're here. They can't know about the business-

Annie races around her family, shoving boxes in various rooms and closing the doors.

DANNY
You can just say this is extra stock, or a home office, we could even ask them for some help-

JANE

No. Never. It's my family, I get to choose what they see.

The family continues to hide boxes, giving into the matriarch's wishes.

The doorbell rings. Jane and her family pause and turn pale upon hearing the chime.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

It's evident this is the first time the room has been touched since her death.

Jane, May, Tammy, and Nelson shuffle around in Po Po's cramped, clustered room, still wearing clothes from the funeral.

Tammy searches the bed slats with one hand as she props up the mattress with her other skinny arm.

Nelson stands, sniffing at old photos on Po Po's cabinets. He stares at them longingly, paralyzed from grief.

Jane moves him aside, actually looking through shelves Nelson was supposed to search.

MAY

[Jeez, she loved to hoard, didn't she?]

May combs through a shelf, opening random assortments of plastic bags and old cookie tins. She opens a tin, pulls out old bags filled with wrinkly Chinese candy. May winces, then closes it and places it back where a dusty outline lays.

Nelson plops onto the floor. His sisters ignore him.

JANE

[There's nothing here.]

TAMMY

[Then look harder.]

Annie enters with a phone in her hand.

ANNIE

Mom, Arthur from East West Bank is on the phone for you-

Jane grabs the phone from Annie and shoos her away. She silences the phone and turns back to her siblings, not missing a beat.

JANE

[Why don't we just stop. We're exhausted-]

Nelson groans and rolls onto his stomach.

JANE (CONT'D)

[I have to go. You aren't staying in my house without me.]

MAY

[Oh, and who's on the phone that's more important than mom-]

JANE

[It's work. Please, can we just do this later?]

TAMMY

[Always putting your business first. Not family.]

Tammy stops looking under the mattress and grabs May by the upper arm. May reluctantly gives in to Tammy.

Tammy bends down, gently smacking Nelson's arm. He rolls over and rises.

The three exit their mother's room. Jane sighs in relief.

INT. TAMMY'S FOYER - AFTERNOON

John sits at a small coffee table in the middle of a large living room with plastic-covered leather furniture. He reads the newspaper with thin-framed glasses on the tip of his nose, back completely straight in his crisp button down.

Tammy, clutching a small pink purse against her funeral attire, enters through the large white river styled front door. She attempts to tiptoe past John once in the house.

JOHN

[Wait.]

Tammy stops in her tracks and looks at John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

[Did you find the will?]

TAMMY

[Not yet. Tomorrow.]

John nods and points to an old white fridge while not glancing up from the newspaper.

Tammy meekly makes her way to the fridge to see a bill stuck to the outside with tape. A red circle marks a price on the bottom right of the page.

JOHN

[Bill up four dollars. Why use so much water?]

John sticks out his hand. Tammy reluctantly reaches into her purse to reveal a matching baby pink leather wallet.

TAMMY

[Maybe if I wasn't with you I could use all the water I want.]

John sneers at her comment, grabs her wallet, and takes four one-dollar bills from it.

He then continues to read the paper. Business as usual.

Seeing no purpose for her presence any longer, Tammy creeps out of the room.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jane, wearing a fluffy robe and slippers, rifles through papers and cabinets in the room. Her eyes are wide, her hair unkempt, and her lip quivering.

Danny, now wearing a robe, knocks and enters the room.

Jane looks up at her husband and casually waves him away. He doesn't move, still standing in the doorjamb staring at his wife.

Jane tears up and shakes, still combing through papers.

JANE

I'll get the money. I promise.

Danny fails to match his wife's energy, instead remaining unfazed while she panics.

DANNY

Car's going on Friday.

JANE

Just a little bit longer. I'll find the money, and after paying for the funeral, and Auntie's visit, I'll fix this.

DANNY

You keep saying that, it's just stalling.

JANE

Honey, please. The kids will start to question-

DANNY

We don't have a choice. After that...we should talk about sending them to the local school.

JANE

Just a little longer. I'll get back on my feet.

DANNY

Not just your feet. Ours too.

Danny steps away from the doorjamb, leaving Jane to scramble in the room alone.

INT. MAY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

May, now wearing a nice floral dress and light makeup, stands beside A FOSTER AGENT, a curly-haired woman in a pantsuit.

The agent holds a clipboard, aggressively scribbling on it as they walk through the apartment.

Three small dogs run around her, clearly alarming the woman.

The two survey May's kitchen. The agent sees an open trash can and shakes her head.

FOSTER AGENT

Is there a fire extinguisher?

MAY

I'm working on it.

FOSTER AGENT

And...married?

May twists the ring on her finger, frowning.

MAY

Widowed.

The two walk down the short hallway, and May opens a door wide open, smiling.

MAY (CONT'D)

This would be the kid's room.

She turns on the light, to reveal a neatly kept, but slightly cramped bedroom. Its decorations and cleanliness fail to match the rest of the apartment.

The agent surveys this and nods.

The foster agent walks over towards a wooden dining room table with rickety, mismatched chairs. She moves to sit in one with a tennis ball attached at the bottom of one of the shorter legs.

MAY (CONT'D)

No! Not that one!

But it's too late. The foster agent plops down in one and it creaks and wobbles. May winces.

MAY (CONT'D)

I usually put newspapers under that one, to prop it up.

The foster agent ignores this comment.

FOSTER AGENT

You have to fix those window screens.

May breathes a sigh of relief, just as the chair gives altogether. The foster agent falls backwards onto the floor.

Begrudgingly, she accepts May's help to stand up. The agent dusts herself off, looks at her clipboard and sighs.

FOSTER AGENT (CONT'D)

May. You should have had this done before the home visit. You are not acceptable to foster.

MAY

Then what do I need?

The agent sighs and gestures to the broken chair.

MAY (CONT'D)

I could-

FOSTER AGENT

It's not a good fit, Ms. Tsang.

The foster agent stands and moves towards the rickety wooden front door. As she moves to put her hand on the metal handle, May rises to meet her.

MAY

I'm about to come into some money.

The foster agent turns, but only to stare at May blankly.

MAY (CONT'D)

Right now! I'm going to work with my siblings to get it after this.

The foster agent surveys May. Then nods her head and opens the door.

FOSTER AGENT

Call me back once you get it.

The agent leaves the apartment. After a beat, May relaxes. She perches on the couch, staring into the distance, her brows furrowing.

After a moment, she grins, grabs her purse and runs out the door in a frenzy.

INT. AMERICAN GROCERY STORE - DAY

Nelson, now wearing a blue employee vest, sadly restocks cans in a colorful, bustling grocery aisle.

A CUSTOMER (70s), a Chinese woman with a cane and short graying hair, peruses the cans beside him. She almost resembles Po Po. She picks up a dented can of baby corn and begins to walk away.

Nelson sees her and his eyes grow wide. He rises and moves to follow her, pushing past other customers.

The woman turns the aisle. Nelson quickens his pace.

The old lady accidentally bumps into a shelf, causing her basket and a few items to fall.

Nelson races towards the lady, just as her SON (40s), runs up towards the lady and helps her pick up after the mess.

Nelson frowns. He stares at them longingly as the son grabs his mother's basket, and they walk away as a unit.

Finally he turns from the aisle and collides with May. The two, suprised, gain their bearings.

MAY

What time is your shift over?

NELSON

Um, five? What are you doing here?
Why are you dressed like that?

MAY

That won't work. Let's go.

NELSON

Are you crazy? You know better than
anyone else I can't just leave.

MAY

[Elder's orders.]

NELSON

Job's orders! I need to get paid!

Nelson brushes May off and turns to walk away from her. May pounces, reaching up to grab Nelson's ear, pulling him from the aisles.

EXT. JANE'S FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

May and Nelson dismount from his Harley.

May, still wearing clothes from her adoption interview, quickens her pace to walk towards Jane's house. Nelson follows behind hastily.

NELSON

What's going on? You're dressed
like this, you force me out of work-

MAY

You said we would work together, so
here's us getting a head start.

May knocks on the wooden red door lined with a wreath.

NELSON

You're in such a rush, what
happened-

MAY

Look. We need the money more than
they do. And don't act like you
trust Jane.

(MORE)

MAY (CONT'D)

She probably pilfered through the room by herself days ago.

Ashley opens the door, seemingly bored as she stares at her aunt and uncle.

ASHLEY

Aunt Tammy's already inside.

May gasps. Ashley, bored, looks back to her phone and steps aside. May hastily enters. Nelson reluctantly follows.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

The two burst into the room to find Tammy digging underneath her mother's bed.

Unlike the siblings' previous neat search, Tammy's made a mess: the mattress is flipped over with sheets torn off, and old papers from cabinets are strewn about.

MAY

[What happened to working together?]

TAMMY

[Be quiet. You knew Jane probably had a look in here by herself yesterday.]

(beat)

[How did you both know to show up at the same time anyway?]

May exchanges a glance with Nelson, and then speaks for her younger brother.

MAY

[He needed a ride.]

May walks further into the room and begins upheaving couch cushions, tossing them recklessly.

Nelson once again gravitates towards the photos.

May and Tammy toss objects about the room.

The bedroom door opens. Jane stands there, arms filled with plastic grocery bags with baby hairs flying out of her ponytail. Her jaw is set.

JANE

[Who let you in?]

TAMMY
[Your little one.]

Jane drops the bags immediately and races into the room.

JANE
[You have no right to look without
me. In my own house.]

NELSON
Jane, calm down, she wouldn't have
wanted it this way.

Jane ignores Nelson's comment and sifts through a bookshelf. Nelson continues to look at framed photos, shoving ones of his choosing in Jane's face. He looks like a kid trying to do show and tell.

Jane ignores each of his attempts, pushing his hand away.

Nelson picks up a picture of Po Po and YeYe watching over all of her children in the front lawn of a green house.

NELSON (CONT'D)
Remember that game...bing ball?

Jane once again pushes his hand with the picture away.

NELSON (CONT'D)
C'mon, it's a cute photo.

Jane shoves Nelson aside to access the part of the shelf he is blocking. In turn, the framed photo flies out of Nelson's hand, landing on the floor with a shatter.

All of the siblings stare at the broken frame. Nelson bends down to move the shards of glass from the photo, extracting the picture from the mess.

His tears falls on the photo. He sobs softly once more.

May brushes this off. Jane stares at the photo in his hands.

Jane swoops the photo out of Nelson's hands and shows the siblings the back of the picture, revealing a manila envelope taped to the back.

It is addressed to the four in Chinese characters.

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Each family sits in their factions: Jane with Annie, a bored Ashley, and Danny at her side, May, Tammy with John, and Nelson by himself. Kenny stands up, looking towards the other members.

MAY
[This doesn't seem fair.]

JANE
[He's the most qualified.]

KEN
[I don't need to do this. Not super qualified-]

TAMMY
[My boy, only one in family to be a lawyer.]

MAY
[Only in law school.]

NELSON
There's no use arguing with her,
just let him read it.

Easily distracted, Nelson stares at the ceramic plates on the table, fascinated.

NELSON (CONT'D)
Weren't these mom's?

JANE
She brought them when she moved in.

MAY
We should split these.

JANE
What, so everyone gets two plates?

Tammy shushes her siblings to hand Kenny the envelope.

Slowly, he moves to open it, ripping the envelope open in an uneven manner.

Jane and Danny stare at Kenny. Annie watches the rest of her family as Ashley looks, unconcerned, out the window.

May sets her jaw.

John sits happily next to a meek Tammy. He grins at Kenny.

Nelson sits back in his chair, apathetic to the scene.

Kenny pulls out a thin piece of white paper. He unwraps it. The crinkling paper is the only sound to fill the room.

Kenny stares at the paper and furrows his brow.

KEN

I...I can't read this.

MAY

[Even he knows it's wrong.]

KEN

No, it's in Cantonese.

May impatiently grabs it from him, and then places the paper between her and Tammy.

Tammy adjusts her thin glasses to the bridge of her nose as she leans down to read the paper with May.

Jane moves closer to the two but does not attempt to read the paper.

Tammy grips the paper tighter, pulling it from May's grasp, and then begins to translate.

TAMMY

To my family. You expected this to be easy. I saw after BaBa's death, you wanted to go your separate ways. Cleanly. Easily.

Jane leans in, her face pales.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

But just like you all are stubborn, so am I. I'm not letting you all go your separate ways.

May opens her mouth to speak. Nelson shushes May. May looks at him through visibly angry eyes.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I taught you all how to play games, and now, I've got one left.

NELSON

Bing Ball?

Jane slaps Nelson's arm to silence him.

TAMMY

You must work together. Alone, none of you could piece together every clue. I didn't raise you to be that smart.

MAY

That old geezer.

TAMMY

Your first clue, one you can all recognize: A home for two, a house for two, BaBa and I worked to give it all to you.

Annie moves towards Kenny. John smirks happily in his seat.

ANNIE

(to Kenny)

What the hell is going on?

KEN

(to Annie)

Wish I could tell you.

A couple beats pass as the siblings stare at each other.

TAMMY

[We can't disrespect her last wish. She wants us to be together, let's go now.]

JANE

[That's so easy coming from you. You've always done everything they said. To a fault. And I can't do now.]

John's face darkens as Tammy pales.

MAY

[Why not? Work again? Or just your ego getting in the way of this quick task?]

NELSON

Calm down, Mom was just buried-

MAY

(to Jane)

[Your ego, again. Making the family suffer.]

NELSON

Jane's right. So many stupid traditions. I'm starving from this no-meat thing, we had two different ceremonies. And this? It's my house now, I'll check and report back.

Tammy looks to the floor as May's eyebrows furrow at Nelson. He nods back at her, signaling confidence in his decision, which allows May to relax.

Annie looks towards Ken, who shrugs his shoulders at his cousins. The three watch, confused, as their parents bicker.

John shakes his head in disappointment and stands, causing Tammy to rise as well. He elbows his wife, and the two begin to walk towards the door.

MAY

[You're just leaving?]

JANE

[I told you, Danny and I have to go. Nelson has work.]

Nelson nods and continues to gaze at the floor.

TAMMY

[If you want to search on your own, I can too.]

Tammy rolls her eyes and pulls out an old set of keys from her purse. John grins.

May, Nelson, and Jane exchange panicked glances.

Tammy waves Kenny over. Kenny signals his confusion to Annie and Ashley as his parents nearly pull him out of the room.

As Tammy and her family leave, May rises, dragging Nelson out of his seat. Jane jumps to her feet, with Annie handing her a purse.

NELSON

It's mine now, how could she possibly get a key?

JANE

You think mom trusted you that much? Of course she has one.

May and Jane rush out of the room to follow their eldest sibling. Nelson, still scratching his chin in confusion, follows.

EXT. CHILDHOOD HOME - AFTERNOON

Tammy and John stand with their mouths agape as they stare at the house.

A HOUSE, a two-story bungalow-styled dwelling, is years from its prime.

The once vibrant green color of the house is masked with dust. Paint chips on the window frames.

The front lawn is unkempt, full of weeds and brown patches. A once fruitful garden is now completely dried up, and only two slightly discolored palm trees remain. A rusted, once white metal fence surrounds the front yard.

Beside their home is another, nicely kept red and brown bungalow of identical size. MS. KONG, a skinny Chinese lady with a fluff of white hair and a slender wooden cane stands on her porch.

She sits and takes a drag of her cigarette coolly.

Nelson, on his Harley, speeds into the cracked driveway. He dismounts quickly and races to block Tammy's view of their childhood home.

TAMMY

[I should have checked in on this place more often.]

JOHN

[The house should have been ours. He made it a dump.]

May's Solara pulls up and she calmly slams its rickety doors. She surveys the home, sighs, and leans on what's left of the metal fence. Nelson sheepishly stands away from his sisters.

NELSON

I can fix it! I've been trying to fix it, especially since she's gone.

A shiny silver Audi passes by on the street. It suddenly makes a U-turn and comes to a screeching halt in front of the group.

Jane jumps out of the car, races towards Nelson, and grabs him by the shirt collar.

JANE

[Are you kidding me?]

Tammy moves to comfort Jane. She shrugs Tammy off.

JANE (CONT'D)
[We all knew you didn't deserve
this place. If only mom saw this.]

Ms. KONG moves to the edge of her porch to catch a glimpse of the Tsang family and the commotion.

MS. KONG
[Am I dreaming? Is that the Tsangs?
Where is little Jane?]

All the family members turn towards her.

JANE
[Auntie Kong!]

Jane runs towards Ms. Kong and the two embrace.

MS. KONG
[Long time no see! You left silly
Nelson with this place? And you!
Dumb child! You left me all alone
over here!]

Jane bows.

JANE
[Sorry, Auntie-]

MS. KONG
[Why don't you come here anymore!]

MAY
[She's too busy with her business!
No time for family!]

Jane waves her off, but Ms. Kong clocks this.

MS. KONG
[Ah! Great business woman, making
mom proud. Where is mom, I have not
seen her! She used to visit the
house all the time!]

Silence. Jane looks to the floor, scared to make eye contact as she tears up. In the distance, the other siblings look at each other and back at Ms. Kong.

Ms. Kong's color rushes from her face and she grabs Jane for another hug.

Ms. Kong releases her, and in a complete twist, swats Jane on the shoulder.

MS. KONG (CONT'D)

[Stupid child! Nobody told Auntie Kong? Now you are required to come in for tea and speak to me! I'll even allow the others to come.]

JANE

[Not now, auntie. We have some family business to deal with. I...I'm sorry we didn't-]

Ms. Kong sees the fear and tears in Jane's eyes and waves her words away.

MS. KONG

[Shh, stupid child. I understand. Give me your number then! I finally got a cell phone and I will call you for tea.]

Jane bows and obliges, typing her number in the elder's phone.

Jane gives Ms. Kong one last hug and then rejoins her family on their dusty front yard.

May glares at Jane and sighs. Loudly.

JANE

[Oh stop it, Auntie Kong took care of us, and mom loved her.]

TAMMY

[Mom found her too nosy. Mom. She's looking down on us right now in shame. In horror!]

NELSON

It really isn't that bad, I promise! All little fixes.

The metal fence May leans on creaks and gives under her weight. It falls with a soft clatter. May regains her footing.

MAY

[There's no use staring at it.]

Nelson walks towards the front porch. As he grabs the keys from his pocket, Jane swoops them out of his hand and strides past him.

Nelson bows his head, giving no fight for the keys.

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jane opens the door and slowly creeps in, followed by the rest of her siblings. John pushes past Tammy and hobbles with his cane.

Except for one side of a plastic covered couch, dark cabinets, chests, and a television set are covered in a thick layer of dust. The lack of decorations make the room cavernous.

JANE

[You've been living like this?]

MAY

[It looks abandoned. Like their ghosts live here.]

Jane examines a dusty cabinet and wipes away dust from a framed photo of an old Chinese man. In front of the photo lies shriveled oranges and leftover ashes from incense.

JANE

Can't even take care of his shrine.

MAY

[Such bad luck.]

NELSON

Hey! It's not like any of you came to check up on this place. Or me.

May steps towards the shrine to dust it off and dump the oranges. She then begins to move furniture around the living room while the group congregates in the center.

Nelson sits away from his family on his cleaned side of the couch.

JANE

[I'm going to start. I've been meaning to find a little statue in my room anyways-]

NELSON

Statue? What's so special about it?

Jane frowns, but responds anyway.

JANE

[I never had the chance to get it before, but I could use it now.]

MAY

[Suit yourself. I'll take mom's bedroom, she must have something good up there.]

Jane clocks this comment and panics.

JANE

[Actually, I'll take that room just to make sure everything's done fairly. I'll look through mine after.]

Suddenly, the lights flicker off.

In the background, May finishes pushing a table and tries to move the couch Nelson sits on. After it doesn't budge, she wacks Nelson to stand. He complies. She continues to rotate furniture.

All eyes look towards the youngest brother.

NELSON

The, uh, lights do that sometimes. I'll get them back on.

May finishes re-arranging the furniture. Around them now is a floor plan that better fits the rules of feng shui. May drums her fingers on a now dusted table.

MAY

[She say anything about giving away these?]

May eyes a dark brown chest in the corner.

JOHN

[If she did, we need to split its contents evenly.]

The family takes a beat. They stare at John, forgetting he was here until this moment.

MAY

(to Tammy)

[Why is he even here? It's supposed to be just us.]

JOHN

[Don't talk to her that way. If Tammy is searching, I need to too. You bickering fools think you four can handle this without extra help?]

Tammy closes her mouth, as if she was about to speak but has been silenced.

Jane rolls her eyes. She moves up the wooden staircase in the corner of the rooms.

Tammy and John follow.

Nelson takes one stride to the staircase but is stopped by a hand on his arm.

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

May drags Nelson by his arm into a kitchen with faded pink floral wallpaper and tan wooden cabinets.

Once she lets go, Nelson relaxes and leans on the dull white-tiled counter.

NELSON

I was going to fix it. I didn't expect you guys to come-

May silences him with a wave.

MAY

Forget about that. I already knew.

NELSON

And you didn't tell them?

MAY

You're the screw-up. Telling them doesn't change that.

Nelson breathes both a sigh of relief and shame.

MAY (CONT'D)

But you're not off the hook. Go snoop.

NELSON

There's no way. She hates me-

MAY

But she hates me more. And didn't you already check mom's room?

Nelson nods. May grins.

MAY (CONT'D)

Perfect. She chose to go up there, but I have a feeling this is our next best bet. Distract her.

May pushes him towards the staircase.

INT. CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

In a room covered in childish wallpaper, John rifles through drawers, taking out trinkets and clothing in haste. A twin-sized bed sits a few feet away from him.

Tammy walks in the hallway, notices John in the bedroom, and walks in hastily.

TAMMY

[Where have you been! You embarrassed me earlier! It's my mom's things, not yours.]

John waves her off. He finds a shoebox underneath the drawers and combs through it. He pulls out a photo of a young Tammy in a bright blue dress and an even younger Jane, beaming beside her.

JOHN

[Nonsense, just help me.]

John hands the photo and other objects from the shoebox to Tammy. She smiles at the photo, throwing all the objects to the floor except for the picture.

She has to shove the photo in his face to get his attention.

TAMMY

[That was my first school dance. She knew how much I wanted a new dress, so Jane sold lemonade for weeks. She scraped up five dollars and we went to the store so she could buy me the dress. I wasn't even thankful, the one I wanted was ten. Mom pitched in for the other half and we told Jane her money covered the whole thing.

(MORE)

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I should have said thank you, to both of them.]

John nods carelessly and pushes her photo away. Tammy stares at it, and then puts the photo in her pocket. She places the other objects on the floor.

John takes an old box out of the dresser, a heavy red box falls to the carpeted floor with a thump.

John tears into it, revealing a small gold dragon statue with a wooden base. He grins.

Tammy looks over inquisitively.

He looks into the dresser and begins to look for other items.

His wife moves to put a hand on his wrist.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

[John, it's hers. She's going to look for them later.]

JOHN

[She wants them, they must be worth something. If we take it now and she can't find it, she'll just consider it lost. Why do you care so much anyway?]

Tammy's shoulders shrink and she moves back towards searching under the bed.

JOHN (CONT'D)

[Bring your purse over.]

Tammy stands completely still.

JOHN (CONT'D)

[Tammy. Before they see. Now!]

Tammy moves to a dresser near the door and brings her pink purse to her husband. She hands it to him reluctantly. John puts the red box holding the golden statue inside and hands it back.

The purse now in her hand, Tammy pulls the picture of her and Jane out of her pocket. She smiles softly, and places it in her purse as well.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The room looks as if it has been frozen in the eighties. Tacky floral wallpaper matches a floral bedset. Dark chestnut cabinets sit heavy with dust.

Jane combs through the room neatly.

Nelson appears at the doorjamb and gently knocks.

NELSON

Can I help up here?

JANE

Make yourself useful, fix the lights.

NELSON

Those...might not be up for a bit.

JANE

If the next clue is here I'll share it. There's no need to-

NELSON

No! No, I'm, uh, looking for the jade she used to wear.

JANE

She took that with her, wore it every day. Whatever. If you're going to be up here, make yourself useful. Check that.

They search. Nelson accidentally knocks over a vase on a dusty dresser. He catches it right before it hits the floor.

Jane isn't pleased.

JANE (CONT'D)

So clumsy. Try that. Nothing you can break there.

Jane points to an untouched dresser.

Nelson waves her off.

NELSON

I checked that already, no clue-

Jane's head whips up. Nelson's eyes widen, realizing his mistake.

NELSON (CONT'D)

I mean, um-

JANE

[You got a head start. Who knows what you've taken!]

NELSON

I thought you wanted to look alone!

JANE

Well, not anymore!

Jane pushes past her family and races out of the room.

Nelson's leather jacket swishes as he jogs after his sister.

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

May lies on her back with her torso inside a drawer underneath the kitchen sink. She tinkers with something above her, coughing once in awhile.

After a fruitless search in that area, May leaves that section, ties up her short hair, and opens up the cabinet to her left.

Gallon glass jars with various spices and fungus fill the space to the brim. May grins.

MAY

[Jackpot.]

She gently takes out each container with some difficulty. Although they are clear glass jars, she opens each other and sticks her hand through to search.

About halfway through, the jars, May reaches deep inside the cabinet and pulls out a smaller, opaque jar. She shrugs, opens up the smaller container, and sniffs it. She breaks into a fit of coughs.

After the coughs stop, May reaches into the jar and pulls out heaps of ginseng and places them casually on the tiled floor.

Once the jar is empty, she tosses the jar aside, failing to re-fill it with its expensive contents.

She continues digging in the cabinet and comes across a plastic bag filled with baby jars.

She takes out the baby jars hastily until she sees a flash of handwriting on them. Four jars are marked with the names of the siblings.

In the baby jar marked with May's name, she finds a slip of yellow paper. It's addressed to her.

May's eyes widen. Outside of the kitchen, two pairs of loud footsteps are heard.

May clocks this and freezes, staring at the strips of paper.

Jane enters the kitchen and May hastily hides the slips behind her. Nelson races in moments after.

JANE

[Tammy! Get down here!]

(to May)

[Guess who already searched the place. Mom spoiled him and now he thinks he can get away with everything.]

May briefly smiles at Nelson, but then realizes their company.

MAY

[Cheating, skipping steps, as usual.]

Nelson looks angrily at May. May taunts him, with a hand still behind her back.

Jane recognizes this.

JANE

[What are you hiding?]

MAY

[First Nelson, now me? There's nothing-]

Jane walks towards May. The two wrestle for what rests in May's hand.

Tammy finally arrives and looks between Nelson and her two sisters, still grasping at strips of paper. Nelson shrugs at her.

Jane finally wins, tearing the paper from May's wrinkled hands. Jane takes a moment to survey the small prize.

JANE

[Tammy, this one already searched and this one was going to read a clue without us! Seems like I'm the only one forced to follow tradition.]

Jane hands the papers to Tammy, who uses it to smack Nelson and May.

On the sticky counter, Tammy adjusts the strips of paper to form a full sheet of paper with scrawled handwriting.

Just outside the kitchen doorway, John can be seen hanging over the stairwell, trying to overhear the siblings' conversation.

May tries to get a glimpse, though Tammy moves her small frame to block her.

TAMMY

It says: I hope this clue didn't take you very long, you should have known to check the kitchen.

May grins, swelling with pride. Tammy keeps reading.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

I spent all my time here, making food you four would fight over.

MAY

[Jane and Nelson would eat it all. We got nothing.]

JANE

[Like your special shopping trips with mom weren't enough?]

Tammy shushes them, glaring at her other sisters. She then continues.

TAMMY

But this wasn't my only collection. And not the only place people fought over my food. It will take all four of you to find the next hint, since one of you refuses to go inside.

Tammy moves to the opposite end of the kitchen.

After a moment, Nelson breaks the silence.

NELSON

I'll be honest, I have no clue what this means.

Still peering from the stairwell, John scoffs outside of the kitchen.

MAY

[Mom's talking about the restaurant. You know, the one you two never helped run.]

JANE

[I worked when I was older-]

MAY

[When it was on its last legs.]

TAMMY

[I don't want to go back there.]

NELSON

Then don't. May and I can.

May tosses Nelson the keys to his Harley. The two turn to leave, immediately and in sync.

JANE

[No! Even though I did help out-]

May and Nelson stop and turn. Tammy slouches on the counter.

JANE (CONT'D)

[Tomorrow morning.]

MAY

[I have work until 10. Or did you forget we all have lives outside of yours?]

JANE

[Fine. Noon then. We'll go when we all have time, together.]

Jane looks towards May, who softens her look. Tammy hears her sister's remark and smiles.

INT. CHINESE BANQUET RESTAURANT - MORNING

Jane, dressed with pearls and hair in a nice updo, sits tall at a round banquet table. The restaurant, not yet open, is still packed with the same WAITERS as before, this time wearing gold vests.

Across from Jane, the RESTAURANT OWNER, a balding man with a thin frame rifles through paperwork, shaking his head.

RESTAURANT OWNER

[Space is no longer yours. You did not pay.]

JANE

[We've had every family event here, been coming here for years.]

(pause)

[Just last week, we came after mom's funeral.]

The restaurant owner hears this and stops moving through papers, but does not look Jane in the eye.

RESTAURANT OWNER

[Ah, that was you. Stupid customers who sent everything you ordered back.]

Jane looks to the floor.

RESTAURANT OWNER (CONT'D)

[Anyway, doesn't matter.] You don't pay, we give away. Another family take already.

JANE

[I...I have the money, I was just going to give it when we came. After every event I thought you wouldn't need a deposit right away.]

RESTAURANT OWNER

[Business is business.]

The owner holds onto the table to stand, and turns away. Jane's eyes widen and she races to block him.

JANE

[I'll pay even more than the deposit, the other family doesn't have that-]

RESTAURANT OWNER

[I doubt you have it either, you didn't even pay me in full for the last visit.]

JANE

[We need this space, family is coming from China, I can't have it in my home.]

RESTAURANT OWNER

[Try having it at "Dim Sum Heaven" then. Good way to show your family in China what honor all of you bring, yes?]

The old man smirks and pushes past Jane, leaving her in the center of the restaurant, surrounded by empty tables and passing waiters.

EXT. DIM SUM HEAVEN - MID-MORNING

Jane's updo from before is coming apart. Her flashy pearls remain as she fidgets in her heels in the cracked asphalt of the parking lot.

May sees her outfit and rolls her eyes.

MAY

[What, come from a country club brunch?]

Jane snaps back, as if she didn't just lose the banquet venue.

JANE

[I like looking nice, unlike you.]

Each wearing splashes of white and black, the four siblings stand at each other's sides. They all stare above them.

In front of them, a large tan strip mall with dozens of other Chinese units stands. Directly in front of the siblings is a unit with a bright pink neon sign that reads: DIM SUM HEAVEN.

Directly underneath the sign is a faded imprint on the wall that once read: TSANG'S PLACE.

MAY

[This trendy shop replaced us? You can't be serious.]

NELSON

Dim sum sells now. Boba too.

A group of KIDS (14) walk out of a bright pink store filled with red decorative lanterns, each with a boba drink in hand.

JANE

[Even with the new trends, they
couldn't fix Chinatown.]

Jane adjusts in her shoes, getting a heel stuck in the cracked asphalt.

Once her shoe is freed, Jane walks towards the restaurant, Nelson in tow. May looks at Tammy one last time.

MAY

[You really won't come in?]

Tammy shakes her head firmly.

INT. DIM SUM HEAVEN - MORNING

Nelson and May take no pause, immediately combing the gaudy-decorated restaurant. Large round tables are surrounded by bamboo plants and stuffed animal pandas.

A dirty cashier table sits at the front, with a large lucky cat's hand moving up and down methodically.

May knocks the decorations over in the process of searching the walls and tables.

She lifts up chairs, pulls off tablecloths, and bustles throughout the space.

Nelson pauses to stare at the cat statue, confused.

MR. LIANG (30s), a short, thin man with shiny shoulder-length hair and bright jewelry on his fingers, races out of the kitchen.

Alarmed, he gestures towards two WAITERS (20s) to follow him.

MR. LIANG

[Who are you people?]

Jane takes a step towards Mr. Liang and stares him down.

JANE

[Excuse me! Who are you?]

Mr. Liang pales slightly, but does not show fear.

MR. LIANG

[I'm the owner, all three
locations!]

Mr. Liang turns to grab Nelson and May but Jane intervenes.

JANE

[Wait! Yes, we know, you bought this for...] Dim Sum Heaven. [We are previous owners! We just need to search for one thing our parents left, please-]

MAY

(to Nelson)

[It can't be in this room. Too much foot traffic. The kitchen!]

Nelson and May sprint to the kitchen like kids. The waiters hold hands out to stop them but are easily pushed away.

MR. LIANG

[I have a business to run! Sorry yours failed years ago, but that doesn't give you an excuse to ruin mine.]

Clanging and crashing rises from the kitchen.

JANE

[We're your elders! My dad sold you this place, be grateful!]

MR. LIANG

[Exactly, you let this place go! I have power here!]

May exits the kitchen and briefly exits Dim Sum Heaven, only to come back seconds later with a reluctant Tammy being dragged by her arm.

TAMMY

[I told you, I'm not going in!]

Nelson's head peeks out of the kitchen.

NELSON

Tam, you know this place better than anyone!

TAMMY

[That's why I hate it! You didn't help at all-]

NELSON

You could have stopped working anytime-

TAMMY

[Don't talk to me that way, young kid.]

Nelson shuts up. Tammy shakes off May angrily and storms into the kitchen, with May and Nelson following her.

With Mr. Liang, Jane gestures to her family.

JANE

[See! Don't talk back.]

Mr. Liang finally bows, giving into his elder's orders.

MR. LIANG

Five minutes. Then I call police!

JANE

[You've made a mess of this place. What type of place needs their menu in pictures on the wall?]

MR. LIANG

[Some customers don't know how to order-]

JANE

[And who puts stuffed animals in a restaurant to get dirty?]

Jane takes a large panda decoration and shoves it in Mr. Liang's face.

MAY (O.S.)

[It's not here! Liang! What did you do with it?]

Jane moves towards the kitchen. Tammy, May, and Nelson meet her at the kitchen entrance.

They all furiously look towards Mr. Liang, whose eyes now show fear.

MR. LIANG

[You emptied out this place! All of you, so crazy! Just like your pushy mother!]

Nelson grabs Liang by the collar almost automatically.

NELSON

What did you just say?

MR. LIANG

[Look! She came in, forcing me to keep that stupid cat! Wouldn't leave until I took it.]

Tammy gravitates towards the lucky cat.

It swings its arm up and down happily. Mr. Liang retreats.

May gets to the cat first. She looks it up and down and shakes it, to no avail.

MAY

[It's just a cheap one.]

TAMMY

[She made him keep it. It's not like any of you were around enough to realize that anyway.]

Tammy grabs the cat and squints. She then grabs the cat's gold coin on the statue and snaps it clean off.

Compared to the now scattered chairs, the stuffed animals fallen on the floor, and the tablecloths strewn about, the broken cat stands as the most put together part of the room.

A small yellow envelope, addressed to Tammy falls from the coin's section.

After a moment, she picks it up and calmly pries it open.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

[The poolhouse.]

MAY

[It's always closed today. We come back in the weekend.]

The four nod and exit with a skip in their step. Jane and Nelson exchange high-fives. Even Tammy holds a thin smile.

The door chimes as the family leaves, leaving Mr. Liang and his waiters dumbfounded in their now disheveled restaurant.

INT. TAMMY'S LIVING ROOM - MID-DAY

John sits in his same chair at the coffee table, this time surveying the small golden dragon statue on the table.

He takes off his glasses and leans into the piece, squinting.

Tammy fiddles around, dusting the shelves and furniture. She takes extra care with the shrine on one shelf, replacing the oranges and cleaning off the picture of YeYe and PoPo with her sleeves.

Ken, in casual clothing, walks into the living room.

He sees his dad examining the statue and furrows his brows.

TAMMY

[Son, remember to set up the guest bedroom for Hong Hong's family. Now please.]

Ken nods his head and bows slightly to his mother. He turns and walks away, right from where he entered.

Tammy looks at the statue cautiously. John clocks this.

Tammy attempts to grab the dragon. Her hand is swatted away.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

[You're stealing from her. We said we'd work together. Taking this goes against-]

JOHN

[It's worth something. We can sell it.]

John snatches the gold dragon, away, hiding it in a bag.

JOHN (CONT'D)

[What's wrong with you? If I give you a cut will you shut up?]

Tammy stands, frozen.

Silently, Tammy turns around to dust once more, slowly this time.

Smug, John pulls the statue back from the bag and begins to dust it.

Ken stands at the entrance of the room. Concealed by the darkness of the hallway, he hears his parent's conversation.

EXT. CHINATOWN - NOON

The siblings walk into LA's Chinatown square: filled with neon signs, hundreds of red lanterns, pillars and buildings that resemble old Chinese styled architecture.

CUSTOMERS of various ages peruse the brightly colored trinket shops around the square. Teens take photos in front of the lanterns, while kids eat mochi and run around the square.

One KID (7), accidentally drops his toy truck near the Tsangs. May bends down and hands the toy back. The boy grins and skips away.

Tammy looks around, bewildered. Jane and Nelson seem unfazed.

TAMMY

[The waffle place. They closed too?]

Jane nods softly. Nelson tries to speak, his mouth filled with mochi.

NELSON

I think it's better this way. More lively.

The family presses on. Leading a confused Tammy and May, Jane and Nelson step ahead.

They round a corner towards a more deserted part of Chinatown without neon fixtures. Small bakeries and restaurants with faded signs line the sides of the street. A few OLD CHINESE WOMEN (80s) with visors and plastic rolling grocery carts dawdle about.

Tammy falls in step with May. The two walk towards a bakery window, quickly grabbing tarts. Jane and Nelson wait, now needing direction.

The elder sisters take their food and join their family. They all walk silently together, eating food new and old.

INT. CHINATOWN COMMUNITY CENTER - AFTERNOON

The community center is the complete opposite of the modernized Chinatown square. Faded green tiled walls and matching flooring surround two small pools.

A group of KIDS (8), with floaties splash each other in the pool as AUNTIES (60s) supervise while chatting amongst themselves. Further away, another group of AUNTIES (70s) practice tai chi.

Tammy and May excitedly walk through, nearly slipping on the wet tile.

May and Tammy grin as they reminisce.

Jane, with her manicured dress, and Nelson, with his classic leather jacket, stick out like sore thumbs. They stand against the wall, surveying their environment.

NELSON

I never understood the point of this place.

JANE

Of course, you can't swim-

NELSON

No, not that. I just didn't like it here. The aunties wouldn't speak to me, kids our age would push me around.

JANE

They could tell we were born here, not China.

NELSON

I should've focused more on a bowl cut then. Maybe they would have thought I was one of them.

JANE

Please, it was better for us this way. We could fit in at school instead.

Tammy and May congregate around a wall of lockers at the far end of the space. Jane and Nelson move to join them.

JANE (CONT'D)

[Well, it's locked. No surprise here.]

MAY

[Just hang on. Tammy. We did hide and seek-]

JANE

[You mean that time mom thought you went missing? Didn't seem like a game.]

May moves towards the back of the locker room. At the final row of metal lockers, she peers around and reveals a gap between the wall and the storage units.

Jane shines a light into the gap. All the siblings peer inside to see a yellow envelope taped in the middle of the wall, surrounded by dust and webs.

Tammy grabs a large envelope with Chinese characters from the locker, then hands it to Nelson.

TAMMY

[She says thanks to May, for finding it. But it's addressed to you.]

Nelson pushes it towards May.

NELSON

I can't read it anyway.

May opens it. May pulls out large swim trunks from the envelope and hands them to Nelson, whose face pales.

She then reads the letter inside the envelope and grins.

MAY

[She said you have to be the man of the house. Face your fear.]

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER POOLHOUSE - AFTERNOON

The family begin to make their way towards a smaller, shallow pool. Jane anxiously avoids splashes getting on her clothing.

Nelson awkwardly walks behind everyone else in swim trunks.

NELSON

This is ridiculous. And don't you have to get Auntie soon? We don't have time for this.

Nelson shakes nervously. Kids in the pool next door point and laugh.

TAMMY

[Nelson, I even went into the restaurant. It's your turn. And we have a few hours.]

JANE

[Maybe she's joking with you. I don't think you have to go in. Why would she hide something on the pool floor? It's too easily found.]

MAY

[Not so fast. Those little drawing on the note. They match.]

May crouches by the pool and points to the row of symbols that decorate the pool floor. Each bend down to survey it, except Nelson.

NELSON

Those have always been there.
You're reading into things. Let's go.

TAMMY

[Exactly. She knows they've always been there. And she wants you to see the pattern and decode it.]

NELSON

I don't know how to swim. I tried here and I hated it. Why go back in?

MAY

[So you won't do this one thing and we all lose the fortune? Have we taught you nothing about family? It's even a baby pool!]

JANE

[They're right.]

Nelson sighs in defeat, hands trembling. Jane clocks this.

JANE (CONT'D)

[But we can still help.]

Jane moves to the end of the pool with the engraving, rolls up the legs of her jeans and stands on the pool's stairs.

Nelson shakes his head, and gets into the pool slowly.

Aunties, now done practicing Tai Chi, whisper and point at Nelson.

With the rest of the family watching, Nelson reaches out for Jane's hand. She squeezes his hand and smiles.

Nelson lets go and in one swoop, takes a large breath and dunks himself underwater.

Nelson squints and squats at the pool floor. He looks down at the floor and sees the row of tiles: different colored DRAGONS, COI FISH, and TURTLES.

Nelson stands back up and bursts through the water, splashing his family. Out of breath, he climbs out of the pool.

JANE (CONT'D)

What was it?

Jane holds out a towel, Nelson wipes his hands, and takes a pen and the clue from Tammy.

Nelson scribbles, matching the order of the symbols with the letters on the clue. He spells out: HSI LAI.

Tammy smiles and pats Nelson on the back.

Jane grins and absent-mindedly checks her flashy watch. She gasps.

JANE (CONT'D)

We're late!

EXT. LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL C - MORNING

Jane's white Volkswagen Golf slides into the lane closest to the entrance of the airport.

Wearing the same clothes from the community poolhouse, Jane hops out of the car and onto the dirty sidewalks of LAX.

GREAT AUNTIE

[I'm over here!]

Jane turns, put on a plastered smile, and walks over.

Great Auntie (70s), a large woman, stands with designer luggage just as large as her.

Her overdyed fluffy ball of hair takes up half her head, almost distracting from her sharply drawn on eyebrows. Her bright Gucci sweat suit and pristine white sneakers make her pop even more than Jane at the crummy airport.

Great Auntie walks towards Jane and pinches her cheeks.

JANE

[Great Auntie! I could see you from a mile away!]

Great Auntie releases Jane from her grasp.

GREAT AUNTIE

[Child, you're dressed so poorly. Only jeans to greet me?]

JANE

[It's the airport, not the banquet just yet.]

GREAT AUNTIE

[Fine, fine. At least with these silly clothes you can get my bags. But after this, take a look at Gucci, nice sweatsuits.]

The Auntie walks towards the Volkswagen, leaving Jane to carry her bags with extreme difficulty.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)

[What is this? Business for you is going so well, you should have better car! I wanted to stretch my legs after this long flight, not be squeezed in again!]

JANE

[Using Danny's. Just temporarily.]

Jane, out of breath, tosses Auntie's heavy luggage into the trunk.

GREAT AUNTIE

[Well, your husband has bad taste! You can't possibly pick up me and Anthony's family like this!]

Jane moves to open the car door for her aunt, who happily hops in.

JANE

[May has them.]

Auntie's eyes widen, causing her drawn-on eyebrows to raise onto her forehead.

GREAT AUNTIE

[You left my son with your messy sister?]

EXT. LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT - MORNING

HONG HONG (40s), a lanky Asian man with a sallow face and thin framed glasses, pushes a luggage cart. His other hand rests on TOTO (5), his child wearing a small t-shirt covered with Pokemon. ToTo tries to run around the sidewalk, but his father holds him steady.

YVONNE (late 30s), stands beside her family in a crisp floral dress, hauling a duffel bag.

May walks beside them, holding nothing but her car keys and happily chatting as they walk through the dirty lot.

MAY

[Hong Hong! It's been so long!]

MAY (CONT'D)

[And look how you've grown, ToTo!]

Hong Hong smiles at her in lieu of a reply. He's too out of breath for a conversation.

The four finally reach May's Solara, still caked in its permanent layer of dust, surrounded by other cars of various shines and models.

May opens the trunk and helps Hong Hong and Yvonne with their bags, all while holding ToTo's hand.

MAY (CONT'D)

[So much luggage! And only for a week!]

YVONNE

[We wanted to be prepared to see you! Dresses for any occasion!]

HONG HONG

[How's Jane's kids? And that one Tammy has? Are you all just as close as the last time I came to town?]

May swallows but then forces a smile.

MAY

[Oh, we've been getting even closer than that recently.]

HONG HONG

[We're so excited to visit, anything to see tomorrow?]

MAY

[Hsi Lai! We have to go there tomorrow anyway. Our temple. Overlooks the city, you'll enjoy.]

May attempts to cram their luggage in her trunk already filled with junk. She only manages to get one luggage in.

Hong Hong and his family look on with their eyes wide.

MAY (CONT'D)

[Not enough room in the trunk, but you can just climb on in! We'll make it fit.]

May opens the door to the passenger seat and shoves another luggage in there.

She promptly shuts the door and opens the back seat. May grabs empty soda bottles, shoves them in ToTo's hands, and points him towards the trash can.

He stares at the empty bottles incredulously, then walks over and dumps them. His mom watches, clearly shocked.

May gestures for the three to climb in. They oblige. Once settled, May piles the final luggage on top of their legs.

Yvonne gasps as the luggage gets places onto them. She grabs a confused ToTo and places him on her lap.

With luggages crushing their legs, May happily hops in the driver's seat.

Hong Hong sneezes from all the dog hair. ToTo picks up yet another old soda bottle from the car floor.

Yvonne takes the trash from her son's hands and throws it back onto the floor.

The car speeds off. May smiles, but Hong Hong and his family look scared and cramped in the back.

INT. BUDDHIST TEMPLE ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

The four siblings congregate, now all in white clothing.

Beside them is Hong Hong, Yvonne, and Toto. They take copious photos around the entrance.

Two jade Chinese lion statues sit at the beginning of the hallway. Further inside, elevated statues of the Buddha and Tara sit above donation boxes and red and gold walls.

Dozens of TOURISTS and MONKS line the hall.

HONG HONG

[You all come here regularly? As your temple? How beautiful!]

The siblings nod as Hong Hong turns his attention to the temple and his camera once more.

JANE

(to May)

Make sure they don't realize we're looking for something.

MAY

[Please, he's occupied.]

Hong Hong excitedly positions Yvonne and ToTo for a photo. He then snaps dozens.

MAY (CONT'D)

[She sent us here, knowing it was the last time we all saw Baba. Sneaky.]

May walks in and the rest follow.

TAMMY

[I haven't been here in so long. What shame.]

Hong Hong drops some cash into the donation box as they peruse the old temple. He looks towards Jane, confused, when she doesn't do the same.

JANE

[Oh! I just gave them a large check last week, no use putting more in the bin.]

EXT. BUDDHIST TEMPLE COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

The siblings all exit the hallway into an immense courtyard. A large audience sits on massive gray stairs that lead to the stone courtyard where DANCERS perform.

VISITORS and MONKS, young and old, sit at the top of the steps with their knees on red cushions. They all bow out of sync towards the main temple.

Nelson stares at statues behind the kneeling people: deities with thick black eyebrows smiling, frowning, or screaming.

Jane's more focused. She surveys the courtyard, locking eyes on a fountain filled with gold statues on the opposite side of the yard.

She charges to the stairs. Tammy grabs Nelson, still infatuated with statues.

May, holding ToTo's little hand, trails behind them, with Hong Hong and Yvonne in tow.

As they begin to descend, the CHOIR LEADER (50s), a skinny balding man, stops them.

CHOIR LEADER

[Concert still going on, you must wait to use courtyard after.]

TAMMY

[Please, we're in a hurry.]

CHOIR LEADER

[Big show, this is for the convention. If you walk down there now, you'll distract the dancers. Then less donations.]

Tammy begins to turn around, but Jane grabs her. Nelson stands behind them.

JANE

[Are you kidding me? I come here every week for the past thirty years, and suddenly I can't use my own temple's courtyard?]

The choir leader looks Jane and Nelson up and down and laughs.

CHOIR LEADER

[You're crazy. You two would never come here every week.]

Tammy and May laugh too. He then surveys Tammy and May and nods.

CHOIR LEADER (CONT'D)

[These two, maybe. And they're clearly visitors.]

The choir leader points to Hong Hong's family, infatuated with the architecture.

May and Tammy's smiles fall. Jane rolls her eyes.

JANE

[What can we do to go down there, now?]

The choir leader makes a money symbol with his hands. All the siblings immediately turn to Jane.

JANE (CONT'D)

[No. You guys have money too-]

MAY

[What's the point in you being so rich if you don't use it for mom?

(MORE)

MAY (CONT'D)

I'm starting to think you don't
have any.]

Jane scowls and May, takes out her wallet, and hands the man
a small wad of cash.

The choir leader scratches his bald head and lets them pass.

Jane leaps down the stairs. Tammy and Nelson race down to
follow her.

The three weave through the dancers, with audience members
and performers confused by their presence.

May clocks this in horror. As Hong Hong is about to turn, she
swivels around so that him and Yvonne can't see the chaos.

TOTO

[Hey! Shouldn't we follow Auntie-]

MAY

[Shh! The view's the best part!
This way!]

She directs the family away from the scene and her siblings.

Jane arrives at the serene, crisp fountain. She takes off her
shiny heels and lifts the bottom of her dress.

Tammy and Nelson look on as Jane steps into the shallow
fountain, using her feet to move coins on the pool's floor.

Tammy shrieks. Nelson quiets her.

TAMMY

[Dumb girl, people can see you!]

But Jane keeps going.

JANE

[Nelson and I used to splash in
here while she spoke with aunties.
It has to be here.]

TAMMY

[Get out of there! Jane, she would
never put something here.]

JANE

[She loved this fountain.]

TAMMY

[But we weren't here all together.
You're making a fool of us! Now!]

After her sisters' angry remarks, Jane gets out of the fountain and dries off her feet.

And just in time too. ToTo comes racing towards the siblings, causing May, Hong Hong, and Yvonne to keep up with him.

The small child attempts to climb in. Yvonne grabs his chubby arm.

YVONNE

[Stop it! Only morons do that!]

Tammy glares at Jane. Nelson chuckles. Jane blushes.

HONG HONG

[What are you doing at the-]

MAY

[Please, Hong Hong, it's beautiful!
One of our favorite places in the
temple. Take a picture!]

May grabs Hong Hong's selfie stick in his hand and adjusts it for him. Hong Hong nods and excitedly takes the photo.

As he's distracted, May turns.

NELSON

We're all here. This was the last
place. We can't be more specific.

TAMMY

[Let's just go inside. All these
wild chases-]

Jane's eyes light up again. She grabs her heels, hastily puts them on, and starts walking once more. She's already walking by the time she starts speaking.

JANE

[She's not talking about the four
of us. Her and BaBa too.]

Tammy's eyes widen. The family follows after Jane.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Annie sits on the neat bed. She tugs on the ratty quilt on top with tears in her eyes.

Next to her, she examines the picture left behind by the siblings from before.

GREAT AUNTIE (O.S.)
[What is this mess? Girls!]

Annie fails to respond, instead wiping her tears away.

She continues to sit, silent and unwavering.

Outside the bedroom, Great Auntie's stomps can be heard. She rushes into the hallway.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[Now! Ashley! And where's your
sister?]

Outside of the hallway, Ashley groans. Her reluctant steps now follow Auntie's stomps, growing closer and closer to Grandma's room.

Annie lies on the bed, attempting to blend in with the quilt.

The door swings open. Auntie sees Annie and chuckles.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[Silly girl! Is it you that made
this mess?]

Auntie shoves a poorly folded sticky rice in Annie's small, pale face. The bamboo leaves are loose and unraveling.

Auntie grabs Annie's arm to make her stand up.

In the doorjamb, Ashley smirks.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[Come now! I teach you the proper
way. No more of this sub-par work.]

Without hesitation, Great Auntie grabs Annie's wrist and takes her towards the exit. Ashley smiles until they reach the doorjamb and Auntie grabs her in the same fashion.

The two girls lock eye contact and make silent, frustrated faces at each other as Great Auntie happily takes them into the kitchen.

INT. BUDDHIST TEMPLE - AFTERNOON

As if the other Buddha statues around the temple weren't big enough, three even larger golden statues sit at the opposite wall. A large chandelier dangling from the ceiling fills the room with yellow light.

MONKS sit, light incense, or pray in silence.

Jane pushes monks at the incense burner, a tall black centerpiece with two dragons carved on the side surrounded by gold lettering. A vat of ashes and incense burn inside.

The monks gasp and shush the family. Tammy and Nelson bow in apology, signaling for Jane to do the same.

Hong Hong and Yvonne snap pictures. A monk gasps and smacks a sign labeled "NO PICTURES" to get their attention.

The couple leaves, leaving ToTo with May.

Jane presses on. To the dismay of everyone in the temple, she sticks her head inside the incense burner.

The monk, exasperated from Hong Hong, sees this and runs towards her.

MONK

[Stop that! You could die!]

TAMMY

[Jane! Stupid girl!]

The monk pulls Jane out but she moves back in, this time reaching up into the roof of the burner.

The other siblings push past others to reach Jane. Jane breaks free of the first monk's grasp.

MONK

[Stop! That's Hsi Lai property-]

May covers ToTo's eyes.

TOTO

[Stop! What's she doing?]

ToTo attempts to peek through May's fingers.

JANE

I don't get it. Something has to be here. It has to be.

MONK

[I'll call enforcements!]

TAMMY

[Please, no! You remember Yin Yee? Our mom? She left something here.]

Hearing this, the monk's face falls.

MONK

[That's why you're all here! She's gone.]

Nelson nods. The monk pats the backs of him and Tammy.

MONK (CONT'D)

[I'm sorry, but there's nothing here. Everything gets cleaned weekly. She knew that. You're looking in the wrong place.]

JANE

[No! There has to be a clue here. Everyone found one. It's my turn, and I know it's here.]

MAY

[Maybe it's in something she brought from China-]

JANE

[No! All that's in my house or the old one. It's going to be somewhere new.]

As they start to raise their voices, the monk takes notice.

TAMMY

Maybe it's a trick-

JANE

[It can't be! We've come too far. Let's check again-]

May lets out a large, angry breath. She covers ToTo's ears.

MAY

[The rest of us have things to do! We aren't rich, can't just take time off.]

JANE

[And what happened to putting that aside for mom? For the family?]

NELSON

Jane, May's right, I can't just get out of work that easy-

JANE

[It's a grocery store, not nuclear codes. Mom worked so hard for us to be better-]

May takes a large step towards Jane, dragging ToTo with her.

The small child tries to remove his head from May's grip, but she continues to cover his ears tightly.

MAY

[Watch it, Jane.]

JANE

[And Tammy and I worked for it. But you two, you took her work and squandered it-]

Nelson snaps, raising his voice.

NELSON

And what! Just because you have the house, the money, the family, it doesn't mean my life is worse. Mom would be just as proud.

JANE

Please-

MONK

[Enough! I told you to be quiet. Get out!]

The monks voice, even louder than the arguing siblings, echoes throughout the temple. Everyone falls silent.

Two other monks flank them, waving the embarrassed Tsangs out the door.

EXT. CHILDHOOD HOME - LATE AFTERNOON

Nelson speeds around the broken gate and into the driveway.

He expertly slams on the brakes, just hard enough to stop but not hard enough to flip the bike. After taking off his full helmet, his eyes widen and he hops off the bike in haste.

At the front door a LOCKSMITH (40s), a white man with a patchy beard, grunts. He changes the locks on the house.

Nelson runs up to the man and turns him around with a forceful grip on the locksmith's shoulder.

NELSON

This is my house! What the hell?

The locksmith scratches his exposed back, looks Nelson up and down, and carelessly moves back to the lock.

Nelson shakes and pushes the locksmith aside. He desperately tries his key in vain.

NELSON (CONT'D)
Please, please man.

LOCKSMITH
Orders are orders-

NELSON
My mom just died, all her stuff's
in there. We have to look through
it-

LOCKSMITH
Bank sent me here because they said
the place was abandoned.

NELSON
I live here!

LOCKSMITH
All due respect, sir, it doesn't
look like you do.

Nelson turns to look at the dingy house, covered in dust,
fence falling apart, plants dead.

LOCKSMITH
If you can verify with the bank you
live here, I can fix it. But if I
let you in right now, it's my ass.

The locksmith turns to leave, as if he's done this a million
times before.

Nelson pulls out a worn black leather wallet and tries to
hand the locksmith a fistful of cash.

NELSON
Look. Please, between you and me.

Nelson pulls out a worn black leather wallet and tries to
hand the locksmith a fistful of cash.

The locksmith shakes his head, pats Nelson on the back, picks
up his toolbox, and waddles away from the porch.

Nelson stands, alone, hands shaking. He continues his
attempts to shove his key in the new keyhole, twisting and
fiddling. Soon the key snaps and is left broken too.

EXT. CHILDHOOD HOME - EVENING

Nelson sits, head in his hands, on the dusty porch. May's Solara pulls up and she runs towards him.

Ms. Kong, once again smoking on her porch, leans over to see the pair.

MS. KONG

[What's going on? Locksmith came earlier-]

MAY

[Not now, auntie.]

MS. KONG

[Give me respect! Locked out? I told your mom not to give the house to silly Nelson.]

NELSON

Please, auntie, leave us alone.

MS. KONG

[You ungrateful child! I'm keeping an eye on you!]

Nelson and May turn back towards each other.

MAY

We need Tammy, she has the other key-

NELSON

The key isn't the issue.

May walks towards the door and squints. The brand new, shiny keyhole stares back at her.

NELSON (CONT'D)

I couldn't pay-

MAY

Why didn't you say anything?

(beat)

We might need to be inside there! Didn't you ever think of that? You said we were going to work together, you should have told me these things.

May drags Nelson up by his arm. He mopes and walks around the porch, tapping on windows and fidgeting with the doorknob.

May peers inside the window and fixates her eyes on the large walnut chest in the living room from before. Her jaw drops.

MAY (CONT'D)

Look- her chest from China. Near her heart, but not ours, something's got to be in there.

May gets off the porch and moves to the side of the house. She bends down and pulls on a grate at the bottom of the house, right near the dirt.

When it doesn't budge, she begins digging dirt away from the grate with her hands.

MAY (CONT'D)

Get to the basement...and we're in.

Nelson bends down and helps.

NELSON

Are you sure there's something in the chest?

MAY

[Stupid boy, you have to get in anyway, don't you?]

The two continue to dig and pull at the grate. It budes, but only slightly.

Nelson leans back to sit down.

But May continues to spring into action. She searches around the side yard, lined with dead plants in large ceramic pots. Overgrown green brush lines the dilapidated fence.

She digs into an old pot and finds a rock that overflows in the palm of her hand.

Nelson clocks this and gets on his feet to stop her.

NELSON

What do you think you're doing?

MAY

If the money's in the chest, like I know it is, we'll be rich! You can get the house back and fix the window.

NELSON

May, we're a team. And that's breaking and ent-

MAY

Nelson. Our family's already here,
the dinner's tomorrow. Do you think
they won't judge what we're
wearing? Want to come see the
house? I, we, need this. Now.

May throws the rock through a faded white window in the side
yard. Glass shatters everywhere. Nelson watches in a mix of
fear and awe. May grins.

She pushes away shards of glass and climbs inside.

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - EVENING

May runs towards the chest with glee. She carelessly brushes
off the trinkets that sit on top of it.

Nelson watches in horror.

After a few hard knocks and attempts, she opens the chest.

It's empty.

The brown wood stares back at her mockingly.

JANE (O.S.)

[I can't believe you two!]

Jane stands at the beginning of the side yard. Ms. Kong
smiles proudly at her side, waving her phone from before.

INT. JANE'S VOLKSWAGEN - EVENING

The three sit on cushy leather seats of the kept car. Nelson
and May sit in the back. Jane drives, recklessly.

NELSON

Where'd the Audi go?

Jane fidgets in her seat.

JANE

Audi's, uh, in the shop.

MAY

He's trying to distract you. Nelson
lost the house.

NELSON

It was May who broke the window!

JANE

[Shut up, both of you! Do you have any idea what the bank will think when they see the broken window? We'll have to pay for that too!]

The three ride in silence some more.

MAY

Auntie Kong was right, Nelson didn't deserve the house.

JANE

You know, May, it's not like you did either.

MAY

Please, it's not like you wanted it. Wouldn't be nice enough for you. This car doesn't even fit into the neighborhood.

Jane squirms, but stays quiet.

NELSON

I don't have a change of clothes-

JANE

I don't care. You guys always get in the way of plans. Our family is here. You can look like a fool in front of them, you deserve it.

MAY

I can't believe I ever decided to team up with you.

Nelson pouts and stares out the window, trying to ignore May.

Over the car's bluetooth, a call for Jane comes in. The console screen reads: UNKNOWN.

Jane tries to silence it.

MAY (CONT'D)

No, no. You said we get in the way of your life. You can take your phone call.

May leans over, her torso now in the front seat of the car, and she clicks accept on the console.

A COLLECTOR's booming deep voice begins to speak.

COLLECTOR (O.S.)

This is a collection call for Ms.
Jane Tsang. East West-

Jane slams on the console to hang up the phone.

May and Nelson look at each other, alarmed.

NELSON

Janie?

JANE

I'm fine. Just a spam call. Happens
all the time.

NELSON

That's the bank-

JANE

You're the one in trouble with the
bank, Nelson. Just be quiet, I got
you both for the dinner. Not to
chat.

Jane sets her jaw and continues to stare down the road.

EXT. JANE'S BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Jane, now wearing a long floral dress, sky high heels, and a
face full of makeup, stands at the center of her yard.

She sets a perfect garden party table in front of her.

Danny stands next to her in a crisp button down, copying her
motions awkwardly.

Nelson, wearing Danny's shirt two-sizes too small under his
leather jacket, pouts across from them.

May, wearing her best dress, which still looks cheap compared
to Jane, sulks on the side.

JANE

[Where in the world is Tammy?]

MAY

[She's always late. And she has
Hong Hong with them too. I thought
we were meeting them at the
restaurant.]

JANE

[Change of plans. More space here,
we can make more noise.]

MAY

[It was a Chinese restaurant. You
could make all the noise you want-]

NELSON

Danny's shirt is so tight-

JANE

Shut up. You lost the house. It's
not my fault all your clothes were
inside.

Tammy, wearing a long flowy cardigan and a plain matching set
of a shirt and shorts, walks into the yard. John and Ken
flank her sides.

MAY

[Oh, there you are.]

JOHN

[We were trying to fix Nelson's
house situation. He's shown he's
not responsible. Tammy and I can
take it.]

NELSON

You wouldn't dare-

JANE

[Shut up! All of you! Auntie
doesn't know we lost the house. If
they ask, we have it.]

Nelson sniffles. May pushes him.

JANE (CONT'D)

[That too! They think nothing's
wrong. We will be friendly to each
other. We can scream at Nelson
after this.]

Annie and Ashley, dressed similar to their mother, enter the
yard.

May opens her mouth to continue arguing, but Jane cuts her
off.

JANE (CONT'D)

[Don't you dare. Not in front of my
kids.]

Ken clocks this.

KEN

Who wants to come with me upstairs
to check on Auntie?

Ken tugs at his mom and dad, who oblige. May and Nelson follow.

Jane's family is left. They look at the yard. To their left, incense and a large photo of PoPo stands, almost as if she watching everyone congregate and chat in front of her.

DANNY

How much is this going to cost?

JANE

We couldn't afford the restaurant,
this was the cheapest option.

ANNIE

Mom? What's going on? Data's out on
our phones.

ASHLEY

Can one of you just buy some more
before this starts?

JANE

[Girls, silence.] Go serve your
family. Both of you. There's
appetizers in the kitchen.

Ashley drags Annie back inside. They come back out with trays of tiny finger sandwiches and baos, a strange mix of food. The girls place these gently on the table.

DANNY

And now the kids are the help.

JANE

You wanted to save costs.

Danny scoffs and waves her off.

As Annie comes out with another plate of food, Danny moves to grab the plate from his daughter's hand, lessening her load.

Jane clocks this. Danny shoots her an irritated look.

INT. JANE'S BACKYARD - EARLY EVENING

Great Auntie, donning a sequined dress and a fancy shawl, sits at the head of the table. Her eyebrows, colored too dark, raise onto her stiff, botox-filled forehead as she sees the siblings.

Jane sits to her right, and Tammy to Auntie's left. Their husbands flank their sides. May and Nelson stare daggers across the table. Hong Hong sits at the other table's end with Yvonne.

At a smaller table across from the adults, Ken, Annie, Ashley, and ToTo sit with their plates piled high.

Ashley shows ToTo things on her phone, while Annie tries to get ToTo to eat. Ken sits, frustrated, trying to crane his head towards the adult table.

GREAT AUNTIE

[Children! Children! It's been so long! A shame PoPo is not here. Especially to see Hong Hong and his new son.]

Auntie rises from the table and goes around to squeeze each of their cheeks, as if they are still children.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)

[Tammy, you could have dressed better! I'll take you shopping tomorrow. We should get new curtains while we're at it-- Jane's guest room is so drab!]

Jane squirms. May brightens.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)

[May, I'll show you this wrinkle cream after dinner...]

With that comment, May's smile is dashed.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)

[And Nelson...someone needs to get new clothes.]

Nelson bows his head.

NELSON

I'll do better, Auntie.

Great Auntie tsks, wagging her finger at Nelson.

GREAT AUNTIE

[Ah, you and Jane. Both need to work on your Cantonese.]

MAY

[Auntie, if mom were here she would have agreed with you!]

Jane sits a bit taller, defiantly.

JANE

[She was looking forward to your visit. After all, hardly anyone would stop by.]

Nelson pales. May sneers.

HONG HONG

[Yes! She didn't even get to meet Yvonne. And to think, we almost extended our stay here at the last minute.]

GREAT AUNTIE

[Big relief you didn't, son. Jane hardly has enough room in the house for me.]

HONG HONG

[Weren't we supposed to stay at the old house? Nelson?]

John moves to speak. Tammy clocks this and interjects.

TAMMY

Why stay there when you have my place! Only want to give you all the best.

The guests nod, unconvinced, as Jane uses this silence to pass around a bottle of whiskey.

As the bottle is passed around, Ken attempts to grab some by leaning over from the kids table. He manages to clutch the bottle, and pours him some as Annie tries to feed ToTo.

ANNIE

(to ToTo)

Please! It's literally just rice!

ASHLEY

(to Ken)

What's wrong with your mom?

KEN

What? She's just mad about Nelson
and the house. But then again, who
isn't?

Annie looks up, dropping rice on ToTo as he continues to
fidget in his seat. She stares at Ken.

Ashley, for the first time, puts down her phone and looks at
Ken.

Ken clocks this.

KEN (CONT'D)

You don't know?

ANNIE

They don't tell us anything. We're
just trying to piece it all
together.

Ken places the whiskey glass back onto the adults table, and
then leans in. Annie and Ashley do the same.

EXT. JANE'S BACKYARD - SOMETIME LATER

Hong Hong holds a drink in one hand, smiling and commanding
the table. Everyone, even the kids, turn to watch him.

HONG HONG

[This family! I am so proud of you
all, coming here and starting
lives, more free lives than ours
back home. And now, your
generosity, to welcome us. We all
used to worry about you at the
beginning of the move. No community
their family could rely on. Jane
and Nelson, not even knowing us at
all! But now I see them, after all
these years, and I know that their
strength comes from relying on each
other.]

Hong Hong raises a glass. The siblings, fidgeting, return his
gesture. Ken, Annie, and Ashley do so too, toasting
themselves.

HONG HONG (CONT'D)

[Nelson! Nelson! Your turn!]

NELSON

I couldn't-

HONG HONG

[Po Po's favorite! The only son!
You've got to say something.]

Yvonne gives Nelson a gentle push.

Jane, May, and Tammy exchange knowing, jealous looks.

NELSON

Um, okay.

NELSON (CONT'D)

It's great to see you Auntie, Hong
Hong and your family...I think I
speak for all of us when I say it's
been too long.

Nelson looks towards Po Po's portrait.

NELSON (CONT'D)

She was so excited to be reunited.
But I hope seeing us altogether
makes her proud.

HONG HONG

[Nonsense, nonsense! Of course you
made her proud! The successful son!
She gave you the house, after all
you did for the family, helping at
the restaurant, keeping you and
your sisters together.]

Nelson looks down at the floor, refusing to make eye contact
with his sisters.

Hong Hong clocks this and rises from his chair to nudge
Nelson.

GREAT AUNTIE

[Nelson, pretty boy, take some
credit! I know she was hard on you,
but it was out of love. If it were
up to me, you would get the whole
inheritance. All to yourself.]

Nelson looks up, wary.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)

[You haven't found it yet, have
you?]

The siblings exchange looks, then look down in shame.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)

[I knew she should have just given it Nelson. No more of this stupid search...you wouldn't see the value in what she saw anyway.]

Tammy shakes her head and brushes back a tear. Jane clocks this. She leans across the table and squeezes her hand to comfort her.

May's fork clatters onto the table. She slams her hand down.

Great Auntie clocks this and sighs loudly, signaling her disappointment to everyone.

Hong Hong looks between May and her other siblings, as if this behavior is new to him.

Tammy loosens her own hand from Jane's grasp.

May opens her mouth to speak. Tammy instantly moves her hand towards May's wrist and squeezes, silencing her.

May takes a deep breath.

MAY

Excuse me.

May throws her napkin down onto the table. She rises and moves towards the house, leaving the adults, and the kids table, to stare awkwardly.

Hong Hong makes a whistling sound as he exhales.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Jane moves piles of dishes from the counter to the sink. Her face now dons a tired frown. She rubs off the concealer from under her eyes to reveal dark, puffy, circles.

May and Tammy walk in from the kitchen entrance. John stands at the entrance.

TAMMY

[Go watch the game in the living room with the rest. I will help clean.]

John shakes his head in disapproval but shuffles off, leaning on his cane.

May leans on the counter, while Tammy helps Jane clean.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

John dropped off Hong Hong and his family at home. They might push their trip up earlier.

Jane nods and continues to clean.

Nelson now enters the kitchen.

NELSON

Auntie's asleep.

MAY

Finally.

NELSON

Don't be so rude.

MAY

You're telling me that?

TAMMY

[We made it through dinner successfully. Don't ruin it. Help clean.]

JANE

Just barely. May almost exploded.

May and Nelson are silent, for now. Tammy hands them some dishes to dry and towels.

All four of them move in tense silence, cleaning up as one, rusty unit.

May finished drying her stack of plates and moves to get more. In doing so, she purposely shoves Nelson, causing him to drop and break his dish.

All the siblings jump at the sound of the clatter.

NELSON

May! Get yourself together.

May looks towards the mess and shrugs it off.

MAY

Jane's got tons of these. Why don't we talk about how you take all the credit-

JANE

Those were mom's.

MAY

Then just pay for it, Jane, this is not the time. Since when has money mattered to you anyway? You'll be fine if Nelson gets everyone's cut.

May begins to make faces, mimicking Jane as she speaks.

JANE

It always has. After years of taking May in, picking up bills for all of you. Now I need to protect myself, my family. Not my grown siblings who still act like children. May, you'll pay for this.

MAY

So you can use my money to pay for a pampered life for you and your kids? Not a chance.

JANE

[Don't you dare. They're just in the room over.]

MAY

[Please, Ashley is only paying attention to her brand new phone. Poor kid, her mother didn't even teach her Chinese. And Annie will pretend everything's perfect, just like her mother.]

JANE

You're pushing it, May.

TAMMY

[Will you all stop?]

MAY

[No! I'm tired of pretending Nelson hasn't lost the house, tired of putting up with Jane's constant pestering from money she doesn't need, tired of you pretending to be peaceful, when you hate us all!]

Tammy opens her mouth to speak but Jane forces her way past her.

JANE

[Don't talk to us like that. After everything I've given to you-]

MAY

[You offered! Always trying to be the pinnacle of American success, flouting it in front of all of us, rubbing it in when you took me in! You don't treat us like family, you look down on us for trying to be one. We shouldn't even give you a cent!]

JANE

[Look at you! Always playing the victim card! Everyone else is grateful!]

Tammy moans loudly.

John pokes his head in from the entrance.

JOHN

[If anyone gets it all, it's Tammy. She gave her all to that restaurant, to all of you, not to mention May and Nelson constantly coming in to our house, using our water, our resources.]

Tammy snaps at him for the first time.

TAMMY

[Stop it! You're not involved in this!]

John, surprised, tries to enter the kitchen. But Tammy meets him at the kitchen entrance and pushes him to leave. He obliges.

NELSON

I worked hard too. Just because I chose a different life, because I wanted more than that stupid restaurant! You forget to mention that, always calling me the baby.

TAMMY

[You are, brat!]

Nelson looks shocked at his older sister. He then turns to May for support. May turns from facing him.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

[Jane and Nelson, always off with friends, out, never putting the family first.

(MORE)

TAMMY (CONT'D)

And May, you barely worked. Only pretended so you could get a later curfew.]

Jane slams down the plate she was washing, now turning to fully face everyone.

JANE

[Get out! All of you!]

MAY

[Make me! Make us!]

Jane falters. Tammy, Nelson, May, and all the other members look towards her.

MAY (CONT'D)

[You won't. You can't. You've always been obsessed with this perfect little lifestyle, being better, being more mainstream instead of like mom, Tammy, and I. And because of that, you wouldn't dare kick us out, mess up this image you've created.]

Jane cracks. She lunges, and pushes May.

May falls back onto Nelson, who pushes her off, refusing to catch her.

May falls and Jane smirks. Embarrassed, May rises and pushes back, harder.

The two women attempt to get into each other's faces, but Nelson moves to stand between them.

NELSON

Stop! It didn't have to go this far.

But they don't care. May and Jane push and push.

In the commotion, the siblings fail to notice that Great Auntie has entered the kitchen. Wearing her hair curls and a bright pink robe, she bustles in to stand between May and Jane.

GREAT AUNTIE

[It's over, children!]

Her booming voice forces them to finally stop fighting.

By now, the rest of the family: Danny, John, Ken, Annie, and Ashley, have congregated around the kitchen as well, surveying the commotion.

Great Auntie adjusts her clothes and turns to the onlookers.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[Go back out! These...children need
to figure out themselves.]

No one moves. Auntie makes one large hand motion towards the door.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[Now!]

Scared, the family shuffles out.

John tries to stay. Ken grabs his arm and pulls him aside.

Auntie groans and turns towards the four.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[What shame! I come all this way,
just to watch you bicker?]

The siblings look towards each other and at the floor.

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[If your mom saw this...she would
have wished she never left Hong
Kong! Could have stayed, knowing
she would raise such brats!]

GREAT AUNTIE (CONT'D)
[No one deserves anything my sister
left you. No wonder she wanted you
all to work together to find it,
she knew you needed to earn it.]
(beat)
[You are not Tsangs. You are
selfish, all of you. No matter how
much you say you do for the family,
for each other. You have failed to
stick together, and for that. You
are not family. To each other, and
to me.]

Great Auntie turns to leave as the siblings look on.

Right as she is about to leave their view, Tammy steps forward.

TAMMY

[Couldn't you say the same about you? All this talk about family, but we never saw you help mom. Not once. All these years shaming our family without trying to give and be a part of it. At least we tried to stick together.]

Great Auntie squints at Tammy, waves her off, and exits to go back towards her room.

The four siblings, left with nothing but the remains of the banquet and each other, move to sit at the dining table, exhausted.

INT. JANE'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Silence. Tammy awkwardly attempts to break it.

TAMMY

[We should finish the dishes.]

MAY

[Gosh, Tam. Now's not the time. She has maids to do it anyway.]

JANE

[I don't.]

Jane's head is in her hands.

Her siblings look to her incredulously. She shakes her head.

JANE (CONT'D)

[And after this stupid party, trying to impress Auntie, and not finding the inheritance...]

NELSON

The new car isn't a rental, is it?

Jane shakes her head.

Once more, they sit in silence, now for an uncomfortably long time, always waiting for someone else to speak.

TAMMY

[Mom used to teach us all these proverbs, weird sayings.]

JANE

[Didn't teach us anything-]

TAMMY

[No. There's one phrase...every family has an unreadable bible. Issues that can't be, never will be, solved. They will always exist.]

MAY

[We have so many.]

May shifts in her seat. Nelson picks at his fingers.

TAMMY

[If you can't learn to recognize the differences, to respect it, the problems only get worse. You grow apart.]

(beat)

[You don't recognize these problems, you try to fix someone else's world, you have no family left.]

MAY

[Well, we failed then. She tried to bring us all together one last time. Couldn't put the problems aside long enough to work together.]

JANE

[So we don't deserve the inheritance.]

NELSON

So that's it? Stop looking, stop meeting? Family reunions, new year's...

JANE

It can't be over. Auntie hinted at it, right under our noses. Aren't we so close?

TAMMY

Jane, what's point in searching just to fight? Especially if fighting won't help us find it? If we go separate ways, we won't be so angry all the time. Stop the bad blood.

MAY

At the very least, if we couldn't
find the money, mom wanted peace.

They all exchange glances. Knowing glances, exhausted, tired
eyes looking at each other with nothing left to give.

TAMMY

[I'll send Ken to work with your
girls. They can clean out her room,
not us.]

Finally, Tammy nods, as if she's convinced herself of her own
decision. The rest clock this.

Silence falls upon the room once more.

Nelson rises.

JANE

She didn't want peace like this.

Nelson pauses, then waves her comment off, leaving the room.

Tammy follows suit, after a few beats.

Jane keeps sitting still, eyes glued to the table, refusing
to look up.

May goes last. Once she reaches the kitchen door, she turns
to look at Jane.

MAY

I'm sorry. I didn't know things
were bad.

She leaves. Jane doesn't look up, only wipes a tear, and
continues to sit, and hurt, in silence.

INT. MAY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The foster agent is back. May sits across from her once
again. Absolutely no changes have been made to her living
space: all the same rickety furniture remains without any
replacement.

May's eyes are drooping. Like her furniture, she's on her
last legs.

FOSTER AGENT

I see there haven't been any
changes to the home.

MAY
I've been busy.

FOSTER AGENT
A kid will keep you even busier.
Did you find the money?

May falters.

The foster agent shakes her head and stands.

FOSTER AGENT (CONT'D)
Without any improvements and a lack
of money, May, I can't let you
foster. I'm sorry.

May puts her head in her hands.

FOSTER AGENT (CONT'D)
I'll go.

The agent moves towards the door and looks back at May one
last time.

FOSTER AGENT (CONT'D)
Don't you have a sister? Maybe
visit her kids?

The agent leaves. May doesn't move a muscle.

EXT. DIM SUM HEAVEN PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Nelson sits on the ledge of the sidewalk. He fidgets,
nervously ripping up patches of grass near him.

Behind him, his Harley sits in a parking spot on the far side
across from Dim Sum Heaven.

Nelson stands to examine his beloved motorbike. He takes his
t-shirt and rubs off a stain on the metal handle.

Once he's done, his long face is reflected back at him
through the shiny metal.

Mr. Liang, wearing a new crisp blue suit and his usual flashy
jewelry, exits Dim Sum Heaven and saunters towards the bike.

MR. LIANG
[Nelson! Glad you came to your
senses. I'm so excited to ride this
beauty.]

Mr. Liang tries to get his greasy hands on the Harley, but Nelson instinctively stands in the way.

MR. LIANG (CONT'D)
[Silly! You know she's mine now,
move aside.]

Nelson reluctantly moves. Mr. Liang smirks and begins to examine the Harley.

After a moment, Mr. Liang turns to Nelson once more, flashing his too-perfect teeth.

He reaches into his suit pocket and hands Nelson a check. Nelson nods and bows only slightly.

Nelson hands Mr. Liang the keys, his eyes staring towards the broken concrete.

Nelson takes one last look at his Harley. He squeezes its handle, and then slowly lets go.

INT. TAMMY'S LIVING ROOM - NOON

Tammy bustles around in the kitchen, stirring a pot blankly.

The living room table sits empty. Instead, John, sporting his cane and a worn jacket, saunters over towards his wife.

JOHN
[Grocery bill was over again.]

This time Tammy ignores him, continuing to tend to her food.

JOHN (CONT'D)
[What are you making that's so
expensive?]

John leans in to look at the pot. Tammy shoos him away.

TAMMY
[Something new.]

JOHN
[Wasteful. Just like the rest of
your family, pouring your money
down the drain.]

Still, John grabs a bowl and attempts to dip a spoon into Tammy's pot.

Tammy clocks this and moves the pot from his grasp.

John stays astounded. Tammy quickly steps into the living room, grabs a few dollars from her pink wallet, and hands them to her husband.

John exits, steaming.

Once John is out of the house, Tammy breathes a sigh of relief. She walks into the kitchen once more.

Ken tip-toes into the living room and attempts to turn the corner towards the front door quickly. He holds a white plastic bag with a small red box inside.

Just as he's about to exit, Tammy grabs his arm. She holds up a hand to make him wait, then walks away.

Ken stands blankly. When she returns, she hands him a large velvet bag.

TAMMY

[Such a nice item, needs better presentation than this.]

Ken smiles. He takes out the red box holding the small dragon from the plastic bag and places it in the velvet bag instead.

Tammy gently takes the plastic bag from him, nods, and sends him on his way.

INT. JANE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Jane sits on a pristine leather couch, her hair tied back. Like May, she looks dishelved.

Jane sifts through a mound of bills, punching numbers into an old calculator furiously.

Danny enters, takes off his dress shoes and leaves them by the shoe rack. He places his keys onto the coffee table Jane is using and plops into a chair across from Jane. His button up and slacks wrinkle when he sits.

DANNY

We can re-finance the mortgage, but you should look for a new job-

JANE

Don't you think im trying?

Danny shakes his head.

DANNY

I'm here to help you fix this, Jane. But you keep putting off the hard decisions. At the very least warn the kids about different schools-

JANE

Stop it!

DANNY

Look at yourself! We're scraping everything we have. If we downgraded a little, or asked for help, we'd be better off.

Jane opens her mouth to reply but the doorbell rings.

Danny groans and opens it, not so gently. But he regains his composure once the door opens and smiles.

Ken enters, holding the velvet bag in his hands.

JANE

The girls are waiting for you. Start cleaning the dresser and closet first.

Ken nods, and then walks over to Jane.

Jane reluctantly grabs the velvet bag, then opens it, undoes the red box, and places the small dragon statue on the table. Her eyes widen.

JANE (CONT'D)

Where did your mom find this? I was looking when we went to the old home-

Ken opens his mouth to speak, but then shrugs instead. Jane nods in understanding.

He turns and walks down the hallway. Jane and Danny look over the statue now on the table, a mix of awe and shock.

INT. GRANDMA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Annie stands and sifts through the dresser. She throws papers, plastic bags, and other various items onto the floor.

Ashley catches them with some annoyance, some sadness. She sorts them into piles: one full of plastic bags, one with change, another with papers, and one miscellaneous pile.

Ken walks out of the closet, his hands full of clothing and purses.

These pique Ashley's interest, and she leaves her sorting to look at those new items. Annie clocks this and, after a brief flash of frustration across her face, moves to join the pair.

KEN

Found them deep in the closet.

ASHLEY

Vintage? I've got first dibs.

Ashley starts opening up some of the old, well-loved bags.

Annie and Ken shrug, and then do the same.

KEN

Are we looking for something?

ASHLEY

I'm just trying to check out the lining to figure out which ones I want to keep.

Annie rolls her eyes. Her and Ken move back to their previous tasks, unamused.

The three continue like this for a while - Annie combing through the dresser, Ken pulling out more items from the closet, Ashley continuing to explore the purses.

Annie takes photos and places them gently in a pile. Ken sorts various items from the closet.

Ashley picks up a red embroidered bag.

ANNIE

You can't take this one. She used it for special events. She loved it so much.

Annie snatches it away from her. Inside, something jingles loudly within the purse.

Annie moves towards Ashley and opens it up. They pour the contents of the purse onto the made bed.

Out falls an old key, lots of change, and some slips of paper.

Ken takes the paper.

Annie and Ashley lean over to view the paper in Ken's hand.

ASHLEY

When they fought, after the banquet, did they keep searching?

KEN

(reads)

Sewn into us, no one alone could find it all...What does this mean? Maybe she was losing her-

ANNIE

Hang on.

Annie dashes into the closet. She comes out holding Po Po's favorite red fleece that she wore in the kitchen.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

She used to sew things into her clothes for safekeeping. That's how she taught me to hide my new year money.

Annie feels around the jacket until she stumbles upon a lump. She unravels the thread. A wad of cash falls out.

Ashley and Ken clock this. The three of them methodically pull out clothing from the closet and search, eventually creating a pile of money, jewelry, and jade.

Once the closet is empty, the three look at the pile.

KEN

They tore into everything they found valuable, not what actually was.

INT. JANE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jane, now dressed in different athleisure gear from before, walks down the stairs absent-mindedly. She doesn't bother to look up or survey her surroundings until she crosses the table, noticing someone's presence.

May sits at the table, arms crossed, seemingly bored.

JANE

What the hell are you doing here?

MAY

The kids let me in. They said you wanted to apologize.

JANE

Please, I have nothing to apologize for.

Outside of the kitchen we hear a door SLAM open. Urgent footsteps are heard running towards the kitchen.

Nelson appears, his motorcycle helmet and shoes still on.

He calls out in such a panic that he fails to notice his siblings in the room.

NELSON

Ashley! Ashley!

Nelson sees Jane and May. He moves from panic to confusion.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Ashley said she was home alone and...

JANE

I'm here, clearly. And neither of you are supposed to be.

MAY

You think we want to be here? What's going on?

Outside of the kitchen, the front door opens again. Two pairs of footsteps can be heard.

TAMMY (O.S.)

[Stop dragging me! I said we wouldn't come back!]

Ken and Tammy enter. Ken is holding his mother by her wrist, with Tammy wrestling under his grasp. She stops fidgeting once she sees her other siblings in the kitchen.

TAMMY (CONT'D)

[Why am I here?]

NELSON

Ashley said she was in trouble.

TAMMY

Is she?

JANE

No! Obviously.

(to Tammy)

[Thanks for finding that statue. I needed it.]

Tammy firmly rips her hand away from her son and nods at Jane with pride.

MAY

[Well, if you aren't going to apologize, I have no reason to stay.]

ANNIE

Will all of you be quiet! Just for a second.

Beside Ken, Annie and Ashley have appeared.

The siblings all turn to look at Annie. She blushes and cowers when she recognizes she disrespected her elders. Ken and Ashley stand at Annie's side, unfazed. Ken holds a large wooden box in his hands.

NELSON

Ashley, what was the emergency?

ASHLEY

I made it up. How did you not figure that out?

Ashley rolls her eyes. Ken elbows her. Ashley clocks this and changes her demeanor to respect her elders.

KEN

You gave up on the inheritance. On each other.

Jane, Tammy, and Nelson look down, trying to avoid eye contact. But May seems unfazed.

MAY

Yes. But you kids, you don't know how it is. It's more complicated.

(beat)

We just can't work together. Never could.

ASHLEY

We know. You made us clean up your mess.

May clocks this and softens. The siblings, all now sheepish, sit down and look towards the third generation standing above them.

Ken walks over and plops the box down on the table between the siblings.

ANNIE

While we had to clean, we found it.

The siblings look towards the box, and then back at Ken, Ashley, and Annie. Annie nods, gesturing for them to open the chest.

Jane slowly fiddles with the clasp on the chest. It swings open with a thud.

All four siblings peer inside.

INT. JANE'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jane paces around the kitchen table. Nelson sits, shaking his leg. May searches around the chest some more. Tammy sifts around the pile, itemizing everything from the chest.

When she's done, she puts down her pen and sighs.

All the siblings move to peer over her shoulder, sneaking a look at the total on the paper.

JANE

[It's not enough.]

MAY

[To split between all of us would be...]

NELSON

It's all we have?

Tammy nods.

TAMMY

[Jane, you take it. You took care of mom when we didn't.]

JANE

[You're kidding.] I couldn't. Especially after all of you angry about-

MAY

And now with your business...

JANE

There are bigger priorities. Nelson-

NELSON

I couldn't get the house back. If I did, it's not like I could care for it anyway. I'd just disappoint her again.

MAY

[Put it towards the kids?]

TAMMY

[Maybe. They found it.]

JANE

[But they gave it back to us. And mom gave it to us.]

TAMMY

[It's stupid to split. It's not meant for just one of us, it's for the family.]

MAY

[Then let's all make a profit.]

May grabs her purse and digs through it. She pulls out a wrinkled, and slightly ripped, Tsang Realty brochure with Jane's face plastered on it.

FADE TO:

EXT. CHILDHOOD HOME - AFTERNOON

At the front of the lawn, a wooden sign reads "TSANG REALTY: HOME FOR SALE."

The home, now repainted and dusted to be a brighter green, sits in a yard filled with life. The flowers are now nicely kept and weeds are gone.

A small patio set rests on the porch. May, Nelson, Tammy, and John sit out there chatting.

Across from their porch is Ms. Kong, who sits on her almost identical patio. She takes a drag of her cigarette and waves.

MS. KONG

[Just make sure the next family who moves in isn't as crazy as you people!]

Tammy waves her off and shakes her head.

Ken comes out of the house to bring them all food. Then he sits down himself.

Jane's Volkswagen pulls into the driveway, which now stands without its rusted white fence.

Jane, Danny, Annie and Ashley get out of the car. Annie and Ashley move to greet Ken, as well as hug the others.

Danny holds a toolbox in his hands. He pats Jane on the back as she moves to see her siblings. Each greet each other kindly.

KEN

I finished the bedroom this morning. Just need you to help with one hinge in the bathroom.

DANNY

I'll check it out.

Ken motions for Danny and John to follow him into the house.

Across the lawn, Annie and Ashley kick a ball back and forth.

The four siblings sit, watching the next generation.

NELSON

So it's all fixed.

MAY

Time to sell.

For a few moments, there's silence. Then, Ashley runs up to May and Nelson.

ASHLEY

That game you guys used to play, can you teach us?

Nelson shrugs and stands up. May grins and rises gleefully, clapping Ashley on the back.

They move towards the front of the lawn to Annie and Ken, and begin to explain the game.

Jane and Tammy are left at the table.

JANE

You think she would have wanted it? Like this?

TAMMY

[We save our business, save some
money for all of them...]

(beat)

[It's not perfect.]

They sit some more. The cousins playfully bicker at the front of the lawn. Inside the house, sounds of drilling and more arguing between Danny and John can be heard.

Constant never-ending noise and bickering.

JANE

[I don't think it is supposed to
be.]

INT. MAY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The apartment is now filled with nicer furniture. Po Po's old furniture. The rickety dining table and chairs from before have been replaced with a dark, sturdy wooden dining set. The couch May sits on is the same one from the old childhood home, now dusted for full use.

Nelson enters the apartment, two large moving boxes under each arm.

May stands up from the couch to meet him. She grabs one of the boxes and walks him to the empty bedroom.

Nelson opens the door and peers inside.

Without speaking, he places the box down and sits on the bed.

MAY

We can make more space, here and
around the house...

She trails off. Nelson shakes his head and smiles.

NELSON

Thank you.

A phone rings. May's eyes widen as she rushes towards the door.

MAY

I'll help you later, let's go!

INT. JANE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Though her kitchen has the same appliances and perfect cabinets as before, the table settings are different. Plastic, classic red chinese plates line the table.

Previous red Chinese decorations left from PoPo have been kept. Small bamboo plants and money trees sit on the island as well.

Jane wears an apron, her hair messily tied up in the kitchen. She wears no jewelry, and her clothes are now more plain: a regular t-shirt and jeans.

She stands at the counter, wrapping rice in bamboo leaves, or at least, trying to.

Annie and Ashley run into the kitchen, both wearing soccer uniforms. They are covered in dried mud from their calves down.

They run up to the fridge and pull out water and snacks, devouring them immediately.

MAY (O.S.)

Hey! You forgot your bags!

May and Nelson enter the kitchen. May, now dressed more similar to Jane, runs in with one neon duffel bag.

Nelson stands right behind her carrying another.

Jane and May lock eyes and nod at the other's presence.

JANE

Thanks for picking them up.

ASHLEY

Can we get ice cream next week too?

May grins, walks over, and pats Ashley's head. She surprisingly doesn't seem to mind.

A door opens and shuts outside the kitchen. Tammy enters, confidently rushing in. She goes straight towards Jane and begins to help her with the food.

MAY

[When did you get here?]

TAMMY

[I pulled up behind you, silly.]

NELSON

[You're kidding! That's your new ride? Realty's treating someone well.]

Tammy grins and nods enthusiastically.

Jane continues her bamboo wraps. Annie watches her mother fumble and walks over.

Slowly, Annie takes the leaves from her mother's hand and wraps the rice, now using a different technique than the one shown by Po Po.

MAY

Who taught you that? I like it like this.

May takes her own rice and leaf set, making her own creation, different from Jane and Annie's.

As May, Jane, and Annie continue, Nelson excitedly walks over and takes a bite of rice. As he reaches for another, the three ladies excitedly swat his hand away from the uncooked food. Nelson groans.

Ashley sees her family congregating and walks over. Tammy hands her a ball of rice and leaves, teaching her silently.

Done with their sticky rice, Jane, May, and Annie all place their rice balls into the main pile. All three creations sit together, each with a different pattern, a different knot, but a similar shape, and the same filling.

FADE OUT.