

选择

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Draft
#6

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1 INT. MADAM GOH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY D1

ON BLACK: Radio tunes on. Music: 爱拼才会赢 plays softly.

A radio on a vintage wooden table by the window, continuing the music softly.

Beside the radio, pictures of a smiling Chinese elderly woman and a family with a young girl. In the other frames, just the woman and the young girl in her preteens posing at different activities.

A frame has an aged picture middle aged man behind a fishball noodle stall, with a smiling middle aged woman in front.

A bright blue Chinese vase with fresh flowers.

The ceiling fan spins, we hear whirring of the blades.

A living room decorated with old school simple furniture, disrupted by a stark white hospital bed holding AMELIA (16), teen girl, eyes closed, tubes running around her body. Machines surround the bed.

MADAM GOH (65) (O.S.)

You prefer this one or this one?

Radio continues to play softly.

We see MADAM GOH, elderly woman wearing floral blue shirt and brown pants, two bouquets of flowers in hand - daffodils and white astatic lilies.

MADAM GOH

Ya, this flower colour not so nice.

Madam Goh replaces the old flowers in the vase by the bedside table with a new bouquet of daffodils. White astatic lilies are placed beside the vase.

She looks out of the window, bright light shines through.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)

You want closed or open?

Beeping of machines.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)

Mm, today very hot.

Madam Goh closes the blinds and squeezes herself on a creaky stool by the bed, the only thing that fits in the small space between machines. The monitor reflects coldly on her face.

She puts her hand in Amelia's.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
Just now breakfast I tried the...
acai? Too many toppings ah, I rather
go back to my porridge shop. Simple
is better.

The machine beeps forlornly.

Distant laughter is heard. From outside, a WOMAN (30s) and a GIRL (16) laugh and chatter as they pass the window. Madam Goh looks up and back at Amelia.

She squeezes Amelia's hand, stands and opens the door. Music grows slightly louder. She closes the door gently, leaves.
TITLE CARD appears --

“选择”

Music stops abruptly.

2 INT. FANG'S LIVING ROOM - DAY D1

Fang's house is stark and plain, with the bare necessities like a table and a stool, except a black Chinese vase with wilting flowers and a box of chicken rice on a side table. A white hospital bed in the center.

FANG (70), frail and bald old man is laid on the hospital bed, looking down with a stony expression. His sheets are messy. A bed tray is on the floor.

A caretaker, RAMI (30), dressed in polo tee with logo, back to Madam Goh, is knelt on the ground, picking something up. Madam Goh bends down to help and spies small white pills and an empty pill bottle. Rami notices her and sweeps them up. She turns and her eyes are teary.

RAMI
Oh Madam Goh. Sorry, didn't see you.

MADAM GOH
Morning Rami. Everything okay?

Rami nods at Madam Goh. She picks up the bed tray on the floor and sets it on the bed. The box of chicken rice is set on top of the bed tray. Fang looks away.

RAMI
I'll see you next time Madam Goh,
gotta run. Bye... Fang.

Rami grabs her tote bag on the floor and swiftly leaves the room. Madam Goh replaces the old flowers at the table near the windows. She secretly observes Fang.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Those flowers so smelly.

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
That's why I always specially bring
for you.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Why must come when I peacefully
eating lunch?

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
I make your life exciting mah.

Fang eyes the food tray. Madam Goh sits on the small chair, moves forward and scoops some rice and gravy with the spoon and moves it to Fang's mouth.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
I not hungry.

A stomach growl.

Fang looks embarrassed. He leans forward and chomps onto the food on the spoon. Madam Goh scoffs lightly and scoops another serving.

FANG (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
How is your granddaughter?

A drop of gravy drops onto the table.

3 INT. DOCTOR HO'S OFFICE - DAY

DOCTOR HO (40), plaid shirt and white coat. Madam Goh is wearing a floral purple shirt with brown pants. She is seated across him, fidgeting with her fingers, looking around.

Behind her is a bookshelf with his patient reports. His desk is neat, with minimal picture frames, and a dual monitor set up. Pictures on the wall are of different diseases and diagrams. Madam Goh avoids looking at them.

The Newton's Cradle swing, the clock ticks ominously.

MADAM GOH

But will it wake her up?

DOCTOR HO

There's a high chance she will. But it comes with the usual risks

MADAM GOH

I'll do the treatment. Put her name down.

DOCTOR HO

I admire your effort, but there's a long list. Unless... you can pay by the end of this week. I'll let you have a look.

Doctor Ho flips his monitor, Madam Goh widens her eyes.

MADAM GOH

Hah?!

DOCTOR HO

I understand. This is not a small amount. Please take some time to think about it. There may be future treatments that could...

Doctor Ho sounds like he is underwater. Madam Goh hears ringing in her ears and the figure on the monitor blurs in her vision. Doctor Ho rambles on.

The Newton's Cradle swings faster.

MADAM GOH

I'll find it.

The ringing stops and Doctor Ho's voice sharpens

DOCTOR HO

Sorry?

Madam Goh snatches the keyboard and furiously types Amelia's full name at the top.

DOCTOR HO (cont'd)
Uh that's just the bill...

MADAM GOH
I'll find it!

Madam Goh gets up and stomps past a bewildered NURSE (30s), about to enter, folder with 'Amelia- Vitals' under her arm.

The nurse hands the folder over and shakes her head. Doctor Ho flips open the folder and sighs.

MADAM GOH (V.O.)
(in Hokkien)
I'm a failure.

4 INT. FANG'S LIVING ROOM - DAY D2

Fang, on his bed, has his head in a metal basin. Vomit and blood drips down his chin. Madam Goh stands in front of the window, frustrated.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Huh?

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
Always being set back.

Fang mumbles into his basin.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
The procedure is right there, she'll wake up, and I still can't do anything. I tell you, when I saw the bill...

Fang vomits.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
Yah, exactly!

Madam Goh turns around and reaches for the tissue box, dabbing at Fang's face. He swats her away. Madam Goh picks up the basin. In his vomit are pieces of white pills. Fang grabs the bowl back, doesn't make eye contact.

Silence.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
Fang...

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Okay, so you need money? For Amelia?

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
Why...?

Fang vomits into the basin. More white pills. He doesn't try to hide it and sighs. Madam Goh reaches for tissues and dabs at his face.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
Are you in pain?

Fang coughs and chokes on his spit. His hands shake from trying to keep the basin steady. His gaze meets Madam Goh's, pale and sweating. She touches his hand.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
I...don't know how to help you.

Fang looks away, spit and blood dripping on his sheets. Madam Goh looks into the basin and the white pills. She slowly looks up.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
I...I can get you more.

Fang slowly turns to her.

MADAM GOH (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
I...don't know if I can. But...

Fang grabs her arm with force.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Please. If you do this for me, I will
give you the money for Amelia. I'm
begging you.

Fang's breath is raggedy. They stare at each other.

We see the bright white astatic lilies shift a little in the wind, sun shining on the black vase.

5 **EXT. PARK - NIGHT D2**

Madam Goh is standing by a dustbin, pensive. Rami walks towards her.

MADAM GOH
Thank you for meeting me so late.

RAMI
No problem, I had another case nearby.

Rami takes out a pack of cigarettes and a lighter, but looks up at Madam Goh for approval. Madam Goh nods. Rami lights and takes a drag facing away from Madam Goh.

RAMI (cont'd)
About Fang...and what happened that morning...

MADAM GOH
Fang told you?

RAMI
No. He did it without warning. He just...had the pills with him.

Madam Goh furrows her brow then nods.

RAMI (cont'd)
It's...it's not the first time.

6 **INT. FANG'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT D2**

Alone, Fang shivers and hugs himself under the sheets. Dried blood crusted around his lips. He quietly sings in hokkien, voice hoarse. His eyes are closed but tears fall.

RAMI (V.O)
Fang's lost his fight. He's been hanging on, I don't know what...

MADAM GOH (V.O.)
I think I know how he feels.

7 **INT. MADAM GOH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK TO PAST CHECKUP)**

Sombre music fades in. Doctor Ho gravely speaks to Madam Goh, who is holding on to Amelia's hand. Madam Goh shakily takes a seat. Doctor Ho pats Madam Goh's shoulder.

8 **EXT. PARK - NIGHT D2**

Sombre music stops. The two women look at each other, solemn. The cigarette in Nurse Rami's hand burns to her fingers. She flicks the ashes away on the ashtray.

9 **INT. PHARMACY - DAY D3**

Money is handed over the counter. Madam Goh wears floral grey shirt and brown pants. Unbrushed hair, dark circles under eyes, looks uneasy. Behind her are rows and rows of medicine bottles. A bottle of sleeping pills slip into her hand. She shivers on contact.

10 **INT. MADAM GOH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY D3**

Madam Goh stares at the bottle on the bedside table. Looks over at Amelia. Back at the bottle. She takes Amelia's hand and squeezes it. She observes her every movement.

Madam Goh brushes Amelia's hair from her face and kisses her forehead. Madam Goh reaches out for the bottle and grabs it. The old photo with the middle aged man and woman comes into view.

11 **INT. FANG'S LIVING ROOM - DAY D3**

Madam Goh stands at the doorway, clutching the pills. Fang-paler, skinnier, blue-lipped, breathes with difficulty flat on his bed.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Madam Goh, walking annoyance, here to
rescue me.

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
Who said I'm rescuing?

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Your-

Fang coughs and heaves. Blood splatters on his sheets. Madam Goh strides over, looking for his cough medicine.

He points his head at the sleeping pill bottle in her hand and clears his throat. His eyes are watery.

FANG (cont'd)
(in Hokkien)
Tell Rami to contact my bank.

Madam Goh sits on the small chair, grabs Fang's frail hand.

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
Fang, you're always strong.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
Huh?

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
I could have never stayed as long as
you have. I'm proud of you. And I'm
glad that we're friends. I'm sorry if
I was ever disrupting your peace.

Madam Goh opens the bottle and takes out a handful of pills.
She crushes them into the glass of water by his bed and
brings it to his hand.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
What... what about Amelia? What about
the treatment? I don't want you to
see your granddaughter like that
after I'm... gone.

Madam Goh smiles, bittersweet.

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
There's nothing I've never been able
to handle.

They laugh. Madam Goh is still holding Fang's hand. Fang's
frown disappears and his face relaxes.

FANG
(in Hokkien)
(You never disrupted my peace.)

MADAM GOH
(in Hokkien)
Hm?

FANG
(in Hokkien)
I only felt at peace when you were
here. And now you're giving me the
(MORE)

FANG (cont'd)
peace I want.

Fang shakily lifts his hand and grasps the cup. We hear only the aircon, cool air surrounding them.

They lock eyes and Madam Goh nods, trying her best to suppress her tears. Fang squeezes Madam Goh's hand hard.

He drinks from the cup. He swallows and closes his eyes. Madam Goh gently takes the cup and sets it by the table.

Fang's raspy breathing fills the room. They get shorter and shorter, and then silence. We see Madam Goh smiling, trying her best to hold her tears.

Madam Goh leaves the room. She leans against the wall outside. Madam Goh bears a solemn expression, stifled sobs are released. She covers her mouth with her hands.

12 INT. MADAM GOH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The camera slowly zooms in towards Amelia's hand. The machines beep. Amelia's hand twitches. Music: 爱拼才会赢 begins.