

"INTO DUST"

Written by

Tom Carter

Tom Carter  
Email: [tom@tomcarter.info](mailto:tom@tomcarter.info)  
Phone: +82(0)10-4955-3578

FADE IN:

EXT. SOUTH KOREA - GWANGJU-DAEGU EXPRESSWAY - DAY

The expressway cuts through a typically picturesque Korean panorama -- agricultural fields, forest covered hills, tower blocks and mountains fight for supremacy in the distance.

The relentless late summer sun beats down with intensity. Heat waves hover above the dry asphalt.

A family car, way past it's prime, is pulled over in the --

BREAKDOWN LANE

The trunk is open and full. A spare tire lies on the ground.

We hear the CLUNK CLUNK of metal on metal.

The four members of the KIM FAMILY sit side-by-side on the steel crash barrier --

DONG-WAN, 55, sits with a frown and crossed arms. His stern demeanor just about hides his insecurity.

To his side, MI-SOOK, 54, a dedicated mother hen, shades her face with a hand fan. She squints at a patch of trees in the distance.

MI-SOOK

Are they persimmon trees? I can't see that far without my glasses.

Dong-Wan glances, doesn't respond.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

Being this close to the road can't be good for the fruit. The pollution must fall on the soil.

She looks to see if her children are paying attention --

JI-HYUN, 26, is lost in the pages of an old notebook. She is plain looking, in loose clothes and no make-up. Her frostiness is at conflict with the passion she forces herself to ignore.

To her side, JUN-HO, 18, scrawny, awkward, angry at the world, blocks out reality with earphones.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

The season is still a month away. I might never eat one again.

DONG-WAN

Eat what?

MI-SOOK

A persimmon! Am I talking to myself?

Dong-Wan burps and rubs his chest with an uncomfortable grimace.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

You don't have any reflux medicine. Try to stay calm.

DONG-WAN

I am calm.

MI-SOOK

I don't want you to be sick in front of the foreigner.

They both look down at the source of the CLUNKING --

Now we see ROBIN, 28, on his knees, struggling to work an antiquated car jack. Shaggy hair, sweat soaked shirt, pink and flustered, his Anglo-Saxon ancestry fails him in this heat.

DONG-WAN

I wanted to get there before dark.

MI-SOOK

We will.

DONG-WAN

Not at this speed. It was a bad idea to let him help.

MI-SOOK

He wants to contribute. It won't hurt to let him.

They watch as Robin pumps the jack handle. The rear wheel rises.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

He looks exhausted. Look how sweaty...

JI-HYUN

(glances at Robin)

I have to sit next to him. He's going to smell.

Mi-Sook leans to sneak a look at the notebook.

MI-SOOK  
 You've barely said a word since we  
 left home. What can be so  
 interesting about an old diary?

Ji-Hyun closes the diary.

JI-HYUN  
 Nothing.

Mi-Sook cools Ji-Hyun with the fan.

MI-SOOK  
 Are you hungry?

JI-HYUN  
 No. We just ate breakfast.

MI-SOOK  
 I can't remember if I turned the  
 lights off before we left.

DONG-WAN  
 You did.

MI-SOOK  
 Are you sure?

DONG-WAN  
 It's not like you to forget.

MI-SOOK  
 Jun-Ho... Jun-Ho...

Jun-Ho is either oblivious or trying his best to ignore her.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
 Kim Jun-Ho!

Ji-Hyun nudges Jun-Ho. He pulls his earphones out, sulky  
 because of the disturbance.

JUN-HO  
 What?

MI-SOOK  
 Did you switch off your bedroom  
 light?

JUN-HO  
 Yes.

MI-SOOK  
You're sure?

JUN-HO  
I think so.

MI-SOOK  
What about your computer?

JUN-HO  
Why do you care? It's not  
important. Nothing matters now.

DONG-WAN  
Hey! Stop that talk. Don't upset  
your mother.

JUN-HO  
Whatever. I don't care anymore.  
This is so stupid.

Dong-Wan stands to scowl at Jun-Ho.

DONG-WAN  
What did you say to me?

MI-SOOK  
That's enough now. Calm down Dong-  
Wan.

DONG-WAN  
You don't speak to your parents  
that way. Are you listening to me?

Jun-Ho pushes the earphones into his ears again. He shuffles  
along the barrier to put distance between himself and the  
rest of them.

MI-SOOK  
Leave him be.

DONG-WAN  
Sulking won't help. He has to grow  
up.

He sits and focuses his attention back on Robin.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
Ji-Hyun, tell him to work faster.

Ji-Hyun sighs unenthusiastically. We will be impressed by her  
level of English.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 My father wants you to be faster.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Have you seen what I'm working with  
 here? This thing belongings in a  
 museum. Look at my hand...

He displays his red, sweaty hand, dented from the jack  
 handle.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 He wants you to hurry.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 I'm going as fast as I can.

He takes a tire iron from the ground and begins to remove the  
 tight nuts from the wheel.

JI-HYUN  
 He said that he is working fast.

DONG-WAN  
 Is it a joke? Shit.  
 (claps mockingly)  
 Wow, so fast. His hands are a blur.

Dong-Wan jumps off the barrier and snatches the tire iron  
 from Robin.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Let me do it.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 You don't need to be--  
 (to Ji-Hyun)  
 Tell him he doesn't need to be so  
 pushy.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Bushee?

Dong-Wan tries to twist the tire iron with all his strength.  
 The nut doesn't budge.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 You're doing it wrong. You have to  
 turn anti-clockwise.

DONG-WAN  
 What's he talking about now?

JI-HYUN  
 I don't know. He speaks too fast.  
 Something about a clock.

DONG-WAN  
 A clock?

He looks at his watch.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Turn it to the left. *Oreunjjok*.

His Korean pronunciation is clumsy but understandable.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
*Oreunjjok* is right.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 I mean left.

Dong-Wan figures it out. He tries to turn the final nut. The  
 tire iron slips from his hand.

DONG-WAN  
 It's fixed hard. I think he had to  
 loosen the nuts before he raised  
 the wheel. Ah, fuck. He made a big  
 mistake.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Is he talking about me?

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 No.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 I understand bad words. I'm not  
 stupid.

Dong-Wan looks to Ji-Hyun for a translation. She sighs.

JI-HYUN

He said he isn't stupid. Do I have to keep doing this?

DONG-WAN

Not stupid...? Then why can't he change a tire. The British are supposed to be intelligent.

Robin looks to Ji-Hyun for a translation. She says nothing. He tries to take the tire iron back.

ROBIN

(in English)

I was doing fine until you tried to take over--

Dong-Wan refuses to let go.

DONG-WAN

What the hell is he doing? Get off--

ROBIN

(in English)

Let me do it. Give it to me--

They pull the tire iron back and forth like squabbling toddlers.

MI-SOOK

Stop it Dong-Wan. You're acting like a child.

Dong-Wan relinquishes. Robin takes control. He strains to remove the last nut.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

He did it.

DONG-WAN

I loosened it for him.

Robin removes the flat tire. He takes the spare and struggles to fit it onto the exposed bolts.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

No, not like that. Give it to me...

He grabs hold of the tire.

ROBIN

(in English)

I can do it. *Gwaenchana ajeossi.*

DONG-WAN  
Did you hear how he speaks to me!?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
You should not speak that way. My  
father is older than you.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
So what?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
It seems to be rude.

Robin lets go of the tire and stands.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I'm not the rude one here. You  
know, Korean people are always too  
impatient.

Dong-Wan pushes himself up to confront Robin. Ji-Hyun stands  
between them like a boxing referee.

DONG-WAN  
Is he talking about me? What did he  
say?

MI-SOOK  
Calm down Dong-Wan.

JI-HYUN  
He didn't say anything. He wants to  
help you.

DONG-WAN  
He's lucky I allowed him in my car.  
He needs to show more respect!

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Stop shouting at me.

DONG-WAN  
He is in Korea-- He should speak  
Korean!

JI-HYUN  
He wants you to stop shouting at  
him.

MI-SOOK  
Stop shouting at him.

DONG-WAN  
I'm not shouting!  
(to Mi-Sook)  
This is your fault-- You wanted to  
take him to thr airport, not me.

MI-SOOK  
You were quick enough to take his  
money.

Dong-Wam rubs his chest.

DONG-WAN  
The acid is trying to escape. He's  
making me sick.

MI-SOOK  
That's it--

She thrusts the fan into Dong-Wan's hand as she pushes past him and Robin. She crouches and proceeds to fit the tire with the speed and dexterity of a formula-one pit crew.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
Now I know the problem is men...  
Whatever country they are from...  
Men are always desperate to be in  
control of everything around  
them...

Dong-Wan and Robin watch sheepishly as she tightens the final nut.

INT. CAR - ON THE ROAD - DAY

Dong-Wan drives. Mi-Sook is in the passenger seat. Ji-Hyun reads her diary, sandwiched between Robin and Jun-Ho in the back. It's cramped with bags and boxes of belongings. They packed for a long trip.

DONG-WAN  
(singing)  
*"On days when I get sentimental  
over the melodies of Bach,  
forgotten memories come into full  
bloom..."*

JI-HYUN  
Not again.

DONG-WAN  
What's the problem?

JI-HYUN  
It's always the same song.

DONG-WAN  
You don't appreciate good music.  
There's no heart in the  
manufactured crap your generation  
listens to.

Robin looks close to melting. He wipes the sweat from his forehead.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
It's so hot in here. Can we turn on  
the cold air?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
My father says it will waste the  
gas.

Robin opens his window fully. He lets the air blast his face.

DONG-WAN  
(singing)  
*"On days when I get sentimental  
over the melodies of Bach,  
forgotten memories..."*

MI-SOOK  
No singing Dong-Wan. She's right--  
You don't realize how annoying it  
is. You sound like a broken record.

Dong-Wan stays quiet for a beat, obviously hurt.

DONG-WAN  
There was a time when you loved me  
singing to you.

MI-SOOK  
We're too old for that now. Anyway,  
it was Jun-Ho was your biggest  
fan...  
(turns to see Jun-Ho)  
Jun-ho, do you remember?

Jun-Ho is oblivious.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
 He cried if I switched off his  
 bedroom light before you sang him a  
 lullaby.

DONG-WAN  
 Don't remind him of that. It's  
 embarrassing.

MI-SOOK  
 There's nothing embarrassing about  
 a father caring for his son.

In the back, Robin plays with the window absent-mindedly. Ji-hyun has returned to her diary.

JI-HYUN (V.O.)  
 Today is the day I met the man of  
 my dreams...

Her eyes flicker as Robin moves the window up-and-down, then back to the page.

JI-HYUN (V.O.)  
 We spoke for hours until the sun  
 began to set. I could have stayed  
 with him all night--

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 What are you reading?

She ignores him.

JI-HYUN (V.O.)  
 I never believed in love at first  
 sight until now. He is perfect in  
 every way--

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 It looks like a diary--

She slams the diary shut.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 (in English)  
 Don't worry, I can't read hangul.  
 Your secrets are safe.

He begins to play with the window again.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 We need to change seats.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Why?

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Because.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Because what?

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Because I say.

Robin shuffles to the middle as Ji-Hyun awkwardly scrambles over his legs with her rear in his face. They change seats.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 There's no seatbelt here...

He wriggles around, looking for a seatbelt.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 (in English)  
 I don't feel comfortable without one.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Stop moving. You don't need a seatbelt.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 You're too relaxed about safety in this country. I'll be the one going through the windscreen if we crash.

MI-SOOK  
 What's wrong with him?

JI-HYUN  
 He's annoying. And he's sticky. Do you have a tissue?

Mi-Sook takes a packet of wet wipes from her handbag. She passes one to Ji-Hyun so that she can wipe her arm.

DONG-WAN

I can stop the car if you want to  
kick him out.

MI-SOOK

Be nice to him. He's our guest.

Mi-Sook smiles at Robin. He mimes the missing seatbelt.

ROBIN

(in English)  
Seatbelt eobseo.

MI-SOOK

(in English)  
Yes. Thank you.

JI-HYUN

(in English)  
She doesn't understand you.

Dong-Wan notices the fuel gage creeping closer to empty.

DONG-WAN

I should have filled up before we  
left Gwangju. We need a full tank  
to get there.

MI-SOOK

And get us to the airport?

DONG-WAN

The airport... I've been thinking--  
Incheon is the opposite direction  
of where we need to go.

MI-SOOK

He paid you.

DONG-WAN

For what he paid, we can take him  
most of the way.

Robin listens to their conversation.

ROBIN

(in English)  
Are they talking about me again?

JI-HYUN

(in English)  
Yes.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 What are they saying?

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 I'm not a translator.

DONG-WAN  
 The sooner we lose him the better.  
 We can't trust him.

MI-SOOK  
 Why?

DONG-WAN  
 The British act unthreatening, but  
 they are dangerous.

MI-SOOK  
 You don't know any foriegners. You  
 never left Korea.

DONG-WAN  
 I know. The British colonized half  
 the world. You can't do that  
 without violence.

MI-SOOK  
 You can't blame him for the past.

DONG-WAN  
 They're polite but ruthless people.  
 Did you ever watch *dubloseven*?

MI-SOOK  
*Dubloseven*?

DONG-WAN  
*Jamesu Bond*.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Why are they talking about James  
 Bond?

MI-SOOK  
*Jamesu Bond* is a gentleman.

Dong-Wan narrows his eyes to study Robin in the rearview  
 mirror.

DONG-WAN

We don't know what he's planning.  
He might try to steal the car.

MI-SOOK

He looks harmless.

DONG-WAN

That's what he wants you to think.  
He's already manipulated you.

Mi-Sook turns to study Robin. He smiles awkwardly at her.

MI-SOOK

(to Ji-Hyun)

Do you think he's handsome?

JI-HYUN

Why do you ask me?

MI-SOOK

I never know what to think about  
foreigner guys. He's not ugly. But,  
I can't decide if he is handsome.

DONG-WAN

He needs a hair cut.

JI-HYUN

He's very sweaty.

MI-SOOK

This weather is too hot for him.  
Can't you put the AC on for a  
while?

DONG-WAN

No way.

Mi-Sook takes another wet wipe and passes it to Robin.

ROBIN

(in English)

Thank you.

He wipes his face.

MI-SOOK

It must be terrible for him, being  
so far away from loved ones at a  
time like this. Ask him about his  
family.

Ji-Hyun closes her diary.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

My mother wants to know about your family.

ROBIN

(in English)

There's not much to say. My mum died a few years ago-- she had cancer. I don't have any contact with my dad.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

You don't speak to your father?

ROBIN

(in English)

Not in a long time. We don't have a good relationship. He's not a nice man.

MI-SOOK

What did he say?

JI-HYUN

His mother is dead and he hates his father.

MI-SOOK

How sad.

DONG-WAN

He should be ashamed to talk about his father in such a way. He has no respect for family or his elders.

MI-SOOK

You don't know that.

DONG-WAN

Did you hear how he spoke to me before? My children would never speak to me that way.

ROBIN

(in English)

You know, your dad reminds me of him-- angry and always shouting.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

He thinks you show no respect. In Korea we--

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Respect older people, regardless of  
 how they treat you.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Not exactly.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Well, I think respect should be  
 earned.

DONG-WAN  
 What did he say?

JI-HYUN  
 He's sorry. He will try to be more  
 respectful.

MI-SOOK  
 He's a gentleman. I knew it.

EXT. EXPRESSWAY SERVICE STOP - REFUELING STATION - DAY

The refueling station is separate from the main service stop area. It's small, unmanned, with two sets of pumps.

Mi-Sook stretches her legs on the forecourt. Jun-Ho sits on a wall.

The Kim's car is parked near a pump. Dong-Wan removes the gas tank cap.

DONG-WAN  
 A few more kilometers and we would  
 have been empty...

He presses the self-service screen. An error message shows --  
 "OUT OF ORDER"

He tries the next pump. Same message.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 No gas. Fuck. We're screwed.

MI-SOOK  
 What about those ones?

She points at the other set of pumps opposite them.

DONG-WAN  
They're LPG pumps. We need  
gasoline.

He sits on the wall next to Jun-Ho, defeated. Mi-Sook sits  
with him.

MI-SOOK  
What now?

DONG-WAN  
Nothing. Without gas we're stuck  
here.

MI-SOOK  
There must be something we can do.

DONG-WAN  
You can take your cross out and  
pray for a miracle.

A taxi drives onto the forecourt. It parks at the LPG pumps.  
The STRANGER, about 50, who drives the taxi seems flustered  
and in a hurry as he gets out to fill up.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
(to the stranger)  
You're out of luck. The pumps  
aren't working.

The stranger glances over but ignores the comment. He  
touches the self-service screen.

STRANGER  
This is working fine.

DONG-WAN  
(to himself)  
Lucky bastard.

Dong-Wan watches curiously as the stranger struggles to open  
the taxi fuel door.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
Is it locked?

STRANGER  
What?

Dong-Wan walks over.

DONG-WAN  
It won't open if you locked the  
car.

The stranger uses the smart key to unlock the taxi. He tries and fails to open the fuel door again.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

No. Like this...

Dong-Wan pushes the fuel door on the correct spot and it springs open. The stranger grabs the LPG pump and starts to fill up.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

We need your help--

STRANGER

No.

DONG-WAN

My family-- We're stuck here with no gas. You can help us if--

STRANGER

I don't have time to help you.

DONG-WAN

I have an empty gas can in the trunk. If you can drive me to another gas station--

STRANGER

I said no you son of a bitch. Get away from me.

Dong-Wan is taken-aback, not sure how to respond. He takes a few steps back and something catches his eye --

The taxi driver identification is clear to see on the dashboard --

The ID picture is of a thin, bald man with glasses, nothing like the man who is filling up. The ID name is "KWON MIN JONG."

INT. EXPRESSWAY SERVICE STOP - CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

The store door has been kicked in. Shelves are mostly bare but for the odd item deemed unessential enough to be scavenged.

Ji-Hyun kicks through the empty, trampled packaging that litters the floor. She still has the diary with her. It pokes out of her handbag.

Robin looks in drink refrigerator.

(Entire scene in English)

ROBIN  
Empty... There's nothing here.

Ji-Hyun continues to look around the store.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
So, how do you speak such good English?

JI-HYUN  
I'm Korean.

ROBIN  
What does that mean?

JI-HYUN  
I studied a lot.

She bends to pick something up.

ROBIN  
What is it?

JI-HYUN  
A sandwich. I think it was walked on.

She shows him the sandwich, still wrapped, but flat as a pancake.

EXT. EXPRESSWAY SERVICE STOP - CAR PARK - DAY

Robin and Ji-Hyun walk through the empty car park. He peels opens the flat sandwich packaging.

(Entire scene in English)

ROBIN  
What's so special about this place you're heading to?

JI-HYUN  
My father thinks we can survive there.

ROBIN  
There are shelters in Gwangju. You should have stayed there.

JI-HYUN  
Some shelters, but not room for  
everyone. They are full.

ROBIN  
You left it late to travel.

JI-HYUN  
So did you.

Robin offers her half of the sandwich. She shakes her head --  
"No".

ROBIN  
What's with the diary? You won't  
let it out of your sight.

JI-HYUN  
I don't want anyone to read it.

ROBIN  
My last girlfriend was secretive  
about her diary. She was Korean,  
too.

JI-HYUN  
What does that mean?

ROBIN  
What?

JI-HYUN  
'She was Korean'-- You think we are  
all the same.

ROBIN  
I never said anything like it.

JI-HYUN  
Yes you did. Today, you said all  
Koreans are rude.

ROBIN  
No, I didn't-- I said Koreans are  
impatient, not rude. It wasn't a  
generalization. Being impatient is  
part of your cultural identity.

JI-HYUN  
Okay, so how do you feel if I say  
all British people are...

She pauses to think.

ROBIN

Go on.

JI-HYUN

I don't know. I thought British people are polite, until I met you.

ROBIN

I know exactly what girls like you are like.

JI-HYUN

Girls like me?

ROBIN

Korean girls-- You all have bad tempers.

JI-HYUN

That's a stupid stereotype.

ROBIN

I don't know about that. Kimchi temper is real.

JI-HYUN

Kimchi temper?

ROBIN

I've experienced it. Fighting with a Korean girl is traumatic. My ex would shout and scream at me for the smallest things.

JI-HYUN

Maybe you deserved to be shouted at. You are annoying.

ROBIN

I never did anything wrong.

JI-HYUN

Maybe don't understand girls from any country.

They stop dead in their tracks. Jun-Ho is running towards them.

JUN-HO

(in Korean)

Hurry. Dad has gone crazy!

EXT. EXPRESSWAY SERVICE STOP - REFUELING STATION - DAY

Dong-Wan and the stranger are fighting for control of the taxi key. They are of similar age and build. It's a fair fight. Mi-Sook watches anxiously.

DONG-WAN  
Give it to me!

Dong-Wan slams the stranger against the taxi, trapping him.

STRANGER  
No! Let me go you son of a bitch--

The stranger has the key gripped tightly -- Dong-Wan tries to prise open the stranger's hand, finger by finger -- We hear the taxi lock and unlock as buttons are pressed repeatedly.

MI-SOOK  
Let go of him Dong-Wan!

DONG-WAN  
We need the key...

Robin, Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho rush onto the forecourt.

JUN-HO  
Father!? What are you doing?

MI-SOOK  
He's acting like a crazy person.

DONG-WAN  
This isn't his taxi...! He stole it!

STRANGER  
What are you talking about!?

Robin tries to intervene.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
You don't need to fight. *Hajima*--

In one movement -- Dong-Wan finally rips the key from the stranger's hand, smacks Robin in the face with his wild elbow, drops the key.

Robin recoils, holding his nose.

The key is loose. Dong-Wan scrambles dives for the key, gets in his hand on it --

The stranger stamps on Dong-Wan's hand.

DONG-WAN  
Ah! You bastard!

The stranger gets to the key first. He opens the taxi door and tries to get in --

Dong-Wan grabs the stranger and pulls him to the ground --

The wrestling match continues.

Ji-Hyun stands by the taxi trunk. She sniffs -- Something stinks.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
Let go of the goddam key--

STRANGER  
You're crazy.

JUN-HO  
Stop it! There's nothing left to fight for. It's over. It's all fucking over.

MI-SOOK  
Kim Jun-Ho! Don't use that language.

Dong-Wan and the stranger puff, pant, begin to tire -- both too old for such exertion.

Ji-Hyun leans closer to the taxi trunk and sniffs again.

JI-HYUN  
What is that smell?  
(in English; to Robin)  
Can you smell something?

Robin looks at the blood that has pooled in his hand.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I can't smell anything. I think my nose is broken.

Ji-Hyun opens the taxi trunk. She SCREAMS at the sight --

A BODY --

A thin, bald man, in broken glasses, stiff with rigor mortis.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 (in English)  
 What the fuck?

Dong-Wan and the stranger stop fighting. The stranger sees the open trunk, lets go of the key, scrambles to his feet.

STRANGER  
 It's not what you think...

Mi-Sook's mouth falls open. Jun-Ho pulls the earphones from his ears.

JUN-HO  
 Is he dead?

STRANGER  
 It was an accident. I... I  
 didn't...

Dong-Wan pushes himself up. Now they all stare into the open trunk, transfixed on the body, frozen in shock.

DONG-WAN  
 You sick bastard. What did you do  
 to him?

No answer. They turn to see the stranger running away, through the car park, towards the exit.

LATER --

The body is on the ground, covered with a blanket. The taxi driver ID card has been placed on the body.

Mi-Sook and Jun-Ho watch as Dong-Wan ferries their belongings from their car to the taxi.

Robin presses a towel to his nose to stem the bleeding.

Ji-Hyun has her phone to her ear.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Shit. My hand is killing me... Jun-  
 Ho, help me.

MI-SOOK  
 No. We want no part of this. It's  
 wrong.

DONG-WAN  
 We can't stay here. This is our  
 only option.

Mi-Sook stares at the body.

MI-SOOK

That poor man... And we let the murderer get away. Who knows what he'll do next--

Ji-Hyun ends the call.

JI-HYUN

The line is down. The recorded message says to report serious crimes by texting one-one-two.

DONG-WAN

The police must be swamped with calls.

MI-SOOK

So, that's it? We steal the taxi and leave him here?

DONG-WAN

We're not stealing it-- we're borrowing it...

Dong-Wan drops one of the boxes -- a rice cooker falls out.

MI-SOOK

Be careful--

DONG-WAN

You packed the rice cooker? Are you crazy?

MI-SOOK

It's my good rice cooker. I won't be left without it.

DONG-WAN

There's no electricity where we're going.

MI-SOOK

You don't know the future. We will still need to eat.

She takes the rice cooker into her arms like a mother cradling a child.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

I already lost my favorite blanket and my new kitchen towel. I told you, we should have stayed home.

Dong-Wan finishes filling the trunk and slams it closed.

DONG-WAN  
Don't start with that now.

He takes out his phone and takes a picture of the body, then a close-up of the ID picture.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
I will send the pictures to the police and tell them the location.

JI-HYUN  
What if they call back?

DONG-WAN  
I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.

He opens the taxi door.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
Hurry. Let's get out of here.

Jun-Ho gets in first.

JI-HYUN  
(to Robin)  
We're leaving.

Robin removes the towel to reveal his red, bloody nose.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Is it bad?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Please don't get blood on me.

She gets into the car. Robin follows.

Mi-Sook closes the back door so she can speak to Dong-Wan in private.

MI-SOOK  
I don't like this. Stealing from a dead man will bring us bad luck.

DONG-WAN  
Don't be ridiculous.

MI-SOOK  
You're acting like a criminal.

DONG-WAN

I'm the head of this family. I have to make the decisions that you don't want to make. My only concern is protecting you--

MI-SOOK

Is this protection? Taking us from our home to fight and steal? We didn't need protecting from anyone in our apartment.

DONG-WAN

Do you want me to give up? Is that it? Give up and crawl under the nearest rock to wait for the end?

MI-SOOK

I want you to realize your decisions affect us all. You don't have to prove anything to us. We can turn back right now and go home.

He stares over at their old car and considers her words for a moment.

DONG-WAN

No. We're not turning back.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Dong-Wan familiarizes himself with the taxi controls. He pushes the smart key into the slot. The dashboard lights power on.

Mi-Sook stares out of the window at the blanket covered body.

MI-SOOK

This is wrong.

DONG-WAN

I can't remember the last time I drove a manual transmission.

He pushes the engine start button and tries to pull away. The engine stalls.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

Shit.

MI-SOOK  
If you stole this car and can't  
even drive it--

DONG-WAN  
Of course I can drive it. You never  
forget.

He starts the engine again. They slowly pull away. He tries to change gear. The engine stalls. The others let out a collective groan.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
It's not my fault. My hand is  
damaaged.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I can drive a manual.

JI-HYUN  
Robin can drive.

DONG-WAN  
No way. He's useless.

MI-SOOK  
He tried to help you back there.

DONG-WAN  
A fat lot of help he was. There's  
no way I'm letting him sit behind  
this wheel.

He starts the engine again.

INT. TAXI - ON THE ROAD - DAY

Back on the highway. Robin drives. He has two pieces of tissue stuck in his nostrils.

Dong-Wan is in the passenger seat, nursing his hand. Mi-Sook has moved to the back. Jun-Ho now sits grumpily between her and Ji-Hyun.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Ah... That AC feels good.

He smiles mockingly at Dong-Wan.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(in English)

Techincally, you should give me the money back, now I can drive myself to the airport. But I'll let you keep it.

DONG-WAN

Tell him to shut up and pull over. My hand is fine now. I can drive.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

It's not your car.

DONG-WAN

What?

MI-SOOK

She's right. You need to be nice to him. He has the key.

DONG-WAN

I knew this would happen.

Mi-Sook rubs the small golden cross that hangs from her necklace.

MI-SOOK

I never stole a single thing in my life. I was never even tempted.

DONG-WAN

What's done is done. We have to forget about it.

MI-SOOK

I can't forget about it. We left that poor man lying there. It was immoral. You don't understand... You didn't grow up in a religious home.

DONG-WAN

You haven't been to church in twenty years.

Mi-Sook hides the cross under her top.

MI-SOOK

This taxi isn't ours to take. We broke the law.

DONG-WAN  
Laws are meaningless now.

A car BEEPS as it passes them.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
He drives like an old woman. We  
won't get there before midnight at  
this speed.  
(to Robin)  
Faster. This is the fast lane.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Aneyo. I can't go faster than this.

Another car BEEPS as it passes.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
(in English)  
It's not safe.

JI-HYUN  
He's scared to drive fast.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Did you say scared? I'm not scared.

Dong-Wan points at the speedometer -- It hovers around 80KM  
per hour.

DONG-WAN  
(in English)  
Slow.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I'm within the speed limit. Koreans  
always drive too fast.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Stop saying all Koreans are the  
same.

Dong-Wan taps the speedometer.

DONG-WAN  
(in English)  
Slow.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 You want faster? Fine. You've got  
 it...

He slams his foot down and changes gear. Speed increases --  
 100KM... 110KM... 120KM...

MI-SOOK  
 Now he has to prove himself to you.  
 You created a maniac.

EXT. HIGHWAY EXIT - NEAR MUNGYEONG - NIGHT

The taxi cruises along the exit road through agricultural  
 fields with greenhouses and long, half-cycliner grow tents.

They pass under a sign for "JEOMCHON".

Street lamps light the way to the city.

INT./EXT. TAXI/JEOMCHON STREETS - NIGHT

The urbanized center of the city -- Dense with apartment  
 blocks, restaurants, shops.

Glowing windows show signs of life. Businesses are closed and  
 streets are empty.

Robin drives slowly. The others peer out of their windows.

DONG-WAN  
 There's nothing open here.

They reach a T-junction and stop.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Tell him to go back to the highway.

MI-SOOK  
 Look-- There are lights...

Sure enough, they see a glowing store front along the dark  
 street. A van has been parked across the road, seemingly to  
 block traffic.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
 It looks like a store.

DONG-WAN

We can't drive that way. Some idiot  
has blocked the road.

MI-SOOK

Ji-Hyun, tell him to park here so  
we can look.

DONG-WAN

It's a waste of time. It won't be  
open. Not now.

MI-SOOK

We have to eat.

She gets out and walks towards the store.

DONG-WAN

Let her go.

Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho get out to follow her. Robin and Dong-Wan  
are left alone. They stare at each other.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

Shit.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

A well-stocked store. An OLD COUPLE, about 60s, are sat  
behind the counter. The OLD MAN reads a newspaper with the  
headline --

*"Global Coalition Admit Failure"*.

They hear a KNOCK. The OLD MAN shuffles from the counter to  
peer through the glass. He unlocks and opens the door.

OLD MAN

Come in.

Mi-Sook enters first, followed by the others. Once they're  
all inside the old man locks the door again. He leaves the  
key in the lock.

The OLD WOMAN stands and watches them suspiciously. Her eyes  
are magnified behind thick glasses.

MI-SOOK

Every store we passed was closed.  
I'm surprised you're still open.

OLD WOMAN

They'll have to carry my dead body  
out of here before I close my  
doors.

MI-SOOK

We saw looting in Gwangju before we  
left. I'm glad to see it hasn't  
spread to here.

OLD MAN

Locals know better than to steal  
from me.

LATER --

Ji-Hyun browses the fresh fruit. Robin clutches a family-size  
bag of potato chips and a can of whipped cream.

JI-HYUN

(in English)  
You need healthy food.

ROBIN

(in English)  
I'm not worried about being healthy  
anymore.  
(shakes the whipped cream  
can)  
I'm gonna squirt this straight into  
my mouth like when I was a kid.

JI-HYUN

(in English)  
So much sugar.

ROBIN

(in English)  
Stop worrying about your figure and  
eat what you want.

JI-HYUN

(in English)  
I don't care about my figure.

Nearby, Dong-Wan and Mi-Sook -- basket half full -- browse  
the shelves. Jun-Ho takes a packet of dried squid.

JUN-HO

I want to eat dried squid with  
beer.

MI-SOOK

You're too young to drink alcohol.

They leave the aisle to meet up with Robin and Ji-Hyun.

The old woman stand sbehind the counter to get a good look at them.

OLD WOMAN

You have a lot already. I hope you have money to pay.

MI-SOOK

Of course we do. We're honest people. We wouldn't think of stealing...

(under her breath)

I can't speak for my husband though.

Dong-Wan opens his wallet and pulls out a few hundred-thousand won in notes. The old woman eyes it greedily.

OLD WOMAN

I didn't tell you yet that prices have been increased.

DONG-WAN

Increased?

Jun-Ho checks the dried squid packet for a price.

JUN-HO

It says five thousand.

OLD WOMAN

That's the old price. Now... Thirty thousand.

DONG-WAN

Thirty thousand won for a packet of dried squid?

MI-SOOK

You're money grabbing in a time of crisis. You should be ashamed.

OLD WOMAN

This is my store. I make the prices. If you don't like them, you can leave.

The Kims and Robin huddle together.

JI-HYUN  
What can we do?

JUN-HO  
Can't we just take what we want?  
They're too old to stop us.

DONG-WAN  
No, we can't do that.

JUN-HO  
Why not? We stole a car--

DONG-WAN  
That was different. Anyway, your  
mother wants us to stay honest and  
honorable.

MI-SOOK  
No.

DONG-WAN  
No?

MI-SOOK  
There's nowhere else open. We have  
to eat...

She stares daggers at the old couple.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
They are wrong, not us.

DONG-WAN  
The one time I try--

MI-SOOK  
They pushed us to this. We're not  
the bad guys in this situation.

She begins to grab whatever is nearest to fill the basket.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I wish I knew what was going on.  
You have an unpredictable family.

The others follow her lead and begin to fill their arms.

OLD WOMAN  
I told you--

MI-SOOK  
 We'll pay a fair price or pay you  
 nothing at all!

The old woman smiles menacingly. She taps her husband. He reaches under the counter and pulls out a rifle.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 They have a gun!

The all stop dead and turn to see --

The old woman stood with the rifle aimed at them.

OLD WOMAN  
 Drop everything and get out.

She steps out from behind the counter with the rifle pointed at them.

They all stand frozen. Only Robin moves to step in front of Ji-Hyun.

DONG-WAN  
 Okay, okay... Let's all calm down.  
 You're not going to shoot us over a  
 few groceries--

Dong-Wan takes a step forward and BANG --

Robin turns insinctively and YELPS with pain. He drops the groceries to clutch his rear.

MI-SOOK  
 She killed him!

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Ah... She shot me in the arse!

He removes his hand to reveal a pea-sized hole in his seat of his pants.

MI-SOOK  
 Oh. It's so small.

JUN-HO  
 It's an air rifle.

DONG-WAN  
 You old witch. You could have  
 seriously hurt one of us

JI-HYUN  
She did. She shot Robin.

DONG-WAN  
I mean one of us. It could have hit  
an eye or--

The old woman cocks the rifle to reload. The old man opens a box of pellets.

Dong-Wan rushes the counter to pull the rifle from her hands.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
Give me that...

The old woman is surprisingly strong. The old man joins in to help her. Now the three of them pull the rifle back and forth.

JUN-HO  
This is the gas station all over  
again. I'm sick of watching old  
people fight.

The old woman kicks at Dong-Wan's shins. He hops about to avoid her feet.

DONG-WAN  
She's crazy! Somebody open the door  
so we can get out of here!

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

The door flies open --

Jun-Ho runs out first. He looks towards the car, then turns to run in the opposite direction.

Next, Mi-Sook runs out, still carrying the basket of groceries. Robin and Ji-Hyun follow closely behind. Dong-Wan is last out.

DONG-WAN  
Get to the car. Hurry!

Robin takes the shopping basket from Mi-Sook --

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Let me help you.

The old woman steps out of the door with the rifle.

OLD WOMAN  
Come back here you assholes!

She takes aim. BANG --

Robin jumps and YELPS with pain. The basket falls, spilling the contents over the road.

ROBIN  
She shot me in the arse again!

Mi-Sook stops to salvage some of the spilt groceries. Dong-Wan pulls her up to keep running.

MI-SOOK  
But, the food--

DONG-WAN  
Leave the food!

They keep running -- Robin with one hand clutching his rear.

OLD WOMAN  
You stay away from here!

She goes back inside the store and slams the door closed. The "Everybody Welcome" sign swings from side-to-side.

INT. TAXI - MOMENTS LATER

They dive into the taxi and slam the doors closed. Robin can barely sit.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
My God, that hurts. Motherf--

JI-HYUN  
Jun-Ho isn't here.

MI-SOOK  
What!? Did you see where he went?

JI-HYUN  
No.

MI-SOOK  
He must have got confused. I knew something bad would happen. This is all your fault Dong-Wan!

DONG-WAN

You're the one who decided to steal  
from the store--

MI-SOOK

Our son is missing!

JI-HYUN

Stop fighting. He can't have gone  
far. Let me call him.

She takes out her cellphone and makes the call.

MI-SOOK

Oh, my poor baby boy. He must be so  
scared.

JI-HYUN

(phone pressed to ear)  
It's ringing.

Jun-Ho's cellphone vibrates and flashes on the back seat,  
still connected to his earphones.

EXT. JEOMCHON STREETS - NIGHT

Robin and Ji-Hyun walk through the downtown area --

The streets are quiet. Stores, restaurants and bars are all  
closed.

Robin walks with a slight limp. He winces with every step.

(Entire scene in English)

ROBIN

I always knew not to mess with old  
*ajummas*. I never thought one would  
try to kill me.

They walk in silence for a beat.

JI-HYUN

In the store, you protected me.

ROBIN

Did I?

JI-HYUN

You moved in front of me... Thank  
you.

ROBIN  
I didn't realise I was so brave.

She laughs. It's the first time we have seen her smile. It suits her.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
I gotta say, you don't seem that worried about your brother.

JI-HYUN  
We will find him. He's angry, but he would never leave my parents.

ROBIN  
Nobody can blame him for feeling angry. It's the end of the world.

She looks at him, surprised at his bluntness. He shrugs.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
It's true. God knows how I would have handled this situation when I was a teenager.

JI-HYUN  
It's hard for him. He only knows school and studying.

ROBIN  
I hated school.

JI-HYUN  
Nobody enjoys studying.

ROBIN  
It wasn't the studying that bothered me. The other kids thought I was weird. I was an easy target for bullies.

JI-HYUN  
Yes, I understand.

ROBIN  
You understand?

JI-HYUN  
You seem weird to me, too.

ROBIN  
Wow. You're worse than the bullies.

Robin stops to look at a store front.

JI-HYUN  
It's a pharmacy.

ROBIN  
I know. I need something to break  
the glass.

He looks around and finds an empty beer bottle in a pile of  
garbage at the roadside.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
Step back.

JI-HYUN  
No, you can't--

He throws the bottle. It bounces off the glass fronted door  
and smashes on the street.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)  
Now we have to clean away the  
broken glass.

Robin picks up the pieces of broken bottle. He throws the  
pieces onto the garbage pile.

ROBIN  
Ah. I cut myself.

He shows her a small, deep cut on his finger. Blood trickles  
down his palm.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
I've had nothing but bad luck since  
I met you.

He sucks the wound.

Ji-Hyun pushes the pharmacy door button -- The door slides  
open.

JI-HYUN  
Stupidity is not bad luck.

INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

The pharmacy light is on. Robin lies on his stomach, on the  
floor. Ji-Hyun stares at his rear.

(Entire scene in English)

JI-HYUN  
I don't want to.

ROBIN  
Please. It hurts.

JI-HYUN  
Take some pain killers.

ROBIN  
I don't want the wounds to get  
infected.

Ji-Hyun sighs.

JI-HYUN  
Okay. Let me see...

Robin slides his pants and underwear down until his pale buttocks are on show. He has a red welt on each cheek from the air rifle pellets.

ROBIN  
Is there blood?

JI-HYUN  
No. The skin isn't broken.

She wipes one of the wounds with an antiseptic wipe. Robin whinces.

ROBIN  
My eyes are watering.

JI-HYUN  
(fake English accent)  
*I'm not crying. I have something in  
my eye.*

ROBIN  
I didn't realize you're a comedian.

JI-HYUN  
I'm done. Put your butt away. I  
don't want to see it anymore.

He pulls up his pants and sits up to face her.

ROBIN  
My arse hasn't hurt this much since  
I was little. My dad used to spank  
me.

JI-HYUN  
Is that why you hate him?

ROBIN

I don't know if I hate him.

Ji-Hyun tears open another antiseptic wipe packet. He edges forward so that they are intimately close. She begins to softly clean the dried blood from his face.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

He was horrible when I was a kid. Lots of parents are strict, but he was mean. I couldn't wait to grow up and leave home. He has a special way of making me feel bad about myself.

JI-HYUN

He is your father. Can't you forgive him?

ROBIN

I've tried... The past is hard to forget. You know that.

JI-HYUN

I know?

ROBIN

(re: diary in handbag)  
You carry the past with you.

JI-HYUN

Oh.

ROBIN

People have asked me before if I hate him. But, hate and love aren't opposites, you know? It's possible to feel both.

She finishes cleaning his nose.

JI-HYUN

I know. Love is not easy to understand.

ROBIN

I always thought that you show love through your actions. Like, love is a choice, not something that just happens with no effort. Parents are supposed to love their kids unconditionally, but plenty don't show it.

(MORE)

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 People say they fall in love all  
 the time, but they don't do  
 anything to prove it.

JI-HYUN  
 Some say they fall in love at first  
 sight.

ROBIN  
 They're wrong.

JI-HYUN  
 So, you're not a romantic?

ROBIN  
 Saying you love someone without  
 knowing them is ridiculous.

JI-HYUN  
 It feels real to them.

ROBIN  
 I don't doubt it. Two people  
 finding themselves together in a  
 certain situation... Some spark of  
 connection...

She stops cleaning his face. They gaze at each other for a  
 second, lost in the moment. She sneezes and sprays his face  
 with saliva.

Ji-Hyun  
 Oh, I'm sorry-- I had dust in my  
 nose.

She covers her mouth and begins to laugh uncontrollably. He  
 can't help but smile.

EXT. JEOMCHON STREETS - NIGHT

Robin and Ji-Hyun walk along a long downtown street.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 There's something open...

At the end of street, fifty meters or so ahead of them, a  
 glowing inflatable beer bottle stands like a sentry outside a  
 bar.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 (in English)  
 He must be in there.

A drunk couple stumbles out onto the street. The WOMAN trips, falls, laughs on the ground. The MAN helps her up, laughing with her. They stumble away.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

A typical Korean self-service beer bar -- Tables and booths for seating, glowing refrigerators stocked with bottled beers and chilled glasses.

Two DRUNK MEN (40s) drink and smoke as they play on an electronic darts machine.

Another MAN is passed out, slumped and drooling in a corner.

The electric door opens with a BEEP. Robin and Ji-Hyun enter.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Look...

Jun-Ho is sat at the rear of the bar.

DRUNK MAN 1  
What do you want?

JI-HYUN  
I'm here for my brother.

The men laugh knowingly.

DRUNK MAN 2  
You shouldn't disturb him. He's preparing himself.

JI-HYUN  
He's only eighteen. He shouldn't even be here.

DRUNK MAN 1  
Fuck, who cares about his age. Let him do what he wants.

DRUNK MAN 2  
I don't think the owner is going to stop him...

He gestures towards the sleeping man in the corner.

Ji-Hyun pulls Robin to follow her --

They walk through the bar to where Jun-Ho sits nursing a beer bottle. He doesn't look up.

JUN-HO  
I was going to come back.

JI-HYUN  
I don't need to tell you how mom reacted.

JUN-HO  
No. It's hard to think about anything else.

Ji-Hyun sits next to him. Robin pulls over a chair to sit.

JI-HYUN  
Is that your first beer?

JUN-HO  
I tried it once before. I don't understand the obsession. It tastes like shit.

JI-HYUN  
You'll grow into it.

JUN-HO  
No, I won't.

He puts the bottle down.

JI-HYUN  
I know how you must be feeling--

JUN-HO  
Do you?

He stares at her and waits for an answer.

JI-HYUN  
I guess I don't. It's my fault. I should have asked.

Jun-Ho shrugs.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)  
But, we can talk about it. Let's get out of here...

JUN-HO  
No. I can't go.

JI-HYUN  
It won't help to sit here and drink.

JUN-HO  
It's not that... You won't understand.

JI-HYUN  
I'm not going anywhere without you.

Jun-Ho takes a small card from his pocket and places it on the table.

Ji-Hyun and Robin lean to get a good look at the image on the card --

A scantily clad woman with a phone number. A calling card.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)  
You can't be serious?

She stares at Jun-Ho, horrified. He avoids her eye contact. He begins to nervously peel the label from his bottle.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
What? He called a hooker?

Robin takes the card for a closer look.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
(in English)  
"Call Coco"... I haven't seen these cards outside of Seoul.

Ji-Hyun changes her gaze. She stares at Robin with suspicion.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Are you an expert?

ROBIN  
(in English)  
No, I don't mean -- I never -- I've seen them on the ground, that's all.

Jun-Ho snatches the card from Robin and stuffs it back into his pocket.

JUN-HO  
I don't want to speak about it.

JI-HYUN  
No way! I'm not going to let my brother--

JUN-HO  
You can't stop me. It's my life.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
He thinks he can do anything he  
wants in his life--  
(in Korean)  
That's not how life works.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
He's not the first guy to consider  
this option.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Because men don't feel bad about  
using women--  
(in Korean)  
Women aren't disposable. You can't  
use a woman this way because you  
feel like it.

No response. Jun-Ho focuses on peeling his label.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I'm trying to say, don't judge him  
too harshly.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
That's your advice?

ROBIN  
(in English)  
He's young but he's not a kid. He  
has the right to make his own  
mistakes. We can't tell him how to  
live his life.

His words do little to change her mood. He shrugs  
apologetically.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
(in English)  
Tell him that he might catch  
something. This woman could have an  
STD.

JUN-HO  
(in English)  
I don't worry about disease. Soon  
we will all die.

Robin is stunned to hear Jun-Ho speak English.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
You speak...? Wait-- I spoke to you  
earlier and you couldn't understand  
me?

JUN-HO  
(in English)  
I did not want to talk.

They hear the door BEEP and turn to see --

COCO, about 40, walking through the bar towards them. She is glamorous, made-up, in a tight dress. Her heels click-clack on the hard floor.

Jun-Ho nervously styles his hair with his fingers. He jumps up when Coco reaches the table and almost knocks his chair over.

COCO  
(to Robin)  
Are you the one that called?

JUN-HO  
No, it was me.

He bows respectfully to her.

The drunk men watch from the other end of the bar. They burst out in laughter.

DRUNK MAN 1  
(loudly)  
He bows to the whore like she's his  
mother!

Jun-Ho stands rigidly to attention, cheeks flushed pink. Coco looks him up and down.

COCO  
You're younger than I expected.

JI-HYUN  
Too young for you.

COCO  
 (to Ji-Hyun)  
 Are you his friends or his  
 guardians?

JUN-HO  
 Neither. They're leaving--

JI-HYUN  
 Actually, I'm his sister. And I'm  
 not going anywhere.

COCO  
 The foreigner?

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 I'm Robin. *Je ireuneun Robin  
 imnida.* Nice to meet you.

Ji-Hyun can't believe her ears.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Now you want to speak Korean?

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Sorry for being polite. What else  
 am I supposed to say?

Ji-Hyun stands to face Coco directly.

JI-HYUN  
 You can leave. My brother wasted  
 your time.

JUN-HO  
 Don't listen to her. She doesn't  
 control me.

COCO  
 I'm not here for family drama.

JI-HYUN  
 Why are you here at all? Surely you  
 have more important things to be  
 doing at this time.

COCO  
 What I do is none of your business--  
 (to Jun-Ho)  
 Where are you taking me?

Jun-Ho stares at her blankly.

INT. BAR BATHROOM - NIGHT

A dingy bathroom with a single toilet and piss blocked urinal.

Coco leads Jun-Ho inside by the hand and locks the door.

She checks her appearance in the mirror as Jun-Ho stands by, eyes wandering, unsure if he is allowed to look at her or not.

COCO

This isn't normal for me. I'm usually taken to a motel... Not that they're open. And your sister being here is...

She turns to face Jun-Ho.

COCO (CONT'D)

I need payment before anything happens.

JUN-HO

I have this.

Jun-Ho removes a thin chain from his neck. A gold ring hangs from it. He slips the ring off the chain and offers it to Coco.

JUN-HO (CONT'D)

It's eighteen carat.

She examines the ring.

COCO

Where did you get it?

JUN-HO

It belonged to my grandpa. My grandma gave it to me after he died. She told me to sell it if I ever needed money.

COCO

Money for an emergency. I doubt she meant this.

JUN-HO

Money is no use to me.

Coco puts the ring into her handbag.

COCO  
I won't take my dress off. There's  
nowhere to hang it in here.

JUN-HO  
Should I?

COCO  
What?

JUN-HO  
Take my clothes off.

COCO  
You can do whatever makes you  
comfortable.

She rips off a piece of toilet paper to protect her fingers  
as she closes the toilet lid. She sits on the closed toilet.

Jun-Ho's hands tremble as he removes his t-shirt and reveals  
a thin, hairless torso.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Robin and Ji-Hyun sit at the table. Robin finishes Jun-Ho's  
beer. Ji-Hyun stares into space.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
He has to do whatever helps him  
feel better about all this.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
You did nothing to help.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
What was I supposed to do?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Tell him it is wrong.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I'm not sure it is.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Using a woman this way is wrong.  
There's no argument.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Sex is a big thing for boys his  
age. Especially the first time...

He sips the beer.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
(in English)  
I was fourteen. My dad told me to  
go out and sleep with the first  
girl who would let me. He wanted me  
to be a man.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
You were a child.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I was a teenage boy. I didn't need  
much encouragement. That's the  
point I'm trying to make-- Your  
brother isn't doing anything  
unusual. He just doesn't have any  
other option.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
It won't make him feel better.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
It'll be awkward, but the first  
time is awkward for everyone.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
It should be special... Mine was.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I can't remember any time being  
that special for me... I'm the  
worst person to give your brother  
advice.

She takes the bottle from him, wipes the top, then drains it.

INT. BAR BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jun-Ho stands before Coco, stripped down to his socks and superhero briefs.

COCO  
My nephew loves Spiderman.

He covers his crotch with his hands.

COCO (CONT'D)  
Where do you want to do it? The floor is dirty.

JUN-HO  
Can we-- Do we kiss first?

COCO  
Not normally. We can if you need to...

She stands.

COCO (CONT'D)  
No tongue.

He turns his head different ways, unsure of how to maneuver to reach her deep red lips.

JUN-HO  
Where do the noses go?

She kisses him. His eyes remain wide open. The kiss lasts seconds. It's cold and mechanical. Coco wipes her mouth.

COCO  
What's wrong with you?

JUN-HO  
I'm sorry. It's my first time.

COCO  
First and last.

She seems wounded by her own words. Reality hits her like a sledgehammer.

COCO (CONT'D)  
The last time. I never though about it that way.

She notices his shaking legs.

COCO (CONT'D)  
You're nervous.

JUN-HO  
I didn't expect you to answer when  
I called.

COCO  
I didn't know what else to do.  
Anything is better than sitting at  
home, waiting for the end.

She slides her panties down from beneath her skirt and puts them into her handbag. She passes him a condom.

COCO (CONT'D)  
Pull my skirt up when you're ready.

She bends over and rest her hands on the toilet system. Jun-Ho stares at her rear end.

JUN-HO  
Have you ever been in love?

COCO  
Don't talk about love. This is a  
transaction. You're making it too  
personal.

JUN-HO  
Sorry. I wondered if it feels  
different.

He stares at the condom in his hand.

JUN-HO (CONT'D)  
I don't know how to put it on.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Robin and Ji-Hyun sit at the table.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
I want to drink more.

They stand and walk to the refrigerators.

The drunk men now sit at a table, drinking and smoking. They ogle Ji-Hyun hungrily.

DRUNK MAN 2

You're an attractive woman. Why no wedding ring?

JI-HYUN

I'm not married.

DRUNK MAN 2

You would make a good wife.

She ignores them. She opens the refrigerator to take a bottle.

DRUNK MAN 2 (CONT'D)

Sit with us. We want some female company.

JI-HYUN

No.

DRUNK MAN 1

Why are you here with him? Only sluts disrespect themselves with foreigners. Have some respect for your body.

Ji-Hyun slams the refrigerator door closed. She turns to confront the drunk men. They are stunned by her reaction.

JI-HYUN

You think I have no respect for myself? That I will stand here and let you speak to me however you want?

ROBIN

(in English)

They're drunk. Don't waste your energy talking to them.

DRUNK MAN 1

Watch your mouth you stupid bitch.

JI-HYUN

Look at you-- Alone with no friends or family at your side, drinking in silence with nothing left to do but beg strangers for company. You sad, pathetic old men.

She points to Robin.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)  
 He's an idiot, and I would take him  
 over men like you without question.

The bathroom door bursts open and Jun-Ho rushes out with his  
 clothes in his arms, still in his briefs and socks.

DRUNK MAN 2  
 Looks at that body. I've seen more  
 meat on a pig knuckle.

Jun-Ho rushes past them and out of the bar without a word.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE BAR - NIGHT

Robin and Ji-Hyun leave the bar to catch up with Jun-Ho.

JI-HYUN  
 Stop! Put your clothes on.

Jun-Ho stops to dress. Pulls on his jeans then his t-shirt.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Your shirt is inside-out.

Jun-Ho takes the t-shirt off, turns it out, pulls it on  
 again.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 (in English)  
 Now it's the wrong way round--

Jun-Ho rips the t-shirt off and throws it to the floor.

JI-HYUN  
 What happened? Did she do something  
 to you?

JUN-HO  
 I couldn't do it. Okay? Is that  
 what you want to hear? I couldn't  
 do it.

JI-HYUN  
 It's okay--

JUN-HO  
 It's not okay! Don't you  
 understand? It's not okay.

He struggles to fight back tears.

JUN-HO (CONT'D)

I didn't know what to do. I've never kissed a girl-- I've never held hands-- I've never even asked a girl out. It's not fair. How can I fit a lifetime into a few days?

JI-HYUN

You can't. I'm sorry. You just can't.

Robin picks the t-shirt up and hands it back to Jun-Ho.

ROBIN

(in English)

We should get back to your parents. We've been gone for a long time.

Jun-Ho pulls the t-shirt on.

The bar door opens -- Coco walks over to them and passes the gold ring to Jun-Ho.

COCO

Your sister was right.

The bar door opens again -- One of the drunk men appears.

DRUNK MAN 1

Come back in here. We have money.

COCO

I don't need your money.

Coco walks away without a second thought and is soon lost in the darkness.

EXT. JEOMCHON STREET - NIGHT

The taxi is parked in the same spot. Dong-Wan leans on the hood. Mi-Sook paces back and forth.

DONG-WAN

Sometimes I wish I'd never given up smoking. I could use a cigarette right now.

MI-SOOK

What will we do if they don't come back?

DONG-WAN

They will come back.

MI-SOOK

We don't know what dangers are in this town. We got attacked trying to buy groceries. We should be at home.

DONG-WAN

How many times must I say that I made the decision to protect--

MI-SOOK

To protect your family. Yes. You can say it constantly and it doesn't become any more comforting. You make the decisions and we follow, as we always do.

DONG-WAN

You make me sound like a tyrant. I never made you do anything you didn't want to.

MI-SOOK

You have a short memory Dong-Wan.

DONG-WAN

What the hell does that mean?

MI-SOOK

You know exactly what it means.

DONG-WAN

Our apartment won't be safe--

MI-SOOK

Nowhere is safe. At least at home we had a roof over our heads, food, warm beds--

They hear a noise --

A young boy, SEUNG-MIN (6), kicks a plastic bottle along the sidewalk opposite them. He stops kicking the bottle when he sees Dong-Wan and Mi-Sook. He sits on the curb.

DONG-WAN

(to Seung-Min)

It's late. You shouldn't be outside on your own.

SEUNG-MIN

I'm bored.

MI-SOOK  
Where are your parents?

SEUNG-MIN  
My mom is sleeping at home.

DONG-WAN  
Your father?

SEUNG-MIN  
He works in China.

DONG-WAN  
Well, you still need to go home.  
They won't want you out here in the  
dark.

SEUNG-MIN  
Why are you here?

DONG-WAN  
We're waiting for our own children  
to return.

SEUNG-MIN  
Is that them?

Dong-Wan and Min-Sook turn to see Robin, Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho appear from the darkness.

DONG-WAN  
I told you they would find him.

Robin, Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho reach the taxi. Jun-Ho stares at the floor sheepishly, waiting to be scolded.

JUN-HO  
I'm sorry mother.

Mi-Sook hugs him tightly. He rests his head on her shoulder and absorbs her love.

MI-SOOK  
I'm so glad you're back. I have  
been worried sick about you. How  
could you leave me?

JUN-HO  
I'm really sorry. It was a mistake.

MI-SOOK  
Don't ever do that to me again.

She releases him from the hug but continues to hold tightly onto his arm, scared she will lose him again.

Jun-Ho bows to Dong-Wan.

JUN-HO  
I'm sorry father.

DONG-WAN  
We have enough to worry about without you disappearing. You're mother has been worried sick. Where the hell have you been?

JI-HYUN  
It's not his fault. We found him walking the streets, looking for us. It's easy to get lost here.

Jun-Ho smiles at his sister, glad of the support.

MI-SOOK  
Then we don't need to talk about it any further.

DONG-WAN  
Fine. Let's get out of this damn place.

MI-SOOK  
We still have nothing to eat.

SEUNG-MIN  
My home has food.

They'd forgotten about Seung-min, who has left the curb to stand with them.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Who's this?

SEUNG-MIN  
(in well-rehearsed English)  
My name is Choi Seung-Min. I'm six years old.

JI-HYUN  
Where did he come from?

MI-SOOK  
I forgot he was here.

SEUNG-MIN

My mommy made food. We can share.

DONG-WAN

That's a kind offer, but we have to go now. We are in a hurry.

MI-SOOK

We can't leave him out here alone Dong-Wan.

(to Seung-Min)

You can take us to your home. I need to speak with you mother.

Still holding onto Jun-Ho, she takes Seung-Min's hand and allows him to lead the way.

INT. APARTMENT BLOCK ELEVATOR - NIGHT

The ground floor of an apartment block. Seung-Min presses the elevator button -- The door slides open.

They all squeeze into the brightly lit elevator. Seung-Min selects the tenth floor. The elevator ascends.

ROBIN

(in English)

I would do anything for a cup of tea. Milk. Two sugars...

(closes his eyes)

I can almost taste it.

Mi-Sook strokes the top of Seung-min's head.

MI-SOOK

(covers her mouth)

I want to give his mother a piece of my mind. Allowing such a young boy to roam the streets at night. It's irresponsible.

DONG-WAN

No, don't create drama. It doesn't concern us. Just take him to the door and make sure he is inside. That's all we need to do.

INT. SEUNG-MIN'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The hallway light is on. The door opens and Seung-Min enters, followed by the others. They all remove their shoes before following Seung-Min into the --

## LIVING ROOM / KITCHEN AREA

All lights are on. The apartment is modern and spacious. A comfortable sofa is directed at a 75" flatscreen TV. The kitchen space is roomy with a huge refrigerator.

ROBIN

(in English)

My place is a shoebox compared to this.

DONG-WAN

Okay. He's home safely. We can go now.

Mi-Sook looks at the messy floor.

MI-SOOK

Something isn't right.

(to Seung-Min)

How long has your mother been sleeping?

SEUNG-MIN

All day.

Mi-Sook walks into the --

## KITCHEN AREA

Where a large pot sits on the worktop. She removes the lid to look inside.

MI-SOOK

That's a lot of army stew for two people.

She wanders back into the --

## LIVING ROOM

Where she notices picture frames on the sideboard have been placed face down. She stands them. They're all family portraits -- Seung-Min with his attractive, smiling parents.

Jun-Ho sits on the sofa.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

Stand up. This isn't our home. Don't touch anything.

He stands and steps on a plastic block.

JUN-HO  
Ah, shit. It's dangerous here.

MI-SOOK  
Don't curse in front of the boy.  
(to Seung-Min)  
Clean away your toys before your  
mother wakes up.

Seung-Min nods obediently. He begins to clean.

INT. SEUNG-MIN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark. Light creeps in as the door opens slowly and Mi-Sook peeks into the room.

MI-SOOK  
Hello...?

No answer.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
Hello... You must wake up now.

No answer.

INT. SEUNG-MIN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM / KITCHEN AREA - NIGHT

In the LIVING ROOM --

Robin, Ji-Hyun, Dong-Wan and Jun-Ho stand like statues around Seung-Min, watching him throw toys into a large box.

Dong-Wan spots a cigarette packet on the bookshelf. He checks inside, sees a few cigarettes left, pockets the packet.

Mi-Sook leaves the bedroom and closes the door firmly behind her. Seung-Min looks up expectedly.

MI-SOOK  
She's still sleeping. Erm, you said  
your father works in China. When  
did you last speak to him?

SEUNG-MIN  
My mommy called many times. He  
didn't answer.

MI-SOOK  
Let me try. Do you know his number?

Seung-Min nods. He takes Mi-Sook's cellphone and types in the number. She makes the call but quickly hangs-up.

DONG-WAN

Did it ring?

MI-SOOK

Nothing. Maybe there's no network where his father is.

(to Seung-Min)

What about your grandparents? Do you know their numbers?

Seung-Min shakes his head -- "No." He yawns.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

You need to sleep.

SEUNG-MIN

I'm hungry.

MI-SOOK

Then I will make us food. I'm sure your mother won't mind. You can sit and play for a while.

Mi-Sook walks into the --

KITCHEN AREA

And leans on the counter to compose herself. The others -- without Seung-Min -- follow her.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

I'll heat the army stew. We need some rice.

She opens a cupboard and looks inside.

DONG-WAN

What's wrong?

MI-SOOK

I'm fine.

DONG-WAN

No you're not. You would never start cooking without asking permission.

MI-SOOK

(quietly)

His mother is dead.

DONG-WAN

What?

She closes the cupboard and turns to face them.

MI-SOOK

Be quiet. Don't let him hear you.

ROBIN

(in English)

Did she say what I think she said?

Ji-Hyun is too shocked to respond.

DONG-WAN

You're being dramatic again. She's sleeping.

MI-SOOK

(quietly)

She isn't breathing and her skin is ice cold. I found this in her hand...

She shows them a pill bottle. Robin squints at the label.

ROBIN

(in English)

What are they?

JI-HYUN

(in English)

Sleeping pills.

She shakes the bottle -- It's empty.

JUN-HO

Why would she do it? She has a son.

MI-SOOK

I could have been an accident.

DONG-WAN

Let me go and see.

He tries to walk away. Mi-Sook stops him.

MI-SOOK

Don't go back in there. We have to keep him away from that room.

They look over at Seung-Min -- He sits on the floor, playing with toy dinosaurs.

JUN-HO  
I'll sit with him.

MI-SOOK  
Yes. Good idea. Keep him occupied.  
You're a good boy.

Jun-Ho is in total shock. He returns to the LIVING ROOM to sit with Seung-Min.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
You're telling me she's dead in there, and we're just standing here doing nothing--

Ji-Hyun hits his arm.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
He can understand you!

DONG-WAN  
This idiot has a big mouth.

MI-SOOK  
Leave him alone. This is all your fault Dong-Wan.

DONG-WAN  
My fault!? How am I getting the blame for this?

MI-SOOK  
You took that dead man's car. I told you it would bring us bad luck. Now we have another body to deal with.

Their talking attracts Seung-Min's attention. He looks over at them curiously.

JUN-HO  
Stop fighting.

MI-SOOK  
(to Jun-Ho)  
Oh, I feel sick. That poor boy.

JI-HYUN  
Robin is right. We need to do something.

DONG-WAN

The respectful thing to do is leave her where she is and be on our way.

MI-SOOK

We can't ignore the body this time Dong-Wan. Not with the boy.

She looks inside another cupboard and pulls out a bag of rice.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

Someone needs to get my rice cooker from the car.

JI-HYUN

You can't seriously want to stay here and eat?

MI-SOOK

We can't go anywhere until we know what to do with Seun-Min. We're responsible for him now. I won't leave him here alone.

JI-HYUN

You realize that one of us will have to tell him the truth.

She looks at Mi-Sook, then at Dong-Wan. They say nothing.

LATER --

In the LIVING ROOM --

Dong-Wan and Jun-Ho are slumped together on the sofa.

Robin and Seung-Min play with toy dinosaurs on the floor.

In the KITCHEN AREA --

Ji-Hyun helps Mi-Sook to prepare food. The pot of army stew bubbles and steams on the hob. Mi-Sook stares lovingly at her rice cooker.

MI-SOOK

Imagine not having a good rice cooker. I'm not surprised that woman ended up in this situation.

JI-HYUN

I don't think it was lack of perfectly cooked rice that killed her.

Mi-Sook opens the refrigerator. She takes out a box of kimchi, opens it, sniffs at the contents.

MI-SOOK

Do you think the foreigner will eat kimchi?

JI-HYUN

His name is *Robin*.

MI-SOOK

Robin. Ah, yes. Like *Batman and Robin*. You two seem to be getting on now.

JI-HYUN

He's okay.

Ji-Hyun watches Robin animate a plastic T-Rex and pretend to bite Seung-Min. Seung-Min giggles. Ji-Hyun smiles.

In the LIVING ROOM --

Dong-Wan takes the remote control and turns on the TV. A government advice message appears --

ON THE SCREEN

*"The asteroid Goliath remains on a course for Earth. The South Korean Government advises that citizens avoid from travel and remain in their homes for shelter. Further instructions will be provided after impact."*

Dong-Wan flicks through channels -- Each one displays the same message.

Jun-Ho stares hypnotically at the screen as the channels change.

DONG-WAN

They ask people to stay home but show nothing. No movies, not even repeats...

Jun-Ho is unresponsive.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 They could show baseball, soccer...  
 They could show the 2002 World Cup  
 games. What a time that was...

He looks to Jun-Ho for a response. Nothing.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Further instructions will be  
 provided after impact. What useless  
 information.

He turns off the TV and throws the remote down.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 We should be there by now.

JUN-HO  
 I don't think it makes a difference  
 where we are. It's the end of the  
 world.

DONG-WAN  
 There's a big difference between  
 the end and the end as we know it.  
 The world will be rebuilt. We can  
 be part of it.

JUN-HO  
 Do you really think we can survive  
 in a cave?

Mi-Sook carries the steaming pot from the KITCHEN AREA and  
 sets it down on the coffee table.

DONG-WAN  
 We don't have to talk about that  
 now. It's time to eat.

Ji-Hyun follows with a tray of rice bowls, chopsticks,  
 glasses, bottles of alcohol.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 You found soju.

JI-HYUN  
 A whole box of soju.

MI-SOOK  
 I cooked a lot of rice. You can eat  
 as much as you want.

Seung-Min jumps up.

SEUNG-MIN  
Army stew is my favorite.

MI-SOOK  
Well, it smells delicious. Your  
mother is a good cook. Go and wash  
your hands.

Seung-Min darts off to the bathroom. Robin throws the T-Rex  
into the toy box. He shuffles over to the coffee table.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Need some help?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
No it's okay. Look what I found...

She passes him a small packet.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
English Breakfast Tea.

He beams at her.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Your wish came true.

She neatly arranges rice bowls and chopsticks around the  
coffee table. Robin watches her, totally captivated.

Mi-Sook stares at Dong-Wan and Jun-Ho with her hands on her  
hips.

DONG-WAN  
What?

MI-SOOK  
I said wash your hands. The  
foreigner-- *Robin* too.

LATER --

They all sit around the coffee table, cross-legged, cramped,  
eating ravenously. Robin fidgets about to get comfortable.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Do you want a cushion?

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 No, I'm okay. I'll take some soju  
 though. It'll help to numb the  
 pain.

She opens a bottle of soju.

DONG-WAN  
 I'll pour.

He takes the bottle and fills all the empty glasses but his  
 own. He places the bottle before Jun-Ho.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Pour for me.

Jun-Ho fills Dong-Wan's glass.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Drink with me.

Jun-Ho shakes his head morosely.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Have a drink with your father.

Jun-Ho takes a full glass.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 Let us drink to survival.

MI-SOOK  
 You shouldn't tempt fate.

DONG-WAN  
 We are Korean. We survived  
 colonization, war, and still we are  
 here. Koreans are survivors.

They all look at Robin. He smiles back, clueless.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
 He will have to wish for good luck.

Robin lifts his glass.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Cheers.

Robin follows Korean etiquette correctly -- Tturns away from  
 the table to shield the glass with his free hand as he  
 drinks.

MI-SOOK  
He knows how to drink with respect.

JUN-HO  
Do I have to do that?

DONG-WAN  
You should. Traditions are important.

The Kims all chink their glasses and drink. Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho follow the same routine as Robin. Jun-Ho grimaces at the taste.

MI-SOOK  
No more for him. End of the world or not, he is underage.

DONG-WAN  
My son can drink if he wants to. I will allow it.

MI-SOOK  
Until he vomits everywhere and I have to clean up.

DONG-WAN  
He's only had one drink.

MI-SOOK  
You're setting a bad example.

Mi-Sook and Dong-Wan eye each other across the table. He re-fills all their glasses.

LATER --

Empty bowls and empty soju bottles cover the coffee table.

Jun-Ho and Seung-Min snooze on the sofa. Dong-Wan lies prostrate on the floor. Ji-Hyun reads her diary.

Mi-Sook watches Robin with amusement as he scrapes the last remnants of stew from the pot.

MI-SOOK  
(in English)  
You like?

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Yes. Delicious. *Mashisoyo*.

She smiles, satisfied, slightly drunk, her face flushed red.  
Dong-Wan belches. He checks his watch.

DONG-WAN  
Eleven o'clock.

He sits up to see Jun-Ho and Seung-Min out cold.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
This was supposed to be a quick  
stop. Now we're here for the night.

MI-SOOK  
We have to make a plan. That poor  
woman...

DONG-WAN  
We have no choice but to take the  
boy with us.

MI-SOOK  
Then, we have to tell him. He won't  
want to leave without his mother.

DONG-WAN  
We keep the door closed. What he  
doesn't know can't hurt him.

Dong-Wan fills his glass and drains it in one gulp.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
*"On days when I get sentimental  
over the melodies of Bach,  
forgotten memories come into full  
bloom..."*

MI-SOOK  
Stop. Let the boys sleep.

Dong-Wan dismisses her with a wave. He's tired of being  
nagged.

Robin takes the soju bottle and fills his and Ji-Hyun's  
glasses. Dong-Wan watches him like a hawk.

DONG-WAN  
I don't want him sleeping anywhere  
near you. You tell him to keep his  
distance.

MI-SOOK

Oh, shut up. She's a grown woman.  
She doesn't need your permission.

Dong-Wan glares at her. She ignores him. The atmosphere is tense.

Ji-Hyun takes a phone charger from her bag. She stands to look for a socket and leaves the diary open on the floor. Robin can't help but peek at the pages of careful handwriting.

DONG-WAN

This place reminds me of our first apartment.

MI-SOOK

Our first home. And then we had to leave.

DONG-WAN

We left for a reason.

MI-SOOK

Yes, we did... Because of you.

Ji-Hyun puts her phone on charge. She notices Robin looking at the open diary.

JI-HYUN

(in English)  
Don't read it.

ROBIN

(in English)  
I told you-- I can't read hangul well enough to understand your writing.

Ji-Hyun sits again. She doesn't worry about the diary. Her guard is down

Dong-Wan pours another drink. We return to him and Mi-Sook --

DONG-WAN

You've always been bitter about that. You never appreciated what I did to provide for my family.

MI-SOOK

We were happy, and then you took us away from our home without a second thought for what we wanted.

DONG-WAN  
It wasn't like that.

Back to Ji-Hyun and Robin --

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I'm admiring your handwriting. You were one of those students who had to be perfect. Am I right?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
I was a good student.

Back to Dong-Wan and Mi-Sook --

MI-SOOK  
Either you don't remember what happened or you're choosing to ignore the truth.

DONG-WAN  
Why bring this up now?

They drain their glasses in unison and slam them down.

Dong-wan rubs his stomach. He pops two reflux pills from the packet and swallows them with a swig of soju.

Back to Robin and Ji-Hyun --

He flicks the page to reveal a SKETCH of a man surrounded by hearts. It's amateurish but cute.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Your drawings are good, too. Look at this... So sweet.

He displays the page with a cheeky grin. She doesn't smile.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Give it to me.

He squints at the handwriting.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Let me see... *Choi Joon-hyunk...*  
*Uli... Salangi...*  
*Eun... Eunmilhaeya... Haneun--*

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
I said give it to me!

She snatches the diary from his hand. The panic in her voice surprises them all.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Calm down.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
You said that you can't read hangul.

She is flustered, on the verge of tears.

DONG-WAN  
What did he say to you?

JI-HYUN  
Nothing.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I'm sorry -- Ji-Hyun -- really, I'm sorry...

Ji-Hyun moves away from him, closer to Mi-Sook, the diary tight in her hand.

Mi-Sook fills her glass again.

DONG-WAN  
You need to stop drinking.

MI-SOOK  
Why?

DONG-WAN  
Because you're argumentative when you drink too much.

MI-SOOK  
You already finished two bottles.

DONG-WAN  
I still speak rationally. I can handle my alcohol.

JI-HYUN  
Stop arguing. I can't listen to it anymore.

DONG-WAN  
Your mother--

JI-HYUN  
It's true. You never think about  
how your decisions affect us.

Dong-Wan fills his glass. Robin sits quiet, still in shock.

DONG-WAN  
All anyone has done since we left  
home is complain. The idea that I  
only think about myself is  
ridiculous. Why can't you all  
understand that I--

MI-SOOK  
Want the best for your family. Yes.  
We get it Dong-Wan. Shit. You  
really are a broken record.

JI-HYUN  
If you want the best for us, why  
don't you ask what we want?

DONG-WAN  
You're as bad as her.

Their voices have woken Jun-Ho. He sits up, rubbing his eyes.

JUN-HO  
What's wrong?

MI-SOOK  
Nothing. You need to sleep.

DONG-WAN  
No, don't sleep son. Stay awake and  
listen to how bad your father is.

JUN-HO  
What did you do?

DONG-WAN  
That's a good question. I worked  
day and night to provide for you  
all, and this is the gratitude I  
receive.

MI-SOOK  
You moved us to Gwangju without a  
word of discussion. You never even  
asked my opinion.

Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho look at each other, puzzled. This is new information.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Is this my fault? Did I start an argument?

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
No.

Robin shuffles away to sit with his back against the wall. He has nowhere to go. He sits uncomfortably as the drama unfolds before him.

JUN-HO  
(to Mi-Sook)  
What are you talking about?

MI-SOOK  
Another of your father's famous decisions, made for the good of his family.

Dong-Wan drains his glass. He tries to remain stoic but her words have touched a nerve.

DONG-WAN  
I took the job because of the salary. It didn't matter where we lived.

MI-SOOK  
I had to leave behind my friends, my job, the kids had to change schools--

DONG-WAN  
I put a roof over your heads and food on the table. I went without new cars and luxuries--

MI-SOOK  
I was miserable Dong-Wan! You talk about sacrifices like you're a saint, but you never thought about my happiness.

DONG-WAN  
Do you really think that?

A line has been crossed. Dong-Wan is hurt. Mi-Sook seems to regret her words.

MI-SOOK

This isn't the time to talk about it. I've had too much to drink. We need to rest.

DONG-WAN

No, don't stop now. Tell me how I ruined your lives. This could be your last chance.

Uncomfortable silence for a beat.

JI-HYUN

You did the same to me.

DONG-WAN

What?

JI-HYUN

I wanted to go to a university close to home. You didn't listen to me.

DONG-WAN

I wanted you at a good university. I'm no different to any other father in Korea.

JI-HYUN

You didn't care where I went to study. All you cared about was impressing your friends. You told everyone I was accepted to Yonsei University--

DONG-WAN

You were--

JI-HYUN

You know that's not true. Father, I didn't want to leave home. I told you many times. You ignored me.

DONG-WAN

Next you'll blame me for your poor grades.

Ji-Hyun begins to cry. Mi-Sook shuffles closer to comfort her.

MI-SOOK

Don't be upset. You finished your studies, that's more than some people achieve.

JI-HYUN

He has no idea what it was like for me at that place.

Dong-Wan fills his glass again. He looks away from his sobbing daughter and catches Robin's eye. They both remain quiet in their shame.

LATER --

Dong-Wan sleeps on his side with an empty soju bottle near his head. Robin sleeps on the floor against the wall. Jun-Ho and Seung-Min sleep on the sofa.

Ji-Hyun and Mi-Sook are awake. They sit side-by-side.

MI-SOOK

(re: Robin)

He looked miserable tonight. He must wish a different family helped him.

JI-HYUN

I scared him.

She squeezes the rolled diary tightly.

MI-SOOK

Seeing you together makes me feel sad. I always wanted you to meet a nice boy. I watched all my friend's children get married and start families-- Now I'll never get to see you do the same.

JI-HYUN

I couldn't force myself into a relationship to make you happy.

MI-SOOK

I know. It just hurts to know that you're lonely.

JI-HYUN

I'm not lonely.

MI-SOOK

You can't fool me-- I'm your mother.

Dong-Wan grunts and rolls onto his side.

JI-HYUN

Every time I met someone, it never lasted longer than a few dates.

MI-SOOK

They obviously weren't right for you.

JI-HYUN

It was me, not them. Dating is all about two people getting to know each other. They always want to know more than I wanted to give.

MI-SOOK

You have to know someone for a relationship to work.

JI-HYUN

That's why I always failed. I never wanted anyone to know me.

MI-SOOK

Why?

Ji-Hyun looks over at Dong-Wan.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

He's asleep.

JI-HYUN

There are things... I never told anyone. I'm ashamed.

MI-SOOK

We all have regrets.  
(rubs Ji-Hyun's hand.)  
But you can talk to me about anything.

Ji-Hyun takes a moment to find her voice.

JI-HYUN

There was a man. I never told you about him.

MI-SOOK

The man from the diary?

Ji-Hyun nods.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

So you had a boyfriend at university that we never met.

(MORE)

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

It's not unusual. Parents don't need to know about every brief relationship.

JI-HYUN

It was serious. He was my professor.

MI-SOOK

Professor!?

Ji-Hyun pulls her hand away.

JI-HYUN

Now you know why I never told you.

MI-SOOK

How old was he?

JI-HYUN

Fifteen years older...

(pause)

And married.

Mi-Sook nods robotically, fighting her shock. She glances over at Dong-Wan to make sure he is still asleep.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)

He didn't tell me about his wife when we met. By the time I found out, it was too late.

MI-SOOK

Too late?

JI-HYUN

I was in love.

MI-SOOK

People make mistakes. You were young--

JI-HYUN

It wasn't a mistake. I was selfish. I found out he was married and didn't do anything about it.

MI-SOOK

Married or not, a professor should not be dating his students. Especially a man of that age. He's lucky I never knew.

Ji-Hyun struggles to control her emotions. Tears begin to fall.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

Leave it in the past where it  
belongs. It's not such a bad thing.  
People do much worse.

Ji-Hyun nods and tries to compose herself. She isn't finished.

JI-HYUN

I was pregnant. I'm sorry. I'm so  
sorry.

Now she cries. Mi-Sook tries to process the information. Lost for words, all she can do is wipe the tears from Ji-Hyun's eyes.

MI-SOOK

You should have told me.

JI-HYUN

He said a baby would ruin our lives  
and bring shame on our families.

MI-SOOK

That's not true.

JI-HYUN

You know it is. I would have done  
anything to stop you and dad  
finding out. I couldn't tell  
anyone... He gave me the address of  
a clinic--

MI-SOOK

He didn't go with you?

JI-HYUN

He put me in a taxi and told me to  
go alone.

MI-SOOK

That bastard son of a bitch --  
excuse my language -- that piece of  
shit. Oh, Ji-Hyun, You should have  
come home to me. Even if you  
couldn't tell the truth.

JI-HYUN

You know dad would never have let  
me drop out. Never. I had to stay  
there.

Mi-Sook pulls her in for a deep, motherly hug. Ji-Hyun sobs on her shoulder.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)

It still hurts. He used me. He used me like I was disposable. I was so stupid... I thought he loved me.

MI-SOOK

There is nothing stupid about a young girl falling in love.

They hug each other tightly.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

My poor baby girl.

Dong-Wan still faces away from them. We see that his eyes are open and tearful. He heard everything.

LATER --

Jun-Ho and Seung-Min still sleep on the sofa. Mi-Sook sleeps with her arms wrapped protectively around Ji-Hyun on the floor. Dong-Wan is nowhere to be seen.

Robin is awake. He sits in the armchair with Ji-Hyun's phone to his ear. We hear the muffled sound of a voice mail message in English --

*"We are unable to connect your call. Please leave you message after the tone... BEEP"*

ROBIN

(in English)

It's me again. I, erm... I wanted to speak with you before, you know... Anyway, call me back on this number if you get the message.

He hangs up and slumps into the armchair. The digital wall clock BEEPS -- "2:00 AM." He stares glumly at Seung-Min.

LATER --

Robin creeps out of the bedroom with Seung-Min's mother wrapped neatly in a bedsheet. He creeps through the living room carefully so not to wake anyone.

INT. APARTMENT BLOCK CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Robin carries the body along the brightly lit corridor.

He reaches the elevators to find --

Dong-Wan stood at the open window with a cigarette in one hand, bottle of soju in the other. Dong-Wan stares at the body.

DONG-WAN

What the hell are you doing? You must be crazy--

ROBIN

(in English)

Shhh! If someone sees us, they'll think we killed her.

Dong-Wan flicks the cigarette out of the window.

DONG-WAN

Take her back inside you crazy bastard. Have some respect for her body.

ROBIN

(in English)

We can't leave her to rot in that bedroom while her son plays next door.

DONG-WAN

I knew there was something wrong with you. You're disturbed.

ROBIN

(in English)

I need help. *Dowajuseyo...*

He opens his hand, careful not to drop the body, and reveals the taxi smart key. Dong-Wan takes the key and calls the elevator. He takes a final swig of soju and stores the bottle in his pocket.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Robin and Dong-Wan walk along the street to the taxi, nervously glancing around to make sure the coast is clear.

ROBIN

(in English)

Quick. Open the door. *Ppalri, ppalri.*

DONG-WAN  
Fuck you, don't speak to me like  
that.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I'm stood here with a dead body in  
my arms. Open the fucking door.

Dong-Wan gives Robin the middle finger. He unlocks the taxi  
and opens the rear door.

Robin guides the body into the back of the taxi. He bumps the  
head on the doorframe.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
(in English)  
Fuck... I'm sorry.

DONG-WAN  
Be careful you idiot.

INT. TAXI - ON THE ROAD OUT OF TOWN - NIGHT

Robin drives along the road that leads back to the highway.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
We should cremate her.

Dong-Wan looks puzzled.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
(in English)  
Cremation. Fire...

He mimes flames with his fingers.

DONG-WAN  
You think we can burn a body out in  
the open and remain unnoticed? You  
really are stupid.

Dong-Wan peers through the window at the agricultural fields  
that they passed on the way into town.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
Here. Stop.

Robin pulls over to stop at the roadside.

EXT. ROAD SIDE / ALLOTMENT - NIGHT

Robin hops the crash barrier into an allotment. He tramples through the allotment to one of the long, half-cylinder grow tent and disappears inside.

Dong-Wan stands by the taxi at the roadside. He looks up at the cloudless night sky.

DONG-WAN  
 (quietly to himself)  
*"When the sun sets and the moon  
 rises, the faint memories come down  
 like stars."*

Robin exits the grow tent with a shovel in hand.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Talking to yourself is the first  
 sign of madness.

Dong-Wan is oblivious to the comment. He looks around, then points to a row of pine trees that line the edge of the nearby field.

DONG-WAN  
 Over there.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

The wrapped body lies at foot of a pine tree.

Robin watches Dong-Wan grunt as he digs. Dong-Wan stops to shake and flex his injured hand.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Let me take over for a while.

He holds out a hand for the shovel.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 (in English)  
 Stop being so proud and let me  
 help.

Dong-Wan reluctantly concedes and passes the shovel. Robin starts to dig.

DONG-WAN

It's a beautiful spot here. There are worse places in this world to end up.

ROBIN

(in English)

Huh?

DONG-WAN

Keep digging.

LATER --

The sky gradually lightens. It will be dawn soon.

The body has been buried. They work together on their knees, patting down the earth to form a neat mound.

Robin stands. He picks a few wild flowers from around the pine trees and arranges them neatly on the mound.

It's done. Dong-Wan stands. They stare at the mound.

ROBIN

(in English)

We should say something.

He takes a step forward.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(in English)

Into the freedom of wind and sunshine, we let you go. Into the dance of the stars and the planets, we let you go. Into the wind's breath and the hands of the star maker, we let you go. We love you, we miss you, we want you to be happy. Go safely, go dancing, go running home.

He looks at Dong-Wan and shrugs.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(in English)

I read it at my mum's funeral.

Dong-Wan nods, understanding the sentiment if not the words. He steps forward, spurred on to speak.

DONG-WAN

I am not able to speak of your life. You are someone's daughter, wife, and mother. You raised a fine boy. I promise you that we will care for him and do all that is possible to spare him from danger. May you rest in eternal peace.

Dong-Wan takes the bottle of soju from his pocket. He takes a drink, then sprinkles the rest symbolically over the mound.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

Let's go.

He takes the shovel. They walk through the field back towards the taxi.

Robin stumbles as they walk. Dong-Wan grabs his arm to stop him from falling. They exchange a nod, then continue to walk in silence.

INT. SEUNG-MIN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Early morning sunlight streams through the gaps in the venetian blinds. Seung-Min still sleeps on the sofa.

In the KITCHEN --

Mi-Sook washes dishes. A pot of seaweed soup steams on the hob. Dong-Wan, Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho eat bowls of the soup.

MI-SOOK

You should have woke us.

DONG-WAN

What good would it have done to include everyone? Anyway, it wasn't my idea. You can ask the foreigner.

MI-SOOK

Why is he waiting outside?

DONG-WAN

Don't ask me. I can't understand a word he says.

Mi-Sook takes a towel and wipes the kitchen surfaces.

MI-SOOK

(to Ji-Hyun)

How is it? Do you want some more?

JI-HYUN

It's good. Thank you.

Mi-Sook rubs Ji-Hyun's arm. Dong-Wan watches the tender exchange but looks away when Ji-Hyun coaches his eye.

MI-SOOK

(to Dong-Wan)

We have to wake Seung-Min.

DONG-WAN

It will be easier to carry him while he sleeps. We have time to think of a story on our way to Incheon.

JI-HYUN

You want to go to the airport?

DONG-WAN

He needs to get there. We promised to take him.

MI-SOOK

Yesterday you wanted to abandon him.

DONG-WAN

I changed my mind.

JUN-HO

You have to tell seung-Min the truth about his mom.

DONG-WAN

He doesn't need to know. Not yet. He's only six years old.

JUN-HO

If we lie now, we have to keep lying to him. It's not fair.

DONG-WAN

It's not so simple.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

Robin leans on the taxi hood. He arranges a small bunch of wild flowers.

Ji-Hyun leaves the apartment block. He hides the flowers behind his back.

(Entire scene in English)

ROBIN

You took long enough. I was ready to drive off and leave you here.

JI-HYUN

You wouldn't do that.

ROBIN

Wouldn't I?

JI-HYUN

No. You don't have the key.

She looks him up and down. She can't help but grin at his disheveled appearance. The last twenty-four hours have taken their toll.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)

You're so dirty.

He shrugs.

ROBIN

I honestly don't care what I look like anymore. It's liberating. Did your dad tell you what we did?

JI-HYUN

He won't look at me today. I think he is angry about last night.

ROBIN

Oh.

JI-HYUN

But I heard. It was kind.

She leans on the hood next to him.

ROBIN

I'm glad you came out. I need to apologize to you properly. Last night, I was an idiot. Reading your diary like that was wrong.

JI-HYUN

Yes. It was.

He reveals the flowers.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)

Is that your apology?

ROBIN

I know, they're nothing special.

JI-HYUN

They're cosmos flowers.

ROBIN

I don't know. I thought they looked nice.

She takes the flowers and looks at them affectionately.

JI-HYUN

They're beautiful.

INT. SEUNG-MIN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Seung-Min sits on the floor with an open school backpack. He has toys lined up, trying to decide between them.

Dong-Wan, Mi-Sook and Jun-Ho hover nearby.

SEUNG-MIN

Why did you make seaweed soup? Is it your birthday?

MI-SOOK

I wanted to make it for my daughter. You should eat some. It's good for you.

SEUNG-MIN

I don't like. How many toys can I bring?

DONG-WAN

As many as you can fit in your bag. Hurry now. We have to leave.

SEUNG-MIN

When can I see my mommy?

DONG-WAN

She will meet us later today. Don't worry, I gave her directions. You will be safe with us until we see her again.

Jun-Ho shakes his head. He isn't happy.

JUN-HO

This is wrong.

MI-SOOK

Your father is right this time. We have to make a decision. This is the kindest solution to our problem.

Dong-Wan nods, surprised at her support.

JUN-HO

I will talk him.

MI-SOOK

No. Jun-Ho--

Jun-Ho ignores her. He sits next to Seung-Min.

JUN-HO

It's a difficult choice.

SEUNG-MIN

I used to like the T-Rex most. Now I like the triceratops. But they are both my favorites.

JUN-HO

Triceratops has always been my favorite. They were so strong. And the three horns look so cool.

SEUNG-MIN

T-Rex was the best predator. They had the most powerful bite.

Seung-Min contemplates. It's a big decision for a young boy.

JUN-HO

I never had this many toys when I was your age. You're lucky.

SEUNG-MIN

I have many toys but no one to play with. My mommy never plays. She only wants me to study.

JUN-HO

Seung-Min, I have to tell you something about you mom...

Seung-Min waits for the news. Jun-Ho struggles to find the words.

SEUNG-MIN

She left to find my daddy.

JUN-HO

Yes. Well, when we say she left,  
what we mean -- I mean -- what  
happened...

(pause)

She told me to make sure you bring  
a picture of you and her together.

SEUNG-MIN

Why?

JUN-HO

Because you might not come back  
here for a long time. Do you have a  
picture?

SEUNG-MIN

Yes. Many.

Jun-Ho stuffs both the T-Rex and triceratops into the  
backpack.

JUN-HO

I've always been the youngest in my  
family. Now you're with us, you're  
the baby.

SEUNG-MIN

I'm not a baby.

JUN-HO

Then, you can be my little brother.  
Is that okay? I always wanted a  
little brother.

They stand. Seung-Min takes one of the framed photos of him  
with his parents, passes it to Jun-Ho.

MI-SOOK

(to Seung-Min)

Go and brush your teeth before we  
leave.

Seung-Min heads into the bathroom.

Jun-Ho takes the photo from the frame and passes it to Dong-  
Wan.

JUN-HO

You should write on the back, the  
location where you buried her.

Dong-Wan takes the photo.

DONG-WAN  
Our boy has grown up.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The taxi hurtles along the highway. It passes under road signs for --

"SEOUL" and "INCHEON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT."

INT. TAXI - ON THE ROAD - DAY

Dong-Wan drives. Seung-Min is sat on Mi-Sook's lap in the passenger seat, pretending to drive with an imaginary steering wheel.

MI-SOOK  
How's your hand?

DONG-WAN  
It still hurts. You don't have to keep asking.

MI-SOOK  
About last night--

DONG-WAN  
Forget it. We don't need to bring it up again.

In the back -- Robin sits between Ji-Hyun and Jun-Ho. Ji-Hyun stares glumly at her wilting cosmos flowers.

MI-SOOK  
(to Ji-Hyun)  
Does he know the meaning of those flowers?

JI-HYUN  
I don't think so. How can he?

JUN-HO  
What do they mean?

MI-SOOK  
Cosmos flowers mean pure love. You give them to someone who you care for deeply.

JI-HYUN  
He doesn't know that.

Seung-Min begins to fidget.

SEUNG-MIN  
I need the bathroom.

DONG-WAN  
Can you hold it?

SEUNG-MIN  
No. I need to go now.

JUN-HO  
I need to go, too.

EXT. HIGHWAY HARD SHOULDER - DAY

Seung-Min and Jun-Ho relieve themselves behind the parked taxi.

Robin, Ji-Hyun, Dong-Wan and Mi-Sook stretch their legs. We hear a synchronized BEEPING -- Ji-Hyun, Dong-Wan and Mi-Sook check their phones to see identical warning messages.

MI-SOOK  
Oh no...

They stare at Robin. He watches the passing cars, oblivious to the change in mood.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I never thought of it until now,  
but I'm surprised there aren't more  
cars on the road. I hate to think  
what the roads are like at home.

MI-SOOK  
(to Ji-Hyun)  
You have to tell him.

JI-HYUN  
What can I say?

DONG-WAN  
At least we found out now, before  
we drove all the way there.

Jun-Ho and Seung-Min return from behind the taxi. Jun-ho holds his own phone.

JUN-HO  
Did you see--

JI-HYUN

Yes.

JUN-HO

Did you tell him?

Robin yawns, still oblivious. He finally notices that they are all staring at him.

ROBIN

(in English)

What?

MI-SOOK

He needs to know.

ROBIN

(in English)

What is it?

JI-HYUN

(in English)

A government alert.

She holds up her phone. He squints at the small box of Korean text on the screen.

ROBIN

(in English)

About the asteroid?

JI-HYUN

(in English)

No. Can you read it?

ROBIN

(in English)

Pilsu... yo... yeoha-eng...

JI-HYUN

(in English)

All airports are closed. No more flights will leave Korea.

Robin stares blankly at her for a moment as he processes the news.

JI-HYUN (CONT'D)

(in English)

I'm so sorry.

MI-SOOK

Did you tell him?

JI-HYUN

Yes.

MI-SOOK

Why isn't he speaking?

They watch him and wait for a reaction. He stares out at the road ahead, not a flicker of emotion.

ROBIN

(in English)

That's it. I'm not going home.

MI-SOOK

He has to call his father.

Mi-Sook tries to pass her phone to Robin.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

She wants you to call.

ROBIN

(in English)

Call?

JI-HYUN

(in English)

Your father.

ROBIN

(in English)

No.

MI-SOOK

Tell him he must call.

ROBIN

(in English)

It's the middle of the night in England.

Mi-Sook waves the phone before him.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

She won't leave you alone until you do it.

ROBIN

(in English)

Really, I don't want to.

Mi-Sook forces her phone into Robin's hand.

JI-HYUN  
He doesn't want to call.

DONG-WAN  
You can't force him.

MI-SOOK  
How would you feel if Jun-Ho was on the other side of the world right now? You would do anything to hear his voice.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Why won't you call him?

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I have. I've called him every day since we found out and left messages. He hasn't called back. Why do I have to keep trying?

Robin passes the phone back to Mi-Sook.

MI-SOOK  
But--

ROBIN  
(in English)  
You need to go. Tell your parents I appreciate everything.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
You don't want to come with us?

ROBIN  
(in English)  
You don't need me with you. The universe wants me to be alone. I have to make my peace with it.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
He wants us to go on without him.

Dong-Wan sighs. He opens the taxi door and turns to Robin.

DONG-WAN  
*Robin...*

Robin stares at Dong-Wan, surprised, unsure of how to react.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)  
Get in. You're with us now.

INT. TAXI - ON THE ROAD - DAY

Dong-Wan drives. Everyone but Seung-Min is asleep -- Ji-Hyun with her head on Robin's shoulder. Jun-Ho with his headphones on. Mi-Sook with her head on the window and mouth wide open. Seung-Min is sat on her lap.

SEUNG-MIN  
Where are we going?

DONG-WAN  
A place called Cheongok Cave. Have you heard of it?

SEUNG-MIN  
No.

DONG-WAN  
I went there a few times when I was a boy, about your age. I never forgot it. It's a big, underground cave.

SEUNG-MIN  
I'm scared of the dark.

DONG-WAN  
I was too, back then. You'll grow out of it.

SEUNG-MIN  
And I'm scared of the ocean.

DONG-WAN  
You can't swim?

SEUNG-MIN  
Because of sharks.

DONG-WAN  
There are no sharks in Korean waters. You have nothing to worry about.

SEUNG-MIN  
My mommy saw one in Hawaii.

DONG-WAN  
You went to Hawaii on vacation?

SEUNG-MIN

Yes.

DONG-WAN

Your father must earn good money. I could never afford to take my children to such an expensive place.

SEUNG-MIN

My daddy didn't go. He was in China.

Dong-Wan looks over and sees the misery on Seung-Min's face.

DONG-WAN

Try not to blame your father. Phone networks were never created to handle situations like this. Millions of people need to make calls... I guess I'm lucky that my family is here with me.

He glances at sleeping Ji-Hyun in the rearview mirror.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

We still have a few hours drive. You should get some rest.

SEUNG-MIN

I'm not tired.

DONG-WAN

Can you write hangul?

SEUNG-MIN

Of course.

Dong-Wan turns on the dashboard satellite navigator.

DONG-WAN

I will give you a name to search for...

INT. TAXI - ON THE ROAD - LATER

Seung-Min sits on Dong-Wan's lap with his hands on the steering wheel. He can barely contain his excitement as he concentrates to keep the taxi steady. Dong-Wan controls the pedals.

DONG-WAN  
That's it. Keep it straight...  
You're doing a good job.

SEUNG-MIN  
Can I use the horn?

DONG-WAN  
If you want.

Seung-Min hits the horn -- *BEEP BEEP BEEEEEEEEEEEP.*

The snoozing passengers wake at the sound. Mi-Sook rubs her eyes, sees Seung-Min behind the wheel.

MI-SOOK  
What the-- What are you doing!?

DONG-WAN  
Don't worry. The road is empty  
here.

SEUNG-MIN  
Look at me. I can drive.

MI-SOOK  
I don't want to see. Dong-Wan, how  
can you be so irresponsible?

DONG-WAN  
Let the boy have some fun. I did  
the same with Jun-Ho when he was  
young.

MI-SOOK  
You did what?

Jun-Ho laughs.

DONG-WAN  
Only on quiet roads.

JUN-HO  
I had to promise not to say  
anything to you.

Mi-Sook shakes her head disappointedly.

MI-SOOK  
I hate to think what went on behind  
by back.

Ji-Hyun yawns and closes her eyes again.

Robin stares out at the distant, luscious green mountain range that dominates the landscape.

The road takes them past a large lake, calm and glimmering in the midday sun.

EXT. WONJU ROAD - DAY

The taxi drives slowly along a residential road flanked on each side by tall, yellow-leaved ginkgo trees.

EXT./INT. YONSEI UNIVERSITY MIRAE CAMPUS - CAR PARK/TAXI - DAY

The taxi pulls to a stop in the empty car park, a short walk from the main building.

Dong-Wan turns off the engine.

SEUNG-MIN  
Are we at the cave?

MI-SOOK  
There's no cave here.

Ji-Hyun stirs and opens her eyes. Realization dawns on her face. She sits bolt upright.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
Why are we here?

DONG-WAN  
For our daughter.

JI-HYUN  
I never asked to be brought here.

DONG-WAN  
Let me explain--

Ji-Hyun opens the door and walks away.

MI-SOOK  
You don't know what memories she has of this place.

DONG-WAN  
I have my reasons.

MI-SOOK  
I hope you made the right decision this time.

EXT. YONSEI UNIVERSITY MIRAE CAMPUS - MAIN BUILDING - DAY

An incredibly scenic campus -- Decorative trees, perfectly manicured foliage, architecture modeled on American Ivy League colleges to give a feeling of historical significance.

Ji-Hyun stands before the university's main building, dwarfed by a row of decorative columns that stand tall and imposing before the entrance.

Dong-Wan approaches and stands by her side.

JI-HYUN

I never wanted to come back here.

DONG-WAN

I brought you here to apologise.

She is surprised. He looks at his feet, noticeably uncomfortable as he searches for his next words.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

I don't know how to begin...

He looks up at the steps to the entrance.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

I remember the day I brought you here so clearly.

JI-HYUN

Six years ago.

DONG-WAN

It seems like yesterday. I watched you walk through those doors. I was so proud.

JI-HYUN

Until I failed. You were so disappointed.

Dong-Wan takes a moment to compose himself. He fights his emotions.

DONG-WAN

What you said last night was right. I pushed you to come here, and then I left you.

JI-HYUN

Father--

DONG-WAN

You were here, all alone, while I sat with my friends, boasting that my daughter had gone to a better university than their children.

He shakes his head, clearly ashamed at the memory.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

I didn't listen to you then. It seems I have always been deaf when it comes to the people I care about.

Ji-Hyun looks around at the scenic campus.

JI-HYUN

Being here again, I feel like a ghost in my own past. I thought this place was beautiful. Now it seems ugly to me.

DONG-WAN

Maybe it was a mistake to bring you here. I thought it would help to confront the past.

JI-HYUN

You don't know everything.

DONG-WAN

And I don't need to.

JI-HYUN

We don't have time for me to confront the past.

DONG-WAN

We have as much time as you need.

EXT. YONSEI UNIVERSITY MIRAE CAMPUS - LAWN - DAY

A patch of well-tended grass between the car park and the main building.

Jun-Ho and Seung-Min sit and play *gonggi* with five small stones that have been scavenged from the car park. Mi-Sook watches them.

Robin is stretched out prostrate on the grass, staring at the clouds, lost in thought.

Dong-Wan sits slightly away from them all, rubbing his hand.

MI-SOOK

She has been gone for a long time.  
One of us has to look for her.

DONG-WAN

I told her to take as long as she  
wants.

Mi-Sook squints from the sun.

MI-SOOK

My face is going to burn. If we're  
going to be here for a while, I  
want my fan from the car.

DONG-WAN

Perhaps we should just stay here.

MI-SOOK

What are you talking about?

DONG-WAN

We can break in. Nobody is here to  
stop us.

MI-SOOK

What good will it do us to be in  
there?

DONG-WAN

A big building with thick walls--  
It's a good place to give up and  
wait.

Jun-Ho stops playing *gonggi* for a moment.

JUN-HO

We're so close. We can't stop now.

DONG-WAN

I need to learn how to quit.

Mi-Sook takes his hand, begins to massage it.

MI-SOOK

You're many things, but you're not  
a quitter.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - LAKE SIDE TRAIL - DAY

A walking trail follows the edge of the lake. It's shaded by  
tall trees. Leaves glow in the afternoon sun.

Ji-Hyun sits alone on a lake facing bench, reading from her diary. It's quiet but for the relaxing sound of a nearby cuckoo that calls for her ears only.

Footsteps approach. She lifts her head to see Robin walking along the trail towards her.

(Entire scene in English)

ROBIN

Here you are.

JI-HYUN

Here I am.

ROBIN

I didn't think I'd find you. Can I sit?

JI-HYUN

Of course. Why not?

ROBIN

I wasn't sure if you wanted to be left alone.

He sits beside her.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

It's a beautiful place. I imagine it was easy to fall in love here.

She closes the diary and sets it down on the bench.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

He must have meant a lot to you. Years later and you're still thinking of him.

JI-HYUN

We met here.

ROBIN

Here? This exact bench?

JI-HYUN

I was reading. He sat next to me. I almost walked away. My life would be different if I had.

ROBIN

Different, but not necessarily better. You'll never know.

JI-HYUN  
I could be married.

ROBIN  
Nothing stopped you from meeting  
someone else.

JI-HYUN  
He did. He changed me.

ROBIN  
I'm glad I never married or had  
kids. Not now. I don't envy parents  
who have to prepare their children  
for death.

A small bird lands before them. They watch it hop and chirp  
without a care in the world.

JI-HYUN  
You didn't look sad when I told  
you.

ROBIN  
Told me what?

JI-HYUN  
That you can't go home.

ROBIN  
Oh. Well, I'm not very emotional.

JI-HYUN  
You feel nothing?

ROBIN  
Only relief.

JI-HYUN  
Why did you ask for our help if you  
didn't want to go?

ROBIN  
I had no plan. When I met you all  
I...

(pause)  
I didn't want to be alone.

JI-HYUN  
Now you are stuck here with us.

ROBIN

I've been trying to convince myself  
that going home was the right thing  
to do.

JI-HYUN

To see your father.

ROBIN

Even if I spoke to him, some things  
can't be fixed.

They sit and stare out at the lake.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

I'm glad to end up here with you.  
I don't regret it...

(pause)

I only regret not meeting you  
sooner.

She shuffles closer to rest her head on his shoulder. Her  
diary slides off the bench and falls to the floor. She  
doesn't notice.

INT. TAXI - ON THE ROAD - DAY

Robin drives again. Ji-Hyun relaxes in the passenger seat.

Jun-Ho sits between Dong-Wan and Mi-Sook in the back. Seung-  
Min sits on Mi-Sook's lap.

ROBIN

(in English)

We're going to be running on fumes  
if we don't get there soon.

The navigator signals for the next exit. Robin tries to cross  
lanes. Other cars block them.

DONG-WAN

He needs to take the next exit.

The exit is fast approaching. They are still in the wrong  
lane.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

You need to take this exit.

ROBIN

(in English)

I know. I can't get across.

DONG-WAN  
He needs to be more aggressive.

Robin swerves but is blocked.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
You have to hurry.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
I can't get across!

He tries again. Another car blocks them. It's too late --  
They pass the exit.

DONG-WAN  
He missed it. Now we're stuck on  
this route until we can turn.

Robin checks his mirror.

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Okay. Get ready.

JI-HYUN  
(in English)  
Get ready?

ROBIN  
(in English)  
Brace yourself. Tell your mum to  
hold on to Seung-Min.

Ji-Hyun turns to the back.

JI-HYUN  
Hold him tightly.

MI-SOOK  
Why? What's he going to do?

JI-HYUN  
I have no idea.

Mi-Sook wraps her arms protectively around Seung-Min.

Robin breaks sharply. Mi-Sook SCREAMS.

Motorists HONK furiously as Robin reverses through the  
traffic back to the exit. Jun-Ho and Seung-Min clap their  
approval.

MI-SOOK

I have to stop expecting any of you  
to act normally.

Dong-Wan grins, unable to hide his approval.

DONG-WAN

He's fearless now.

INT. TAXI - ON THE ROAD - DAY

They zoom along an empty road. Ji-Hyun checks the navigator.

JI-HYUN

We're close.

They travel along the road -- A large BAT SHAPED SIGN comes  
into view --

"CHEONGOK GOLDEN BAT CAVE"

DONG-WAN

There it is!

Robin pulls into the parking lot.

EXT. CHEONGOK GOLDEN BAT CAVE - ENTRANCE - DAY

An closed administration office and empty ticket booth mark  
the entrance to the underground cave system. A row of yellow  
safety helmets hang near the only door. A sign above the door  
reads -- "The Mouth of the Cave."

They all stare at the underwhelming sight, looking thoroughly  
unimpressed.

JUN-HO

This is it?

DONG-WAN

Yes.

JUN-HO

Really?

Dong-Wan remains quiet.

Robin takes one of the safety helmets, turns the flashlight  
on and off, looks at the painted logo.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 It's a tourist attraction. I  
 thought... I don't know what I  
 thought.

JI-HYUN  
 (to Dong-Wan)  
 It's not what I imagined.

SEUNG-MIN  
 Where's the cave?

DONG-WAN  
 Through that door.

SEUNG-MIN  
 Are we going in?

DONG-WAN  
 It's locked.

MI-SOOK  
 We came all this way to be beaten  
 by a locked door.

Dong-Wan shakes the door. It's firm. He slams his shoulder into it repeatedly. We have seen him fight. This is the first time we have seen him lose control. There is a desperation to his actions. Worry in his voice.

DONG-WAN  
 It will open...  
 (slam)  
 It will open...  
 (slam)  
 It has to open...

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Should I help him?

Ji-Hyun doesn't answer. They watch him with pity. They don't know what to do.

Dong-Wan slams the door a final time. He stops to rub his shoulder.

DONG-WAN  
 I need something to lever it open--

MI-SOOK  
 Stop.

Dong-Wan turns to face Mi-Sook. She takes his hand.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)

You don't need to do this. I don't want to sit in a cold, wet cave, with no food, waiting for the world to end.

JI-HYUN

Me too.

JUN-HO

Same here.

SEUNG-MIN

I'm scared of the dark.

DONG-WAN

But, we travelled all this way for nothing...

A silent pause. His words are true but difficult to digest.

MI-SOOK

We had one last trip together. I wouldn't change it.

She leads Seung-Min away. Jun-Ho follows, then Ji-Hyun and Robin.

Dong-Wan stares at the door.

DONG-WAN

Goddam it.

INT. TAXI - DAY

The taxi is parked in the cave car park near the administration office.

Robin tries to start the engine -- It chokes, splutters, doesn't start.

ROBIN

(in English)

We're not going anywhere.

JI-HYUN

What now?

She looks at Dong-Wan. He has nothing left.

MI-SOOK

We can push it to a gas station.

JI-HYUN

We don't know where a gas station is. It's too heavy to push around looking for one.

JUN-HO

We can find another car to take.

MI-SOOK

No. We're not doing that again.

DONG-WAN

We don't need a car anymore. It's too late.

JI-HYUN

So, what do we do?

EXT. DONGHAE STREETS - DAY

A small coastal town, quiet at the best of times.

Dong-Wan, Jun-Ho and Ji-Hyun carry a what belongings they could take from the taxi. Mi-Sook carries her prized rice cooker. Seung-Min has his backpack.

Robin trails slightly behind with a bed sheet and two pillows under his arms.

ROBIN

(in English)

Was is necessary to bring the pillows?

JI-HYUN

(in English)

They are memory foam.

They pass a small playground --

A group of ELDERY MEN sit on a wooden pagoda, drinking soju, playing cards. They stop to watch the group walk past.

MI-SOOK

I'm tired Dong-Wan.

Dong-Wan stops. He looks around to find his bearings.

ELDERLY MAN

You look lost.

DONG-WAN

I haven't been here in many years.  
What's in this direction?

ELDERLY MAN

Nothing but the ocean.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

They stand on the street, looking out at the stretch of beach before them --

CHILDREN run and play. A group of YOUNG MEN kick a football back and forth. Young and old COUPLES sit in each other's arms. Whole FAMILIES sit together.

MI-SOOK

Look how many people are here. I can't believe my eyes.

DONG-WAN

Nobody wants to be trapped inside.  
Not now.

MI-SOOK

It's a beautiful day. I can't remember the last time we were all at the beach together.

Dong-Wan walks out onto the sand. Without a word, the others follow him.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Robin and Mi-Sook stretch out the bed sheet. They all sit.

Dong-Wan pulls off his shoes and socks, rolls up his trouser legs, pushes his toes into the sand.

DONG-WAN

I needed a vacation.

Seung-Min watches other children play with near the shore.

MI-SOOK

(notices)

You should go and play with them.

Seung-Min excitedly takes the toys dinosaurs from his backpack.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
 Stay where I can see you... And  
 don't go in the water.

She watches him run to the where the children play.

MI-SOOK (CONT'D)  
 We'll have to tell him soon.

DONG-WAN  
 It can wait. If we survive, I'll  
 tell him. If we don't...

He lies down and closes his eyes.

Jun-Ho looks out at the infinite ocean.

JUN-HO  
 I want to swim.

JI-HYUN  
 Why don't you?

JUN-HO  
 No swimming shorts.

JI-HYUN  
 Go in your underwear.

JUN-HO  
 And let all these people see me?

Ji-Hyun laughs.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 My brother wants to swim but is  
 scared to take his clothes off.

Robin scans the beach. Everyone else wear summer clothes or  
 rash guards.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 Well, desperate times call for  
 desperate measures.

He stands and begins to strip to his briefs.

MI-SOOK  
 Oh my.

She covers her eyes but peeks through her fingers.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Aren't you embarrassed?

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 It's just a body. Nobody cares.

The beach activity seems to stop suddenly -- Heads turn, eyes stare, all focused on Robin the curiosity. Robin cups his crotch.

JI-HYUN  
 (in English)  
 Are you sure?

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 No.

He looks down at Jun-Ho.

ROBIN (CONT'D)  
 (in English)  
 Are you coming or not?

Jun-Ho is encouraged. He stands and begins to strip.

MI-SOOK  
 Dong-Wan, make him stop. These people will think we're exhibitionists.

Dong-Wan smiles, doesn't open his eyes.

Jun-Ho is quickly down to his superhero briefs.

ROBIN  
 (in English)  
 I'll race you.

They sprint off towards the sea.

EXT. BEACH ROCKS - DAY

Robin -- clothed and still damp -- and Ji-Hyun sit together on a rock. The sea laps against the rock below their dangling feet.

(Entire scene in English)

JI-HYUN

I thought I would be more scared to die.

ROBIN

You're not?

JI-HYUN

The worst part of death is leaving behind a world that continues without you. If the world ends, we don't have to worry.

ROBIN

So it's comforting to know that we end with the world. I guess it makes sense.

JI-HYUN

Aren't you scared?

ROBIN

You know, when I was a teenager -- fifteen or sixteen -- I had this huge fight with my dad. He told me I was a mistake. It always stayed with me-- That I was never meant to be here.

JI-HYUN

What do you think will happen to our bodies?

ROBIN

Maybe in hundreds of years, someone will find our bones and put them in a museum.

JI-HYUN

At least we would be remembered.

ROBIN

I'd rather turn into dust and let the wind blow us away.

She stares at him. Something in his words has affected her. She pulls him close. They fall into the tenderness of a first kiss.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The sun is not long from setting. Small fires have been lit on the beach.

Dong-Wan hums as he throws pieces of drift wood onto a small fire. Mi-Sook sits by him.

Jun-Ho and Seung-Min share a pillow, relaxed and content.

Robin and Ji-Hyun sit close together. She holds onto his arm. They watch the fire as it cracks and pops.

DONG-WAN

(singing)

*"On the days that I get sentimental  
over the melodies of Bach,  
forgotten memories come--"*

ROBIN

(singing in Korean)

*"--into full bloom."*

They all stare at Robin, impressed by his near perfect pronunciation.

ROBIN (CONT'D)

(in English)

Don't look so surprised.

MI-SOOK

Robin should sing an English song.

JI-HYUN

(in English)

She wants you to sing.

ROBIN

(in English)

No way. I'm a terrible singer. I'd prefer to hear your dad finish his song.

JI-HYUN

Father, will you sing for us?

DONG-WAN

I don't want to embarrass you all.

JUN-HO

I want to hear it. Please.

SEUNG-MIN

Me too.

Dong-Wan finishes throwing the drift wood onto the fire. He clears his throat --

DONG-WAN

(singing)

*"On days when I get sentimental  
over the melodies of Bach,  
forgotten memories come into full  
bloom. My song that flew away in  
the winds, comes back to me as  
whistles..."*

Heads turn to watch. Dong-Wan takes Mi-Sook's hand, pulls her closer, puts an arm around her.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

*"Memories pile up in my small room.  
Tears wet my eyes, but I don't know  
why..."*

Every single person on the beach has stopped to listen.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

*"Even though I gather each and  
every small piece of my heart, and  
write a poem, no such poem is  
enough to describe you..."*

Dong-Wan stares into Mi-Sook's eyes.

DONG-WAN (CONT'D)

*"I'll become dust and fly away, fly  
away in the wind to your side. I  
gather each and every small piece  
of my heart together, and write a  
poem, but no such poem is enough to  
describe you. I'll become dust and  
fly away, fly away in the wind to  
your side."*

With the last word the beach falls silent but for the sound of the gentle tide lapping the shore.

Nobody says a word.

The moment washes away with the waves. Around the beach -- People turn back to their families and conversations.

Robin takes Ji-Hyun's hand and grips it tightly.

He looks up at the night sky and stares at the distant glowing asteroid that seems to hang in the darkness.

- The End -

