

U N F O R T U N A T E L O V E

FADE IN:

EXT. BUSY STREET -- NIGHT

Taxies, cars, buses, people... So many damn people. A literal bumper to bumper type of existence.

DERRICK (V.O.)
Honking horns, loud voices,
laughter, the occasional rolling
siren. All typical sounds of a
major city in America, right?...
Wrong.

Techno music crescendos...

INT. NIGHT CLUB -- NIGHT

We cut through throngs of glazed people, standing, dancing, some being helped up off the floor. Eventually we arrive at the bar, where a BARTENDER pops the cap on a beer and hands it to Derrick(25), a light skinned black male.

The bartender smiles, shakes his body, he can't seem to stand still. He holds out his hand...

BARTENDER
(yelled)
Five thousand won.

Derrick gives the bartender a bill that's not U.S. The bartender walks off.

DERRICK (V.O.)
We are seven thousand miles across
the pacific, in the land of
lightening fast internet, PC bangs
and Kimchi. And no, tips aren't
encouraged in this part of the
world.

The bartender returns with Derrick's change.

Korean dialogue in bold, English dialogue as is.

BARTENDER
(yelled)
Thank you.

He gives Derrick a thumbs up, walks off.

DERRICK (V.O.)
Some here believe kimchi is the
cure for cancer.
(MORE)

DERRICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But just like fan death, there's no
real tangible evidence proving
kimchi can rid you of cancer, no
more than there is a case to be
made about people dying because
they slept with the fan on.

Derrick turns around, leans against the counter top, takes in
the scene.

DERRICK (V.O.)
If you still haven't figured it
out, we are in South Korea. A
country the size of Indiana with
ten times as many people. A country
which, twenty years ago most people
didn't even know existed. Shoot, if
you would have asked me five years
ago where Korea was on the map, I'd
most likely ask to use one of my
lifelines. I'm not lying this place
was once that obscure. Not anymore,
though. Psy proved that, didn't he?

Derrick takes a sip of his beer.

DERRICK (V.O.)
I must say though, during my time
here, she has been good to me, just
as she has ripped my heart out from
my chest.

EXT. NIGHT CLUB -- 3 AM

MITCH and GARY, two black male expatriates in their 20's,
step outside into the cold, affluent night air of downtown
Seoul, South Korea.

DERRICK (V.O.)
That's Mitch.

MITCH
Fuck, it's cold as shit out here,
man. Goddamn!

DERRICK (V.O.)
That's actually not that many curse
words for him. I've known Mitch
almost as long as I've been here
and believe me, he's come a long
way.

GARY

See that's why we ain't gettin any
ass. You keep using the Lord's name
in vain.

DERRICK (V.O.)

This happens every time we go out.
Mitch complains about not getting
any girls while Gary gives him
shit. Gary's new to the group. I
met him about a month ago at a
cultural event where guys go to
pick up Korean women and even-
though I've never seen him with a
girl of his own, he's been cool
ever since.

Mitch laughs.

MITCH

What?? How you gonna talk about God
and getting ass all in the same
breath? That's sacrilegious, a far
worser offense than blasphemy,
stupid ass.

GARY

First of all what the hell does
worser even mean??

MITCH

More bad. Look it up.

Mitch looks at Derrick, who is the last to pass through the
dark entry way, out into the artificially illuminated night.

DERRICK (V.O.)

Oh yeah I forgot to mention, I go
by...

MITCH

Dee, what's up with your man??

Mitch shakes his head.

GARY

(to Derrick)

Is worser even a word?

Derrick shrugs his shoulders as THREE KOREAN GIRLS dressed in
tight black skirts pass by with their arms interlocked.

Mitch puts on his game face, catches up with the three girls.

MITCH
Ahnyounghaseyo!

The ladies chuckle at Mitch's terrible attempt to speak Korean.

MITCH (CONT'D)
Where are you beautiful ladies going?

The girls quicken their pace. Mitch throws up his arms.

MITCH (CONT'D)
Oh it's like that? Ya'll ain't even gonna give a bro a chance??

Mitch checks out their unusually plump backsides.

KOREAN GIRLS
(speaking to their butts)
Damn, bet they smell good, too...

One of the girls glances back over her shoulder, yells out.

KOREAN GIRLS (CONT'D)
(in Korean)
Weirdo. Learn to speak Korean.

Derrick shakes his head deploring Mitch's bad game or lack thereof.

Mitch imagines what could have been, scoffs then pulls a hood over his head. Derrick blows warm air into his hands while Gary zips up his coat. One common factor all three friends share is that, it is damn cold out.

DERRICK
Ey ya'll hungry?

INT. KIMBAP HEAVEN -- LATER

The three friends walk into a small restaurant with a few tables, chairs, dull paintings. A place known more for its fast, cheap and tasty food, than anything else. Immediately upon entering all eyes point at our three males, who stick out like a sore thumb amongst the homogenous Korean patronage.

GARY
... Shit, feels like I'm back in the good ole U. S. of A.

MITCH

Give it some time, you'll get used to it.

DERRICK

What ya'll want? I'll order for us.

TABLE

Mitch and Gary grab a table in the corner of the restaurant. Mitch rubs his face, exhaustion is setting in.

MITCH

You got any girls you can call?

SHORT ORDER COUNTER

Derrick speaks to an old KOREAN WOMAN or AJUMMA standing on the other side of an opening in the kitchen.

DERRICK

Can I get three orders of ramen and three rolls of tuna kimbap please.

The old lady's jaw drops. She nervously nods her head at Derrick, taken aback by his ability to communicate in her native tongue. We get the feeling that Derrick is a unique character.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Derrick turns. Every Korean patron has seemingly froze in time, their chopsticks suspended before their slacked-jawed mouths, just like the old woman.

DERRICK (V.O.)

If I had a dollar for every time this happened, I'd be rich.

Derrick looks around, finds Mitch and Gary at the table and makes his way over.

TABLE

Derrick takes a seat opposite Mitch.

DERRICK

Is it just me or does it seem like everyone in here is buggin'?

Derrick takes out his phone, taps on the screen.

MITCH
You're buggin.

Derrick looks up.

DERRICK
Why am I buggin??

MITCH
How come you didn't tell me you
were going to the exchange last
week? You know I've been dying to
hit one of those up.

Derrick sighs.

DERRICK
Man, it was just one of those spur
of the moment type things. Really,
it wasn't even that fun to be
honest with you.

Mitch looks at Derrick suspiciously.

Derrick scoffs.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(off Mitch's look)
What??

MITCH
... Wasn't fun, huh? Gary said he
had a blast.
(to Gary)
Ain't that right? You got what,
three numbers?

GARY
About that. Give or take one or
two...

Derrick smiles.

DERRICK
Or all of em.

MITCH
How many numbers did you get? And
don't lie to me either.

DERRICK
Not a single digit, man. Like I
just told you, it wasn't fun. At
least not for me.

Mitch shakes his head.

Gary looks up, points his head toward the exit.

GARY

Hey yo yo. Get a load of this.

Derrick looks up. Mitch turns around.

GARY (CONT'D)

Aren't those the same girls you
struck out with a minute ago Mitch?

Derrick watches with an intrigued eye as the alluring girls
enter the restaurant, find a table and sit.

DERRICK (V.O.)

What you see happening to us right
now is the symptoms of Yellow
fever. An infectious tropical
disease we all caught when we first
arrived. Well... at least me and
Mitch did.

MITCH

Yeah, so...

GARY

So, fate just gave you a second
chance to go over there and say
something.

MITCH

Fuck that.

GARY

Why not?

MITCH

Cause I'm good.

GARY

Guess you already decided to rub
one out tonight, huh?

Derrick bursts out laughing, gives props to Gary after that
roast. Mitch smiles, tries to play it down..

MITCH

So the new kid has jokes, okay,
okay.

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

That's good, but listen up
tenderfoot, no woman, not Korean,
not Latin or any other female for
that matter has any clue what they
want. Sometimes you gotta choose
your own battles. It's late... I'm
tired... So fuck it, aight?

Derrick laughs.

DERRICK

Yo, someone really needs to coin
that. It's late, I'm tired, so fuck
it. That's dope man.

MITCH

Thank you. Appreciate it.

Everyone laughs.

The Korean ajumma rolls over a cart with steaming hot food.
The fellas straighten up as the ajumma sets bowls of hot
ramen noodles and tuna rolls in front of each. She is
speechless, with a childlike grin that wipes away decades
from her wrinkly face.

KOREAN AJUMMA

Enjoy your meals.

Mitch and Gary see Derrick nod his head and follow suit.

The ajumma pushes the cart back to the kitchen. Derrick
closes his eyes, lowers his head.

DERRICK

(short beat)

Amen.

Gary takes in what Derrick just did.

GARY

Did you just pray?

Derrick nods his head yes, skillfully uses chopsticks to load
ramen into his mouth.

DERRICK

(food in mouth)

Before every meal.

Derrick looks up, sees Gary struggling with his chopsticks.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

They got forks man.

GARY

I gotta figure this out.

Mitch blows at scalding hot ramen. At the same time he peeks over at the girls, cooks up nasty thoughts.

MITCH

I really don't want to rub one out tonight.

The guys laugh, Derrick nearly loses his food.

DERRICK

(food in mouth)

Ey, don't make me laugh while I got food in my mouth.

MITCH

... I really don't, though.

Gary breaks the wooden chopsticks.

GARY

Shit!

DERRICK

Here, let me get you a fork man.

Derrick sets his chopsticks down, prepares to stand up.

MITCH

Dee hold up.

DERRICK

What?

MITCH

While you're over there go talk to those girls. Spit some game at them in Korean.

DERRICK

What happened to it's late, I'm tired, so fuck it?

MITCH

I lied man, if you can hook that up, I'll call in tomorrow.

SU MEE (V.O. PRE-LAP)

(in Korean)

Teacher??

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

At the front of an empty classroom we see the backside of SU MEE, a high-school girl with long black hair and a skirt that is purposely rolled up at the waist to expose a Korean woman's best asset, her legs.

SU MEE (O.S.)

Derrick Teacher??

DERRICK (V.O.)

I know this looks bad, but this has never happened before... Well, maybe it has, but never to this degree.

Derrick has his head down on his desk, he's knocked out. Su Mee glances back over her shoulder at her long haired, rebellious boyfriend waiting.

SU MEE

(whispered)

What should I do?

Su Mee's boyfriend gestures for her to wake Derrick. Su Mee nudges Derrick on the arm, nothing. She tries again and again.

DERRICK (V.O.)

It usually never takes three nudges for me to wake up.

After the third pretty hard nudge, Derrick slowly opens his eyes, grimaces against the light.

DERRICK POV

We glimpse a faint, unfocused Su Mee looking down at us, waving her hand.

SU MEE

Teacher, did you sleep well?

Su Mee's boyfriend laughs.

Derrick raises his head, looks around at the empty classroom.

DERRICK

... What time is it?

SU MEE

What??

DERRICK
Time? **What time is it?**

SU MEE
Ah!

Su Mee pulls out her phone.

SU MEE (CONT'D)
3:45.

Derrick sighs, holds out his hand. Su Mee hands over her exam.

DERRICK
How was the test?
(off Su Mee's confused
look)
... Was the test difficult?

Su Mee is clueless to what Derrick is saying.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Was the test hard?

SU MEE
Ah! **No.**

DERRICK
(sighs)
Su Mee, you speak way too much
Korean in my class. Please try to
speak just a little more English,
okay?

Su Mee smiles, over exaggerates the 'OK' symbol with her hand, then runs over to her friends.

Derrick shakes his head at his students inability to take English seriously. Derrick then looks down at Su Mee's exam sheet, notices that not a single question has been answered. Instead there's a big smiley face scribbled across each page.

HALL -- LATER

Derrick walks down a long empty hall. His hands are in his pockets and he wears a thick coat with his backpack slung over one shoulder.

Outside the seasons first snow flakes have begun to fall. Opened windows let in Korea's cold arctic weather not to mention the afar off sounds of joyful children playing outside. But Derrick could care less about all this, because right now he is just about ready to collapse.

INT. KIMBAP HEAVEN -- *THIS MORNING AT 3:20 A.M.*

Derrick walks back over to the table with Gary's fork and a surprised look on his face.

MITCH

Well, what did they say?? Are they
down??

(rubs his hands together
excited)

Which one I got??

Derrick glances over his shoulder, catches two of the Korean girls eyeing him.

EXT. BUS STOP -- AFTERNOON

An extremely crowded green bus comes to a screeching halt. Mechanical doors open. Derrick scans his bus card and exits the bus.

SIDE WALK

Snow continues to fall. Derrick walks along a sidewalk, aimlessly grabbing the attention of the shop keepers and new mothers walking their children. He's seen these people a thousand times before, but still they are more fascinated by him, than the fresh layer of snow blanketing the ground.

DERRICK'S APARTMENT

Derrick arrives at his apartment, he can barely make it up the stairs on his own, but he manages. Derrick slides up the keypad cover, punches in his 4-digit pin, a tune sounds unlocking the door, allowing him to enter.

INT. VESTIBULE - APARTMENT -- *THIS MORNING AT 3:50 A.M.*

Derrick opens his door, surprised to see two of the three Korean girls from earlier, MINJI(22) and SARAH(23) standing outside his door.

DERRICK (V.O.)

Can't say this has happened before.

DERRICK

Hey. Come in.

The girls giggle, move further into Derrick's small apartment. Derrick breathes out, readies himself then shuts the door.

LIVING ROOM

Like two conjoined twins, the girls sit close together on the sofa.

DERRICK
**Would you ladies like something to
 drink?**

Minji looks over at Sarah. Sarah looks back at Minji. All they can do is blush.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (smiling)
What??

Minji whispers to Sarah.

MINJI
**He's cute and he speaks good
 Korean.**

Both girls put their hands on their cheeks which are beginning to turn rosy red.

DERRICK
 (smiling)
Did I miss something??

SARAH
 (in 'okay' English)
 My friend said she's impressed by
 how well you speak Korean.

DERRICK
 Thank you. Wow, your English
 pronunciation is really good.

Sarah blushes.

SARAH
 Thank you.

Minji nudges Sarah, whispers in her ear.

MINJI
**Speak Korean. You know I can't
 speak English.**

DERRICK
Minji, you can't speak any English?

Minji puts her thumb and index fingers together in a way that signify's --

MINJI
Just a little.

DERRICK
A little... **Well a little is better
than nothing, right?**

Derrick smiles. Minji nods her head in agreement.

A long awkward moment is had by all.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(beat)
**So, I gotta say, I'm surprised to
see both of you here.**

SARAH
(beat)
**That's because we are a package
deal.**

DERRICK (V.O.)
Did she just say...

Derrick chuckles, looks at the girls confused.

DERRICK
A package deal??

Minji smiles, tucks her long black hair behind her ear. Sarah smiles back, does the same. Derrick watches the girls intently, gets the feeling that they could be what he thinks they are...

Minji gradually leans in toward Sarah, whose tongue glides across her lips, moistening them. Derrick's eyes widen, the corners of his mouth curve up, his assumptions are coming true as we FADE OUT to the sound of seductive laughter.

DERRICK (V.O.)
And that was the extenuating
circumstances of my exhaustion.

INT. DARK BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The light from intense neon signage filters in through a row of windows. Outside, snow no longer falls from the dark sky.

Next to a bed where Derrick lies on his stomach in a deep slumber, is a night stand with a digital clock on top that reads 8:43.

Beside the digital clock, a cell phone lights up and begins to vibrate.

And it continues to vibrate as voice messages are not common practice in Asian culture. Eventually, Derrick can take no more, blindly feels for his phone and answers it.

DERRICK
 (groggy)
 (into phone)
 ... Hello?

Loud grinding, screeching and hissing is heard through the phone.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Damn man, I can hardly hear you,
 where you at??

INT. METRO -- NIGHT

Mitch sits wedged between two unhappy looking Korean business men with their work bags on the floor between their legs. At this late hour, they are just now beginning their commute home.

MITCH
 (into phone)
 I'm on the subway, hold up.

Mitch waits for the train to quiet.

MITCH (CONT'D)
 Yo, is that better?

INTERCUT:

DERRICK
 Na, but whatever, it's cool.

MITCH
 So, how come you don't answer your
 phone?

DERRICK
 How come?? Dawg, do you have any
 idea what time it is??

MITCH
 Yeah, it's almost nine.

Mitch looks up at a subway map and a green light indicating the trains current location.

MITCH (CONT'D)

I'm four stops away. My ETA is
looking like nine fifteen-ish.
Where you at?

END INTERCUT.

INT. BAR -- NIGHT

Soft music plays. Cigarette smoke lingers in the atmosphere like clouds. By the window, alone at a table, Mitch sips on a cocktail, checking his phone every ten seconds. Scattered around the murky establishment are Korean men enjoying themselves. Occasionally a woman dressed in black brings over more food and drink. We are at a Hostess Bar. An establishment where women are like old-school geishas.

Finally, in walks Derrick, looking a bit rejuvenated from his nap. He nods his heads at the KOREAN HOSTESSES behind the bar. The girls nod back. Keeping with custom goes a long way in a foreign country.

Derrick makes his way over to Mitch.

DERRICK

Yooo.

Derrick takes off his coat, takes a seat. Mitch looks salty.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

You good?? Why the long face?

MITCH

Because you're late. I've been
sitting here for over an hour
man...

Mitch takes another sip of his cocktail.

DERRICK

My bad...

MITCH

Damn right it's your bad.

DERRICK

Ey man, look today was a helluva
day, alright? I'm still trying to
figure out how I made it through.

MITCH

I'll tell you how, you slept
through it. What's wrong with you?
You sick or something?

DERRICK
Na man, just worn out.

Derrick yawns.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(off Mitch's leery look)
What??

Mitch takes a sip of his cocktail, continues looking at Derrick suspiciously.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(smiling)
What? Why are you looking at me
like that?

Mitch smiles, shakes his head.

MITCH
No reason, just looking...

DERRICK
Well stop. You're beginning to
freak me out.

Derrick glances over at the bar.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
So are we gonna do this or what?

Mitch finishes off his cocktail.

MITCH
Yeah, let's move over to the bar.

EXT. BAR -- LATER NIGHT

A black door swings open. Mitch is first to step out, then Derrick. It takes both men a little too long to wrap scarves around their necks, consequences of one too many drinks.

STREET

Derrick and Mitch walk down a dark quiet street toward a row of taxi's.

MITCH
(woozy)
Yo, Dee, you should write a fucking
book man. No better yet, a novel.
Yeah, a novel on how to get these
hoes naked.

DERRICK
(laughing)
A novel IS a book, stupid.

Mitch unsteadily runs into Derrick, puts his arm around his shoulder, yanks him in.

MITCH
... No, no, no listen.
(whispers into Derricks
ear)
Call me stupid again and I'll kill
ya.

Mitch and Derrick bursts into laughter.

MITCH (CONT'D)
But seriously man, how did you
learn to speak Korean? You gotta
teach me that shit.

DERRICK
C'mon Mitch, you know you always
give up after the first five
minutes.

MITCH
I'm serious this time, man. All
jokes aside. I'm tryin to be more
like you. You ain't like other
regular niggas, no homo. Regular
niggas can't even speak English.

DERRICK
You know how much I hate that word.

A taxi waits at the corner.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Ey, wait here a sec...

Derrick walks up to the passenger side window, leans over.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
**Sir, can you take my friend to
Itaewon?**

The Korean driver nods his head. Derrick opens the door.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Yo you got any cash on you?

Mitch leans in close to Derrick.

MITCH

Yeah yeah, listen. I appreciate what you did for me tonight. When I'm hitting that ass like this --

Mitch pounds his right hand into his upper thigh, thrusting his hips back and forwards in a sexual motion.

MITCH (CONT'D)

-- I'll be sure to think of you.

DERRICK

That's lovely, thank you. Now get in.

Mitch gets in the cab.

MITCH

You ain't coming?

DERRICK

Na man, I can still catch my bus.

SIDEWALK -- LATER

It seems the temperature has dropped by the way Derrick walks, hunched over, shoulders tense, hands buried in his pockets. Thirty yards up ahead the BUS STOP comes into view as light begins to reflect off street signs and play off of the back of Derricks head.

Derrick glances over his shoulder at a set of bright lights and the roar of a blue bus, marked 421, quickly approaching.

DERRICK

Shit!

Derrick must now run, and run he does. Derrick looks to his left as the bus screams by. Condensation on the windows obscures what looks to be an insane amount of people inside, standing room only.

BUS STOP

Fortunately for Derrick, a trim WOMAN(24) with long brown hair, waits for the same bus. Because of her the --

BUS

-- grinds to a screeching halt. Compressed air is released and mechanical doors open. The beautiful Korean woman steps inside, scans her bus card. Derrick smacks his hand against the bus's shell, yelling 'WAIT, WAIT' as he runs from the rear to the front, creating even more attention.

The BUS DRIVER, an older gentleman who looks like an institutionalized prisoner, eyes Derrick, who is now at the door, catching his breath.

DERRICK
Sir, are you going to Shinchon station?

The bus driver nods his head as he would to any Korean...

BUS DRIVER
Yes. Get in.

Derrick enters the stifling bus, squeezes through several people, finds space beside the brown haired woman and grabs a hold of a strap hanging from above.

Immediately all eyes focus in on Derrick, including those of an OLD RAISIN WOMAN sitting in one of the handicapped seats before him.

She smiles at Derrick, stares at him without even blinking her eyes, then pushes the red STOP BUTTON above her seat.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN
Sir, you can sit here.

Derrick tries to ignore the old woman, but she begins to pull herself up.

DERRICK
Ma'am, no, no, it's okay.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN
I'm getting off at the next station, it's okay. Please sit.

DERRICK
Ma'am, ma'am. Please sit back down. It's okay. Really! I've been sitting all day.

The old lady smiles, slowly leans back down in her seat.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN
You're a good man.

DERRICK
 (nods head)
Thank you.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN
And your Korean is good, too.

DERRICK

Thank you.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN

Learning Korean is not easy. You must be very smart.

Derrick smiles, modestly shakes his head no.

DERRICK

No, no, I'm not smart at all.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN

Are you American?

DERRICK

Yes.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN

Ah, America. President Obama is good, handsome!

DERRICK

(smiling)

Yes, many people think he is.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN

But you are more handsome.

Derrick manages to blush.

DERRICK

Thank you.

The old woman turns to the woman from earlier, holding onto the strap beside Derrick.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN

He's handsome, isn't he?

The young woman's face turns rosy red. The bus slows, proceeds to stop. The old woman holds out her hand for Derrick to take.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN (CONT'D)

A little help would you.

Derrick helps the old woman up.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Derrick smiles, nod his head.

OLD RAISIN WOMAN (CONT'D)
Get home safely.

DERRICK
Thank you. You, too.

The old woman exits. More people board the bus. Every card scanned ends in a beep.

Derrick looks at the brown haired woman, then at the vacant seat and gestures for her to sit. The woman smiles, graciously nods her head and takes the seat.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 She was so beautiful I swear I
 couldn't stop looking at her.

The bus sputters ahead, Derrick grabs a hold of the strap above unable to keep his eyes off of her.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 I'm not sure how we got started,
 but I know we spoke about
 everything... Her work, my work,
 her family, my family... we even
 shared our opinions on love.

MONTAGE:

Derrick holds out his hand. The woman turns, shakes it.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 I asked her was the old woman crazy
 or did she really think I was
 actually better looking than Obama.

The woman smiles, laughs, presses her hands against her reddening face.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 I think you already know how she
 responded.

The woman presses the stop bottom above the seat, gathers her things, prepares to get off.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 We had hit it off, at least that's
 the impression I was under. So when
 it came time for her to get off, I
 figured we would exchange numbers
 and continue what we started. But
 that's not what happened. Something
 was holding her back.

(MORE)

DERRICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 She felt what just transpired
 between us was too good to be true,
 and that maybe, just maybe it was
 best if we tested our good fortune.
 So she got off and put us in fate's
 hands.

DERRICK (PRE-LAP V.O.)
 That was months ago.

END MONTAGE.

INT. OPEN CLASS -- DAY

At the back of Derrick's classroom, Korean parents and teachers nod their heads, impressed at how anxious TWO TEAMS of students wait for their native teacher to finish tallying up the final scores on the board.

Derrick pauses, glances over his shoulder at his silent class.

DERRICK
 Wow! Can't believe you guys are
 actually quiet.

SU MEE
Teacher! Hurry!

Derrick looks at Su Mee regrettably.

DERRICK
 Oh no, Su Mee, you spoke Korean.
 The rules were no Korean at all...

Derrick hints at erasing a tally mark from the red team.

SU MEE
 (broken English)
 Teacher, please I'm sorry, No, No,
 No...

Parents and Korean teachers laugh. Derrick looks at the class.

DERRICK
 ... What do you guys think? Minus
 points or no problem??

STUDENTS
 NO PROBLEM! MINUS! NO PROBLEM!

DERRICK

Okay okay guys, quiet, quiet! Quiet guys, you're wasting your own time.

The class quiets. Derrick finishes tallying up the score.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

So, the red team finished with a total of forty four points and the blue team ended up with forty three points.

Members of the red team cheer and high five one another victorious.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

But hold on, wait a minute! Wait a minute guys, wait!

(waits for class to settle)

Since a member of the red team used Korean, which I said in the beginning was not allowed... I hate to do it, but I have to take away one point from the red team, which means we end in a tie. Both teams win!

The seventh period bell sounds, saving Derrick from the red teams' tsunami of disappointment about to crest.

Derrick holds out a basket with assorted candy inside.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Everyone can take two pieces.

Happy members of the blue team walk up to the front and grab their candy.

BLUE TEAM MEMBERS

Thank you handsome teacher!

DERRICK

(smiles, scoffs)

You're welcome. Bye guys...

However, students from the red team grab their sugary reward and sulk on their way out.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

Don't look so happy red team.

The lone shining star amongst the dejected red team is Su Mee.

Derrick smiles as Su Mee approaches.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
**Sorry Su Mee, you knew the rules. I
had to be fair.**

Su Mee nods her head.

SU MEE
It's okay.

DERRICK
Here, take three.

SU MEE
Really??

Derrick nods his head.

DERRICK
Only if you keep it a secret?

Su Mee slides her index finger across her lips, grabs her candy and leaves.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - SCHOOL -- LATE AFTERNOON

Despite the cold weather, a competitive game of soccer is being played on the school's soccer field.

ACROSS THE FIELD

We see Derrick exit through the schools main doors, talking on his phone.

DERRICK
(into phone)
Yo, what's up stranger?
(listening)
Leaving school.
(listening)
Na, not usually. I had open class
all day today so I had to stay
after.
(listening)
I think it went well.

Derrick walks toward the schools...

FRONT GATE

... reverently bows his head at the Korean security guard sitting in his security box.

DERRICK
 (into phone)
 Yeah, I'll be there. Eight thirty,
 right?

INT. BAR -- NIGHT

An analog clock hanging on a wall above the bar reads 9:05.

Mitch lowers his eyes, looks at the alluring KOREAN HOSTESS standing directly below the clock with her arms behind her back.

Mitch shakes his head.

MITCH
 Always late...

HOSTESS
Is your friend not coming?

MITCH
 (in Korean)
Friend?
 (in English)
 My friend?

HOSTESS
Yes.

MITCH
 Let me explain to you what a friend
 is...

The hostess looks up at...

DERRICK
 Were you planning on doing that in
 English or Korean...?

Derrick' finally arrived and takes a seat at the bar.

HOSTESS
Hello.

DERRICK
Hello.

MITCH

Dee, I swear to God dawg you have
no concept of time, do you?

DERRICK

I'm here, aren't I?

The hostess sets a coaster down in front of Derrick, along
with an ashtray.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(to Hostess)

Oh no, I don't smoke.

The hostess smiles, removes the coaster.

MITCH

Do me one favor will ya, if I
happen to die first don't be late
to my funeral. Aight?

DERRICK

Can't make any promises but I'll
try.

(to Hostess)

Can I have a Hoegaarden please.

(glances at Mitch's almost
empty beer)

Make it two.

The hostess nods her head, walks off.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

She's cute. Is she new??

MITCH

Hands off, this one's mine, aight??

DERRICK

Whoa... I'm just complimenting her,
chill...

Mitch takes another sip of his beer.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

What's gotten into you?

MITCH

I'll tell you what's gotten into
me...

EXT. BAR -- LATER

Derrick and Mitch are outside the bar, sitting curbside, chitchatting.

MITCH

I know you've been super busy n' all with "stuff", but it's not just me man, Gary feels the same way.

DERRICK

Yeah I know, man... I know. How is he by the way? Haven't heard from him in a while.

MITCH

He's good. Think he's gay, but he's good.

DERRICK

You think he's gay? Really??

MITCH

That or he's confused, I don't know.

DERRICK

Guess he could be. I mean, I've never seen him with a girl. Have you?

Mitch shakes his head...

MITCH

Nope.

... Reaches into his pocket, pulls out a wrinkled cartoon of cigarettes.

DERRICK

You smoking now?

MITCH

(suggestively said)
Gotta fill the void you created somehow.

Offers Derrick a cigarette.

DERRICK

Na, I'm good.

Mitch lights the cigarette, takes a long drag.

Derrick sighs, plays with a rock on the ground.

MITCH

I've been meaning to ask you, what ever happened to that girl you met on the bus?

Derrick freezes. Mitch takes another puff of his cigarette.

DERRICK

What girl?

MITCH

You know, the girl you were in love with. Figured ya'll two would be married by now.

DERRICK

Oh her... Yeah, uh, I don't know. I haven't seen her for a while.

MITCH

Werd? Why do you think that is?

DERRICK

Your guess is as good as mine.

MITCH

(smokes)

H'm...

Derrick looks up at the hostess who has just stepped outside.

HOSTESS

Oh, It's cold, cold!!

Mitch flicks his cigarette, stands and puts his arms around HIS girl.

MITCH

Here let me warm you up babe.

Derrick looks surprised.

DERRICK

(to Mitch)

You learning Korean now??

MITCH

A little. Olivia here is teaching me.

DERRICK

Wow, never thought I'd see the day.

MITCH

Yeah, I know, right.

(kisses Olivia on her
cheek)

Think I finally found one who knows
what she wants.

OLIVIA

What did you say?

MITCH

I said you're the best baby.

(to Derrick)

But yo Dee, we gotta get going. I
promised Olivia we'd take a trip
down south this weekend where it's
warmer.

DERRICK

(taken aback)

... Aight man.

Derrick and Mitch shakes hands, give each other 'bro' hugs.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(whispers in ear)

Yo what's the deal with you two?

MITCH

(whispers back)

Don't know yet...

They release.

MITCH (CONT'D)

I'll hit you up when we get back.

OLIVIA

Bye!

Derrick watches, waves as Mitch and Olivia walk off.

INT. BEDROOM - DERRICK'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Strong morning light begins to pour in through the row of
windows. As with every Saturday at this time, we hear the
bullhorn attached to a truck as it circles the neighborhood
requesting people's unwanted electronics.

The light begins to filter over toward the bed, slowly waking
Derrick who lies with Sarah and Minji. Derrick gingerly
removes himself from the bed, walks into the...

BATHROOM

... and closes the door. Derrick peers into the mirror. Deep, dark circles under his eyes tells us that he had a very long night.

LIVING ROOM

Derrick walks into his living room. Empty plastic bottles of HITE and CASS, two of Korea's most popular beers are on the floor. Not to mention DELIVERY which Derrick should have left outside his door last night.

Derrick disposes of the trash and sets last nights delivery outside to be picked up. He then pours himself a glass of water, grabs his laptop off the table and makes himself comfortable on the sofa.

Derrick opens his laptop, fingers a couple keys. His eyes dances around the screen as he learns about the young days recent happenings, when out of nowhere...

DERRICK
(grimacing)
... What??

Derrick's jaw slackens. He stares in disbelief at the --

COMPUTER SCREEN

Where the BROWN HAIREED WOMAN is displayed in a passport type photo with a caption under that reads: LONE SURVIVOR WAKES AFTER THREE MONTH COMA.

EXT. SEOUL -- DAY

A birds eye view of a metropolitan city situated amongst mountains: Apartment blocks, sky scrapers, towers... the BANPO bridge traversing the long and beautiful South River.

INT. TAXI -- BANPO BRIDGE

Korean folk music plays low as the porky head of a Buddha doll, affixed to a dashboard, bobbles at every bump on the road.

The DRIVER, a cordial man with long hair, glances through the rearview mirror at Derrick in the backseat, gazing out the window, consumed by thought.

TAXI DRIVER
A penny for your thoughts?

Derrick glances up front at the driver, smiles, breathes out heavily.

DERRICK

Sir, if I gave you a penny for every thought I am thinking right now, you would be a very rich man.

The taxi driver looks into the rearview mirror, smiles.

TAXI DRIVER

That many, huh?

DERRICK

... Yeah.

For a moment no words are exchanged as the driver steers with both hands.

TAXI DRIVER

A man wiser than me once said, "Our thoughts are most important. All that we are is the result of what we have thought."

(glances into rearview mirror)

Do you know who that man was?

DERRICK

No, I don't.

TAXI DRIVER

... Buddha.

DERRICK

Think I've heard of him...

The taxi driver smiles as does Derrick.

TAXI DRIVER

So what awaits you at the hospital?

Derrick directs his attention back out through the window.

DERRICK

... I don't know.

DERRICK (PRE-LAP V.O.) (CONT'D)

Thank you.

EXT. TAXI - UNIVERSITY MEDICAL HOSPITAL CAMPUS -- LATER

Derrick exits the taxi and shuts the door. He waves the kind driver off, turns and beholds an imposing structure with the words, SEVERANCE HOSPITAL in bold print across the top.

INT. LOBBY - HOSPITAL

Derrick enters an active hospital, filled with doctors, nurses and weary looking Koreans wearing masks over their faces. Though we see other foreigners around, Derrick is the lone black skinned foreigner and thus attracts the usual attention as he walks toward a...

SERVICE COUNTER

A young female ATTENDANT see Derrick approaching, bows and offers her assistance.

ATTENDANT

Hello.

There's a bit of uncertainty in the tone of Derrick's voice.

DERRICK

Hi... uh, I'm here to see a patient.

ATTENDANT

Okay. What's the patients name?

DERRICK

Jeong Won.

JEONG WON (PRE-LAP V.O.)

Derrick.

INT. SEDAN - NIGHT -- MONTHS AGO

Our beautiful brown haired JEONG WON sits in the backseat, sandwiched between two of her interrogating FEMALE FRIENDS.

FEMALE FRIEND #1

What's his name??

JEONG WON

(English pronunciation)
Derrick.

FEMALE FRIEND #1

(Korean pronunciation)
Dae-rrick??

Seated up front are two of Jeong Won's male friends who have trouble holding back their laughter.

FEMALE FRIEND #2

No, you're saying it wrong. There's no A sound, only a weak E sound.

Like this, D-e-r-r-i-c-k.

(to Jeong Won)

Am I right?

Jeong won laughs, nods her head.

JEONG WON

Yes.

FEMALE FRIEND #2

I knew I should have been an English teacher!

Everyone laughs.

FEMALE FRIEND #2 (CONT'D)

What??... I used to be really good at English.

FEMALE FRIEND #1

(to Jeong Won)

Anyway, so this Derrick person, you met him on the bus after I left?

Jeong Won smiles reminiscing on how her and Derrick met.

JEONG WON

We sort of fell into each other. This ajumma said Derrick was better looking than Obama and asked for my opinion.

FEMALE FRIEND #1

Wait a second. You mean the American president Obama??

JEONG WON

Yeah.

Suddenly the entire car becomes silent. Jeong Won looks around at everyone wondering what's up.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

What??

FEMALE FRIEND #1

(to Jeong Won)

You do know Obama's black, right?

JEONG WON

**Of course I know he's black. What
does that have to do with anythi...**

And it happens so fast, we have to slow it down. The force of the impact is felt like a bomb. Bodies are tossed around like rag dolls. Glass, blood, saliva, even chopped hair flies through the air. Those on the drivers side never stood a chance as they absorbed the brunt of the impact. The force of the collision sucked those on the passengers side out the window like a vacuum. After being completely blind sided by a SEMI which ran through a red light, Jeong Won is the lone survivor.

INT. CORRIDOR - HOSPITAL -- PRESENT DAY

Derrick saunters down the long white corridor, smiling cordially at the hospital personnel while peeking inside room after room. Though most rooms are empty, some are filled with balloons, flowers and the concerned relatives of recouping patients.

The end of the hall draws near and still no Jeong Won.

Childlike laughter leads to a red ball bouncing out from one of the rooms, followed by a LITTLE GIRL chasing after. The little girl grabs the ball with both hands. She then looks up at Derrick with innocent, nervous eyes and waves. As Derrick smiles and waves back, an entire Korean family, several generations of kin, emerge from the room.

First to filter out are several YOUNG CHILDREN. Followed by an ELDERLY WOMAN who uses a cane and the arm of a MAN dressed in a suit to crawl out.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I was not prepared for what came
out next.

Head tilted down, partially bandaged up, a once beautiful face is now the color of bruised meat. Wheeled out in a wheel chair by her weary MOTHER, Jeong Won is lucky to be alive.

DERRICK (V.O.)

If it weren't for her beautiful
brown hair, I wouldn't have
recognize her.

Derrick steps to the side, horrified as the family proceeds down the hall.

INT. HOTEL ROOM -- LATER DAY

Mitch and Olivia lie in bed with their laptop, on a Skype call with Derrick.

MITCH

Yo, my bad for not getting back to you sooner. Olivia and I got back to the hotel pretty late last night.

COMPUTER SCREEN

Derrick is seen sitting on the sofa at his apartment with a blank look on his face.

INTERCUT:

MITCH

Everything alright?

DERRICK

Na man, I, uh...

Mitch looks genuinely concerned.

MITCH

What is it man? Tell me.

DERRICK

(breathes out heavily)
Remember you asked me about that girl, the one I met on the bus a few months back?

MITCH

Yeah, that was like what, two days ago, right?

DERRICK

Oh, yeah... I guess it was. Anyway, this morning man I was on my computer, checking the news and I saw her.

MITCH

Saw who??

DERRICK

The girl...

MITCH

What was she doing on the news??

All of a sudden Olivia's facial expression turns sour.

DERRICK

Olivia, what's wrong? What is it?

Olivia slowly gathers her thoughts before speaking.

OLIVIA

This morning when I checked my phone I had a message from a friend. The message was about this girl who she went to church with that was in a terrible car accident a few months ago. She said everyone in the car died, except for the girl but that she had fallen into a coma and just woke up today.

(holds up a picture on her phone)

This is her, isn't it?

CUT TO:

EXT. ACCIDENT -- MONTHS AGO

Sixty feet away from a smoking, unscathed SEMI is a ball of twisted metal. A Korean OFFICER looks inside at what's left of the car and pukes at whatever it is he just saw.

DERRICK (V.O.)

In the words of one medical examiner and I quote, "in my 30 year career, never have I seen bodies so mangled beyond recognition. For anyone to still have a beating heart, let alone a cognitive brain is nothing short of a miracle. You are not supposed to walk away from an accident like this."

As the angle widens, we begin to see fire trucks, ambulances and police sedans. Flares sparkling in the dark night block off the entire intersection as people have begun to crowd around in sheer disbelief at what their eyes are witnessing.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY -- MONTHS LATER

Derrick sits among a massive Korean congregation listening to a sermon being delivered by the same MAN we saw earlier at the hospital.

DERRICK (V.O.)

(beat)

As the son of black parents, I grew up in church. And I mean literally grew up. So much that when I was old enough to make decisions of my own, I decided I had enough.

EXT. CHURCH -- DAY

The sun always shines brightest on Sundays.

Church has ended, it's doors are now wide open, allowing throngs of well dressed people to filter out.

ACROSS THE STREET

Derrick uses his hand as a visor against the sun, scanning each and every person that steps out, until it is Jeong Won who steps out.

DERRICK (V.O.)

At the very least, it was nice to be back in church, even if it was for the wrong reasons.

She is no longer confined to a wheelchair and has regained her natural color. At her side is the pastor who also happens to be her FATHER.

People crowd around Jeong Won, but she seems uncomfortable and disoriented. Eventually she is escorted off by her father.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DERRICK'S APARTMENT -- LATER DAY

Back at the apartment, Olivia sits on the floor in Mitch's arms. Gary's back in the picture and is taking up the entire sofa. Derrick enters the living room holding several beers.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I told Mitch something wasn't right with Jeong Won and that I needed to talk with him. So he came over with Olivia and took the liberty of hitting up Gary, too.

The doorbell rings.

DERRICK

Damn, that was quick. I just ordered.

OLIVIA
Because this is Korea. I'll get it.

DERRICK
Thanks Olivia.

Olivia jumps up, walks toward the door.

Derrick hands the guys a beer, takes a seat on the floor beside Mitch.

MITCH
 (to Derrick)
 Did you go?

Derrick nods his head yes.

MITCH (CONT'D)
 Well, how'd it go?

Olivia opens the door...

DERRICK (V.O.)
 Turns out, we were right. Gary was gay.

OLIVIA
 Hello.

Olivia welcomes in TOM, the fare-skinned feminine partner of Gary. Mitch and Derrick have incredulous looks on their faces.

MITCH
 ... Holy shit...

Gary stands to his feet, walks over and hugs Tom.

GARY
 You came early.

TOM
 Only a few students showed up so I was able to leave early.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 Thank God they didn't kiss. I have nothing against gay people being gay, but gay people kissing is totally different.

GARY
 Everyone, I would like you to meet my boyfriend Tom.

Derrick and Mitch offer up short waves.

GARY (CONT'D)
 (off their short waves)
 Oh, don't act like you guys didn't know.

DERRICK
 (to Mitch)
 I honestly didn't know. Did you?

MITCH
 Know what?

GARY
 That I was gay.

MITCH
 (to Gary)
 I knew you were happy and if you're happy, you can be gay, right?...

Derrick snickers first, then Mitch and Olivia. Before we know it, everyone is laughing.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DERRICK'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Tom and Gary now share the sofa together. Over drinks and pizza, everyone is engaged in conversation and laughter.

MITCH
 Wait!! Hold on, hold on. You thought Dee was gay?? What??

Gary smiles, nods his head.

GARY
 I did, I really did.
 (to Derrick)
 You kind of have that gay-ish look to you Dee.

Olivia laughs, nods her head in agreement.

OLIVIA
 (to Derrick)
Yeah, you do a little.

DERRICK
 I don't even know what a gay look looks like...

Derrick looks around the room for answers.

MITCH
Like you, obviously.

Derrick gives Mitch the middle finger.

TOM
(to Derrick)
If I may, what I think Gary is trying to say is, you possess a level of gentleness that most men don't.

MITCH
Shit!

Derrick gives Tom a 'fist pound'.

DERRICK
Thanks Tom. Good lookin out my man.

Mitch starts to say something...

MITCH
Actually he's...

... but thinks better of it.

MITCH (CONT'D)
Nevermind.

Gary interjects.

GARY
(to Derrick)
Anyway, I want to hear about this mysterious girl from the bus. How's that going? I was hoping to meet her tonight.

For a prolonged beat the room grows awkwardly silent. Gary looks around, but no one knows what to say.

GARY (CONT'D)
What?? What did I say?

OLIVIA
I'm still hungry. Tom are you hungry?

TOM
Famished.

OLIVIA

Let's go!

(to Mitch)

We'll be back. You want anything?

Mitch shakes his head no. The three friends watch as Tom and Olivia put on their coats and exit the apartment.

Gary turns to Mitch and Derrick.

GARY

Someone tell me something? What's going on?

INT. OFFICE - ADVERTISING AGENCY -- DAY

From above we see a maze formed by vacant cubicles. It's lunch time and aside from the few remaining...

STRAGGLERS

... hunched over in their office chairs, watching their favorite shows on their computer screens, the office is rather peaceful.

DERRICK (V.O.)

Gary told us that Tom is addicted to some drama called the *Shining Inheritance* and that one of the main characters suffers from a condition called Retrograde Amnesia.

JEONG WON'S CUBICLE

We hear pages turn. Yellow sticky notes reminding a stressed out Jeong Won of what she does for a living are pasted on all three walls of her cubicle.

DERRICK (V.O.)

It's basically a condition in which a person can't recall stored memories. Depending on the severity, it can last for a few weeks, months or even years.

The angle widens to an open book on the basics of marketing, read by Jeong Won.

SUPERVISOR (O.S.)

Jeong Won.

Jeong Won looks up at her supervisor TAE GYUN(28) a handsome, well dressed Korean man, leaning over her cubicle.

TAE GYUN
Have you eaten lunch yet?

JEONG WON
 (sighs)
**No, I don't have time. I really
 need to learn this.**

Tae Gyun smiles.

TAE GYUN
You shouldn't stress.

JEONG WON
**Easy for you to say. Your job is
 safe.**

TAE GYUN
**Jeong Won, no one is irreplaceable.
 Not even me.**
 (short beat)
**Everyone here knows what you are
 capable of. They also know it's a
 miracle that you are even here.
 It's going to take some time
 getting back to where you were.**

Tae Gyun smiles. Jeong Won flips through several pages in her book, shakes her head.

JEONG WON
Was I ever any good at this?

TAE GYUN
... You want the truth?

The truth can hurt, but Jeong Won nods her head yes anyway.

TAE GYUN (CONT'D)
You were amazing and still are.
 (short beat)
**So stop neglecting your health and
 come have lunch with me.**
 (off Jeong Won's
 reluctance)
I won't take no for an answer.

INT. TABLE - RESTAURANT -- DAY

An apron is draped over Tae Gyun's suit as he stirs a simmering pan of Shabu-Shabu, a popular Japanese dish. Tae Gyun looks up across the table at Jeong Won, pensively observing the busy restaurant with curiosity.

TAE GYUN

Jeong Won?

(waiting beat)

Jeong Won?

Jeong Won brings her attention to Tae Gyun.

JEONG WON

Huh, yes?

Tae Gyun looks fixedly at Jeong Won, smiles.

TAE GYUN

(beat)

Pass me your bowl.

Jeong Won hands over her bowl.

JEONG WON

... Tae Gyun, have we been here before?

TAE GYUN

I don't know, have we?

JEONG WON

It feels familiar, I just can't seem to figure out why. There's something about this place, though.

Tae Gyun passes Jeong Won her bowl full of food, reaches inside his coat.

TAE GYUN

I have something for you. It's not much, but I think you're ready for it now.

Tae Gyun removes an envelope from his coat pocket, hands it to Jeong Won.

JEONG WON

What is this?

TAE GYUN

Open it.

Jeong Won opens the envelope, inside there's a card. Jeong Won takes out the card, opens it and finds that there is a PHOTO inside. Jeong Won studies the photo, furrows her brow. She begins to connect what she sees with where she is at now.

JEONG WON

When was this taken?

TABLE - RESTAURANT - NIGHT -- 1 YEAR AGO

STAFF from the advertising agency occupy tables that have been grouped together. There's pictures being taken, laughter, loud voices and enough bottles of liquor present to inebriate an army. We are at a company wide get-together otherwise known as a *Hweshik*, led by the CEO, a 68 year old, frail Korean man.

Tae Gyun is seated beside the CEO and fills his bosses shot glass with more alcohol.

CEO
(to Tae Gyun)
That's enough.

The CEO then takes the bottle of *Soju* from Tae Gyun and proceeds to fill Tae Gyun's glass. The filling of ones own glass is against Korean tradition.

TAE GYUN
(bows head)
Thank you.

The CEO stands to his feet, proudly looks at his workforce, young and old. Among them is Jeong Won. He clears his throat.

CEO
Everyone.

The group quiets and directs their attention to their CEO.

CEO (CONT'D)
I'm afraid if I don't return home soon, my wife will accuse me of lewd behavior.

The group laughs.

CEO (CONT'D)
But before I depart, I want to say how proud I am of you all, those well established and those still wet behind the ears.
(beat)
People often ask how I got started and what special steps I took that allowed me to build a successful company from nothing.

Every eye is fixed on the CEO.

CEO (CONT'D)

**But how Mr. Gyun, how were you able
do it, they ask... You know what I
say to them?**

(short beat)

**I say, the exact same way you fall
in love, that's how.**

Tae Gyun smiles at Jeong Won.

CEO (CONT'D)

**You don't seek out love, it finds
you and if it's true, you fall into
it. The same way I did with this
company. Of course there will be
hardships along the way, but love
is a continuous, eternal feeling
with many faces.**

Everyone smiles and applauds. Some of the old-timers become teary-eyed after hearing the CEO's wise words.

The CEO takes his glass in his hand, holds it up high. All follow suit.

CEO (CONT'D)

**To finding love however it may
look.**

EXT. RESTAURANT - *LATER NIGHT -- SAME*

The staff crowds around outside. In the bg, behind steamy windows, Tae Gyun is at the register taking care of the bill.

CO-WORKER (O.S.)

**His fathers speech was a bit
dramatic, don't you think?**

Jeong Won turns to her CO-WORKER friend. A 27-year old female who is watching Tae Gyun inside.

JEONG WON

**Why do you say that? I thought it
was nice.**

CO-WORKER

(short beat)

**Between you and I, Mr. Gyun was
diagnosed with colon cancer several
months ago.**

JEONG WON

That's horrible.

CO-WORKER

**What's even more worse is not being
able to meet your grand children.**

Tae Gyun folds the receipt, pushes on the glass door and steps outside.

TAE GYUN

(to everyone)

**Does everyone have a way of getting
home?**

Everyone nods their heads, yes. Tae Gyun eyes Jeong Won.

TAE GYUN (CONT'D)

And you Jeong Won?

JEONG WON

**Yes, Na Gyeong and I will take the
bus.**

Tae Gyun smiles.

TAE GYUN

Okay...

(to everyone)

Then I will see everyone tomorrow.

BUS STOP -- LATER

Jeong Won and Na Gyeong wait shivering with their arms interlocked.

NA GYEONG

**But you'll never have to worry
about money.**

Jeong Won smiles at Na Gyeong, shakes her head.

JEONG WON

**Is that all you care about is
money?**

NA GYEONG

**No, but let's be honest, money is a
big part of any relationship.**

JEONG WON

**Yeah it is, but so is love... And I
want love to find me just like Mr.
Gyun said.**

Na Gyeong looks down the road at a BUS approaching.

NA GYEONG

I think that's me. Are you going to be okay waiting by yourself?

JEONG WON

Yeah, my bus should be here any minute.

NA GYEONG

Okay. I'll see you tomorrow.

JEONG WON

Bye.

Na Gyeong's BUS grinds to a screeching halt. Na Gyeong boards the bus, scans her card. Both girls wave bye to each other as the bus speeds off.

Meanwhile at a...

CURBSIDE

... Not too far away, a TAXI drives off with a drunken Mitch inside, only to reveal Derrick, waving bye.

No this is not dejavu, we are reliving how both Jeong Won and Derrick seemingly fell INTO love.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PLATFORM - METRO - PRESENT -- MORNING

Derrick weaves through the typical morning mob of sleepy students, weary business men and women, both young and old, all waiting for the same incoming train.

DERRICK (V.O.)

What we have here is a typical morning where roughly twenty five million people wait for the same train at the same time.

He finds his place in line, checks his phone and breathes out heavily. As usual he is going to be late.

Derrick looks to his left at the ridiculous amount of people who will all somehow find a way to squeeze onto the train.

An ANNOUNCEMENT sounds. Derrick looks up at the digital display above and misses Jeong Won, who has just stepped into his previous line of sight.

ANNOUNCEMENT FEMALE VOICE
 (in Korean and English)
 The train bound for Chyeongyangni
 is now approaching. Please wait
 behind the yellow line.

The train screeches to a halt. Glass doors slide open. People literally pour out like gushing water, pushing, shoving, all in a rush.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 And this mass exodus right here
 represents the other twenty five
 million, all accounted for.

Derrick wedges himself into the train, apologizes for pushing a lady.

DERRICK
Sorry.

The doors close. It's cramped, but not as cramped as it is...

TWO SUBWAY CARS DOWN

... For Jeong Won whose face looks like a flattened fly against a window.

CHYEONGYANGNI STATION -- LATER

The grueling commute has ended and the trains doors open, unleashing swarms of impatient people that race toward the...

STAIRS

Jeong Won reaches the stairs and carefully begins her ascent in high heels. Derrick is directly behind her, but neither one realizes.

SCANNERS

Long lines quickly move forward as we hear nonstop beeping and chatter. Derrick waits behind Jeong Won, watching her dig through her purse, most likely looking for her transportation card.

Like time, the line continues to move and still Jeong Won has yet to locate her card. Jeong Won scoots aside, her head still buried in her purse and allows Derrick to move forward and scan his card. The scanner beeps, Derrick takes a few steps forward beyond the scanners, but then hesitates with a look of confusion and possibility on his face.

Derrick turns around, notices Jeong Won's long brown beautiful hair.

DERRICK (V.O.)
It can't be.

DERRICK
Jeong Won??

Jeong Won looks up at a slack jawed Derrick.

DERRICK (V.O.)
Shit, it is.

JEONG WON
Yes??

Derrick smiles, gazes fixedly at Jeong Won.

DERRICK (V.O.)
Don't just stare at her, say something. But don't ask her...

DERRICK
Do you remember me?

DERRICK (V.O.)
... If she remembers you.

JEONG WON
Do I know you?

Desperate to refresh her memory, Derrick dumps a whole lot of information on Jeong Won.

DERRICK
Yeah, yeah you do. We met a long time ago on the bus. The blue bus, number 421, remember?

Jeong Won looks at Derrick completely lost, shakes her head.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
There was an old lady, she thought I was better looking than Obama, then asked for your opinion, but all you did was blush... Do you remember any of that?

JEONG WON
I'm sorry, I don't know who you are, but I have to go. I'm late for work.

Jeong Won digs back in her purse.

DERRICK
But it's me.

JEONG WON
I don't know you.

Finally Jeong Won finds her card, quickly scans it and scurries passed Derrick.

Derrick watches as she passes by...

DERRICK (V.O.)
 (under breath)
 Yeah you do...

We lose Jeong Won in a crowd of people. Derrick breathes out heavily. Perhaps Mitch was right about getting used to the bold stares, because all eyes are on Derrick and he could give a shit.

INT. OFFICE -- ADVERTISING AGENCY

Jeong Won enters the office a bit flustered, not to mention late. As she passes through she greets each of her colleagues. Eventually she arrives at her...

CUBICLE

... and sets her purse on the floor beneath her desk. She removes her coat, flops down in her chair and turns on her computer.

JEONG WON
 (to self)
... That man was crazy...

While waiting for the computer to boot up, Jeong Won glances at all the sticky notes on her cubicle walls, doubtful if she will ever figure things out.

KOREAN MAN (O.S.)
Sure is a lot to figure out.

Jeong Won glances to her right at a MALE COLLEAGUE who has just wheeled himself over in his chair.

JEONG WON
 (nods her head)
Good morning.

KOREAN MAN
 (nods his head)
Good morning.

Jeong Won sighs, has a moment with the sticky notes.

JEONG WON
I wish Na Gyeong were here.

KOREAN MAN
... Who?

JEONG WON
**Na Gyeong. She used to help me out
 with this stuff all the time. It
 came so natural to her.**

The look on the face of the Korean man says it all.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE -- LATER DAY

Partially opened blinds allow muted light to trickle in a clean office. Bilateral sounds play softly as Jeong Won lies supine on a medical bed. Seated beside Jeong Won is DOCTOR KIM(56) a male specialist in Age Regression.

DOCTOR KIM
**Jeong Won, I want you to raise your
 right arm straight up above your
 head.**

Jeong Won slowly raises her arm.

DOCTOR KIM (CONT'D)
Good. Now close your eyes...

Jeong Won does as she is told.

DOCTOR KIM (CONT'D)
**Begin breathing deeply and
 slowly...**

Doctor Kim exhales deeply.

DOCTOR KIM (CONT'D)
**That's it. Good. Before you let go
 completely, listen to everything I
 say. It will happen naturally like
 a dream. You will lie down into
 your subconscious just as you lie
 down on a soft, warm bed.**

(MORE)

DOCTOR KIM (CONT'D)

But you will have conscious control over everything so there is no need to be afraid. Keep breathing slowly... In and out... in and out.

Jeong Won breathes slowly.

DOCTOR KIM (CONT'D)

By now the muscles around your eyes are beginning to relax, so much that you forget they even existed. You are surrounded by peace and stillness...

Jeong Won's arm begins to fall.

DOCTOR KIM (CONT'D)

At this point nothing matters except the activities of your subconscious mind. You don't notice but your breathing has changed. Your heart beat has softened and you are revealing signs that indicate you are beginning to drift into a hypnotic trance...

Jeong Won's arm drops, taking us...

BACK TO:

INT. BUS 421 - MOVING -- *THAT NIGHT*

Derrick looks at Jeong Won and the vacant seat.

DERRICK

Please sit down.

JEONG WON

(nods head)

Thank you.

Jeong Won takes the seat. The bus sputters ahead. Derrick grabs a hold of the strap above, unable to keep his eyes off of Jeong Won.

Jeong Won yawns. Derrick jumps on the opportunity to initiate conversation.

DERRICK

You do know those are contagious, don't you?

Jeong Won smiles, still yawning, it's a big one.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Wow, that was the biggest yawn I've ever witnessed.

Derrick smiles. Jeong Won chuckles.

JEONG WON

Sorry.

DERRICK

Don't be, today was a long day for me, too.

Derrick holds out his hand.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

I'm Derrick by the way.

Jeong Won looks up at Derrick, hesitates before shaking his hand.

JEONG WON

Jeong Won.

DERRICK

Nice to meet you Jeong Won.

INT. BEDROOM - JEONG WON'S HOME -- *LATER NIGHT*

Jeong Won lies in her bed whispering on the phone, giddy.

JEONG WON

(into phone)

No not yet. I told him about what Mr. Gyun said and that if what happened tonight between us was true, then fate would allow us to see each other again.

(listening)

Are you laughing??

(listening)

Yes you are! It's not funny! He seemed really genuine.

(listening)

Whatever, I don't know why I even tell you these things. I'll see you tomorrow, bye!

Jeong Won abruptly ends the call, turns out her light and begins to fall asleep.

FADE OUT.

Radio chatter and interference is audible as we start to glimpse faint, unfocused images of flashing lights.
 Superimpose: **Next night.**

FADE IN to find:

EXT. SITE OF THE ACCIDENT - *NEXT NIGHT*

A Korean officer walks away from the smoking SEMI over toward the ball of twisted metal that used to be a KIA sedan.

The officer flashes a light inside through one of the large human sized holes in the window of the...

SEDAN

... and beholds a grotesque scene composed of blood and mangled bodies. Among them is Na Gyeong.

The officer turns away, regurgitates his dinner. But we stay inside the sedan and begin to see subtle movement.

INT. HOSPITAL -- *LATER NIGHT*

An older, shorter replica of Jeong Won, that person being her MOTHER(47) runs in through sliding glass doors, across the lobby, calling out...

MOTHER

Jeong Won! Pak Jeong Won! Where is my daughter??

There's panic in her face and fear in her eyes. Trailing close behind is Jeong Won's FATHER(49). They are immediately met by DOCTOR CHOI(42).

DOCTOR CHOI (V.O.)

Good evening, I am Dr. Choi, the neuropsychologist caring for Jeong Won at this time.

MOTHER

Where is she??

DOCTOR CHOI

She's been admitted into the ICU. She is breathing and relatively stable, which is a miracle considering...

FATHER

Relatively??

DOCTOR CHOI

Yes. Jeong Won sustained severe traumatic brain injury which has left her in a coma.

MOTHER

A coma?

DOCTOR CHOI

(to mother)

That is correct. At this moment she is unconscious and has yet to responded to any stimulus.

MOTHER

Oh God...

The mother crumbles, drops her head in her husbands chest.

FATHER

When do you think our daughter will become responsive?

DOCTOR CHOI

In my experience, most comas do not last more than a few weeks. Recovery is gradual with patients becoming more aware over time.

FATHER

Perhaps you didn't hear me clearly doctor. When do YOU believe our daughter will wake up?

Dr. Choi breathes out heavily.

DOCTOR CHOI

(spoken slowly)

It is difficult to say if and when a person will wake from a coma. The truth of the matter is, sometimes they don't...

FADE OUT.

We glimpse, unfocused bright light that crescendos as EYELIDS open to:

INT. PATIENT ROOM - HOSPITAL - DAY -- MONTHS LATER

Get-well balloons with little helium cling to white washed walls. On a window sill, there is a vase full of colorful flowers. It's raining outside.

DERRICK (V.O.)

Study's have shown that 90 percent of the time patients don't wake up. Especially after being in what doctors call a persistent vegetative state. But she did, on a Wednesday morning at 3 a.m.

A continuous beeping sound is heard. Beside the bed, a monitor shows a green line jump with every beat of Jeong Won's STRONG heart.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I'm sure you've heard about all the symbolic references attached to 3 a.m. For instance some believe it was at this hour that Jesus gave his life for the world making this time the hour when the spirit realm is closest to our own realm. The Jews see this hour as the fourth watch or crunch time for all on earth. Others like to attach demonic symbolism to explain why we often wake up at 3 a.m., whereas I believe it was Jeong Won's second miracle that woke her up.

From above we glimpse Jeong Won in her entirety, lying supine, completely mummified in her...

NIGHTMARE -- PRESENT NIGHT

Jeong Won shoots straight up in bed, covered in sweat and breathing heavily. She looks around for a sense of where she is, realizes this is the present and that she is safe at home. She then releases a sigh of relief, lies back down and curls on her side.

As the angle slowly widens, a DIGITAL CLOCK on a night stand comes into view... It is 3 a.m.

WE HOLD ON:

The same digital clock as time begins to accelerate, turning hours into seconds and night into day.

Morning light steadily intensifies, wafting us back over toward Jeong Won who is now just beginning to wake.

EXT. INTERSECTION -- DAY

Below a cloudless blue sky is a clear intersection. Jeong Won's father's church looms large in the distance.

MITCH (O.S.)
 Babe, there are no cars, let's just
 cross now...

Hands interlocked, standing at the corner with other Korean
 church goers are Mitch and Olivia.

OLIVIA
No! It's illegal.

MITCH
 Huh?

OLIVIA
 Illegal!

MITCH
 Illegal??

The traffic signal changes.

OLIVIA
Just come on!

We follow the crowd across the street over toward the church,
 FOCUS IN on a RING on Olivia's finger.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 Mitch and Olivia were getting very
 serious, like saving for an
 engagement ring kind of
 seriousness, so I told Mitch that
 he could better his Korean, not to
 mention himself in preparation for
 his future with Olivia, if he came
 to church.

INT. ATRIUM - CHURCH -- SAME

The doors to the lavish church are open. A MALE USHER bows.

MALE USHER
Welcome.

OLIVIA
Hello.

MITCH
Hello.

He hands Olivia the Sunday bulletin.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I've been attending Jeong Won's fathers church for quite some time now and before you think what I'm pretty sure you are already thinking, let me say that, I am here for righteous reasons only. To better myself just like Mitch. I no longer hold onto the fantastical notion of Jeong Won and I ever becoming anything.

Mitch and Olivia continue walking through the...

ATRIUM

... to a second set of doors.

MITCH

It's kind of quiet, isn't it?

OLIVIA

Yeah, a little.

Mitch opens the door to a...

NAVE

... chock-full of closed-mouthed people.

MITCH

Damn, this ain't a church, this is a cult.

Olivia looks at Mitch sharply.

MITCH (CONT'D)

(whispers)

... I'm joking.

Olivia slowly scans the large congregation...

OLIVIA

I can't see him. Did he tell you where he'd be sitting?

... as does Mitch.

MITCH

(whispers)

... Uh-uh but he's black, so just look for a person with no one sitting next to them.

Olivia laughs, nudges Mitch. It's this playful personality that has won her heart.

MITCH (CONT'D)
Ah, I see him. There.

Mitch points at Derrick sitting alone in one of the front pews.

All eyes converge on the sight of something so nontraditional in Olivia and Mitch walking together down the aisle toward the...

THIRD PEW FROM THE ALTER

Mitch and Olivia slide down the pew and sit beside Derrick.

Mitch leans in toward Derrick.

MITCH
 (whispered)
 Shit Dee, could you have possibly sat any closer?

DERRICK
 Shh! We're in church man!

MITCH
 No one in here understands what we're saying.

DERRICK
 God does!

Mitch looks up at the alter. Sitting behind the pastor is Jeong Won and what appears to be her extended family.

Mitch leans in again toward Derrick.

MITCH
 Yo, isn't that your girl?

DERRICK
 She's not my girl.

MITCH
 Yeah she is.

DERRICK
 Are you ever gonna shut up?

MITCH
 You know what she is doing up there?

DERRICK

No I don't...
 (eyes Mitch seriously)
 ... cause she's not my girl.

MITCH

Whatever.

AT THE ALTER

... a deep sadness wells in the eyes of Jeong Won's father, as he looks to a congregation patiently waiting for him to begin service.

MITCH

Dude doesn't look so good.

But service doesn't begin, instead the pastor closes his bible. A chatter picks up as tears start to pour out from his watery eyes.

A concerned USHER walks over to the pastor, but is sent away.

Olivia glances over at Derrick curious as to...

OLIVIA

What's going on??

Derrick shrugs his shoulders as the pastor clears his throat, grabs the microphone and sighs.

PASTOR

... My apologies. You are probably wondering what's going on... Every Sunday I read from the pages of this beautiful book...

(holds up bible)

... yet today, I've decided to close it.

(glances behind)

As you can see, I have my family up here with me. And judging by the way we look you'd think something were wrong. But on the contrary, all is right again in the world because of the miracle that we witnessed this morning.

BATHROOM -- LATER

Derrick and Mitch stand before two urinals, relieving themselves in silence.

Mitch glances over at Derrick, breaking proper urinal etiquette.

MITCH

(beat)

So you're not gonna say anything??

DERRICK

First of all, don't look at me
while I'm taking a piss... GARY!

Mitch laughs. Derrick flushes the urinal, walks over to the sink, turns on the faucet.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

And second, how many times do I
have to tell you, she's not my
girl!

Mitch flushes the urinal, joins Derrick at the sink.

MITCH

Bruh, she's your girl.

Derrick lathers his hands with soap, shakes his head at Mitch.

DERRICK

Why are you so fixated on me
talking to her, anyway?

MITCH

Because you're in love with her.

Derrick scoffs.

DERRICK

You sure about that??

MITCH

Yeah, I am.

DERRICK

Then you are just as confused as
Gary is.

Mitch shakes his head, lathers his hands with soap.

MITCH

(pauses, eyes Derrick)
Then tell me, why do you choose to journey all the way over here to this church when everyone knows how much you hate public transportation? There are like four other churches that have services in English right by your apartment that you could go to, but you don't... why?

DERRICK

I like the message here.

MITCH

... Oh, you like the message?

DERRICK

Yeah.

MITCH

That's some bullshit man and you know it.

DERRICK

Seriously, every other word that comes out of your mouth is a curse word.

Derrick finishes rinsing, dries his hands with a towel.

MITCH

Cock, shit, fuck, damn, did I leave any out?? God already knows I got a filthy mouth man. I don't hide shit, unlike some people I know.

DERRICK

(off Mitch's stare)
Like who, me??

Mitch takes the towel from Derrick's hand.

MITCH

Ain't no one else in here.

DERRICK

I'm not hiding anything.

MITCH

You know you are.

DERRICK
You know what you are?

MITCH
What?

DERRICK
Beginning to piss me off.

Derrick turns around, starts to walk toward the door...

MITCH
Ey Dee hold up a sec man, let me
say one thing...

Derrick stops with his back facing Mitch.

DERRICK
Whatever you're gonna say, it
better not be about Jeong Won.

MITCH
It's not.
(beat)
I promise man, this has nothing to
do with her.

Derrick slowly turns around, looks at Mitch annoyed.

DERRICK
I'm listening...

MITCH
Remember that time I tried to holla
at those three Korean girls I saw
outside the club?

DERRICK
(beat)
... Yeah, what about it?

MITCH
Remember what Gary said to me when
we saw them for a second time at
that kimbap joint?

DERRICK
Na, not really...

MITCH
Well I do. He said, fates giving
you a second chance Mitch.

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

It didn't hit me at the time what he was saying, but I thought about it after. I know what happened between you and those girls Dee, you know I'm cool with it, though. Maybe it was my pride that got in the way of what could have been me with those girls, instead of you. To be honest man, it ain't even really about them. I'm with Olivia now and what we have is real special. Shit, maybe fate wanted you to talk to them and not me, I don't know, it doesn't even matter now. I guess what I'm trying to say is, fate may be predetermined, but we never know what direction it's gonna takes us. You're here and she seems to have regained her memory so aren't you just a little curious to see if she remembers you...

ATRIUM

Mitch and Derrick step out from the bathroom, Olivia is nowhere in sight.

MITCH

Yo, I need to call Olivia real quick and find out where the hell she's at.

DERRICK

Aight man.

Mitch gets on his phone and calls Olivia. In the meantime, Derrick observes an atrium full of people. He notices husbands on their cell phones half asleep on the many comfy lounge chairs. Over at the in-house cafe, he glimpses at their wives gossiping as they wait in line to buy coffee. Everywhere children run wild, bumping into adults as they chase after each other.

Derrick follows one chase in particular, smiles at their innocence when he notices a red ball in the hand of the same little girl from the hospital.

MITCH (O.S.)

(in phone)

Okay babe. I'll be right over.

Mitch hangs up his phone.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Yo, Olivia is waiting in line to buy coffee. I'm gonna head over there now. You want anything?

Derrick's attention is with the little girl who abruptly disappears within a large group that has congregated in the center of the room around Jeong Won and her family.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Yo Dee??

DERRICK

Huh?

MITCH

Coffee? Do you want any coffee? Olivia's in line right now.

DERRICK

Uh, yeah.

MITCH

Same sweet shit you always get?

DERRICK

Yes! Dude stop cussing in church!

MITCH

Can't make any promises, but I'll try. Isn't that what you always say?

Derrick shakes his head as Mitch walks off.

DERRICK (V.O.)

Okay, okay... what I said earlier was a lie.

Derrick points his gaze back at the large group, decides to slowly make his way over.

DERRICK (V.O.)

Not a complete lie, but a lie nonetheless. 70% of a lie, how's that?

Derrick begins weaving his way through throngs of people.

DERRICK

Excuse me.

He taps some on their shoulders, kindly nods his head asking them to step aside.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Pardon me. Excuse me

DERRICK (V.O.)

I'm not here for righteous reasons only. I mean, of course I wanna get right with the man upstairs and I'm sure God is cool with me killing two birds with one stone, but the truth is, every single day, not a second has gone by where I didn't imagine Jeong Won and I falling in love.

The assemblage gradually parts like the red sea, giving Derrick a clean view of Jeong Won in all her beauty.

Derrick takes a deep breath. If it weren't for the noise, we would be able to hear his heart pounding against his chest. Derrick nearly loses himself in reverie but is jerked from his moment by the little girl with the ball.

Derrick looks down at the little girl who remembers him from the hospital. She is waving her hand.

LITTLE GIRL

(in simple English)

Hello.

Derrick waves back.

DERRICK

Hello.

The little girl smiles and runs off toward Jeong Won. Derrick looks up. The little girl is now tugging on Jeong Won's dress trying to grab her attention.

Jeong Won squats down, allows the little girl to whisper into her ear. Jeong Won furrows her brow, scans the crowd. We HOLD ON Jeong Won's slack-jawed face full of surprise when she finally spots Derrick gazing back at her.

Jeong Won's cheeks begin to turn red. She excuses herself from her family. Out of the corner of his eye, Jeong Won's father watches his daughter make her way over toward the black foreigner.

JEONG WON

(staring beat)

... **Derrick**...

DERRICK
 (sighs)
 ... Jeong Won...

The moment these two share is so profound, it would make Jesus jealous, not to mention Jeong Won's courter, Tae Gyun, who hijacks the moment.

TAE GYUN
Am I interrupting?

It takes Jeong Won a minute to notice Tae Gyun...

TAE GYUN (CONT'D)
 (clears throat)
Jeong Won??

... but she eventually manages to remove her eyes from Derrick and acknowledge Tae Gyun.

JEONG WON
Huh?

TAE GYUN
Aren't you going to introduce me to your friend here?

JEONG WON
 (smiles at Derrick)
 ... **Yes. Tae Gyun this is Derrick.**

Tae Gyun holds out his hand.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)
 (to Derrick)
Derrick, this is Tae Gyun.

Derrick shakes hands with Tae Gyun.

TAE GYUN
Hello Derrick. By the sound of it, I'd say you understand Korean pretty well?

DERRICK
I get by...

TAE GYUN
You just get by?? Noo! I think you are better than that...

DERRICK
No, it's true...

TAE GYUN

Well we need to change that. How about I let you in on a little secret to not just get by, but to excel...

Derrick chuckles, looks at Tae Gyun strangely.

DERRICK

Uh... okay...

Tae Gyun leans in toward Derrick, hand gestures him in closer. Tae Gyun then whispers in Derrick's ear.

TAE GYUN

Don't even think about what you are thinking about with her. Because in the end, it's not going to work out for you.

Tae Gyun backs away, puts on a phony smile.

JEONG WON

(to Tae Gyun)

What did you say to him?

TAE GYUN

I gave him good advice. Isn't that right Derrick?

Tae Gyun eyes Derrick sharply.

DERRICK

... Right.

TAE GYUN

Good.

(to Jeong Won)

Well, we should get going.

(to Derrick)

Hope you don't mind me stealing her away. I made us reservations for lunch downtown.

Derrick looks at Jeong Won a bit disappointed but then regroups.

DERRICK

... No, of course not. You two go ahead. I hope you enjoy your lunch. I have a lot of work to finish before I catch that seven o'clock subway tomorrow. So...

(MORE)

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (to Jeong Won)
I'll see you soon Jeong Won.

Jeong Won nods her head very cordial-like.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Nice meeting you Tae Gyun.

Derrick looks fixedly at Jeong Won as she is hauled away by Tae Gyun.

MITCH (O.S.)
 Yo Dee!

Derrick turns in the direction of whoever called his name. It was Mitch and Derrick spots him agitated with his arms in the air.

MITCH (CONT'D)
 Damn man, where you been at?? We've been looking all over for you.

Olivia and Mitch walk over to Derrick.

DERRICK
 I been right here the entire time.

Olivia hands Derrick his coffee.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Oh, thanks Olivia.

Derrick takes a sip of his coffee, watches Jeong Won and Tae Gyun walk further and further away until they are out of sight.

MITCH
 So...

DERRICK
 So what?

MITCH
 You cool with her leaving with him?

INT. SUBWAY STATION - CLOSE ON LED CLOCK DISPLAY -- MORNING

The time changes from 7:14 to 7:15.

DERRICK (V.O.)
 Maybe she didn't get the hint, I don't know...

Widen to see we're ...

INT. MAIN FLOOR - SUBWAY STATION -- SAME

Derrick waits on the other side of a set of scanners that Jeong Won must pass through in order to exit. We've been here before.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I thought I was clear, but seeing that it's already well passed seven, I guess I wasn't clear enough.

Unfortunately, Derrick has convinced himself that he has waited long enough and looks around one final time before putting his headphones on and walking off.

DERRICK (V.O.)

At least she remembered me, you know... I can take a lot of solace in the simple fact that I have a spot in her memory. Mitch was right, I was curious and it's nice being able to put your curiosity to rest.

But we wait because unlike Derrick, we begin to hear electricity crackle and the screeching sound of brake pads grinding against steel wheels... the definitive sound of a train preparing to stop.

We wait... and wait, until the afar off sound of high heels frantically clapping against tile flooring crescendos into Jeong Won running around the corner, hoping she is not late.

EXT. EXIT 3 -- MORNING

Jeong Won struggles to mount the many stairs in her red high heels, but at last she does.

Out of breath and at the surface, the sunlight plays off of a thin sheet of sweat that has developed on her forehead. Jeong Won once-overs her surroundings, sucks her teeth thinking she's missed Derrick.

Similarly, directly behind her, inside a...

INT. GS25 CONVENIENT STORE -- SAME

... Derrick looks through the refrigerated section unable to find his favorite morning drink. He then walks back up front where a young college-aged FEMALE CLERK types away on her smart phone behind the register.

DERRICK
 (to clerk)
**By any chance do you still carry
 that soybean milk drink?**

Without ever looking up, the young clerk points to her left at a small glass refrigerator, housing drinks over by the exit door. Derrick turns, begins casually walking toward the door when what he sees outside stops him dead in his tracks.

EXT. CONVENIENT STORE -- SAME

Derrick pushes on the door and steps outside. Jeong Won is several yards away, facing the other direction and breathing hard. A light breeze causes her long brown hair to sway.

Derrick knows it's her and calls out...

DERRICK
Are you looking for someone?

Jeong Won tenses up at the sound of Derrick's voice. She turns over her shoulder, finds him standing in front of the convenience store. Jeong Won releases a deep sigh of relief.

JEONG WON
 (smiles)
I am.

Derrick smiles.

INT. GALBI RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

A SHORT AJUMMA uses tongs to flip a sizzling slab of meat over on a grill in the center of a circular table. She glances at Derrick and Jeong Won sitting quietly on opposite ends.

SHORT AJUMMA
 (beat)
Are you two married?

Derrick looks at Jeong Won a bit taken aback by the old woman's question. By now you should know how Jeong Won reacted.

DERRICK
No we are not.

The old woman looks at Derrick, puzzled, begins cutting the meat into smaller pieces.

SHORT AJUMMA

(to Derrick)

Why not? She's beautiful.

(to Jeong Won)

And he speaks Korean.

(to both)

**Your children would have beautiful
skin and speak multiple languages.**

Derrick laughs. Jeong Won gets hot and fans herself with her hand.

SHORT AJUMMA (CONT'D)

(to Jeong Won)

Am I embarrassing you?

JEONG WON

... No...

The old woman smiles and sets the tongs down on the table.

SHORT AJUMMA

It's ready. Enjoy your meal.

Derrick and Jeong Won watch the old woman walk off.

Derrick turns to Jeong Won, smiles and shakes his head.

DERRICK

Wow...

JEONG WON

I know, really...

DISSOLVE TO:

RESTAURANT -- LATER NIGHT

Jeong Won watches in awe at the way in which Derrick pours her a glass of Baekseju, a Korean rice wine.

JEONG WON

**How do you know so much about
Korean culture?**

DERRICK

You think I know a lot?

JEONG WON

**I think you know just as much as I
do and I'm Korean.**

Derrick laughs.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)
**Look at the way those ajumma's are
 looking at you. They are impressed.
 You're like a Korean man.**

Derrick glances over his shoulder at two little old raisin
 women waving with gaping smiles on their faces.

DERRICK
 (smiles)
**I don't know that much, I just know
 the basics.**

JEONG WON
 (smiling)
**No, you know way more than the
 basics. Let me see that bottle,
 I'll prove it.**

Derrick hands Jeong Won the bottle.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)
Read this.

DERRICK
Read what?

JEONG WON
Pronounce the name of this drink?

DERRICK
That's your test?

JEONG WON
Just read it.

DERRICK
Baekseju. C'mon I'm not that dumb.

JEONG WON
**Can you tell me why it's called
 Baekseju?**

DERRICK
Can you?

JEONG WON
**Ya! Of course I can, I'm Korean.
 But you're a foreigner**

DERRICK
And you're beautiful.

JEONG WON

Stop dodging the question. I know you can tell me why.

DERRICK

It's true I can.

(off Jeong Won anxiously waiting)

Okay, so it literally means one-hundred-years wine. It's a fermented wine and legend has it that Baekseju is made from special herbs that will help you live to be one hundred years old.

Jeong Won slowly sets the bottle on the table, truly amazed.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

How was that?

JEONG WON

(smiling beat)

Who are you?

DERRICK

I'm Derrick.

EXT. SIDEWALK -- LATER NIGHT

Love is in the air and the streets are quiet. A perfect setting for an evening stroll as Derrick walks shoulder to shoulder alongside Jeong Won.

DERRICK

I actually have four sisters. And one of them is my twin.

JEONG WON

Really, you're a twin?

DERRICK

Uh-huh.

JEONG WON

What's her name?

DERRICK

Simone. My mother named her after the singer Nina Simone. Have you ever heard of her?

JEONG WON

Yes! Of course. I love her music.
(in sweet English)

(MORE)

JEONG WON (CONT'D)
 Birds flying high you know how I
 feel...

Derrick looks at Jeong Won wide eyed with his mouth open.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)
 (in sweet English)
 Sun in the sky you know how I feel.

DERRICK
 Wow... are you kidding me??

JEONG WON
 (in sweet English)
 Breeze drifting on by, you know how
 I feel... It's a new dawn, it's a
 new day...

Derrick smiles and shakes his head amazed as we begin to hear
Feeling Good by Nina Simone take over throughout the...

MONTAGE:

Though wedged between countless sweaty people on the bus,
 Derrick gazes out the window with a smile on his face.

Jeong Won, blushing beyond belief, is on cloud nine as she
 walks toward her apartment.

Derrick exits the bus, looks up into the infinite night sky.

Jeong Won sends Derrick a message while taking the elevator
 up to her apartment.

Derrick saunters through his neighborhood, pulls out his
 phone, checks Jeong Won's message. It says: *I feel like I was
 born again today*. Derrick smiles, promptly replies.

Jeong Won quietly enters her home. The lights are off,
 everyone appears to be asleep.

Derrick takes the stairs up to his apartment. He punches in
 his combination, opens his door...

Jeong Won enters her dark room, closes the door and checks
 Derricks message in the dark. It says: *I feel the same way*.

The glow from Jeong Won's cell phone plays off of her
 delighted face as Nina Simone's beautiful voice...

ENDS THE MONTAGE

FADE IN:

EXT. SIDEWALK -- MORNING

From above, partially hidden beneath a canopy of trees we see Jeong Won walking toward her place of work, reading from what looks to be a note in her hand.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I went to bed early last night but didn't get an ounce of sleep. How does that even happen? I blame you. Just kidding... Did you sleep well?

Jeong Won smiles.

JEONG WON

(to self)

No. And I blame you...

DERRICK (V.O.)

I dreamt about you last night. But it wasn't good...

Jeong Won frowns, continues walking tuned out from the world.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I guess when you have a bad dream you should call it a nightmare, but it wasn't terrifying and I didn't wake up sweaty and out of breath. I woke up sad. I dreamt that I lost you again, but it wasn't clear how it happened. I hope you don't think I'm weird for dreaming about you so soon. It's funny, this is the one time I can honestly say that I hope my dream doesn't come true. Have a good day. Derrick.

Jeong Won's expression is a pensive one. She folds up the letter, puts it in her purse and enters the large advertising agency.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Derrick's back faces his lethargic class as he writes sentences in English on the chalk board.

DERRICK

Okay, here is an easy one. The beautiful flowers are red.

Derrick turns around, faces his class.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Now, who can tell me what the
 subject and the verb is in this
 sentence? Then if we're lucky,
 maybe someone can tell me what the
 adjective is.

Derrick looks around at his thirty or so moldering students.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Anyone??

He has a better chance of winning the lottery than seeing a
 hand go up.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Anyone even alive?

The door in the back of the class opens. In walks a long
 haired MALE STUDENT with his shirt untucked and dark circles
 under his eyes.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 You're late.

Derrick watches as the student flops down in his chair and
 puts his head down on his desk.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 You come to my class just to fall
 asleep...?

MALE STUDENT
 ... **Your voice is soothing.**

The class laughs.

DERRICK
 Excuse me? What did you say?

MALE STUDENT
 ... **Nothing...**

DERRICK
 Stay after class.

CLASSROOM -- LATER

The bell sounds and the students race to leave class while
 Derrick writes the assignment on the board.

DERRICK

Read chapters 13 and 14 in your reading book, then I want everyone to do both practice assignments.

Derrick turns, brushes the chalk dust from his hand and notices that the student who came in late, snuck out without staying after.

Derrick quickly runs outside to the hall, but it is overrun with hundreds of students in identical uniforms.

INT. OFFICE - CLOSE ON COMPUTER SCREEN -- DAY

The sound of fingers clicking against computer keys is heard as a conversation is had via MESSENGER.

OUTGOING MESSAGE

I read your letter.

INCOMING MESSAGE

Really?

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Yeah, it was sad...

Widen to see we're...

INT. OFFICE - ADVERTISING AGENCY -- DAY

Jeong Won is at her desk, smiling as she types away. Sticky notes no longer cover the walls of her cubicle.

TAE GYUN (O.S.)

Jeong Won.

Jeong Won jumps in her seat, places her hand on her chest, startled. She pivots in her chair, turns to find Tae Gyun standing over her.

JEONG WON

You frightened me!

TAE GYUN

I'm sorry, it wasn't my intention.

Jeong Won casually closes out her messenger conversation.

JEONG WON

How long have you been standing there?

TAE GYUN
**Oh, not too long. Who we're you
 talking to?**

JEONG WON
A friend.

Tae Gyun observes Jeong Won for a silent moment, smiles.

TAE GYUN
**I tried calling you last night but
 your phone was off.**

JEONG WON
Oh, you did??

TAE GYUN
Yeah... I did.

JEONG WON
**I'm sorry. The battery must have
 died.**

TAE GYUN
**It's okay, you can make it up to me
 tonight over dinner.**

JEONG WON
**I can't tonight Tae Gyun, I'm
 sorry.**

TAE GYUN
Why?

JEONG WON
I already made plans with a friend.

Tae Gyun point his head in the direction of the computer.

TAE GYUN
**The same friend you were just
 talking to on the computer?**

INT. GYM -- LATE AFTERNOON

Mitch holds Derricks feet down while he does a set of
 crunches.

MITCH
 Where are you taking her tonight?

DERRICK
 (short of breath)
 This restaurant called Scarlet's.

MITCH

Scarlet's?... name sounds classy.
What kind of food do they have?

DERRICK

American cuisine. Steaks and stuff.
I made a reservation for us at 8.

MITCH

Okay pimpin, a steak dinner is a
good look, but that ain't gonna be
cheap.

DERRICK

(sighs)
Tell me about it...

Derrick lies down on his back, takes a breather.

MITCH

You droppin an awful lot of dough
on someone who isn't your girl.

DERRICK

True, but you wanna know
something...

MITCH

What's that?

DERRICK

I believe she's worth it.

Mitch scoffs.

MITCH

Listen to this dude. First he's all
in, then he ain't, then he's back
in again. You sound like LeBron.

Derrick laughs.

DERRICK

Whatever man. You know I always...

MITCH

(wide eyed)
... always what??

DERRICK

Nevermind man. Hold down my feet, I
got one more set before I head out.

Derrick puts his hands back behind his head and resumes his workout.

FEMALE SERVER (PRE-LAP V.O.)
And for you sir?

INT. TABLE - SCARLET'S -- NIGHT

An attractive FEMALE SERVER(20's) wearing all black, stands before an elegantly prepared table, awestruck at how Derrick is able to communicate his order in impeccable Korean.

DERRICK
Can I have the prime rib please?

The server giggles.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (smiles)
Did I say it wrong??

FEMALE SERVE
No you're fine. And how would you like your rib prepared?

Derrick glances over at Jeong Won. She smiles back receptively with soft, loving eyes.

DERRICK
 (to Jeong Won)
Any suggestions?

JEONG WON
I usually like mine medium rare.

DERRICK
 (to server)
Okay, I'll have mine the same way please.

FEMALE SERVER
Great. I'll be right back with your wine.

The female server lights the candle centered on the table, picks up both menus, bows and walks off.

JEONG WON
 (short beat)
That happens a lot with you when you speak Korean, huh?

DERRICK

You mean people looking at me like I'm crazy?

JEONG WON

Yeah.

DERRICK

Try every time.

JEONG WON

As much as I want to learn English, I like that you speak Korean. It shows that you understand and respect Korean culture. So many foreigners live here but don't care or take the time to learn the language...

DERRICK

I guess they don't see the value in it.

JEONG WON

Perhaps. Do you?

DERRICK

Yeah, I mean I studied it for years. Being able to speak Korean has definitely benefited me.

JEONG WON

Especially with the ladies, I bet.

Derrick chuckles.

DERRICK

I'll be honest, I've dated here and there, but nothing's ever come out of it. It wasn't love that's for sure. I've actually never been in love before.

JEONG WON

You've never been in love before?

DERRICK

Nope.

JEONG WON

Seriously?

DERRICK

Seriously. Not once.

JEONG WON

Wow...

Jeong Won blushes, Derrick smiles. No words are exchange for a brief moment.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a question?

DERRICK

Sure.

JEONG WON

You were there weren't you?

DERRICK

Where's there?

JEONG WON

At the hospital the day I woke up. That little girl who waved at you the other day in church is my cousin. By the way, I think she has a crush on you. Every time she comes over to our house, she asks where the guy with the chocolate skin is.

Jeong Won covers her mouth, laughs. Derrick chuckles.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm sorry...

DERRICK

Don't be, it's funny. I love the way kids think. They are so honest with their feelings.

JEONG WON

They are.

DERRICK

(short beat)

Speaking of honestly, it's my turn to ask you a question.

Jeong Won smiles, jokingly holds up her right hand and places her left hand over her heart.

JEONG WON

I swear to tell the whole truth your honor.

DERRICK

That guy I met, Tae Gyun... who is he?

JEONG WON

Who is he??

DERRICK

Yeah, I mean he comes to church with you a lot and the way he looks at you makes me think that he's not your brother.

JEONG WON

No he's definitely not my brother. We actually work together. His father used to own the agency I work for, but after he passed Tae Gyun inherited the company.

DERRICK

Oh, so he's actually your boss...

JEONG WON

Yeah.

DERRICK

And he likes you...

JEONG WON

Yeah, it seems he does...

DERRICK

Are the feelings mutual?

JEONG WON

Yeah, I think so...

(off Derrick's
disappointment)

He is really good at what he does.
He knows his stuff.

Derrick sighs, drops his head.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

But can I be honest with you?

DERRICK

Actually, I think I'd much rather you lie to me from here on out...

Jeong Won laughs.

JEONG WON

You're funny.

She then reaches across the table for Derricks hand.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

Derrick, listen to me. I was joking about Tae Gyun. I like him as my boss but nothing more. I just wanted to see where your heart was... Hey, you wanna know something?

DERRICK

What?

JEONG WON

I've never been in love before either...

FADE TO:

INT. DERRICK'S APARTMENT -- LATER NIGHT

Blackness peels away as a door opens revealing Jeong Won and Derrick entering a dark apartment. We should take note that Jeong Won's purse is unusually big.

DERRICK

Watch your step.

Derrick switches on the light. Jeong Won's eyes light up, she once-overs his place, sniffs an interesting aroma.

JEONG WON

Your place smells good.

DERRICK

Really?

JEONG WON

Yeah. It smells like a man lives here.

DERRICK

Are you being funny?

JEONG WON

No. I really like the way it smells. It smells like you.

Jeong Won grabs Derricks hand for leverage while she removes her shoes. She smiles at Derrick, ever so sweetly says...

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Derrick watches Jeong Won step into his apartment and do what a Korean woman does: Take herself on a personal tour.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

Do you mind if I look around?

Derrick takes off his shoes.

DERRICK

Promise you won't steal anything?

JEONG WON

I promise.

Jeong Won disappears into a different room. Derrick walks into the kitchen.

DERRICK

(calls out)

Hey, are you thirsty?

Jeong Won's voice echoes out.

JEONG WON

No... I like your room.

DERRICK

Thanks.

Derrick pours himself a glass of water, walks to the sofa and takes a seat. After a few moments Jeong Won returns, collapses on the sofa next to Derrick, rubs her belly.

JEONG WON

My stomach hurts...

Derrick looks over at Jeong Won.

DERRICK

**As much as you ate, I'm surprised
you're not dead.**

Jeong Won laughs, hits Derrick on the arm.

JEONG WON

Ya!

Derrick laughs, pulls out his empty wallet.

DERRICK
**Look you cleaned me out. I'm gonna
 have to eat ramen for the next few
 weeks.**

Jeong Won perks up!

JEONG WON
Ooh! Ramen sounds good!

DERRICK
 (eyes Jeong Won)
You've got to be kidding.

INT. REGISTER - CONVENIENT STORE -- MOMENTS LATER

Derrick places a beer and a packet of peanut M&M's on the counter.

CASHIER (O.S.)
Just this?

DERRICK
... Uh, I'm not sure...

Derrick looks up at the CASHIER, then glances over his shoulder in disbelief as Jeong Won walks up and places two bags of ramen and two eggs on the counter.

JEONG WON
 (off Derricks look)
What?

DERRICK
Nothing...

CASHIER
Is this all together?

JEONG WON
Yes.

EXT. DERRICK'S APARTMENT -- LATER NIGHT

Derrick and Jeong Won walk up to Derricks apartment door.

DERRICK
**You must have a parasite in your
 stomach. Are you really gonna eat
 ramen tonight?**

Derrick enters in his combination, opens the door.

JEONG WON

Uh-uh.

DERRICK

No?? Then why did we buy all this food?

JEONG WON

For tomorrow morning.

Jeong Won walks into Derrick's apartment. Derrick stutters, struggles to say...

DERRICK

Excuse me??

INT. SUBWAY -- EARLY MORNING

We HOLD ON Jeong Won, sitting in a loud, herky-jerky train, sandwiched between two strangers with a child-like grin on her face.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I feel like I'm weightless, walking on the sea right now.

Jeong Won's hair is wet, her skin has a post workout shine to it.

DERRICK (V.O.)

I don't even know what I should be thinking. I can't even think of a word to describe what I think I should be thinking, if that makes any bit of sense. Not in my wildest dreams, and I've had some pretty wild dreams, did I ever expect that to happen last night.

Jeong Won glances across the aisle at Derrick lost in reverie. He too is sandwiched between strangers on the long seat.

DERRICK (V.O.)

(deep sigh)

You probably have some choice words for me right now, thinking I took advantage of Jeong Won, the daughter of a preacher. But if you look beyond social constraints, you'll see that what we shared was rooted in love.

(short beat)

(MORE)

DERRICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Someone once asked me a question
 that I had no answer for at the
 time. They asked me what I would do
 if I had my life to live again...
 Now I know... I'd search for Jeong
 Won sooner.

A whistle being blown repeatedly is heard followed by
 children counting off to ten in Korean as we...

FADE TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD -- DAY

The sun is strong, as is the humidity. Outside, a male Korean
 physical education TEACHER leads unmotivated students in
 military style jumping jacks.

FADE UP to find:

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

... Derrick standing by the fifth floor window of his
 classroom, pensively gazing out.

The sound of a door opening is audible. Derrick turns, sees
 the long haired male student practically sleepwalking into
 his classroom.

Derrick chuckles.

DERRICK
... Wow, you're actually early.

The student rubs his eyes like a baby ready for a nap, heads
 directly for his desk, sits and puts his head down.

Derrick grins, folds his arms and waits. Eventually the
 student looks around, lifts up his head and asks...

MALE STUDENT
Do we have class?

DERRICK
**I sure don't. But I'm thinking you
 do.**

MALE STUDENT
Shit!

DERRICK
**Hey! How many times do I have to
 tell you not to use bad language in
 my classroom??**

The student pushes himself up from the desk, mopes toward the door.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (concerned)
Hold up a second...

MALE STUDENT
I'm late for class.

DERRICK
I'll let your teacher know you were with me.

The student pauses, slowly turns around with an attitude.

MALE STUDENT
What??

Derrick walks over, looks earnestly at the student.

DERRICK
Is everything alright?

The student looks away, clearly not okay.

MALE STUDENT
Yeah.

DERRICK
Are you sure?

MALE FRIEND
...Yeah..

DERRICK
Because if you ever need to talk about anything, I'm always here. All you gotta do is walk in.

MALE STUDENT
 (short beat)
Can I go now?

DERRICK
 (short beat)
Yeah, sure. Let me grab that slip for your teacher.

Derrick walks back over to his desk, checks the time, writes on a piece of paper and tears off the slip.

He then walks back over and gives it to the student.

INT. JEONG WON'S HOME -- AFTERNOON

Jeong Won walks in through the front door of her upper class home wearing the same clothes from earlier. She tries to make it to her bedroom undetected, but is noticed by her...

MOTHER

You're back early.

Jeong Won cringes and turns to her mother, who sits in the...

ADJACENT STUDY ROOM

... reading from the BIBLE.

MOTHER

How was the retreat?

JEONG WON

**Oh... uh, it was very informative.
Thanks for asking.**

MOTHER

**I bet it was nice reconnecting with
everyone.**

JEONG WON

... Yeah...

Jeong Won's mother closes her book, looks at her daughter.

MOTHER

**Oh Jeong Won, your face. It looks a
little swollen...**

Jeong Won feels her face.

JEONG WON

Really?

MOTHER

**Yeah. Did you eat ramen? You know
the doctor said to eat healthy from
now on.**

JEONG WON

**I know, but everyone was tired and
ready to go home. Ramen was the
easiest meal.**

MOTHER

**That's no excuse. I'm surprised Tae
Gyun allowed you to eat that crap.**

(short beat)

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Speaking of which, he called here
this morning asking for you.

Jeong Won's jaw drops.

JEONG WON
He did??

MOTHER
Yeah. I told him you were at the
retreat. I thought it was a company
wide function.

JEONG WON
So did I. I guess he couldn't make
it. Did he say why he called?

MOTHER
Nope.
(short beat)
How do you feel about Tae Gyun? He
has a good head on his shoulders.
Not to mention he seems to like
you.

JEONG WON
You think so?

MOTHER
A mother's intuition is never
wrong.

JEONG WON
Oh... honestly, I've never really
thought about him in any other way
other than someone I work with.

MOTHER
Perhaps you should. You're not
getting any younger and everyday
that passes, your window gets
smaller and smaller.

FADE TO.

BEDROOM -- EVENING

Under dim light, Jeong Won sleeps peacefully like an angel
until she is awakened by a call.

EXT. GANGNAM STATION - SUBWAY -- EVENING

From the top of EXIT 3, we see a mixture of young, old and the self-indulgent, ascend up an escalator. Moving up the escalator with them is Derrick, phone at his ear.

DERRICK
 (into phone)
**Hey. You sound like you were
 sleeping. Did I wake you?**

INTERCUT:

Jeong Won looks at the clock on her night stand: it's only 7:30.

JEONG WON
 (groggy)
Yeah, but it's alright.

DERRICK
I'm sorry. Go back to bed.

JEONG WON
**No, I need to get up. If I don't, I
 won't be able to fall back to
 sleep.**

DERRICK
 (beat)
I wish I was with you.

JEONG WON
**So do I. I would have no problem
 falling asleep with you.**
 (short beat)
So, what are you doing?

Derrick walks out onto the sidewalk, once-overs his surroundings.

DERRICK
**Uh, that's a good question. I just
 arrived at Gangnam station. I'm
 supposed to be meeting Mitch here.**

JEONG WON
What are you two gonna do?

DERRICK
**I don't know, he didn't say. He
 said he would explain everything
 once he got here.**

JEONG WON
Sounds like fun. I like surprises.

Derrick chuckles, continues to look around, suddenly spots Mitch, nods his head.

DERRICK
**Jeong Won, I'm sorry, I gotta go,
Mitch just arrived.**

JEONG WON
Oh, no problem. Have fun.

DERRICK
**I'm glad I got to hear your voice,
though.**

JEONG WON
**Aw, you're so sweet. I'm glad I got
to hear your voice, too.**

Derrick smiles. Mitch walks over, shakes hands with Derrick.

DERRICK
**Okay, well, I guess I'll talk to
later tonight.**

JEONG WON
Yeah, okay...

DERRICK
...Okay...

Mitch smiles, jokingly makes a heart shape with his arms.
Derrick grins, shakes his head.

An awkward moment of silence passes between Derrick and Jeong Won. Neither one knows how to end the call.

JEONG WON
(beat)
Derrick, are you still there?

DERRICK
Yeah, I am...

Derrick waits anxiously for Jeong Won's next words.

JEONG WON
... I love you...

Derrick quickly turns away, puts distance between himself and Mitch before he responds by saying...

DERRICK
I love you, too.

Derrick ends the call, takes a deep breath and walks back over toward Mitch.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(off Mitch's head shake)
What??

MITCH
Don't for one second think we ain't gonna talk about what the hell I just heard come out of your mouth.

Derrick cheeses.

DERRICK
Believe me, I know.

MITCH
Good.

Derrick chuckles.

DERRICK
So Anyway, what's going on? I told you before I'm done clubbing man. This better not be one of your ploys to get me out.

MITCH
It's not.

DERRICK
Good. So what are we doing here?

MITCH
Turn around.

Derrick turns, glances at the usual scene comprised of multi-story buildings, various businesses, street vendors and loads of people.

Derrick looks back at Mitch confused.

DERRICK
I don't get it. What am I supposed to be looking at?

MITCH
Really? You don't see it?

DERRICK

Na man.

Mitch sighs.

MITCH

Third floor, white lettering.

Derrick points his vision back at the multi-story buildings.

DERRICK

Third floor, white lettering...

(short beat)

Yo, I'm still not...

Derrick grimaces in disbelief, then looks back at Mitch in shock.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Really?? Already??

Mitch nods yes.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Man, stop lying!

MITCH

(smiles)

Dee, you know if I'm lying, I'm flying.

INT. WAITING AREA - WEDDING STUDIO -- MOMENTS LATER

Mitch is on his phone, using a bit of both languages to communicate with Olivia. Sitting in the next chair over, Derrick watches as emotionally stirred Korean couples work with planners to create the perfect wedding.

Mitch ends his call, pockets his phone.

MITCH

Olivia is two stops away. She should be here soon.

Derrick looks around, shakes his head in disbelief.

DERRICK

I gotta admit man, I still can't believe I'm here right now.

MITCH

Believe it. Shit's about to go down Dee. No more jerking off for me.

Derrick laughs.

DERRICK

You sure you two are ready?

MITCH

You sure you're gonna wake up
tomorrow when the sun rises?

(off Derrick's convinced
look)

See my point?

Derrick nods his head yes.

MITCH (CONT'D)

We are as ready as we'll ever be.
It's either now or never.

(beat)

Did I ever tell you I lost my mom
before I came out here?

DERRICK

Na man, damn. I'm sorry.

MITCH

Thanks homie, but I'm good now.
Eventually time does heal all. My
pops on the other hand, he took
that shit hard, and I mean real
hard. For a moment I didn't think
dude was gonna make it. He just
recently started dating again.

(beat)

It's funny, I remember he used to
tell me all kinds of crazy stories
about when him and my mom were
young. Smoking pot in the back of
their car, getting arrested at
parks all across the city for
indecent exposure. Shit one time he
said they banged for like two hours
in some mall dressing room.
Probably explains where my fashion
sense comes from.

Both Derrick and Mitch laugh.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Anyway, a few months after my mom
died I asked him when did he know
that my mom was the one for him.
You know what he said?

DERRICK

What'd he say?

MITCH

He said after a year of dating my mom he knew for sure who he wanted to spend the rest of his life with. You know it's already been a year and a half for Olivia and I?

DERRICK

Seriously that long?

MITCH

Yup... And since day one she has been driving me fucking crazy man... But I swear Dee, I can't imagine living a single day without her.

Derrick nods his head at Mitch out of much respect.

DERRICK

(beat)

Well you know I'm happy for you.

MITCH

(short beat)

I know you are. I'm happy for you, too... You really love Jeong Won, don't you?

Derrick breathes out heavy.

DERRICK

As much as one could possibly love another person, yeah man I do...

WEDDING PLANNER (O.S.)

Jee Hee Seong.

Derrick and Mitch both look up at a stunning Korean WEDDING PLANNER dressed in a tight skirt with long black hair.

MITCH

...Goddamn.

Mitch lustfully eyes the girl up and down.

MITCH (CONT'D)

(to Derrick)

Please tell me I'm making the right decision?

INT. BEDROOM - JEONG WON'S HOME -- NIGHT

Jeong Won sits upright in bed, with her laptop open, wide awake and restless. She breathes out heavily, looks around her room then reaches for her cell phone.

INT. WEDDING STUDIO -- SAME

Olivia arrives dressed very nicely. From afar we see the RECEPTIONIST point her over to the...

DESIGN STATION

... where Mitch and Derrick are busy working with the attractive planner.

Olivia walks over.

OLIVIA
Sorry, I'm late.

The planner stands up, gives a courteous bow.

WEDDING PLANNER
Hello. You must be Jee Hee Seong?

OLIVIA
Yes.

Mitch and Derrick both look over their shoulder.

MITCH
Oh, hey baby.

DERRICK
(smiling)
Hey Olivia. Congrats.

OLIVIA
Thank you.

MITCH
Here let me grab you a chair.

Mitch stands up, pulls a chair over as Derrick's phone begins to ring. Derrick checks his phone, it's Jeong Won.

DERRICK
(to Mitch)
Yo, I'll be right back.

MITCH
Aight.

Derrick walks off to a quiet section of the studio, answers the call.

DERRICK

Hello?

INTERCUT:

JEONG WON

Hi...

DERRICK

Hey, what's up?

JEONG WON

What are you doing?

DERRICK

**You're not going to believe this,
but I'm actually at a wedding
studio.**

Jeong Won is surprised.

JEONG WON

A wedding studio?

DERRICK

**Yeah. Mitch and Olivia are getting
married next month and are deciding
on pictures and food n' stuff.**

JEONG WON

Wow...

DERRICK

I know... So what are you doing?

JEONG WON

**Just lying here in bed. I can't
sleep. I keep thinking about you.
(sighs)
I miss you.**

DERRICK

So do I.

JEONG WON

**If I can convince my parents to let
me go to the sauna with a friend,
would you want to come?**

DERRICK

Sure. I would love to. What friend?

JEONG WON
You. Just you and I.

DERRICK
Oh... yeah. Are you sure, though? I
don't want you to get in trouble.

JEONG WON
Don't worry. I'll text you.

END INTERCUT.

The call ends and Derrick walks back over toward the design station, takes a seat.

MITCH
Everything aight?

DERRICK
Yeah it was just Jeong Won. We
might meet up later.

Mitch smiles, nods his head.

MITCH
At a boy.

Mitch flips back a page in the sample book, shows Derrick.

MITCH (CONT'D)
Hey, what do you think of this
option?

Derrick leans in, analyzes what he sees, nods his head in agreement.

MITCH (CONT'D)
You like it?

DERRICK
Yeah, it's not bad.

MITCH
Good, now ask her why is it so
fucking expensive?

DERRICK
(short beat)
In those exact words??

INT. MEN'S LOCKER ROOM - SAUNA -- LATER NIGHT

Derrick secures his locker. His shorts and shirt are the color of blue pastel as he walks down the isle into the lounge area where half naked men linger on benches. A popular Korean drama plays on the big screen TV mounted on the wall...

But instead, all eyes watch Derrick as if he were a martian walking down the red carpet.

INT. COMMON AREA -- SAME

Derrick steps out, looks around, ajumma's lurch all around gossiping with each other. Derrick spots Jeong Won waiting on a wooden bench in the corner wearing a pink pastel colored uniform that fits her nicely.

Derrick walks over. She chuckles at the way he looks.

DERRICK

Funny??

Jeong Won, stands, smiles and nods her head.

JEONG WON

Yes, but you're still handsome.

Derrick scoffs, turns away. But Jeong Won softly grabs his face, reaches up on her tippy toes, closes her eyes and presses her soft lips against Derrick's lips. A kiss that feels like an eternity, in actuality only lasts a few seconds.

DERRICK

What was that for?

JEONG WON

For never giving up on us.

INT. SCHOOL -- NEXT DAY

Derrick has a sheet of paper in his hand as he walks down an empty hall toward the...

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

He softly knocks several times against a closed wooden door.

SUPERINTENDENT (O.S.)

(faint)

Come in.

Derrick opens the door and greets everyone inside properly according to Korean etiquette.

DERRICK

Hello.

STAFF

Hello.

Derrick approaches the SUPERINTENDENT who happens to be a slightly overweight, single woman in her early 30's.

SUPERINTENDENT

How have you been Derrick teacher?

DERRICK

I've been good. How are you?

SUPERINTENDENT

(in broken English)

Always busy, busy, busy.

Everyone chuckles. The superintendent sneers at the staff, smiles at Derrick.

DERRICK

Whoa, you're English is getting a lot better.

SUPERINTENDENT

Really?

DERRICK

Yes!

The superintendent bows her head and says...

SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you... So what can I help you with?

Derrick places the roster sheet on the superintendent's desk, points at Su Mee's name.

DERRICK

I have a question, I have a student, her name is Choi, Su Mee. This is her right here. I was wondering if you've seen her or if she's here today. She hasn't shown up to my class in quite some time.

SUPERINTENDENT

Can I see the sheet?

DERRICK

Sure.

Derrick hands the superintendent the sheet. He watches as she glimpses at the sheet, types in the computer then looks at the screen with a pained expression.

SUPERINTENDENT

Hmm...

Derrick's brow furrows.

SUPERINTENDENT (CONT'D)

Step outside with me for a second.

HALL

The superintendent shuts the door and takes a deep breath.

SUPERINTENDENT

Derrick teacher, Su Mee is no longer a student here. She dropped out. I sent you an e-mail some time ago, but I guess you never received it.

DERRICK

(pensive)

She dropped out? Why would she do that?

SUPERINTENDENT

We don't know. Even though she struggled with English, she loved school and excelled in all her other classes.

DERRICK

I would never have failed her, I hope I am not the reason why she quit school.

SUPERINTENDENT

I don't think so. She admired you, a lot.

DERRICK

Admired me?

SUPERINTENDENT

Yes. Not only can you speak Korean, but many students say you remind them of president Obama.

Derrick sighs heavily, grins.

DERRICK

Is there a way that I can reach her?

SUPERINTENDENT

No, the number she had on file is no longer in service... But I can give you her address.

INT. SMALL COFFEE SHOP - SUYU SUBWAY STATION -- DAY

Derrick stands before a small coffee shop with his hands in his pockets, watching a young BARISTA prepare his coffee.

DERRICK (V.O.)

Su Mee was by far the worst student I have ever had the pleasure of teaching English to. The rare occurrence when she actually did try and speak, it was like listening to Yoda from Star Wars expressing his inner most thoughts. Any inkling of sentence structure went out the window. Instead of subject, verb, adjective, the adjective would somehow find itself in front of the subject and any use of a verb was a small miracle. But despite all that, Su Mee was my favorite.

The barista puts two white lid on two cups of coffee.

BARISTA

I have two Vanilla Lattes.

Brings them over to Derrick.

DERRICK

Oh, you wouldn't happen to have one of those carrier things, would you?...

Derrick tries to gesture with his hands.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

I can't think of the name...

The barista thinks for a second then reaches under the counter, pulls up a cardboard coffee carrier.

BARISTA

This?

DERRICK

Yes, exactly! Thank you.

The barista smiles, nods her head. Derrick takes his coffee and walks off.

EXT. SIDEWALK -- LATER DAY

Derrick uses his cell phone to navigate his way around a part of town that is quickly declining economically, socially and spiritually.

CLOSE UP of a pulsating blue dot on Derrick's cell phone that tells him he needs to make a right turn.

Derrick turns to his right, looks down a narrow, suspicious-looking back street created by shanty-style homes.

DERRICK

(to self)

GPS, you better be right...

Derrick enters the murky...

ALLEY

... and soon realizes he is walking through a forgotten village. An encampment comprised of dilapidated homes built from plywood, metal sheets and cardboard boxes. One of Seoul's poorest neighborhoods.

Derrick continues to follow his GPS, passing normal children playing soccer under abnormal conditions. The children see Derrick, rush toward him, touching him, shouting 'hello'. Curious villagers trickle out from their makeshift homes. Derrick glances at his phone, he has arrived at his destination.

DERRICK

(to self)

... This can't be it...

Derrick looks up. Several feet back, beyond many inquisitive people stands Su Mee, slack-jawed.

SU MEE

Teacher??

DERRICK

Su Mee??

Derrick's eyes scroll down to learn that Su Mee is very pregnant.

EXT. SLUMS -- LATER EVENING

As the sun sets, miles away the seemingly unreachable, beautiful Seoul city skyline rises ever so high above the makeshift village.

DERRICK (O.S.)

It's getting late. I should get going.

INT. SU MEE'S HOME -- SAME

Derrick, Su Mee and her sweet looking MOTHER(37), sit on the linoleum floor of their one room home, drinking tea. Clothes hang from tiny hooks attached to the walls. There's a small window in the corner. On top of a dresser sits a gas stove as does rolls of toilet paper and other toiletries. Despite cramped conditions, there's a sense of organization to the place.

Derrick stands to his feet as does Su Mee and her mother. He grabs his legs, grimaces.

DERRICK

Ah... my legs. I sat down too long.

Su Mee and her mother chuckle.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Anyway, thank you very much for the tea.

(extends hand to mother)

It was very nice meeting you.

Su Mee's mother smiles, shakes Derricks hand and nods her head.

SU MEE'S MOTHER

Yes. Yes. It was nice meeting you, too. Please come back anytime.

DERRICK

Thank you, I will.

Su Mee puts on her shoes, moves toward the door.

SU MEE

Teacher, I'll walk you out. It's easy to get lost here.

EXT. SLUMS -- LATER

Su Mee and Derrick walk side by side through tight pathways.

DERRICK

**Su Mee I just want to say what you
are doing takes a lot of courage.
We all make mistakes, but I believe
we are judged by how we reconcile
those mistakes.**

Su Mee's eyes begin to well up with tears.

SU MEE

Thank you.

Derrick looks over at Su Mee now wiping those eyes.

DERRICK

**I am so proud of you Su Mee. I
really mean that, I am.
(smiles)
Now I feel guilty for giving your
boyfriend such a hard time for
falling asleep in my class.**

Su Mee looks at Derrick and smiles.

SU MEE

(jokingly)

You should! Teacher you are bad!

Eventually Su Mee and Derrick arrive at the edge of the camp.

Derrick turns to Su Mee, opens his arms and embraces her.

DERRICK

I love you Su Mee.

SU MEE

I love you, too teacher.

DERRICK

**You have my number so if you ever
need anything, anything, please
call me. Okay?**

Su Mee nods her head.

SU MEE

Okay.

Derrick smiles, looks around at where he is at.

DERRICK
**From here I turn left and just keep
 straight, right?**

SU MEE
Yes.

DERRICK
Okay... Bye Su Mee.

Su Mee waves, Derrick begins to walk off but Su Mee calls out to him once more.

SU MEE
Teacher!

Derrick looks back at Su Mee. A moment is had that can only be explained by the look in their eyes.

SU MEE (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Derrick smiles, makes the 'okay' sign with his fingers and disappears around the corner.

FADE TO:

OVER SCREEN: FIVE WEEKS LATER

INT. CLOSE UP OF A PHOTO -- DAY

Derrick and Jeong Won are at the sauna, wearing face masks and drinking beer.

Widen to see the picture frame is on Derrick's desk and we're...

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Derrick's back faces his class. He reads out loud what he is writing on the chalk board.

DERRICK
 The... boy... worked a job...
 and... went... to school. Now who
 can tell me what the subject is and
 what the two verbs are?

Derrick turns. To his shock a FEMALE STUDENT raises her hand.
 He points to the student.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Yes.

FEMALE STUDENT

The subject is the boy.

DERRICK

Good. Now what are the two verbs?

FEMALE STUDENT

Worked is a verb... And... so is
went...

Derrick applauds.

DERRICK

Very good.

The door in the back of the class opens. In walks Su Mee's boyfriend in his typical tired fashion. He does what he usually does: instantly falls asleep on his desk. A MALE STUDENT in the next desk over tries to wake him up.

MALE STUDENT #2

(whispered)

Wake up.

Derrick sees this, compassionately says...

DERRICK

No, it's okay. Let him sleep.

INT. BATHROOM - ADVERTISING AGENCY -- DAY

Jeong Won stands before the sink, brushing her teeth in front of the mirror when a queasy feeling begins in her stomach causing her to run into the stall and vomit.

OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Jeong Won finally emerges from the bathroom dabbing the corners of her mouth with tissue. She looks around the quiet office. No one appears to have heard.

Jeong Won returns to her...

CUBICLE

... and takes a seat. She breathes out heavily, checks her phone and suddenly decides to call it a day. Jeong Won shuts down her computer, organizes her desk then leans over and whispers to her colleague in the next cubicle over.

JEONG WON

**Hey, I think I am going to head on
home. Not feeling, too well.**

MALE COLLEAGUE
Really? Are you getting sick?

JEONG WON
No, think I'm just a little tired.

MALE COLLEAGUE
**I understand. Well, be sure to get
 some rest this weekend.**

Jeong Won smiles.

JEONG WON
I will. Have a good weekend.

MALE COLLEAGUE
Bye.

Jeong Won grabs her purse from the floor, stands to her feet and exits the office.

EXT. BUS STOP -- LATE AFTERNOON

Derrick, along with several other passengers step out of a jam-packed, green bus.

DERRICK
 (to self)
 ... Jesus...

Derrick stands off to the side. He drops his head back, closes his eyes and inhales fresh, clean air.

Derrick's phone begins to ring. He pulls it out from his pocket, smiles at the name on the screen and takes the call.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (cute, sweet way)
Hellooooo...

LOBBY

Jeong Won exits the elevator, walks into the lobby, grinning because she is on a call with Derrick.

JEONG WON
 (into phone)
 Hey baby, what's up?

INTERCUT:

Derrick laughs, begins his commute home down the sidewalk.

DERRICK

Uh... Are you a gangster now?

Jeong Won chuckles, continues moving through the long lobby.

JEONG WON

Yup. Where are you?

DERRICK

... Just got off of the bus,
walking home now.

JEONG WON

Dare I ask how the bus was?

DERRICK

The same, crowded, nauseating. How
was your day?

JEONG WON

... It was okay. Wasn't good, but
it wasn't bad, either. Just okay.

DERRICK

One of those, huh?

JEONG WON

Yeah, think I am going to go to bed
early tonight.

DERRICK

You sure you are okay?

JEONG WON

Yeah, I'm fine, don't worry.

DERRICK

Okay. Will I see you in the
morning, then?

JEONG WON

In the morning?? I thought Mitch's
wedding wasn't until the afternoon?

DERRICK

(smiling)

It is but, I was hoping we could,
you know, do what lovers do before
we go.

JEONG WON

(smiling)

Ya!

DERRICK
 (smiling)
What??

Jeong Won is nearly at the lobby doors when her name is called out.

TAE GYUN (O.S.)
Jeong Won, just a minute!!

Jeong Won looks back over her shoulder, sees Tae Gyun jogging over toward her.

JEONG WON
Sweetie, I'll call you right back.

Jeong Won ends the call.

DERRICK
Huh? Is everything alright?

Derrick looks at his phone, confused.

END INTERCUT.

Tae Gyun catches up with Jeong Won, catches his breath.

TAE GYUN
You're fast. Didn't think I was going to get a chance to see you out.

Jeong Won gives Tae Gyun a terse smile, remains silent.

TAE GYUN (CONT'D)
Heard you were feeling a little ill?

JEONG WON
I'll be okay.

TAE GYUN
Is there anything I can do for you?

JEONG WON
 (deep sigh)
Tae Gyun...

Tae Gyun puts his hands up in a innocent manner.

TAE GYUN
I'm just asking, that's all...

JEONG WON
Really? Just asking?

TAE GYUN
Yes.

JEONG WON
... I don't believe you.

Tae Gyun smiles mischievously.

TAE GYUN
Have I ever given you a reason not to?

JEONG WON
No. But I know how you feel about my relationship with Derrick. I can see how much it bothers you.

TAE GYUN
(smiles)
... Can you?

JEONG WON
Yes, Tae Gyun... I can. But I can't figure out why... He's not a bad person. He works hard, treats me good. So why do you hate our love?

Tae Gyun takes a deep breath, looks around, suggests...

TAE GYUN
... How about we go outside.

Tae Gyun holds the door for Jeong Won as they both step outside and walk over towards a running...

FOUNTAIN

Jeong Won takes a seat on the ledge. Tae Gyun moves in close, speaks low but firmly.

TAE GYUN
Jeong Won, there are two things in this world that I hate. Number one, I hate when my favorite team loses a game they know they should have won. And number two, I hate delusions of grandeur...

JEONG WON

Since the first one doesn't apply
to me, are you saying I'm being
unrealistic?

Tae Gyun breathes out hard, eyes Jeong Won pensively.

TAE GYUN

Do me a favor, look around and tell
me what you see.

JEONG WON

What do you mean?

TAE GYUN

Exactly what I said, look around
and tell me what your eyes see.

Though reluctant, Jeong pivots her head left and right. She beholds the usual homogenous society free from outliers.

JEONG WON

I see people, cars...

TAE GYUN

Good, what else?

JEONG WON

... Buildings, a park, some
apartments, shops...

TAE GYUN

Keep going...

JEONG WON

Trees, birds, the sky.

(shakes head annoyed)

Why are you treating me like I am
some kind of patient? This is
Korea, you see what I see, I
shouldn't have to tell you! I don't
understand why you are asking me
all this...

TAE GYUN

Because... this... is... Korea. And
you are a Korean, Jeong Won. Your
children, your future family, they
should all be Korean. I can't
understand why any Korean would
want to venture outside.

JEONG WON

(grimacing)

Venture outside? You think my relationship with Derrick, is me venturing outside?

TAE GYUN

Actions do speak for themselves. Jeong Won, eventually you will have to step out of your fantasy world and face the world as it really is. Your parents will never approve of your relationship with Derrick. Am I wrong?

JEONG WON

(pensive beat)

No, you are right... Actions do speak for themselves. And your actions clearly tell me that your father made a mistake giving you this company.

Tae Gyun scoffs, looks away.

TAE GYUN

What does that have to do with anything?

JEONG WON

Do you know what makes this world so hard to live in?

Jeong Won looks at Tae Gyun.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

Do you know?

Tae Gyun shakes his head no.

JEONG WON (CONT'D)

Take a guess.

TAE GYUN

... I don't know, lack of money.

JEONG WON

Good guess, but no. There are millions of poor people with very little who live full lives.

TAE GYUN

Then I don't know. Tell me.

JEONG WON

(beat)

Society, unfortunately... Whatever feelings you have in your heart, desires, every decision you make and don't make, you can count on society to be right there beside you, ready to tear you down. Or congratulate you on conforming.

Jeong Won stands to her feet as does Tae Gyun. She begins to walk off...

TAE GYUN

Jeong Won...

Jeong Won stops, turns back, has more to say.

JEONG WON

You know, maybe you are right. Perhaps it's time I woke up. I mean I was sleep once before and I woke up. No reason why I can't do it again.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WEDDING HALL - CLOSE UP ON ELEVATOR DOOR -- NEXT DAY

Elevator doors slide open. Derrick, dressed in a suit and tie cleans up real well. He steps out of the elevator into a hall filled with people, both foreigners and Koreans alike.

From afar off, Tom spots Derrick by the elevator, looking like a lost puppy and calls out.

TOM

Hey Derrick!

Derrick turns, finds Tom amidst crowds of people and walks over.

TOM (CONT'D)

Hey buddy, long time no see.

The two shake hands.

DERRICK

I know, right. Everything good with you?

TOM

Yeah. Everything is great. No complaints here.

DERRICK

Good.
 (looks around)
 So where's Gary?

TOM

Around here somewhere, I keep
 losing him, though. Speaking of
 which, where is your other half? I
 thought you said she was coming,
 too?

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Derrick sits in a wooden chair, watching a Korean makeup
 ARTIST prepare Mitch's face.

MITCH

(to artist)
 I'm sorry, can we get a second?

The makeup artist pauses, looks at Mitch adrift.

MITCH (CONT'D)

(looks up at Derrick)
 Help me out here, Dee.

DERRICK

(to artist)
Could you come back in 5 minutes?

The makeup artist nods her head.

MAKEUP ARTIST

Sure.

She leaves the room. Mitch gets up from his chair and takes a
 seat over by a downtrodden Derrick.

MITCH

So wait, tell me again what
 happened. You tried calling her and
 she wouldn't answer her phone?

INT. BEDROOM - JEONG WON'S HOME -- EARLY MORNING

A cell phone rings and doesn't stop.

Jeong Won lies on her bed, crying in the fetal position.
 Black tears roll down her cheeks, as she weeps with a
 convulsive catching of her breath.

DERRICK (V.O.)

A taxi driver once said to me that, "our thoughts are most important. And that all we are, is the result of what we have thought." I get the first part that our thoughts are what drives us. It makes sense, we usually do what we think. But the second part when he says, all that we are, is the result of what we have thought, confuses me. Because sometimes there is a change that takes place along the way. All of a sudden you changed Jeong Won and went the opposite way... Why?

The clock on Jeong Won's night stand says 9:30. We drop down under the night stand to find a trash can. Inside there is a pregnancy test; the source of Jeong Won's devastation.

FADE TO BLACK.