

Tansy Eyre

That sweet little elf,
her eyes glow in the night,
with the beautiful stare,
she sees evil,

from the depths of the sea!

Genre: Suspense

Language: English, Chinese subtitles

Screenwriter: Terrie Tai

Moonlight Sonata

Main Characters

TANSY EYRE (Chinese name: 艾菊)

5 year-old girl of mixed ethnicity

This story is told through her innocent eyes whose purity act like a filter in a camera, highlighting some details while minimising others. Her innocence unlocks the dark side of the adult world - unfaithfulness, lust, apathy and compulsion.

GRETCHEN EYRE (Chinese name: 葛琴)

Mother of TANSY

30 years-old, Chinese, pianist.

When she married JONATHAN, she became a full-time housewife.

JONATHAN EYRE

Father of TANSY

37 years-old, English businessman.

He married GRETCHEN, but their union is falling apart due to misunderstandings and incompatibility with GRETCHEN. He uses illicit affairs with other women to escape the daily arguments with his wife.

WOMAN

A satan.

Age unknown, over 6 feet tall.

Big eyes, always wearing a long red dress.

She resembles TANSY's doll with her pale long legs, but she is the human personification of the original sin, that lives in every human heart, in both adults and children.

FRED

A satan.

7-10 years old, big black eyes, black clothes.

He is the human personification of avarice.

RICHARD BLACK

A friend of Jonathan.

35 years-old, English, 6 feet tall.

Poet, best-selling fiction writer,

His main interest is human psychology.

Script

CLOSE UP

A child's hand, drawing on a white piece of paper outlines of a house, a man, woman and a little girl in between them.

DISSOLVE TO

The drawing of a house is transitioning into a real house

FADE IN:

INT. EYRE's Dining Room - Morning

Bright sunlight is shining through the large windows, filling the entire room

CLOSE UP

TANSY's face

TANSY sits at the table

GRETCHEN comes in, she carries two plates filled with steaming hot food.

She places one plate opposite her on the table.

The chair opposite her is empty.

GRETCHEN sits down, takes a small bottle of medicine
and pours some liquid into a teaspoon.

CLOSE UP

The medicine in the spoon has a brown colour,
and is lightly shaking.

GRETCHEN

(Expressionless face, reaching her spoon to TANSY)

Tansy, come on, open your mouth.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's face grimaces as she looks at the teaspoon of brown liquid.

She covers her mouth with her hand.

The spoon moves closer

TANSY turns her head sideways, away from the spoon.

TANSY

It smells!

GRETCHEN

Come on, drink it. Be a good girl
and then, you'll have a *chocolate*.

TANSY shakes her head.

CLOSE-UP

GRETCHEN's face is serious.

JONATHAN walks in,
sitting into the empty chair opposite to GRETCHEN.
He takes a look at the plate of food in front of him,
no more steam from the food.
He fiddles with the fried egg on the plate using a fork,

until his face frowns.

He puts the fork into the plate and picks up a newspaper.

He opens the newspaper and reads it. Newspaper covers up the entire frame.

TANSY

(Pleading)

But Mumma, I want to be a good girl

I'm not naughty,

I'm well now

See: I'm not coughing any more.

I don't need to drink that smelly medicine.

TANSY begins to cough.

She tries to suppress the cough

but cannot stop it.

GRETCHEN

See. You still got that bad cough.

Just drink it.

Please.

Then, you can have a chocolate.

Just don't cry. You're a strong girl, right?

Please. Just drink it.

If you do that, I will reward you with a little red flower.

CLOSE-UP

TANSY's face

Her mouth twitches,

and she begins wailing loudly

as she coughs uncontrollably.

JONATHAN

(Peeking from behind the newspaper)

Darling, this is the magic medicine, it will make you stronger.

Come on, listen to your Mom.

I think what she's saying is very reasonable.

I'll take you to see the Nutcracker by Bolshoi Ballet this weekend. Just drink the medicine.

GRETCHEN

Dear Mr. EYRE, thank you very much

for your kind invitation for TANSY,
but you better go there with that woman.

Have fun.

And never, ever, let that woman's dirty hands touch my daughter!

JONATHAN

We're still arguing over trivial matters?!

From morning till night.

Are you not tired of this life?

Well I'm *fed up* with it.

Just as I'm fed up with your fried eggs.

Look! They're *burnt!*

I am not complaining. But why don't you learn?

Why don't you *do* something!?

Why can't you *improve?* Why don't you listen to what I say?

I want you to see how English wives do it.

Why don't you?

They use a gentle flame to fry eggs.

GRETCHEN

Mr. EYRE, unfortunately,
you have mistakenly married
a *Chinese* woman.

JONATHAN

Well in that case I shall go,
right now,
and have my breakfast elsewhere.

GRETCHEN

TANSY, hurry up. Take this medicine.
Then, finish your breakfast.
Then we go to school!

JONATHAN

Tansy, please, just have some bread first.
That way, the medicine won't taste so bad.

TANSY

I don't like bread.

JONATHAN

You know, when I was a child I was a picky eater, too.

And my Mom would say to me:

“Don’t you want to eat this?

Okay then, you will be sent to China.”

TANSY

Why send you to China?

JONATHAN

Because, in those days, children in China had nothing to eat.

(Peeking at GRETCHEN)

Of course, now it’s different,

completely different.

China is very wealthy now.

GRETCHEN

So *this* is your education?

Your racist mother *teaching* you

discrimination and arrogance?

To look down on other races?

And now you are passing this racist attitude to your children?

This is very bad.

I can't stand that!

You call yourself ‘a highly educated person’,

‘Highly’...*barbaric* education!

JONATHAN

The Bible says:

“Be ye angry, and sin not;

let not the sun go down upon your wrath;

and do not give way to the Evil One.”

JONATHAN and GRETCHEN quarrel

the sound fades out...

Music begins

CLOSE UP

TANSY’s eyes

watching her parents.

GRETCHEN quarrels

JONATHAN quarrels

GRETCHEN quarrels

JONATHAN quarrels

Their quarrel becomes more and more fierce.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's eyes dart from a side to the other side,
her pair of eyes moves from right to left as if she is watching a tennis match

CLOSE UP

TANSY's eye

Image of blue water rippling
is reflected in her eye,
a wisp of red colour pours in,
the blue water is blending with red colour,
the blue water now with red, turns into purple smoke.
The purple smoke grows thicker and thicker,
and turns into red blood, spreading out.

The title the film

Cast list

DISSOLVE TO

(Music finished and sound resuming)

INT. EYRE's Dining Room – DAY

JONATHAN throws his newspaper
onto the plate of the unfinished breakfast.

SLOW MOTION

The egg sap spills out of the fried egg,
spilling onto the table

JONATHAN hurriedly putting on his suit jacket
the tie is not properly done,
he rushes out of the house.

CLOSE UP

The eyes of GRETCHEN are following JONATHAN,
The eyes of TANSY are following JONATHAN,
the front door is slammed with a heavy bang sound.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN fadeins shocked to the sound of the door slammed,
TANSY fadeins shocked to the sound of the door slammed.

(The sound of a car engine starting is coming from the outside, heard in inside the hose)

TANSY runs to the window and looks outside.
She sees her Dad's car is driving through the gate
TANSY hurriedly runs out of the house.

EXT. EYRE house front yard - DAY

JONATHAN's car is driving away from the front gate.
TANSY runs out and stand at the gate, staring at the car as it pulls away.
GRETCHEN approaches her from behind and stands next to her,
she takes TANSY's hand and holds it.

A truck approaches,
it stops at the next door to the house,
workers are moving furniture to the house.
A car arrives and stops at the next the door to the house.
A girl of approximately 8 years of age
gets out of the car,
then a couple gets out.

The East Asian man and East Asian woman are holding cardboard boxes full of sundries.
The couple walk into the house next door.
The girl is looking at TANSY

TANSY

Hi

Girl

Hi

The girl runs into the her new house.

TANSY

Mom, who are they?

GRETCHEN

It seems that we have new neighbours.

They look Chinese.

Ok, get back home and drink the medicine!

GRETCHEN and TANSY re-enter their house.

As they enter the front door TANSY is looking back over her shoulder.

INT. EYRE's Dining Room – DAY

GRETCHEN

(She holds back her tears,

her anger becoming more obvious as she talks with to TANSY)

艾菊，妳就快喝了這藥吧，妈妈快烦死了，
快喝，別再添乱了。

(TANSY, please! Just *drink* the medicine!

I'm tired.

Please. Don't cause more trouble to me)

CLOSE UP

The teaspoon goes straight into TANSY's mouth.

TANSY quickly swallows the medicine

but makes a disturbing sound, as if drowning.

After a struggle she recovers and calms down.

She looks at her mom's face

GRETCHEN tries hard to hold back her tears.

TANSY

Mom, I drank the bitter medicine!,

I'm so brave. Right?

Can I have a little red flower?

GRETCHEN

Ok, but you will keep it, right?

INT. EYRE's Hallway - DAY

GRETCHEN holds TANSY's hand as she walks towards the piano room.

INT. EYRE's Piano Room - DAY

GRETCHEN and TANSY enter the piano room.

They walk up to the notice board on the wall.

There is a music sheet on it.

CLOSE UP

The music sheet has a corner torn off,

the music sheet on the notice board appears to have been casually torn out of a music book

Attached to the top of the music sheet is a photograph

of TANSY crying.

TANSY

Mom, I don't like that picture.

Can we take it off?

I was too young that time,

Take it off.

GRETCHEN

(Begins to laugh uncontrollably
but steadies herself and puts on a serious face)

You were very young

that was last week,

but this week

you are old enough.

CLOSE UP

The picture of TANSY crying.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT. Street - DAY

TANSY is crying on the street.

GRETCHEN

You want that doll?

But your bedroom is full of dolls.

What about that doll? Sophia?

That's the name you gave her, Sophia?
It is brand new,
I bought her for you just a few days ago.

TANSY

I don't like Sophia any more.

GRETCHEN

You are so fickle. Just like your father.
Have you thought about what Sophia is feeling?
You liked that doll, remember?
So I bought her for you.
Now, just few days after, you want to throw her away? Like an old rag?
What's happening to people now?
They are changing their feelings so fast. Even a child.
I really don't understand!
Okay, you are crying again. I'm going home.

GRETCHEN turns away from TANSY, slowly taking steps away in the opposite direction.

TANSY

Mom, Mom, please don't leave me here. I will be lost.

GRETCHEN quickly turns around and steps back towards TANSY.

GRETCHEN

Okay, come here. Hold Mom's hand.
You won't get lost.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. EYRE's Piano Room - DAY

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN takes a red ballpoint pen,
The torn music sheet attached to the notice board has
a bunch of small red flowers drawn in red and black pigs
drawn in black on the bottom of the sheet, opposite the photograph of crying TANSY attached at the top.
She draws five circles to form a new red flower.

TANSY

Mom, am I a good girl today?
I was brave to drink the bitter medicine,
I should have two red flowers. Right?

GRETCHEN

OK. But you must promise me:
You mustn't go to play near the swimming pool in the garden.
Ok?

Then I will give you two red flowers.
Otherwise, you will have one hundred black pigs instead!
Do you understand what I'm saying to you?

TANSY

No. I don't want black pigs.
I won't go to the pool.

GRETCHEN

Good girl!
Now I'm going to play the piano,
and you can go to play with Snowy.
Don't forget what you promised me.

GRETCHEN sits in front of the piano,
and starts to play Chopin's Ballade No.4 Op.52

TANSY

(With loud voice)
Snowy!

Snowy - a White Shepherd dog breed,
is running into the garden, tail wagging.

TANSY

Snowy!
Wait for me!

TANSY follows Snowy as she runs into the garden.

EXT. EYRE's Garden - DAY

Bright sunshine across

the newly cut lawn,
the green grass looks smooth like a blanket.
Snowy is running around in small circles
and rolls across the grass..

TANSY

No, no, no!
Don't do that Snowy.
Listen to me!
Mom doesn't like me rolling on the ground like you.

SNOWY barks and keeps rolling.

TANSY

Don't you listen to me?
OK! you will have three...
no, you will have *one hundred* black pigs!
This is what Mom said.

SNOWY barks,
wagging his tail.

TANSY

What are you trying to say?
You are so silly.
You always do silly things.
Why can't you talk normal?

SNOWY barks,
wagging his tail.

TANSY

All right, you are forgiven.
But I want to be a good girl.
I will keep myself clean.
Look, I'm wearing white skirt today!

TANSY plays around in the garden.
After a while,
she stops and squints her eyes towards the swimming pool.
A man is doing cleaning work at the pool.

EXT. EYRE's Swimming Pool - DAY

The man is filling the pool with clean water.

EXT. EYRE's Garden - DAY

TANSY is watching the man clean the pool.

She walks through the garden
and approaches the pool.

EXT. EYRE's Swimming Pool - DAY

CLOSE UP

The water in the pool is perfectly limpid,
and brightly blue

TANSY is standing by the pool.

TANSY

Wow, what a blue water,
how beautiful!
It's the sea!

Man

You are right, it looks like the sea.
Ever been to the sea before?

TANSY

Yes, I've been to the beach with my Mom and Dad.
We were on holidays.

The man finishes his work,
packs up his tools and gets ready to leave.

Man

The sea is beautiful, but it's dangerous.
You probably don't know how to swim yet,
It's very dangerous up here for you.
I'll tell your Mom she needs to put up a fence down here,
But for now, little girl, go.
Quickly, go now.

Go home.

TANSY turns away from the pool
and runs a few yards towards her house.

Man

Go now, go!
Get back to your house.
Go, go, go.

TANSY runs to the front of her house.
SNOWY follows her.

MAN

Ok, good girl. Bye now!
Don't forget what I told you!
Don't come close to the pool!

EXT. EYRE's Garden Back gate - DAY

The man gets into a van parked at the garden back-gate.
The man starts the engine and the van drives away.

EXT. EYRE's Garden - DAY

TANSY

Why everybody says that to me?
Don't go to the pool.
I just want to see the blue water.
I just want to sit by the water.

TANSY nervously looks towards the swimming pool,
and then runs to the pool.

EXT. EYRE's Swimming Pool - DAY

TANSY sits down at the poolside,
her legs dangling above the water.
SNOWY beside her.

TANSY

Snowy, we are NOT playing here.
We just want to go to the sea.
We just want to look at the water.
Right?

SNOWY wags his tail.

CLOSE UP

The blue water in the swimming pool.

TANSY

Snowy, have you been to the sea?
The sea is blue, just like this water.
I've been there with my Mom and Dad.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's eyes reflect the water,
bright blue water is reflected in TANSY's eyes.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT. Seaside - DAY

CLOSE UP

Blue seawater.

JONATHAN stands in the water,
with his two hands he is lifting TANSY into the air and places her on his shoulders.
GRETCHEN nestles her head on JONATHAN's shoulder.
They are laughing.

INT. A Restaurant in a Hotel - NIGHT

CLOSE UP

A candle

dining table

The EYRE family sit around the dining table
next to a large window leading into a beach.

A pianist is playing Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata.

JONATHAN and GRETCHEN gaze at each other

CLOSE UP

Candlelight shines in their eyes
and illuminates TANSY's face.

They are listening to the music,

Tears drop in TANSY's eyes.

JONATHAN looks at TANSY,
he pats her on the back.

GRETCHEN takes a tissue paper
and reaches out to wipe TANSY's tears.

TANSY struggles to control her tears
and begins weeping uncontrollably.

Some diners turn their heads to look at TANSY's table.

JONATHAN

(Speaking to people around his table)

Sorry,
our daughter gets a little sentimental
when she hears this music

Lady

Oh no, no need to be sorry.
Beethoven's music is very touching.
And this pianist is doing an amazing interpretation of it.
Your daughter is still only a little girl,
but she knows how to *feel* the music.
And that is fine.
She is a great little girl.

JONATHAN takes TANSY and rests her on his lap,
he presses her head against his chest.

JONATHAN

(In comforting voice)

It's okay. It's okay.
My crying angel.

TANSY

I'm not crying,
It's stomachache.

TANSY buries her head in her father's chest as she weeps.

GRETCHEN and JONATHAN are getting tearful.

GRETCHEN

Sweetheart, don't be shy about showing your feelings.

This is the Moonlight Sonata by Beethoven,

it is a very moving piece,

TANSY

Is it a story?

GRETCHEN

Yes, it's about the moon, and the sea.

The sea,

under the moonlight.

Come,

come here.

GRETCHEN holds TANSY,

They both look out from the window.

The bright moon is glowing in the night sky.

The sea waves sparkle in the moonlight.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's watery eyes.

GRETCHEN

Just listen to this music,

Ding dong ding, ding dong ding ...

Like the drops of pure water.

The drops, they drip and drip.

Drip, and drip, and drip.

More, and more.

Suddenly, you have lots of water drops,

and together,

they become the sea.

Beethoven is a great composer.

Listen, he is using just the simplest notes,

but he conveys *big* meaning.

Deep, and wide.

He is an awesome composer.

TANSY

Yes, yes! I can hear!
Ding dong ding, ding dong ding,
it's the water drops,
they are becoming the sea!

JONATHAN also joins in,
they all look at the scenery outside of the window
The piece finishes,
the dinners are clapping.
The pianist bows to the audience.

GRETCHEN

(Speaking to JONATHAN)
I'd like to play something.

JONATHAN nods his head and smiles,
he points his chin to the pianist.
GRETCHEN smiles, and walks to the pianist.

GRETCHEN

It's really beautiful, what you just played.
Fantastic!
My daughter was crying.
Thank you!
I would like to ask you,
if I can play a piece here,
You see, I am also a pianist.

Pianist

Thank you.
Sure, please.
Go ahead.

GRETCHEN

(To the audience)
Good evening everyone!
My name is Gretchen.
Over there are my husband and my daughter.

We just listened to the most touching *Moonlight Sonata*.

Let's all say 'Thank You!' to this great pianist,
and I would also like to thank him for his kindness,
for allowing me to play something here.

Now I'd like to play
Liszt's *Liebesträum* No. 3 in *A-flat Major*.

For all of you!

For love!

JONATHAN and TANSY clap their hands.

Everybody claps their hands.

LADY

(to JONATHAN)

Oh, your wife is a pianist?!

(thumbs up)

CLOSE UP

TANSY's eyes,
her black pupil.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. In the Swimming Pool - DAY

Tansy struggles in the blue water of the pool.

TANSY

Mom! I can't breathe!... Mom!

Help me!... Mom!....

TANSY sinks,

Sinking down into the blue bottom of the pool.

A black speck appears in front of her,

The speck is getting larger,

it grows into a huge black hole.

TANSY hesitantly moves through the black hole

the blue water around her is turning black

TANSY floats up to the surface of a clear water in a pond.

EXT. Pond - DAY

TANSY rises to the surface of the pond
A woman's face shows,
looking down through the water.

WOMAN

Oh, you are here.

Finally.

I have been waiting for you,
a long time.

TANSY is picked up by the WOMAN
and carried from the pond.
The WOMAN places TANSY on the ground.
TANSY is crying
as she wipes off water from her face with her hands,
She starts coughing.
The WOMAN is standing under a big tree
looking down at TANSY.

SLOW MOTION

Red shoes,
long red dress,
arms crossed in front of her bosom,
fair skin,
large black eyes.
Her figure is tall and slim.

CLOSE UP

The WOMAN's eyes,
each one resembles a deep, dark caves,
a small fire flickers inside each pupil.

TANSY

Who are you?

WOMAN

I am your friend.

TANSY

You look like Sophia.

WOMAN

Sophia?

Who?

The WOMAN laughs

TANSY steps back, scared,

she looks around her nervously,

she cannot recognise her garden or her home

she realises she is in a completely different place,

the forest is lush and full of sunlight,

it resembles an illustration from a fairy tale book.

TANSY starts crying again

TANSY

(Holding back her tears)

I'm Tansy, and I'm 5 years old.

I'm not naughty.

I want to go home,

can you take me home?

WOMAN

Hi Tansy, I know who you are.

It is a beautiful name!

TANSY

I don't know who you are.

I'm scared of you.

WOMAN

Don't be scared, I am... Sophia!

TANSY

No you are not.

Sophia is my doll.

She is not tall like you.

WOMAN

Oh, I am Sophia,

I've grown up!

Did you know,

all dolls grow up one day...

TANSY

(Crying)

I don't want Sophia to grow up!

I'm scared.

Take me home! Please!

WOMAN

(Raising her voice and calling out)

Fred!

A little boy quietly walks out from behind a big tree.

He is wearing clean black clothes.

The all black outfit is making his fair beautiful skin look pale like the face of the WOMAN,

TANSY is bashful.

She wipes clean her tears,

and pats her white skirts as she tries to straighten it.

WOMAN

Would you like to play with Fred?

You can come to play at our house.

It is just over there.

TANSY

Mom said, I can't go to a stranger's house.

WOMAN

But we are not strangers to you.

I am Sophia, you said it,

and we are good friends!

Are we not?

TANSY

Ok, if you are my doll then I can come with you.

They walk a short distance to a gate nearby.

The WOMAN opens the front door that leads into a garden.

EXT. Woman's Garden - DAY

A lush green lawn shines brightly in the garden,

there is a white house in front,
surrounded by lilac flowers.
They follow the path in the middle of the garden
and arrive at a house.

WOMAN

Please come in.
You are always welcome here Tansy,
Fred, take Tansy's hand.

FRED reaches out his hand to take TANSY's hand.

CLOSE UP

FRED's cold fingertips touch TANSY's hand
Tansy instinctively shrinks back her hand from FRED's cold hand.
FRED is looking at TANSY.

CLOSE UP

FRED's eyes,
big and dark like the WOMAN'S,
A tiny flame flashes in FRED's eyes.

TANSY takes FRED's hand,
she takes a deep breath,
with an obvious effort she walks into the house.

INT. House - DAY

A big wooden dining table next to the window.

WOMAN

Come in,
please.
Let us have some afternoon tea, no?

CLOSE UP

The table is full of various biscuits and cakes.
Cups of tea and coffee with steam swirling above,
Roses in full bloom are lined up through the window and into the room
in an arrangement stretching from the garden.
WOMAN, FRED and TANSY sit around the table.

WOMAN

We have prepared these just for you, Tansy.
We hope you can enjoy this.

TANSY

Thank you!
Wow, so many cakes here.
I like these cakes very much!
They look yummy.
I like this rose as well,
It's so pretty.
Do you live here?
Why I have never been here before?
Are you our neighbours?

WOMAN

Yes, we belong here.
If you come next time, I will treat you with *even more* cakes.
The princess cake!
Would you like to have a princess cake?
So, come again.

TANSY

Yes, I like to come again,
but I don't know how to find the way here,
I fell off the swimming pool
and then I'm here.
Are we far from my home?

WOMAN

No, we are very close to home.
All it takes is just one thought in your mind,
and you'll be here.

TANSY

Have my Mom and Dad been here?

WOMAN

No, they have their own worlds.
Everyone's world is different.

The world is made up of what people see,
and hear,
and feel.

(The woman points to
TANSY's eyes, nose and mouth with her hand)

TANSY bursts into laughter.

WOMAN

Oh, you are laughing, aren't you?

So you are not scared anymore?

Good girl!

You know, actually this place is people's *real* home.

But people tend to forget about this place,
or they just pretend they have never been here before.

TANSY

They all come here from the pool?

WOMAN

They come here from everywhere.

It is just like getting lost.

Have you ever been lost before?

TANSY

My Mom said,

you must always hold Mom's hand,

otherwise you will get lost.

WOMAN

You listened to the Mom like a good girl.

And now,

look what happened.

TANSY

I didn't refuse to listen to my Mom.

I went to the pool,

just for a little bit,

It must be a dream.

WOMAN

Just holding Mom's hand?

Haha!

But Mom has already taken the wrong turn.

Everybody gets lost.

No exceptions.

When you are a bit absent-minded,
or when you are tired and need to relax,
or when you are not sure what to choose,
you are lost.

When you are in a strange place,
lost in the woods,
losing your way in the dark.

Losing your way in the tall grass,
just like that.

You don't know how to get out.

Suddenly,

you see a path.

You take the path,

and you will come home, right here.

Always.

TANSY

So, I'm lost?

Please take me home,

My Mom will thank you.

WOMAN

Yes, I will take you home. Later.

Don't you worry about that,

But first, my lovely guest,

now that you have come here,

we must treat you well.

Please, eat these cakes.

I think you will enjoy them.

TANSY takes a bite out of chocolate cupcake.

The WOMAN and FRED exchange glances,
they wink to each other.

both are smiling while nodding to each other.

WOMAN

Let us play a game!
Tansy, would you like to play a game with us?

TANSY

Yes I like games very much!
But Snowy doesn't know how to play,
he is a little dog,
and he can't talk.
He can just bark,
like this:
Woof! Woof!

WOMAN

(Coyly)

We don't play games with dogs.
It is going to be just us three.
You cannot tell this to anyone else.
This is our secret.

TANSY

What is secret?

WOMAN

Secret is something that is hidden.
It's the things people hide.
It's a lot of fun when you try to find out what has been hidden.
Tansy, let me give you an example;
A 'secret' is something your Mom hides from you,
something that she does not want you to know about.

TANSY

What does Mom hide?
Oh I know!
Mom hides the chocolates from me,
and she tells me if I eat too much chocolate
my teeth will rot.
Do you want me to find those chocolates?

WOMAN

Chocolates?
No, no. *no.*

The chocolates is nonsense.
We are looking for something...interesting.
For example,
somewhere in your home,
there must be a place where your Mom always shuts the door and does not let you inside.

TANSY

Mom doesn't allow me to go into the kitchen.

WOMAN

Is your Mom always in the kitchen?

TANSY

No, my Mom is always in the piano room.
She always plays the piano.
When Dad doesn't come home.
She plays the piano at night.

WOMEN

Yes!

Now this is quite interesting.

TANSY

Mom plays the music about water drops.
I cry when I hear that music.
Mom says these drops can become the sea!

WOMAN

Oh, your Dad doesn't come back home often?

TANSY

Yes, he plays outside often,
He is a naughty boy.
Mom said we cannot play in the street,
That is dangerous,
so, I don't play outside.
But Dad doesn't listen to Mom,
He plays outside all night.

WOMAN

Oh, in that case:

Go to the piano room.

Go there at night.

Go there when Mom plays the piano.

Find out what Mom is hiding in there.

You will see a very interesting story.

TANSY

But my Mom doesn't like it when I go to the piano room.

There are a lots of music books.

Mom doesn't like me to mess up her scores.

WOMAN

That's right, she does not want you to find the things she is hiding there.

What is she hiding?

Don't you want to find out?

We would really like to know.

Now hurry up!

Go and take a look.

Then, come back and tell us.

I am sure you will like this game very much.

TANSY

There is a music sheet in the piano room,

There are lots red flowers and black pigs on the music sheet,

Mom draws them for me.

WOMAN

What kind of red flowers?

And, *black pigs?*

TANSY

Mom draws them for me,

If I'm a good girl,

I will have a red flower,

but if I do something wrong,

Mom will draw a black pig for me.

WOMAN

See, you like to be praised.

Humans like to be praised.

They want to be liked.

Needy.

Always after attention,
they lust for the limelight.

So they perform. They do the craziest things.

For what?

For meaningless little drawings of hearts and thumbs.

And they *like* it.

As you do.

It seems your Mom cannot give you a better compliment than that,

But I will give you a good reward.

Now come on,

let's play a game.

TANSY

I love those red flowers.

I want lots of red flowers.

WOMAN

Tansy, listen, your Mom can only give you
those red flowers on paper.

And they are not even very pretty.

But If you bring here a story

from the midnight piano room,

You will get a heart-shaped parterre,

full of *real* flowers.

TANSY

I want real flowers!

I want a big garden full of flowers.

WOMAN

And you will also get a cake!

The princess cake,

thick with layers of cream.

On top of that cake, there will be an image of *you* painted entirely with jam.

I can almost *smell* the tantalising aroma,

subtle, mysterious, alluring.

It's all for you, Tansy,

and it's going to be irresistible.

TANSY

(Eyes shine with dreamy light)

It sounds so funny!

WOMAN

Good girl!

Oh, this is so exciting!

Go then, go to the piano room at night,

see what your Mom is hiding,

then come back and tell us.

I will give you the greatest reward you have ever seen.

TANSY nods her head.

WOMAN

Alright,

now I'm taking you home.

WOMAN leads TANSY by the hand to the black pond.

EXT. Pond - the sky suddenly turns dark

The WOMAN lifts up TANSY,
and throws her into the pond.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. Pool bottom - DAY

TANSY struggles for breath
while slowly drifting through the black hole
that opens into the bright water in the bottom of the white swimming pool.

EXT. EYRE's swimming pool - DAY very bright sunlight

TANSY struggles in the pool water.

TANSY

Mom! ... Mom!

TANSY crying loudly,
she is struggling to stay afloat,

she tries to lift her face out of the water
but is pulled down into the water.
Snowy quickly runs towards her from a distance
followed by GRETCHEN
and the cleaner who was working at the pool earlier.
The man jumps into the pool,
and carries TANSY out of the water.
GRETCHEN wraps TANSY up immediately with a thick towel,
and runs back to their house holding TANSY in her arms.

INT. TANSY's bedroom - EVENING

TANSY lies in her bed,
she is coughing heavily.
A doctor is observing TANSY'S head and eyes.
JONATHAN and GRETCHEN sit beside the bed.
GRETCHEN is tucking TANSY into the quilt.

DOCTOR

She is lucky,
thank God she was rescued early enough.
So it's just a cold now,
Nothing serious.
I will prescribe some medicine for her.
Don't worry,
she will get better,
very soon.

JONATHAN

Thank you Doctor!

GRETCHEN worryingly strokes TANSY's hair.
The doctor packs up the needling instruments,
and prepares to leave.

JONATHAN

Thank you Doctor, let me walk you out.

JONATHAN walks out of the room with the doctor.

TANSY

(Feeling guilty as she looks at Gretchen)

Mom, I wasn't playing at the pool.
I just went there to sit down for a bit.
and Snowy too,
he was just rolling on the grass.

JONATHAN comes back into the room.

JONATHAN

What have you done!?

You've just let TANSY fall into the pool?!

You can keep playing your boring piano but you need to take the responsibility of a mother!

You are *incompetent!*

GRETCHEN

But I told her many times already!

I told her not to get near the swimming pool!

JONATHAN

Ha, of course you did,

She is only *5 years old*.

You should be looking after her,
not just saying it.

GRETCHEN

And what about you?

How well have you looked after her?

I have told you many times

to put up a fence around the pool,

but all you have time for is other women.

It only takes a phone call to arrange for a builder to do this.

But you never have time!

JONATHAN

Gretchen, I can't take this any more.

I really can't stand it.

I'm fed up!

Why don't *you* make that phone call?

You have all the numbers you need.

You spend a lot of time talking about this.

You spend a lot of time on your 'emotions', on your your music.

Look, if you want a divorce,
well, that is something I'm actually interested in hearing!

GRETCHEN

Ha, you've finally spoken,
straight from the heart.
Divorce? Sorry,
I have no such plans yet,
I'm quite satisfied with the current ...

Jonathan angrily pushes open the door
and rushes out before GRETCHEN can finish her sentence.
An uncomfortable silence
hangs in the room.

GRETCHEN

Tansy, you've really scared me!
You've promised me.
You know, a good girl cannot break her promise.
Right?
You are not a good girl,
and you will surely going to get
a hundred black pigs!

TANSY

(Imploring)
Mom, Mom, please don't,
I don't want the black pigs ...

GRETCHEN walks out,
stern-faced,
she switches off the lights
and firmly shuts the door.
TANSY turns on her side
she stares at the wall facing her,
she begins crying.

TANSY

(Whispering)
Mom is very bad!
I don't love Mom anymore!

The bedroom is completely silent and dark,
the clock is ticking audibly.

A rag doll
placed in a sitting position on the wardrobe.

CLOSE UP

Rag doll SOPHIA,
wearing a red skirt
her long legs dangling from the skirt.

The sound of the piano appears :
Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata
TANSY wakes up,
and listens to the music for a while.
She gets up, opens the door
and walks out of her bedroom.

INT. EYRE's staircase - NIGHT

TANSY walks down the staircase.

INT. TANSY's Hallway - NIGHT

TANSY walks through the hallway
and approaches the piano room.
She sees a blue light
shining through the cracks in the door .
She walks to the door.
She is standing by the door
then she slowly and quietly pushes the door open.

INT. piano room - Midnight

(TANSY looking through the narrow opening of the door)
all the lights are off in the room
only the moonlight pouring in from the window.
The entire room is covered in a hue of blue,
Dim light of two candles flicker on the piano.
GRETCHEN is playing the piano.
Suddenly there is a knock on the door

that leads into the garden.

Gretchen gets up
tidies up her hair with her finger,
and straightens her skirt.

TANSY

(O.S)

Wow, Mom is wearing a new skirt.

It's blue.

Mom is so beautiful.

GRETCHEN opens the glass door
someone comes through into the room
In the dark a silhouette emerges of apparently male person.
The light from the candles throw the stranger's shadow onto the wall.
On the same wall GRETCHEN's shadow walks up to the stranger's.
The two shadows hug and kiss each other.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's curious face

On the murky, blue piano room wall
the man's shadow looms large.
GRETCHEN and the tall man for a pair of shadows
dancing and spinning in candlelight.
The shadows shift in size from huge to small.
Suddenly,
GRETCHEN sees her daughter.
She runs over to TANSY.

GRETCHEN

Sweetheart, why are you here?

GRETCHEN shuts the door behind her.

TANSY

Mom, who is there?

GRETCHEN

No, nobody here.

TANSY

I heard you played that blue drops music.

GRETCHEN

Oh, you recognize this piece, yes,
this is Beethoven's moonlight sonata,
you used cry when you heard it,
do you remember?

TANSY

Yes I cried (shy)

GRETCHEN

These notes flow from inside my heart,
one drop after another, and after another...
It is love,
it is love!

TANSY

Are there a lots drops in the piano room?

TANSY points to the piano room.

TANSY

Can I go in to take a look?
I want to see the water drops,
become the blue sea

GRETCHEN

Not now, sweetheart, it's time for bed,
go, let's go to bed.

INT. EYRE home porch – Afternoon

GRETCHEN and TANSY return from the nursery school.

A knock on the front door.

GRETCHEN opens the door.

The new neighbour MARY and her daughter ANGELA are standing at the door.

MARY is wearing a cheongsam dress with an English hat,

ANGELA is wearing a princess costume.

MARY is holding a cake.

MARY

Hi, we are your neighbours.
 I'm Mary, and this is my daughter Angela.
 We just moved in
 Came to say hello to you.
 This cake is for you. I made it myself.

GRETCHEN

(Chinese)

謝謝！謝謝！
 請進來坐坐吧。
 (Thank you! Oh lovely!
 Please come in)

MARY

(Chinese)

啊，姐姐，妳會說中文啊！
 (Ah, my sister, you can speak Chinese!)

GRETCHEN

(Chinese)

我是華人
 (I'm Chinese)

INT. EYRE's Kitchen – Afternoon

GRETCHEN makes dumplings

TANSY is playing with the flour.

GRETCHEN

Tansy,
 tell Momma,
 do I look old?

TANSY

Momma, you are a big girl,
 but not an old girl.

GRETCHEN

Our new neighbour is always calling me “姐姐”

it means “old sister”,
but she looks older than me.

TANSY

She also called me “baby”,
but I'm not a baby.

GRETCHEN

Yes, we live in the West, such a long time,
We are not so used to some of the manners of Chinese families.

JONATHAN comes in

GRETCHEN

The new neighbour invited us to have dinner at their house.
I will make some fried dumplings for them.

JONATHAN

Do we have new neighbours?

GRETCHEN

Yes, Chinese, very friendly.
They gave us a cake yesterday,
and now they're inviting us to dinner.

JONATHAN

It sounds you like them.

GRETCHEN

It's hard to say if I like them or not,
we just met each other.
Still early days,
But I'm not used to seeing how she dresses up,
it's too exaggerated.
So uncoordinated.

JONATHAN

Okay, I see,
obviously you don't like her style.
But I don't understand,
Why are you going to dinner with them?

GRETCHEN

This is our Chinese courtesy.
Will you go with me?

JONATHAN

Sorry, I can't make it.
I still have some work to finish,
Please say hello to them for me

INT. MARY's Living room. EVENING

Various Chinese dishes on the table,
MARY brings out another dish from the kitchen.

PETER

(Chinese)

来吧，欢迎新朋友！
舌尖上的中国，无论我们走到哪里，
永远忘不了我们的中国味道。
(Welcome our new friends!
China on the tip of the tongue,
wherever we go,
we never forget our Chinese taste!

GRETCHEN

Mary, please sit down,
these are enough.

MARY

It's okay,
bring some food to your husband,
let him try our Chinese food.

INT. TANSY's bedroom. NIGHT

GRETCHEN comes in
she is carrying TANSY who is asleep in her arms
GRETCHEN puts TANSY on the bed
TANSY wakes up

TANSY

Momma, can I have a phone?
Can you buy a phone for me?

GRETCHEN

Mobile phone?
Why are you asking that?

TANSY

Angela has a mobile phone,
she said it can play games
and can buy things.

GRETCHEN

I think you can have a phone
but you should be 13 years old first.
Angela is 9 years old
but she has a phone too early,
You are just 5 years old,
you have to start learning the piano soon
and now, it's time for sleep.
Night, night.

GRETCHEN leaves the bedroom and shuts the door

TANSY

(speaking to herself)
Mom doesn't love me,
she is not buying me a phone.
Angela's Mom loves her very much.
Mom...

TANSY sobs.

The wind blows open the window,
the curtains floating in the the wind
the doll SOPHIA sits on the cabinet
and shakes her long legs.

TANSY gets out of bed,
she takes the doll
and gets back into bed,

she covers her head with the quilt.

INT. Woman's Garden - DAY

WOMAN

Hello Tansy!

I knew you would come again.

Welcome back!

TANSY

Am I in a dream?

WOMAN

No, this is not a dream.

It is only at night when we can see the world in full light.

That's when we get to see people's real faces.

Only clean eyes can see the dirt.

(laughing)

Interesting, is it not?!

People say this is "just a dream".

Some kind of "an illusion".

Unreal.

As if it is not happening.

And yet, they can't help but lose themselves in a bliss as soon as they follow temptation.

Did you go to the piano room?

What did you see in there?

There must be a happy story in there somewhere, no?

TANSY

No, I'm not happy,

my Mom doesn't want to buy me a phone.

WOMAN

What a pity.

Ok.

Now what about the piano room?

TANSY

I've been to the piano room,

but there is no happy story.

WOMAN

(Loudly)

Fred, take the hand of our honoured princess.

Lead her inside.

FRED emerges from behind the big tree,
his pale face is smiling excitedly.
The little flames are burning brightly in his dark eyes.
The gate to the house opens up.
there is a heart-shaped flower bed,
full of blooming blue flowers,
in the middle of the garden.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's face,
excited and happy.

TANSY

Wow, so delightful!

I love this!

WOMAN

I am glad you like it, Princess Tansy!

This is the Tansy flower garden.

It is named after you.

Just for you!

Welcome, my Princess.

Do you realise that you have brought here the most exciting thing?

The most appealing, and most exhilarating thing

in the whole world –

secrets.

TANSY

Sorry, I don't understand what you are saying.

WOMAN

But you have already done it,

You have peeped into a secret.

You were curious, weren't you?

But you don't need to understand.

It's all part of the human nature.

Haha!

Now come, take a seat.

Please, enjoy this princess cake.

Sweet and delicious.

INT. The Woman's Tea Room - DAY

TANSY eating the cake on her plate.

the WOMAN smiling

the WOMAN and FRED exchange a glances.

FRED smiles.

WOMAN

Tansy, tell us, what did you see
in the piano room at midnight?

It must have be an amusing experience.

Hahaha.

Now that tickles our curiosity.

Are we going to hear from you
an entertaining story?

TANSY

The piano room is blue.

Very, very blue. I like blue.

Mom's blue skirt is so beautiful!

Then someone knocked on the door,
and Mom opened the door,
someone came in.

WOMAN

Gon on,
who was it?

TANSY

I asked Mom who is there
But Mom said nobody is there.

WOMAN

Haha,
your Mom is telling a lie!

She just didn't want you to know
who came into the piano room.
Did you see that person?

TANSY

I saw them on the wall,
they're hugging and kissing.

WOMAN

On the wall?
That's their shadows.

TANSY

They were dancing,
sometimes they are huge,
sometimes they are small.

WOMAN

Tansy, it sounds so interesting!
Clever girl!
Come on,
have another piece of cake!
It is obvious that the shadow wasn't Dad...
Oh, this is making my heart race!
please go on!

TANSY

That shadow was tall!

WOMAN

Yes, that's right,
Dad wouldn't come from the garden.
At midnight.
he is sneaking somewhere else.
And then what happened?

TANSY

Then, I opened the door and called Mom,
Mom closed the door,
and I couldn't see anything.

WOMAN

Oh, Mom was hiding her lover.

TANSY

Mom said,
there is lots and lots of love
in her heart.

WOMAN

Oh,
what an ambiguous answer.
“Love”?
This woman still believes?
In love?
Haha!
And *then* what happened?

TANSY

Nothing, no more.

WOMAN

No more?
(In silence for a while,
and then clapping her hands)
Wow!
Haha!
Brilliant!
Absolutely wonderful!
This is the best story that I’ve ever heard!

FRED is smiling
along along with the
WOMAN’S laughter.

WOMAN

You are such a good little girl!
This is an excellent adventure!
Let’s continue with this game.
Go to the piano room.
Again.
Find out Mom’s secret.

Follow me.

WOMAN takes TANSY'S hand and leads her away
out of the house
through the garden
towards the pond.

INT. TANSY'S Bedroom - MORNING

TANSY is still asleep.

GRETCHEN opens the door and comes in.

She sits on Tansy's bed, waking her up.

GRETCHEN

Tansy, darling,

wake up.

let's go and have breakfast.

Then we'll go to school.

TANSY wakes up, feeling tired.

TANSY

Mom, I'm not feeling well.

GRETCHEN

(Touching TANSY's forehead, in Chinese)

Oh, my dear

you have a fever!

We must go to the hospital now.

GRETCHEN phones JONATHAN

GRETCHEN

Tansy has got a high fever.

I'm taking her to the hospital now,

Can you come straight away?

INT. The Toy Shop - DAY

JONATHAN, ELENA, and TANSY are in front
of the counter in a toy shop.

TANSY is wearing a cat face paint.
A middle-aged man in a leg brace
is walking past the with a cane,
a little boy is behind him.
the boy smiles at TANSY.

TANSY

Did you buy a toy?

BOY

No I can't.

Dad has broken his leg,
now he's got no job.

I'm here just to see.

Wow! So many toys here!

When Dad's leg gets better,
and when he has got a new job,
he will buy me a lot of toys here.

Hey, would you like some sweets?

We've just been to a Chinese store,
we met Dong May.

Dong May is my good friend,
and she is also my Dad's good friend.

She works there,
and gave me some of these.

Which one would you like?

TANSY

I want this pink one.

It looks nice.

BOY

Sure, here you are.

How about you?

What do you want to buy?

TANSY

My Dad didn't break his leg,
so he will buy me a doll.

BOY

A doll?
Why not that hero over there?
He can fight for justice, see?
I've wanted that action figure for so long,
He looks so strong!

TANSY

No, I don't think he is attractive.
I want a pretty doll,
a princess.
You know, my Sophia is skinny
I don't like skinny children,
that's what my Mom says.
And Sophia always makes me see dreams.
I'm scared of those dreams.

BOY

That hero will fight for justice,
He likes the truth.
He will protect you!

ELENA

Tansy, what would you like?
Over here, have a look!

TANSY runs to the counter.

CLOSE UP

The BOY looks envious
The BOY's Dad pats his head
and leads him out of the toy shop.
The BOY still looks back
into the shop as he follows his father.
ELENA comes over to take TANSY's hand.

TANSY

No, your hands are dirty,
don't touch my hand,
you haven't washed your hands.

ELENA

(Surprised)

What do you mean darling?

I did wash my hands.

See?

(Shows hands)

They are clean.

Why did you say that?

TANSY

Mom said your hands are *dirty*.

She told me

not to let them touch me.

JONATHAN

Tansy!

That is *very* rude!

Apologise to Elena,

right now.

TANSY

Sorry, Elena.

JONATHAN

Listen, Tansy;

This problem is just between your Mother and me.

The things your Mother said

they were wrong.

She's jealous.

She's angry.

We are going to find a solution to this problem.

But remember

this has nothing to do with Elena.

Your Mom didn't look after you *very* well,
and that's why you fell into the swimming pool.

You've had a bad fever

but now you're getting better

- and quickly because Dad has taken you to Elena
who has been *caring* for you so well.

You should thank Elena!

We'll go to see her fashion show next week.

Have you ever seen Elena on the catwalk?

She is stunning!

When you grow up,
you will be a brilliant girl,
just like Elena.

TANSY

Mom is the most beautiful!

She is so beautiful when she plays the piano on stage!

When I grow up,
I will play the piano.

JONATHAN

Okay, you can play the piano when you grow up.

But now, you should be good friends with Elena.

Can you promise me that?

TANSY

Thank you Elena!

I promise my Dad

that I will be a good friend with you.

I don't want to be friends with Sophia.

ELENA tries to hug TANSY,

but TANSY runs away.

TANSY

I would like to have that doll,

Yes!

That one over there, yes...!

INT. EYRE's Living Room – DAY

GRETCHEN and JONATHAN sit on the sofa.

GRETCHEN is reading a magazine,

JONATHAN is reading a newspaper.

TANSY is playing with her new doll by herself.

(The telephone rings)

JONATHAN goes to pick up the phone.

JONATHAN

Hello,
Jonathan is here,
hi, Mary...

GRETCHEN

(Whispered to TANSY)
Say I'm not home.

TANSY runs to the phone.

TANSY

Hi Mary!
Mom is not *at* home.
Yes, she said she is not home.

GRETCHEN rushes to hang up the phone.

JONATHAN looks at her in surprise,
and shaking his head.

JONATHAN

But,
you are actually *at* home,
if you don't want to speak to *her*,
just say that to *her*,
directly.

GRETCHEN

It's not that I don't want to speak to *her*.
Just...
not now,
ok?

JONATHAN

You are lying,
and you are teaching your daughter to *lie*, too.

GRETCHEN

But this is only a white lie,

it isn't going to hurt anyone.
What Chinese people cannot bear the most
is to be refused directly
or to lose face.
We prefer to be considerate to other people,
We try to avoid hurting people's feelings,
especially directly to their face.

The door bell rings.

JONATHAN

It's Richard.

We've got some business to talk about.

JONATHAN walks to open the door.

GRETCHEN walks out of the living room

RICHARD follows JONATHAN into the living room.

RICHARD

Hi Tansy,
how are you?

TANSY

I'm fine,
thank you.

GRETCHEN comes back,
holding a princess fancy dress in hands.

GRETCHEN

Come on, Tansy
put on this dress,
let's go to the chestnut park.

RICHARD

Hi Gretchen,
how are you?

GRETCHEN

Hi Richard,
nice to see you!

They politely kiss each other on the cheeks

GRETCHEN

Come on, Tansy, put on this dress,
Let's go to the chestnut park.

GRETCHEN helps TANSY put on the new dress.

GRETCHEN

Her Royal Highness!
How beautiful you are!
My little princess!

JONATHAN

You are the queen,
and Tansy is the princess.
Why you Chinese are all so obsessed
with being a prince or princess?
Trying to make people obey you?
This is not fair.
We should be fair to everybody,
not just our own families,
everyone should be treated equally.

GRETCHEN

(Sneered)
Fair?!
What about the British Empire?
Did they treat everyone equally?
What about the British class system?
You're telling me about fair!?
Tansy, her Royal Highness,
let's go to the chestnut park.

TANSY

Let's go with Dad together!

JONATHAN

Sweetheart,
you go with Mom this time,

Dad needs to talk with Richard
about something.

GRETCHEN

We go now,
let Dad stay at home
and think about lies and “fair”!

EXT. Chestnut Park - DAY

GRETCHEN walks with TANSY in the boulevard
TANSY slowly lags behind.

GRETCHEN

Tansy,
why are you walking so slowly?
Can you please
walk a bit faster?

Tansy

Dad says, don't walk too fast,
that's Chinese walking.
English girls
should have good manners.

GRETCHEN

Did Dad say that to you?

TANSY nods.

TANSY

Yes, he took me to see the ballet last time.

GRETCHEN

Dad said very bad words.
Mom is a Chinese,
So TANSY is a half-Chinese girl.
How can he talk
such harmful nonsense?!
He talks about fairness,
But then he says very unfair things.

Ignore him!
Let's walk faster!

TANSY

Mom, look at me.

TANSY wiggles her hips exaggeratedly,
and doing comical walking.
GRETCHEN copies her.
Gradually, they start to run,
Squirrels are startled and jump up the tree.
GRETCHEN and TANSY
burst into laughter.
They are tired, then sit down on a bench.

GRETCHEN

Hey, here it is,
I know this sigh.

CLOSE UP

On the back of the bench,
words are engraved on a plate:
'In Loving Memory of Margaret Johns'

TANSY

Mom,
look,
there is a heart here.

GRETCHEN

Yes.
Once there was a girl
who wanted people to remember her,
and to remember her love.
So she bought this bench,
and engraved her name
and her heart here.

TANSY

Mom,
Mom, I also want to engrave a heart here.

GRETCHEN

You are too young,
wait until you grow up
Then you can have your love.
You know what,
there used to be a lovely girl,
sitting on this bench.

TANSY

She sat here and played with squirrels?

GRETCHEN

No, she was looking for someone,
someone who loves her.

TANSY

Did she find that someone?
The one that loves her?

GRETCHEN

Eh...
I don't know.
I really don't know.

GRETCHEN sinks into her deep thoughts.

EXT. Outside the Conservatory - DAY

GRETCHEN walks from afar,
in a black long dress,
one hand picking up the corner of her dress.
She walks all the way into the conservatory.
A large group of graduates in formal dresses
rushing through the corridor into the concert hall.

INT. Backstage of the Concert Hall

GRETCHEN is nervously waiting at the entrance to the backstage,
a music page is turned behind her.
A member of staff is standing at the entrance.

STAFF

Gretchen Kok,
enter the stage,
Your time is now.

GRETCHEN draws a deep breath
and walks onto to the stage.

INT. The Stage

GRETCHEN arrives the stage,
and the audience gives applause.
She bows.

After adjusting the piano stool,
she presses the first chord
to play "Enrique Granados Op 46"
(beginning part ... ending part)
She bows and leaves the stage,
the audience applauds.

INT. Changing Room

The students are excitedly
chatting about their performances.
GRETCHEN walks in.

STUDENT A (a Chinese student)

Oh my God!
I saw all the professors were sitting in the auditorium.
My hands were shaking,
totally out of control.

STUDENT B

I screwed up.
It's over!
I wonder just how badly are the professors going to judge me.
How cruel are they going to be?

GRETCHEN

I'm going to the pub now,

who will be coming with me?

STUDENT C

Cool!

The students nod in agreement.

INT. Pub - NIGHT

The students are sitting around a big round table,
still chatting about the concert.

GRETCHEN

(Standing up)

We are graduates now!

Come on, cheers!

For our future!

All raise their glasses to celebrate.

A waiter comes,

whispers something to GRETCHEN,

and gives her a card.

GRETCHEN

(Whisper back to ask the waiter)

What is this?

Are you sure this is for me?

Who is this from?

WAITER

(Whispering)

I can't tell you.

I was told not to say anything.

GRETCHEN looks around,
all the guests are talking among themselves.

There is nobody at the adjoining table,

only a single glass on the table,

there is a bit red wine in the glass,

the liquor shaking slightly.

GRETCHEN

(Doubtful)

Are you sure this is for me?

WAITER

Yes,

a customer pointed at you,
and asked me to give you this card.

CLOSE UP

Card.

White, with no name on it,

just a few words:

“You are too young!”

The students curiously look at GRETCHEN.

GRETCHEN hurries to put the card away into her handbag

STUDENT A

What happened?

GRETCHEN

Oh,

nothing.

STUDENT A

I will go back to China

once the graduation ceremony is finished.

I got the flight ticket already.

What about you?

STUDENT A

(waving hand in front of GRETCHEN's eyes)

Hi Gretchen

GRETCHEN

Oh,

sorry,

say that again please.

Student A

I'll go back to China,
I've got the flight ticket,
what about you?
Are you going back,
too?

GRETCHEN is still distracted
from the conversation.
An absent-minded, blank expression
on her face.

GRETCHEN

Oh, oh...
I haven't decided yet.
Maybe I'll stay and find a job here,
Maybe gain some work experience.

STUDENT B

My classmate is teaching piano.
She started with just two students.
Now she has many students.
I think I could try to do that.

STUDENT C

I'm going back to Ireland,
Otherwise my sister will rent out my room.
That's what she said.
Look;
She's advertising it on Facebook.
(shows his phone to everyone around the table)
"Room for rent: big, soft bed for the perfect night's sleep.
Ideal for people looking for somewhere to practice the viola.
Ice cream and desserts will be provided at midnight,
Fully furnished back garden,
suitable as a living room.

CLOSE UP

STUDENT C's Phone

Three pictures
A small and messy bedroom.
A freezer full of desserts.
A garden full of old, dumped furniture.

All the students burst into laughter.

GRETCHEN is lost in thoughts,
distracted away from the group around her.

INT. GRETCHEN's Bedroom - NIGHT

GRETCHEN lies on her bed,
looking carefully at the card's front
flips the card,
looking carefully at the card's inverse.
She is flipping the card
from back to front
over and over again.
Flashbacks of that evening in the pub
floating in her mind.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. Pub - NIGHT

(Flashback to
the graduation drinks at the pub.)

An elderly couple is standing to the left of the entrance.
The gentleman's eyes look to the camera
the lady gives him an angry stare
and he looks away.
The lady looks to the camera, away from him
her face grows bitterly scornful.

A group of football fans are gathering in the corner,
they sing boisterously.
A bald man turns around from the crowd
he is looking at the camera
and smirks.

A man in a suit is typing on his laptop at the table.
He curiously lifts his head
and looks to the camera.

Two lovers in front of the counter
with their backs to the camera.
The young man softly holds the girl's waist.
The girl is wearing a tight red skirt.
She lifts her bottom high up
her long legs appear,
she is wearing very high-heel shoes.
Two lovers turns their head to look at the camera.

A small group of young people
drunkenly walk towards the exit.
A young man winks to the camera.

YOUNG MAN

Hi!

YOUNG LADY

(drunk and laughing)

We are going to the next pub.

You coming with us?

DISSOLVE TO

INT. GRETCHEN's Bedroom - NIGHT

GRETCHEN gets up,
she puts the card into a small box
and locks it up.

DISSOLVE TO

(The dream scene continues)

INT. Pub – NIGHT

The gentleman pretends to buy beer at the counter,
and secretly gives a card to that waiter,
he looks around in furtive glances.

The lady asks the waiter to come over,
she gives him a card and leaves,
and gives out a snort of contempt.

That football fan gives a card to the waiter
and laughs with his mouth open.

The male lover passes a card
behind the girl's back to the waiter
and shows a crooked smile.

The female lover arrogantly holds the card
between her red lacquered finger nails
and gives it to the waiter.

The man in the suit,
hands over the card to the waiter.

The drunken man runs back
into the pub
and gives a card to the waiter,
giggling.

The drunken woman staggers back
and gives a card to the waiter,
she loses her balance and nearly falls over.
the waiter catches her and lets her hold on to his arm.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. Gretchen's Bedroom - NIGHT

GRETCHEN shakes her head,
gets to her bed,
turns off the light,
and closes her eyes.

INT. Pub - DAY

GRETCHEN has bought a coke at the counter.
Her eyes are looking for that waiter from last night.
She sees that waiter hastily walk to the counter,
he loads a tray with a few drinks and walks away.
GRETCHEN hesitates to distract him.
she finds a table

and sits down.

The waiter walks past her table,
he recognises her.

WAITER

Hi,
are you okay?

GRETCHEN

Hi,
I'm good.
Do you recognise me?
You gave me this card
last night.
Do you remember?

WAITER

Yes.
Oh,
I also have this for you.

The waiter brings out a book.

GRETCHEN hesitantly takes it.

CLOSE UP

The front cover of the book

'THE WASTE LAND - T. S . Eliot.'

GRETCHEN

Are you sure
you haven't given this to the wrong person?
How did you know that
I was going to come here today?

WAITER

The customer said:
"Please give this to that same girl
from last night
I believe she will come again."

GRETCHEN

There were quite a few girls last night,
why me?

WAITER

He only asked me to give it to the same girl,
I don't know anything else.
I think he'll explain it to you himself.

GRETCHEN

You said "he",
so it's a man,
right?

WAITER

Sorry, I can only say what I've already told you.

The waiter hurriedly leaves.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's fingers flip through the book.
It's poetry from the famous English poet T.S.Eliot.
A piece of paper falls from the book.
GRETCHEN picks up the paper
and unfolds it to reveal a note written inside.

CLOSE UP

The note reads:

GRETCHEN

(O.S.)

"If you are interested to know who I am,
come over to the Chestnut Avenue
at the Chestnut Park at 2pm tomorrow.

The path with chestnuts and orange trees on both sides.
Find a bench with a heart engraved on the back of it.
Sit down and read one of the poems in this book.
I will come up and say hello to you."

GRETCHEN is wrinkling her brows in concentration.

EXT. Chestnut Park - DAY

Bright sunshine fills the park
shines through the mist
the sunlight is reflected in the mist
as bright hies,
reminiscent of rainbow colours.

GRETCHEN walks in the park,
holding the poetry book in her arm
she looks around
to the left
and to the right.
The park is sparsely populated
with tourists.
It is a quiet afternoon.
GRETCHEN finds a road signpost.

CLOSE UP

Writing on the signpost reads:

‘Chestnut Avenue’

GRETCHEN walks up a quiet, empty path,
she finds a bench,
observes the heart engraved on it.
she sits down,
and opens the poetry book.

GRETCHEN

(Reading in low voice)

*The winter evening settles down
With smell of steaks in passageways.
Six o'clock.
The burnt-out ends of smoky days.
And now a gusty shower wraps
The grimy scraps
Of withered leaves about your feet
And newspapers from vacant lots;
The showers beat
On broken blinds and chimney-pots,
And at the corner of the street*

*A lonely cab-horse steams and stamps.
And then the lighting of the lamps.*

An envelope is stealthily placed on the bench.
GRETCHEN instantly turns her head to look.
A little boy runs away.
GRETCHEN grabs the book and the envelope,
and rushes off the bench to chase him.

GRETCHEN

Please, wait!

The boy stops
and turns around,
eyes wide open,
looking at GRETCHEN.

GRETCHEN

Who are you?
Why did you give me this?

BOY

Someone gave me this envelope,
I was with my brother here just now.
and he told me to leave it for a girl
sitting on a bench and reading poems.
He gave us 50 quid for us to do this!
Nice!

GRETCHEN

What does that someone look like?

BOY

He is a gentleman.

GRETCHEN

Is he young or old?
What did he wear?

The Boy

All black,

suit,
and hat.

GRETCHEN

A British top hat?

BOY

I think so.

GRETCHEN

Okay, thanks.

You can go now.

BOY

Have you got a cigarette?

GRETCHEN

No I don't smoke.

And you are too young to smoke.

BOY

Aren't you gonna give me something?

GRETCHEN

Okay, here is 10 pounds for you.

You have't given me useful information.

So just take this.

If you told me more,

I would pay you more.

The boy takes the money,
and runs to catch up with his brother
who is waiting in front to leave the park.
GRETCHEN hurriedly opens the envelope.

CLOSE UP

A letter typed up on a computer.

MALE'S VOICE

(V.O.)

Dear Young Lady,

Please don't be scared.
I want nothing
but your friendship.
I am not trying to scare you.
I am not trying to avoid you.
I am just trying to make you understand
what's in my heart.
May I tell you how I felt the first time we met?
You were so cute.
Your eyes were so fascinating,
I felt like I could lose myself in them.

GRETCHEN looks around,
people jogging nearby
but nobody close to the bench.
Sunshine flows through the trees,
changing from bright
to darker yellow
as if the tree branches are a prism
quivering in the light breeze,
distorting the sunlight
refracting it into multiple colours.
GRETCHEN runs through the boulevards,
she gradually stops running,
out of breath,
she looks exhausted.

GRETCHEN

Come out now!
Please!
I know you must be watching.
Not far from here...
Enjoying your game?!
I don't understand you!
What do you want!?
What's your purpose!?

The park is silent.
A squirrel is eating pine nuts on the ground.
After a while GRETCHEN slowly walks out of the park.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. Chestnut Park - DAY

GRETCHEN and TANSY sit on the bench.

GRETCHEN

Darling,
let's go to the Oscar Wilde Café.
Let's have some afternoon tea,
and then go to the toy shop
to buy you a new doll.
You are right,
Sophia is not lovely at all.

TANSY

Mumma,
have you ever eaten a princess's cake?

GRETCHEN

There is actually a princess's cake at the Oscar Wilde Cafe.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. GRETCHEN's Bedroom - NIGHT

The card, poetry book and the letter
spread out on the desk,
GRETCHEN examines each of them carefully.
Suddenly she spots a line of writing in small print
at the bottom of the back of the letter.

CLOSE UP

“Go out of the winter wasteland of Eliot
Go in to the summer garden of Wilde.”

An address is printed further down:

The Oscar Wilde Cafe

This Sunday, 2pm,

A table booked by Mr. Anonymous.

GRETCHEN pats her forehead.

GRETCHEN

(Says to herself)

Finally.

Are you are going to appear now,

Mr Anonymous?

INT. Oscar Wilde Cafe - DAY

GRETCHEN walks in.

GRETCHEN

(Telling the waiter)

Someone has booked a table for me.

It's Mr. Anonymous.

WAITER

Please,

come with me.

The waiter leads GRETCHEN to a table,
still empty.

GRETCHEN sits down.

She looks around her,

she is nervous but tries to hide it.

she takes out a beauty case from her handbag

she looks in the tiny mirror,

and dabs a bit of powder on her nose,

she then puts the beauty case back

while staring at the entrance,

observing every person who comes in.

A young gentleman comes in,

and walks towards her,

he walks closer and closer...

GRETCHEN nervously looks at him.

GRETCHEN smiles at him.

The young man smiles back at her.

GRETCHEN

You are...

Mr Anonymous?

The young man smiles apologetically.

GENTLEMAN

Sorry!

The gentleman then walks past GRETCHEN to the table behind her, at the back of the cafe
GRETCHEN turns her head to look at the gentleman walking past
and sees a young girl at the table behind her,
they kiss each other.

The gentleman sits down
and they start chatting.

GRETCHEN is embarrassed.

She is growing visibly anxious and perplexed.

Her eyes suddenly notice a small glass vase on the table,
a rose is inserted inside.

under the vase

is a piece of paper.

GRETCHEN takes it out, and opens it.

It's another anonymous letter.

MAN'S VOICE

(V.O.)

I never used to believe in love at first sight.

But that day when our eyes met,
my heart raced and I felt like it was going to burst
out of my chest.

It was then that I saw what love at first sight feels like;

Our eyes met and there was a sudden connection,
I felt a bond uniting our hearts.

Although you are far away,
you will always be my greatest love.

GRETCHEN looks around carefully.

nobody seems to look suspicious.

She takes out a pen,

and hurriedly writes on the back of the letter.

GRETCHEN

(O.S.)

Drear Mr Anonymous,

What do you call *this*?

A game?

You put your line with the bait
then sit and wait for the fish to bite.

So I'm that fish,
on the hook?

I followed your game,
like a fool.

I admire the elaborate design of your game.

It's the only reason I am playing along.

But your letter feels insincere.

I can imagine
you must be laughing right now.

You are hiding
somewhere nearby.

Okay,

from now on,

I would like to exchange the roles.

I am going to meet you for a date.

Once.

My recital will take place this Friday at St Mark Church,

One o'clock in the afternoon.

Dare you come?

The waiter brings the tea and *princess* cakes.

GRETCHEN

I'm leaving now,
let me have the bill,
please.

WAITER

Someone has already paid for it.
Are you sure you don't want *these*?

GRETCHEN

No, thanks!
Please leave it
to Mr Anonymous.
Let him enjoy it alone.

GRETCHEN walks out of the café.
A man (only his back visible)
walks to the table where GRETCHEN used to sit,
picks up the letter,
he gets back to his own table (nearby)
He puts on his black suit jacket,
slides the letter in his pocket.
puts on black top hat,
walks out of the café.

EXT. On the Street - DAY

GRETCHEN is waiting to cross the road at the traffic lights.
That man in a black suit is standing a few feet behind GRETCHEN,
He pushes the brim of his hat lower to conceal the top half of his face,
GRETCHEN does not notice him.

The green light is on,
GRETCHEN crosses the street,
the man slowly crosses the street behind GRETCHEN,
he quickens his pace and passed by her side.
GRETCHEN reaches the other side of the street
but suddenly feels unsure where where to go.
She looks around in confusion.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face
puzzled expression.

The man in the black suit glances in the direction of GRETCHEN,
and disappears into the crowd.

DISSOLVE TO

INT, ST Mark Church - DAY

The Lunch Time Recital has started,
a pianist is playing the piano on the stage.
GRETCHEN holds TANSY's hand,
and they sit down at the last row.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face
sentimental,
(Flashback begins).

FADE OUT**FADE IN**

(Flashback)

The pianist on the stage transforms into GRETCHEN
GRETCHEN finishes her Recital,
bows to the audience.
She looks at the audience,
the audience begin to stand up, one after another
and some are walking out.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN disappointed face.

She turns around
walks to the piano,
picks up the music sheets and gets ready to leave.
A man walks towards her.
GRETCHEN ignores the approaching figure
(flashback to GRETCHEN mistaking a stranger for someone else).

GRETCHEN

(Says to herself)

A wise girl learns lessons
from her mistakes.

RICHARD

Hello,

Miss Kok,

I'm Richard Black.

I must say that was brilliant!

Congratulations!

You are very talented.

GRETCHEN

Thank you!

You are... Mr. Anonymous?

RICHARD

Mr. Anonymous? Haha,
Obviously, that wouldn't be me.
To be honest,
I just saw your name
on the poster outside the church.
Anyway,
now we know each other.

JONATHAN comes over.

RICHARD

Let me introduce you;
this is my friend
Jonathan Eyre,
Jonathan will sponsor all your future concerts.
Mr Eyre will also find an agent for you.
This will help you to develop your career.

GRETCHEN

Why?
This is only the first time that we've met!

JONATHAN

But I see your talent.
I love music very much.
Although, I've never learned music myself.
I know how special music is.
I think music is a beautiful way of life.
So, let us collaborate.
It's a win-win.

GRETCHEN shakes hands with JONATHAN,
shakes hands with RICHARD.

INT. Pub – DAY

JONATHAN and RICHARD are drinking.

JONATHAN

I really can't stand her!

I will bear no more.

RICHARD

Which one are you talking about?

JONATHAN

GRETCHEN.

RICHARD

Oh, of course it's her.

Once the novelty has worn off,
the lustre will never return.

JONATHAN

Please,

just don't say it like that.

I'm not a playboy.

But I am getting so disillusioned
with her.

She has changed,

beyond all recognition.

She is like a fighting cock.

I've had enough of her barbed words.

Everyday single day.

RICHARD

Wow,

"disillusioned" with her,

hahaha!

I thought it was just novelists and critics who employ such big words.

Big words,

carefully chosen,

then spun

into something persuasive.

A vociferous article.

Or a piece of art criticism that turns an absurd painting into a 'masterpiece' worth millions.
Eloquent wording can be used make improper behaviour look legitimate, 'logical'. Sublime, even.

How about picking some words to describe you rushed marriage?

What was it, exactly, that aroused your love?
They were subtle emotions, but excitingly new.

And now what?

What's left of your passion?

Like a glow-worm, crushed.

You are cold

JONATHAN.

Cold like iron.

JONATHAN

Dear Mr Black,

don't describe me like that.

Rhetoric is your business,

not mine.

I'm a simple man.

Don't write me into your novels.

It was all because of you, remember?

If not for you, I wouldn't have met her.

It was you who brought me to her concert.

RICHARD

You even regret knowing her!?

JONATHAN

At that concert,

I saw a young woman

who attracted so many people.

So many eyes were fixated on her.

All watching her.

An idea suddenly struck me.

She had to be mine.

I wanted to marry her.

I wanted to have her as my own.

All to myself.

But I never expected

how terribly our life would turn out.

RICHARD

But this is a person whose background is completely different from yours.

You've never touched that type of person before.

Never in your life.

A complete stranger.
That is the reason.
I understand now.
This is human nature.
The results of my experiments confirm this.

JONATHAN

Maybe you are right.
I had never dealt with any Chinese girls before.
Her looks,
her background
all completely new to me.
It felt special.

RICHARD

And now?
She is still herself.
Still that same person.
But it's your feelings that have changed.
You used to like her being 'different'.
But now,
she disgusts you.
The reason?
She is 'different'.
Am I right?

JONATHAN

We are so different.
Born into different backgrounds.
Our lifestyles are completely different.
Our ways of thinking are different.
For example;
She is not willing
to have a normal health check up.
But a well-educated person should look after their body.
It's called being *civilised*.
Knowledge of the British law?
We're miles apart.

There is a table in the garden
covered a white tablecloths.

The table is covered in roses freshly picked from the garden.

JONATHAN holds GRETCHEN's hand.

leads her out from the house,
they walk to that table.

JONATHAN pulls out a chair

GRETCHEN sits down
she is smiling happily.

JONATHAN takes a seat opposite her,
he looks solemn.

A pile of papers on the table,
he picks up a folder on top of the pile,
opens it and reads it.

JONATHAN

Darling,

here are the notarised legal documents about my assets.

Before we go to register our marriage,

I would need you to fill in this form.

Sign it.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face

The happy smile suddenly stiffens,
a trace of displeasure
flashes in her eyes.

JONATHAN

(seeing GRETCHEN's displeased, but continuing)

Before we register our marriage,

I want to make it clear

all of my assets officially belong to me.

And they will continue to belong to me,

even after my death

or if we separate

or get divorced.

It's nothing to do with you.

ok?

Do you understand?

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face

She is indignant.

GRETCHEN

What are you talking about ?

I'm marrying *you*,

I'm not marrying you for your assets.

I'm sorry?

JONATHAN

I know you are not a material girl,

It's just that your culture

it makes you unhappy.

Your culture leaves no personal space in a marriage,

If at this point, we have not clear agreement,

there will be bigger problems down the road.

We are still two individuals,

do you understand what I mean?

Two different individuals.

Marriage is not simply a merging of two into one.

None of us should disappear

just because we are married.

INT. Pub – DAY

JONATHAN and RICHARD are drinking.

JONATHAN

That was our first conflict,

Then came more

and more,

Frictions.,

collisions.

We just don't suit each other.

It is hurting both sides.

What I've learned is that
those differences between us
can't be smoothed over.

I'm learning this the hard way.

We tried.
We were determined to bridge those gaps.
But,
I'm *tired*.
I want to quit.

INT. Outdoor Wedding Venue - DAY

There is a string quartet playing Ombra Mai Fu (Largo from Xerxes)

A priest is *leading* the ceremony of the young couple.

GRETCHEN and JONATHAN

are standing in front of a *pavilion decorated with flowers*.

They turn to each other,
take each other's right hand.

JONATHAN

I Jonathan
take you
Gretchen
to be my wife
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part,
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

GRETCHEN

I give you this ring
as a symbol of my love and affection,
wear it with happiness and pride –
now and always.

JONATHAN and GRETCHEN begin to kiss.

Friends and relatives throw confetti *towards* them.

A photographer takes pictures of the couple.

The photos *spin*.

CLOSE UP

A Wedding photo

INT. EYRE's Living Room - EVENING

DOLLY SHOT

That wedding photo sits on the fireplace in the living room.

INT. EYRE's Porch – EVENING

CLOSE UP

A key is turning in the keyhole
the door opens.

GRETCHEN comes back home,
holding TANSY in her arms,
who is asleep.

GRETCHEN

Wake up little Tansy,
let's go and take a bath,
then we'll go to bed.

INT. TANSY's Bedroom – NIGHT

GRETCHEN comes in with TANSY in her arms.
She gently puts her on the bed,
and kisses her forehead.

GRETCHEN

Night, night!

INT.EYRE's Piano Room – NIGHT

GRETCHEN takes out a box from a bookshelf full of music books.
She opens the box,
she slowly takes out that card, poem, and letters in it.
She slowly reads the card,
the poem,
the letters,

slowly running her finger along the lines of hand written sentences.

Her mind flashes back to scenes of her past.
her eyes wander into the distance as she slowly recalls memories,
her lips move as if processing an aftertaste.
The door leading to the garden opens slowly,
a male figures quietly steps into the Piano Room.
His face is shrouded in total darkness,
he hugs GRETCHEN from behind while she reads a note,
GRETCHEN turns around holding the note in her hand,
they start kissing,
caressing each other.

INT. TANSY's Bedroom – NIGHT

The piano sound of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata can be heard from another room.
TANSY wakes up.
She gets out of the bed,
and walks out of her bedroom.

INT. EYRE's Staircase – NIGHT

TANSY walks down the staircase hesitantly,
step by step.

INT. EYRE house's hallway – NIGHT

TANSY walks to the Piano Room.
Just as she approaches the door,
the piano sound stops after a dissonant chord.
TANSY is standing in front of the door and rubbing her eyes.
She can hear GRETCHEN's weeping from inside the Piano Room.

GRETCHEN

(V.O)

You men are all selfish!

You trash.

Liar.

Evil.

Go away!

I don't want to see you any more!

TANSY pushes the door open,
she sees the garden door shut just as she steps into the room,
GRETCHEN sits next to the piano,
her face in her hands,
her shoulders shaking intensely.

TANSY

Mom!

GRETCHEN runs over,
she embraces TANSY,
she weeps as she holds her in her arms.

TANSY

Don't cry Mumma,
we girls don't cry,
we must be strong!

GRETCHEN

But Mom's heart is broken!
How can it still be strong?
Just tears.

TANSY

Mumma,
I heard you play that blue drops music again.
You told me,
that music has a lot of water drops
and you told me that the drops is love.
Remember?
They will become the sea?
Remember?

GRETCHEN

Yes,
that's right,
my sweetheart.

TANSY

Last year we went to the beach with Dad.

The sea was so blue!
So beautiful!
Mom,
I really want to go there again with Dad.

GRETCHEN

No... no, no.
We can't go back to it how it was before.
Such a scene...
impossible to reproduce now.

TANSY

Why?
Let Dad buy the plane tickets,
so we can be there.

GRETCHEN

Not like that,
not anymore.
That love is gone.
My darling,
you are too young to understand.
Love has left me,
my heart is full of tears,
I'm sighing inside.

TANSY

Mumma,
I love you,
I love Dad,
I just don't love Sophia.
Why are you crying?

GRETCHEN

I can't describe it to you.
Picture it:
a trace of smoke,
purple smoke.

TANSY

Why is it purple?

GRETCHEN

It's my heart.

It's bleeding.

Red blood.

Blue tear drops.

Purple.

I can't describe this for you,
you are only 5 years-old.

Do you know what a palette is?

A painter's palette?

The blue colour,

mixed with red,

will turn to purple.

But you are just a little girl.

You are already sensitive to music,
you can see notes as drops water.

But now these drops are tears.

Love,

it's too hard for you to understand.

TANSY

Okay,

but I like purple.

EXT. The Woman's Garden – DAY

The gate to the house opens.

The garden is full of purple flowers.

The WOMAN is standing in the flowers,

her red figure is standing against the background of purple flowers.

WOMAN

Ah! Tansy, welcome back!

See how beautiful these flowers are?!

They are all for you!

Fred!

Our lovely guest is here.

TANSY

Actually,

I didn't want to come,
but I'm here, I don't know why.

WOMAN

People can't resist.
They come and they go
from vice to virtue,
but they can't escape their intimate desires.
Just enjoy the flowers,
enjoy the cakes,
Listen to your desires.
You already liking it
don't you?

TANSY

My Mom and I have been to the Oscar Wilde's Café,
I like the cake there.

WOMAN

But the queen's cake from my place is irresistible!
Come on,
why disobey your own desires?

INT. The Woman's Tea Room – DAY

A stunningly beautiful cake sits in the middle of the table.
The cake is decorated in flowers made out of whipped cream,
a pretty image of TANSY made of jam adorns the cake.

WOMAN

Wow!
It is so beautiful!
Isn't it, my little princess?
And have you brought a happy story for us?

TANSY

Sorry,
I've got an unhappy story.
Mom cried in the piano room,
she said that her heart was broken,
and it was full of blood.

She said all men are bad,
she also said something about purple sighs,
but I don't understand what it is.

WOMAN

Haha!
So funny!
It's *so* funny!
Oh, purple sighs!
Yes blue tears mixed with red blood,
salty water,
bitter breath,
It's a wonderful metaphor!
Okay,
did you see that selfish liar?
Did you catch that bad guy?

TANSY

No, he was gone.
Mom let him go
and said she never *wants* to see him any more.

WOMAN

Do you hate men?

TANSY

Yes, I hate men.

WOMAN

Oh, you *look* so cute when you say "I hate men"!
It might be too early for you to say so
but one day this sentence will *become* useful.
Haha!

TANSY

I've comforted my Mom,
and we *cried* together,
and then we slept on the floor of the piano room.
We slept the whole night.
It was cold.

WOMAN

That won't work,
You should be helping her properly.
Do you want to do that?

TANSY

Yes!
I really want to help my Mom and Dad.

WOMAN

Good girl!
Let's tell your Dad all about it,
about your Mom being unhappy,
Let's ask Dad to go to the piano room.
It must be at night!
But do not let your Mom know.
I know you are a clever girl,
This is the only way you can help your Mom and Dad.
Do you understand what I am saying?

TANSY

Yes,
I understand.

WOMAN

Ok, now go ahead!

DISSOLVED TO

EXT. EYRE's Garden – DAY

GRETCHEN is lying on the grass and sunning.

TANSY is chasing SNOWY

they are frolicking,

GRETCHEN falls asleep.

TANSY runs over to push her Mom.

TANSY

Mumma!

GRETCHEN

Tansy don't play near the swimming pool.
Dad will call somebody
They will put up the fence tomorrow.

TANSY

Mumma,
I want to drink some water.

GRETCHEN

Go to the dining room,
I've left it on the table.

GRETCHEN falls asleep again,
her mobile phone falls out of her hand.
TANSY puts it back to GRETCHEN's hand,
but it falls out again.

TANSY

Mumma, I'll put it back.

GRETCHEN doesn't hear her.
TANSY picks up the phone and runs back to the house.

TANSY climbs onto a chair,
as she grabs a bottle of water on the table
she drops the mobile phone on the floor.
TANSY jumps down hastily to pick it up.

CLOSE UP

The phone's display turns on,
showing: Dad

TANSY

(talking to herself)

Dad,
I'd like to talk with Dad,
I want to help Mumma.

TANSY presses the phone's screen.

JONATHAN

(V.O. an irritable tone)

Hello?

What's the problem?

I'm in a meeting.

Can you *please*

not create even more problems for me?

TANSY

Dad,

it's me.

JONATHAN

(V.O. changes his tone gently)

Oh hi!

Tansy, sweetheart.

How are you?

Are you all right?

TANSY

I'm fine.

Sophia talked to me again,

I don't want to be friends with her.

JONATHAN

Who is Sophia?

TANSY

She's my doll.

Mumma bought her for me.

That skinny *girl*.

She's wearing a red dress.

She's sitting on the cabinet in my bedroom.

JONATHAN

Oh, that's a hand-made doll.

When did she *talk* to you?

TANSY

She grows up in my dream,

she is very tall now.

And she said,
Mom is unhappy.
I want to help Mumma.

JONATHAN

Mumma is always unhappy.
She always needs something,
but Dad cannot always give it to her.
Not anymore.

TANSY

What does Mumma want?

JONATHAN

She wants love.

TANSY

Love is in the chestnut park.
If you sit on a bench and wait
someone will come and will bring love.

JONATHAN

Sounds as if Mom should listen to Tansy's advice.

TANSY

Dad,
I just want to tell you.
There is a man who entered from the garden,
he made Mom unhappy.
Mom's heart was broken,
he is bad.

INT. Pub – DAY

JONATHAN is standing away from the table,
listening to his mobile phone.

CLOSE UP

JONATHAN's somber face.

After he turns off the phone

he thinks for a while
and makes another phone call.

JONATHAN

Mumma,
I've got an urgent business matter.
I must to go to Paris,
now.
So, I'm not coming back home tonight.

When he finishes the call
he walks back to his seat at the table.
He is considered something for a moment
he looks stressed as he is contemplating something.
He picks up his glass,
and drinks a big mouthful of beer.
RICHARD is looking steadily at him \\
while drinking his beer.

RICHARD

So,
you won't be home tonight?

JONATHAN

Yes,
and I've decided to divorce from GRETCHEN.
I'm no longer going to eat the worst eggs.
No more of her resentful music
no more vicious words.
She never smiles.
There is never any sympathy from her.
She has no sense of humour.
She doesn't understand me.
She never tries to do what I want.
She has these persecutory delusions
where she always imagines that everybody is discriminating against her.
If I put up with this any longer,
then it's not just one person's life that will be destroyed,
but two.

RICHARD

A woman playing Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata
in the middle of the night.
What a heartbreaking scene.
A most heartbreaking thing.
Can you feel it?

JONATHAN

I don't just want feelings.
In life, feelings are not enough.
Look:
it's not complicated.
All I want is a simple life,
with simple happiness.
I'm happy when I'm with Elena,
She is a simple person.
And we are from the same background,
We have the same minds,
so here, there is no need for me to deliberately compromise
for someone.
or cater to someone.
No need to change my personality
or change my lifestyle.
I feel comfortable with her.
Do you know how I feel now?
It's as if I've been tied up all this time
and suddenly the ropes are loosening up.
I can *breathe* again.

RICHARD

Elena won't stay simple forever.
With time, everything will change.
In the blink of an eye,
people grow old.
People can grow into something far more complicated than you ever anticipated.
Look back at yourself.
When you were 15?
Can you still recognise that person?

JONATHAN

You are a poet,
and a best-selling novelist,

in your eyes nobody is simple.
Everyone is fascinating to you.
But you should've heard her music!
It's full of *resentment*.
She is playing whole day.
She is playing whole night.
She didn't even notice when Tansy fell into the swimming pool!

RICHARD

Tansy?
Oh God!
Is she all right now?

JONATHAN

She was rescued,
thank God.
We found her early enough...
Um, sorry, I've got something to do,
I need to go now.

RICHARD

I'll go too,
after this pint.

INT.EYRE's Gate – MIDNIGHT

The gate opens slowly.
JONATHAN's car slowly and quietly drives in.
He quietly drives into his garage,
then he walks up to the front door of the house,
and takes out the key.

INT.EYRE's Porch – MIDNIGHT

The key slowly turns in the key hole,
the door quietly opens, slowly.
JONATHAN quietly steps into the house.

INT.EYRE's Hallway – MIDNIGHT

JONATHAN quietly walks to the Piano Room through the hallway,

he is standing in front of the door into the Piano Room,
he presses his ear against the door
he is listening to the music coming through the door.
He silently opens the door but only enough to create
a thin crevice into the room.
He pushes his face into the crevice while
carefully dodging his face from the direct blue light coming from inside the Room.

INT.EYRE's Piano Room – MIDNIGHT

The Piano Room is filled with darkness,
tiny lights com from two lit candles on the piano..
GRETCHEN is playing the piano.
The door to the garden slowly opens,
a dark male silhoutte walks through into the Room.
He takes off his black hat and his face gets faintly illuminated with the candlelights,
it is RICHARD.

CLOSE UP

JONATHAN's astonished face.

RICHARD hugs GRETCHEN from behind,
kissing her neck.

GRETCHEN

Tell me,
do you love me?

RICHARD

I can't say I love you,
but I like you.

GRETCHEN

I've kept your cards, poems and that love letter.
They hint at love.

RICHARD

Oh, those?
That's just vague nonsense.
Nothing to do with love.

GRETCHEN gently pushes away RICHARD,
and walks to the bookshelf,
from behind a stack of music sheets
she takes out a box
she brings the box and places it onto the candlelight piano top.
She opens the box
and takes out a letter from inside it.

GRETCHEN

Come on,
poet.
Please,
explain the words you wrote.

CLOSE UP

The letter:

I never used to believe in love at first sight.
But that day when our eyes met,
my heart raced and I felt like it was going to burst
out of my chest.
It was then that I saw what love at first sight feels like;
Our eyes met and there was a sudden connection,
I felt a bond uniting our hearts.
Although you are far away,
you will always be my greatest love.

(Ever "love" word is marked with a red circle)

GRETCHEN

Look at these words
I marked them with a red circle.
See:
there is Love, Love, Greatest Love!
Love, it *is* there!
Don't tell me this is just one of your literary works.

RICHARD

I'm really sorry,
but this is simply my work.

Okay,
to be honest,
I do have some feelings for you,
otherwise I wouldn't have spent so much time writing this.

GRETCHEN

Really?
This is just your game,
a carefully designed game.
Don't you think this is hurting me?
This is evil.
Dirty.
I was skeptical,
I thought maybe I was too wishful.
But I never expected you to be such a nasty person.

RICHARD

Sorry.

GRETCHEN

You carefully designed this game,
but when your prey fell into the trap,
you suddenly flinched
and got your friend to step in.
I was even stupid enough to ask Jonathan
if it was him who wrote those cards,
those poems,
those love letters.
I realised,
I was mistaken.
It hit me as soon as I saw his confused face.
I was embarrassed.
He is not that deep.

RICHARD

I...
I can't.
I'm not ready yet.

GRETCHEN

What do you mean?

You are not ready?
So you only know how to write about imaginary love
in poems and stories?
But why?
Why wouldn't you experience real love?
In real life?

RICHARD

I tell you the reason why;
The reason those poems are beautiful,
the reason those stories are romantic,
is because they are clean from reality.
The impurities of real life have been removed.
They are not aesthetically pleasing.
What is real life?
we get up in the morning
with a smelly breath in our mouths,
so, we can't kiss.
At home, we stop paying attention to our appearance,
we walk around looking unkempt and disheveled,
wearing ugly and weird clothes.
You are yawning, I'm blowing my nose.
And then there is more,
even worse things than that.
I don't want to go into that.
But that is how people are in the real life of marriage.
Better to keep the distance,
keep each other perfect in our imagination.
This is the perfect way to love.

GRETCHEN

What an odd and confused man you are!
You create an unreal world,
full of fake people.
You paint ethereal feelings in your literary works,
but please wake up.
This is the *real* world.
You keep saying how you prefer a spiritual love
but you're still lusting after real flesh.
For me?
The one I love is the one I *know*.

The one whose body I can touch with my own hands.

A *real* body.

A real body odour. Normal shortcomings. That is what I want to love.

Come, hug me.

I want to embrace a real body.

No more games.

No more of those artificial words!

I want someone *real* to love me!

RICHARD

No.

We are not the same.

Why can't you see that?

Haven't you learned anything?

You can see it clearly

from the example of

you and JONATHAN?

GRETCHEN

Why are you all making me suffer?

Are you trying to ruin me?

Why?

Tell me,

am I in your other game now?

"Look at this poor, abandoned woman!

How quickly is she going to take the bait again?"

RICHARD

Yes,

you took the bait again.

But you haven't lost anything,

right?

In the first game

you found an ideal husband,

And your career developed.

In the second game,

you have enjoyed some benefits as well.

I created the love that you had been longing for.

This is most exciting love,

an affair!

The sweetness sin.

GRETCHEN

Go to hell!
You are a monster!

RICHARD

Listen,
don't try to seize love.
It's like trying to grab a trace of smoke.
It will slip through your fingers.
You have already lost JONATHAN,
Let's keep what we already have.
It's the right way.

GRETCHEN

Go.
Go away!
Leave me alone!

GRETCHEN bursts into tears.

JONATHAN violently pushes the door open.

GRETCHEN screams.

RICHARD immediately rushes out
through the door into garden.

GRETCHEN lowers her head and weeps.

JONATHAN is standing in the middle of the Piano Room,
he is slowly turning in a circle to look around the Room.

his face is gloomy,
he leaves the Piano Room and goes to the living room.

INT.EYRE's Living Room – MIDNIGHT

JONATHAN is standing in the middle of the living room.

GRETCHEN slowly walks in
her hair is dishevelled.

JONATHAN

We are divorcing.
Immediately.
You've created a scandal.

We will go to the lawyer tomorrow morning.
My best friend persuaded me to go to a recital by a talented pianist,
he induced me into our marriage.
But how could I even imagine?!
The two of you already had a love story!
In accordance with the agreement we signed earlier,
you are not going to get a single penny from me.
You,
you must get out of here.
Right now!

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face twists with anger and fear

JONATHAN

(Looking back at her, disgusted)
I'll take Tansy with me,
Elena will look after her for a few days.
If she stays here
then surely one day she will end up drown in that pool.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

GRETCHEN's face

Pictures of her terrified face

Pictures of her angry faec

Pictures of her face smiling beautiful in a newspaper report.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT. Music Hall – NIGHT

GRETCHEN with the orchestra on stage
they are playing Mozart's Piano Concerto No.21.
Men and women in the audience are watching the show
with obvious appreciation on their faces.
JONATHAN is holding a large bouquet of flowers,
TANSY is sitting next to him in the audience.
The music finishes and GRETCHEN bows.
The audience applauds.

JONATHAN and TANSY walk to the stage.

TANSY takes the flowers from his Dad,

and presents the bouquet to GRETCHEN

GRETCHEN accepts the flowers and is holding TANSY'S hand.

JONATHAN joins them.

They hug and kiss.

INT.EYRE's living room – MIDNIGHT

GRETCHEN slowly approaches JONATHAN from behind,

she silently walks over to him

closer and closer.

She grabs a candle holder from the desk beside her.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face,

a forlorn expression

her face turns angry

her eyes narrow as if she's plotting a cunning move.

She knocks JONATHAN on the back of his head with the candle holder.

JONATHAN drops to the floor.

INT. EYRE's Piano Room – MIDNIGHT

GRETCHEN is playing Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata (MVT 3),

her hands are covered in blood.

CLOSE UP

Bloodstained piano keyboard,

her hands stop,

and slowly slide down from the keys, leaving a long bloodstain on the keyboard.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's frightened face in the half-open door.

GRETCHEN sits down on the floor in the middle of the Piano Room.

TANSY runs over to her.

TANSY

Mumma!

Your hands are red,
and the piano is red!

GRETCHEN

Tansy,
that's blood.
That's sin,
my sin!

GRETCHEN slowly lies down on the floor.

TANSY lies next to her.

They cuddle.

INT. EYRE's Piano Room – MORNING

TANSY wakes up,
she is pushing GRETCHEN to wake up.

TANSY

Mumma, get up please,
take me to school.
I'm going to be late.
Mom, Mom!

GRETCHEN is motionless.

TANSY runs out of the piano room.

INT.TANSY's Bedroom – DAY

TANSY stands in front of the cabinet.

The doll SOPHIA is sitting there,
her two long legs are dangling.

TANSY grabs the SOPHIA doll and runs out.

EXT. EYRE's Garden – DAY

TANSY runs to the swimming pool.

SNOWY runs behind her.

EXT. EYRE's Swimming Pool – DAY

TANSY throws the SOPHIA doll into the water.

CLOSE UP

The doll is floating on the water.

TANSY

Sophia, I want to talk to you!
I don't want my Dad and Mom to fight.
I want us to go to the seaside again!

SNOWY wildly barks at the pool side.
The water in the pool is still very blue.
TANSY calmly goes into the water,
she closes her eyes,
she slowly submerges into the water.
She sinks to the bottom of the pool.
Suddenly she opens her eyes.

EXT. The Woman's Pond – MORNING

Bright sun, green grass,
there are red flowers in full bloom in the grass.
The WOMAN is standing under a big tree.
FRED walks out from behind the tree.

CLOSE UP

The WOMAN and FRED's eyes are dark and big,
inside each pupil in their eyes small red flames flicker.

WOMAN

Come,
come on,
let's ignite the light of human nature!
Never to be extinguished!
Never to be extinguished!!

The WOMAN walks to the pond and stretches out her hands.

WOMAN

Tansy,
come on,

don't be so coy.
liberate your nature,
and be your true self!

TANSY reaches out her hands
towards the outstretched hands of the WOMAN
she is being slowly pulled out from the deep end of the black water.
The woman picks up TANSY and puts her down on the grass
TANSY standing in front of the WOMAN.

TANSY

Who are you?

WOMAN

I'm your doll,
Sophia.

TANSY

No,
you are not.
Sophia already died in the pool!

WOMAN

Very clever, you!
It is true,
I'm not Sophia.
I'm not a doll to be played with by people.
They can't control me,
but,
I can control them.
My real name is NATURE,
HUMAN NATURE!
(Pointing to the boy)
His name is FREEDOM!
We have been with you since you were born.
We grew up with you.
You may grow strong and mature,
but we are always stronger.

TANSY

Did you do all this?

WOMWN

We?

It's you,

together with us.

We are the one and the same.

Look!

These blue tears

these purple sighs!

Look!

These blooming red flowers.

Man and human nature,

born together.

As soon as blood begins to flow through the body,
passion rises to the surface.

The flames of desire start burning!

You can't defy human nature.

We live and die together!

As long as you are alive, we thrive!

TANSY

I can't understand what you are saying.

I want my Dad and Mom back!

I don't want them to die!

WOMAN

But that is what happened.

This can never be wiped off!

Have you seen slugs before?

TANSY

I see a lot of slugs in my garden.

WOMAN

Yes, that's them.

Wherever they pass

they leave a trail

of transparent mucus

behind them.

This trace can never be wiped off.

What you have done

has all been recorded.
People always try to cover up what they've done.
They call it a dream,
or they call it the 'subconscious',
or they say they are 'lost'.
But no.
This is the true nature of mankind.
The original sin!
A transparent trace,
never obvious.
Impossible to wipe off.
The original sin can't be erased!
In fact, why suppress your own nature?
Release your nature.
Only then can you be strong and free!
Unleash your nature,
let it go.
Free your imprisoned self.
Your heart is getting fired up.
You are yearning to experience excitement.
Now is the time to escape from the shackles!

TANSY

I don't understand what you are talking about.

WOMAN

You think you don't understand,
but it is the same human nature that made you do all those things.
Because of your reporting
your Dad has died,
and your Mom has committed a crime!
Listen to me my child:
since this world has so much goodness in it,
it must have the darkness.
A paradise is possible...
but only when there is a hell on the other side.
Balance.
This is the reason behind the existence of sin.
God created humans,
just like he created the devil!
Don't try to hide it,

there is already a permanent trail of mucus left behind you,
haha...
(The WOMAN laughs hysterically)

TANSY desperately runs to the pond and jumps in.

Water is splashing in the pond.

TANSY closes her eyes,
sinking, down and down.

The water around her turns from black to bright blue.

She is floating in the water whose brightness reflects the beautiful blue sky and white clouds above it.
she rotates in water,
she opens her arms,
she is floating upwards
to the surface of the water
closer to the sunlight shining through.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's face,
clean, her skin glows,
her facial expression is content.
She seems in a state of bliss, her expression is relaxed and happy.

INT. EYRE's Piano Room - DAY

GRETCHEN slowly gets up, she is dazed.
She takes a medicine bottle from the bookcase
and pours the sleeping pills onto her hand.
The door is slammed open
RICHARD rushes in,
and takes away the pills from GRETCHEN's hand.

RICHARD

Don't do this!

Don't be foolish.

I've already taken JONATHAN to the hospital.

The wound isn't too bad,

he is safe now.

Elena is looking after him.

GRETCHEN starts wailing,
she appears drained of all energy.

She drops down but

RICHARD catches and holds her.

GRETCHEN

Where is Tansy?

Tansy!

Tansy!

RICHARD

She might have gone back to her bedroom.

Don't worry,

I will go and find her.

(The doorbell rings)

INT. EYRE's Door – DAY

RICHARD goes up to open the gate.

Two policemen are waiting.

(The theme music begins playing)

CLOSE UP

Rough waves of a blue sea water,

a trace of red liquid slopping

blue water gradually turns into purple smoke.

The purple smoke turns into red blood.

Thick blood is flowing, spreading.

There is a small whirlpool in the middle,

growing larger and larger,

deeper and deeper.

The vortex expands

it gradually morphs into a shape resembling a Gothic-style gates, an image of the gates to heaven.

Frightening voices roar and groan in the background.

Black shadows of various twisted shapes are floating across the screen.

Suddenly a dim light appears in the middle, as if at the end of a tunnel.

The light spot is getting larger,

gradually the spot begins to resemble the sun, shining brightly through a Victorian window and lighting up the glass,

dust particles are floating in the ray of sunlight coming through the window.

The dust is swirling and spinning,
Children's laughter can be heard in the background.
Faint heartbeats can be heard in the background.
The heartbeats become louder and heavier,
gradually replacing the the children's laughter.

(The theme music stops)

INT. Hospital Ward - DAY

TANSY lies on the hospital bed, having drips next to her.

CLOSE UP

TANSY's eyelashes trembling,
she opens her eyes.

GRETCHEN

Tansy,
my baby,
finally you are awake.
I was so scared...
Sorry, I'm *so sorry*,
Mumma didn't look after you well.
Thank God for the builders.
Dad called them to install the fence,
they arrived just in time,
You were saved.
If it was...
I really don't dare to imagine!

TANSY

Mumma,
I will never go to see Sophia again.
I don't want to play with her any more.

GRETCHEN

My little Tansy,
I will always hold your hand,
I will never lose you again.

TANSY

Mumma,
did Sophia come to your dream as well?

GRETCHEN

No, she's not there.
There is a devil in my heart.
but not Sophia.
It's someone else.

TANSY

Is she wearing a red dress?

GRETCHEN

No, he is in the dark,
I can't see him clearly.
All black.
The devil has many different guises,
sometimes they resemble the friends you think you had.
But for as long as we are strong enough
they won't get too close to us.

TANSY

I'm a big girl!
I want to be strong!

GRETCHEN

Yes you are.
My little Tansy,
I love you.

TANSY

Where's Dad?

GRETCHEN

He is on his way,
baby.

TANSY

I'm not a baby Mumma

GRETCHEN

Okay, my big girl,
you need a doctor to check you,
before we leave this hospital.
You are going to live with Dad and Elena for a bit.

TANSY

Why?
I don't want to go to Elena's house.

GRETCHEN

Listen,
my big girl;
I'm really happy that you are growing up so quickly into a big girl.
But I must let you know something:
Mumma has done a bad thing,
and she should be punished.
When everything has been settled,
we will go home.
Mom and Daughter.
We will never be apart again,
Dad has left the house to us,
he is still a good man.
Remember that.

TANSY

Dad is going to Elena's house to play?
Why won't he come back to our home?

GRETCHEN

Dad chose to live with Elena.
He has the right to choose who to live with.
We must learn to accept other people's choices.

TANSY

Does he not want us anymore?

GRETCHEN

It is not exactly that simple.
He will always be your father.
He will see you regularly,

he still loves you.
It will be okay, I think,
because we are two big girls now.
And we'll be living happily in that house.
We can paint it in pink!
A palace for two princesses.
Just us two.
And Snowy.

TANSY

I want Dad to live in our palace.
Elena is dirty.

GRETCHEN

No, her hands are cleaner than mine.
This has nothing to do with her.
Some things should be stopped,
otherwise it is no good to anybody.
“Be ye angry, and sin not:
let not the sun go down upon your wrath:
Neither give place to the devil.”
This is what the Bible says,
Your Dad always quoted that passage.
This is right.

INT. Pub – NIGHT

JONATHAN and RICHARD are drinking.

JONATHAN

I never expected it to have ended like this.
We are all wrong,
nobody's innocent.
What happened last night
it's what every father dreads to imagine.
TANSY,
just a little child,
she's done nothing,
and yet she nearly died in there.
The physical trauma,
the mental trauma,

it's so cruel!

RICHARD

Is she okay now?

JONATHAN

She just left the hospital,
I will take care of her,
with Elena.

RICHARD

Oh, God bless.

JONATHAN

But what surprises me the most is,
why you?
You were going after GRETCHEN at the start,
so why not build on that relationship?
Why did you persuade me to marry her?
By having an affair, you betrayed me,
both of you did.
Why?
Why did you do this?

RICHARD

It was an accident.
When I first saw her at the pub,
all I wanted was to carry out a simple experiment.

JONATHAN

(Sneering)

Simple?

A simple experiment?
You've put my family through hell.

RICHARD

That really wasn't my original intention,
but things always end up developing in their own way,
beyond our control.

JONATHAN

Gretchen, little Tansy and I,
we are all became your test subjects.

Your victims.

You are a psychopath.

Your brain...abnormal.

RICHARD

For my creative work,
I've always studied philosophy and psychology.

What makes a work attractive to its audience?

An element of the unknown.

A mystery.

Human beings are born curious.

Curiosity is an instinct that drives humans to seek out knowledge,
to look for adventure.

To explore mysteries and rumours,
even false ones.

To peek over the fence at the neighbours.

It's an immediate burst of adrenaline,
and,

it's the raw material of art!

JONATHAN

You play with love,
you deceive your friends.

You,

you are an awful person.

I never lied to Gretchen,
at least at the time I truly loved her.

RICHARD

When I first saw Gretchen
I was looking at a girl who was just entering society.

It's the type of girl who feels superior to everyone,
and inferior,

all at the same time.

Still in her youth, there was pride in her
but also self-deprecation, due to a lack of life experience.

Still new to the world,
she was full of excitement and apprehension.

She was longing for the unknown.

She wanted to *feel* desire at its strongest.

JONATHAN

So you sent her a bait.

RICHARD

I just wrote down some ambiguous,
obscure, meaningless sentences,
and I sent them to her
along with an invitation.

But seriously,

I didn't expect her to follow the bait.

She didn't seem to care that there was potential danger to her,
hidden somewhere.

But,

step by step,
she fell into the trap,
like a little animal.

Unexpectedly,

she challenged me with an invitation to her concert.

I thought about quitting this game and just disappear,
but you were showing interest.

Another surprise,
you.

You volunteered to join this game.

It inspired me to start another game,
to see if you would be attracted to this unknown girl.

As for the results...

whatever happened in this experiment,
it is a successful experiment.

Although the reality is surprising,
terrible,
unacceptable.

EXT. Chestnut Park - DAY

Gretchen and Tansy are sitting on the bench
that is engraved with a heart.

TANSY

Mumma, will someone who loves you come here?

GRETCHEN

Let's wait.
Maybe he will,
or maybe he won't.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. Chestnut Park - DAY

GRETCHEN sits on the bench reading a book of poems.

RICHARD is wearing a black suit,
the brim of his hat is lowered to conceal most of his face.

He hands an envelope to a boy.

GRETCHEN is running around looking for somebody

RICHARD is watching her from behind a tree not far away.

GRETCHEN walks out of the park.

RICHARD follows her not far behind,
and walks out of the park.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. Chestnut Park - DAY

A man from afar is walking towards the screen,
he is wearing a black suit and a classic hat.
He walks closer and closer to the screen.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face
her expression changes rapidly
nervous,
hopeful,
smiling excitedly.

The man in a black suit walks up to her,
he lifts up the brim of his hat to reveal his face.

CLOSE UP

A stranger's face,

he glanced towards GRETCHEN's side.

He turns out to be just a stranger passing by.

he walks on.

A gust of wind blows,

his black hat rolls away with the wind.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face

she bursts into an embarrassed laughter,

she is laughing at herself,

she is shaking her head in a slight disapproval,

and then turns serious as she picks up the poetry book.

GRETCHEN

Tansy,

let's go home.

Baby,

shall we go?

Tansy? Tansy!

Where are you Tansy!

GRETCHEN is looking around in panic,

she screams TANSY's name.

CLOSE UP

GRETCHEN's face

She suddenly stops moving as she spots something.

GRETCHEN walks to the open space in the woods.

TANSY is kneeling on the grass

and observing at the ground earnestly.

CLOSE UP

A slug is wriggling slowly across the grass

it is leaving behind it a stream of slime,

glistening under the sun.

(The END)

