

SCRIPT

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INT. RED WOODEN ROOM - DAY

Lights show JIAYI sitting in a "bow-like" position, Jiayi has white face paint and her long black hair is pulled into a messy bun by detailed pins. Her outfit is very similar to that of a Geisha.

Off screen a man yells. Jiayi quietly faces toward the ground, squeezing her eyes shut. Hair falls in front of Jiayi's face.

Smoke is clearly seen surrounding Jiayi filtering from off screen.

(C.U) ON JIAYI'S BARE ARMS SHOWING OLD AND NEW WOUNDS OF BURNS, CUTS, AND BRUISES

JIA HAO

DO YOU THINK THESE ARE CHEAP? THIRD
TIME THIS WEEK. YOU THINK THIS IS
FUNNY?! HUH?!

CUT TO:

JIA HAO walks on screen towards Jiayi and begins to firmly press an old fashioned cigar onto the back of Jiayi's neck.

Jia Hao (46) Handsome in a grubby way. Dressed in hanfu, traditional clothing for lords in futile china.

Jiayi's arms visibly shake due to pain.

The yelling begins to muffle.

Jiayi slowly opens her eyes, only to stare at the ground.

JIAYI (V.O.)

(Slowly)

I...feel... dizzy.

Jiayi Makes gagging noises as she tries to choke back tears.

JIA HAO

SHUT UP. YOU THINK GLASS..(Muffle)..
WORTH MORE THAN YOUR LIFE..(Muffle)..
UNGRATEFUL WENCH..(Muffle).. WANTED A
WHORE LIKE YOU!

Jia Hao slaps Jiayi, making a loud clap, and causing more hair to fall onto her face.

SERIES OF SHOTS

CUT TO:

EXT. MANSION - MIDDAY

Rain falls off the temple-like house. In the background you can see some more of the mansion's halls.

TRANSITION TO DUSK

CUT TO:

INT. BIGGER WOODEN ROOM - DUSK

Jiayi sits on her knees in the corner, staring down at the floor with no emotion.

JIAYI (V.O.)

If I run while he's asleep, I can make it to the temple by morning.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAWN(FANTASY)

Jiayi walks down a beaten road. Cautiously looking over her shoulder now and again.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAWN(FANTASY)

A temple is seen far off in the distance on top of a hill behind trees, the road is still slightly seen, as to make sure the entire area is familiar.

JIAYI (V.O.)

I can ask someone to help me start a new life.

(Beat)

But... I can't do that.

CUT TO:

F.B- EXT. MIDDAY

Several children run up to the mansion Jia Hao lives in and run around Jiayi happily talking over one another and trying to get her attention.

JIAYI (V.O.)

The guilt would follow me... Or worse

CUT TO:

PRESENT- INT. DUSK

We see the entirety of Jiayi's body huddled in the corner looking towards Jia Hao.

JIAYI (V.O.)

He might follow me.

CUT TO:

(C.U.) of Jia Hao's chest and up while he takes a puff of cannabis and pours himself another glass of baijiu, clearly drunk. Man gets up and walks toward Jiayi.

Jiayi moves her head down, and turns it even more away from Jia Hao as he gets closer.

JIA HAO

Come now. Don't look so sullen.

Jia Hao grabs Jiayi's chin and forces her to look him in the face. Shaking her head side to side a bit in a teasing way. Hair falls down revealing all of her face.

Jia Hao smiles down at Jiayi revealing yellow tinted teeth. Jia Hao grabs Jiayi by the wrist, roughly pulling her up.

JIA HAO

Up.

Jia Hao walks in front of Jiayi. She quietly gets up and follows.

Jia Hao and Jiayi exit the frame.

CUT TO:

INT. LARGE DARK BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jia Hao and Jiayi Enter a room with only a futon on the floor, the rest of the room is blank; it has nothing else in it.

CUT TO:

Jiayi stands in front of the futon, center camera.

Lights dim as Jiayi slowly slides her tunics off of her shoulders, looking slightly behind her, back to the camera.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 3

INT. LARGE BEDROOM - MEDIUM LIGHT - MORNING

(C.U.) of Jiayi, shoulders up, she is laying down on the futon, her head on a porcelain pillow. Eyes are slightly open, her hair is down.

CUT TO:

The tunic from yesterday is shown wrinkled by Jiayi's legs.

CUT TO:

(C.U.) of Jiayi, shoulders up, she slowly tries to get up, despite being extremely sore and tired. A window can be seen on the wall behind her, showing how beautiful the day is, birds can be heard outside.

JIAYI (V.O.)
Everything hurts.
(Beat)

FADE OUT:

MONTAGE OF OUTSIDE SCENERY

Trees are shown in the sunshine.

A river is shown with a mountain behind.

END MONTAGE

INT. LARGE BEDROOM. MEDIUM LIGHT. MORNING

JIAYI (V.O.)
Every. Thing. Hurts.

Jiayi weakly lifts her arm to grab the loose hair pins around her.

Jiayi groans.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE - LATE MORNING

Jiayi fixes her hair in the water reflection as she smiles without her eyes. Her tunics are different colors signifying a change in clothes.

Children, the same children seen in the flashback, run up behind Jiayi causing her to lose her balance, she stumbles. Jiayi Turns and still smiles at them. Without her eyes.

CHILD 1
Look at these herbs, Sheng nu!!

JIAYI
Bǎochí ānjìng!

CHILD 1

Soorryy

Jiayi continues to talk with the children, but the audio slowly cuts out, focusing on Jiayi's V.O.

JIAYI (V.O.)

The sun had passed over many times.
Many suns and moons went.

CUT TO:

INT. RED WOODEN ROOM. DAY.

Jia Hao sits in the corner in front of a small table, looking through a scroll, smoking cannabis, while Jiayi washes the floors by hand.

JIAYI (V.O.)

He treated me all the same.

CUT TO:

(C.U.) Jiayi grabs her mouth as though she's about to throw up. Although she tries to be quiet while she gags.

JIAYI (V.O.)

I knew. I knew deep down.

CUT TO:

Jiayi slowly makes her way through a quiet hallway, which has rays of sun shining in, Jiayi holds the wall for stability.

JIAYI (V.O.)

I bear his child. Inside of my womb.
Within me.

Jiayi sinks down to the ground, onto her knees. She begins to silently cry.

CUT TO:

(C.U.) on Jiayi's face while she cries. Her eyes are open staring at the floor.

JIAYI

(whisper)

I carry a monster.

CUT TO:

INT. SHRINE - MIDDAY.

Jiayi kneels in front of an altar, whispering nonsense. Her eyes are wide as the bows facing the floor.

JIAYI

(LOUD WHISPER)

I was good, was I not? I was. I was. I was. Not enough? Had I not done enough? Given evil. Why, why, why, why, why?! Protect me, protect me, protect me. GODS PROTECT ME. A monster. A monster inside. Evil, no evil. What am I to do? Surely I cannot let an evil like this into our world. Surely.

Jiayi squeezes her eyes shut and puts her forehead to the ground.

The whispers continue, but they're softer.

(POK sound made by two bamboo sticks hit together)

CUT TO:

INT. SHRINE - EVENING

Jiayi is in the same position as she last was; in a bow with her forehead on the ground. She is still whispering to herself.

Jiayi abruptly looks up at the camera.

JIAYI

I've come to a decision.

(POK)

CUT TO:

INT. PORCH - RAINY AFTERNOON.

Jiayi stands, staring outside from the porch, watching the rain, again, smiling without her eyes. She wears a ceremonial robe with yellow silk and metallic thread, this certain robe signifies good fortune and longevity.

The sleeves go over her hands and she holds a paper fan. Jiayi slowly tilts her head to the side as she admires the rain.

(POK)

CUT TO:

EXT. RAINING - MIDDAY.

Jiayi's back is to the camera as she slowly walks away. She's barefoot and drags her feet as she walks.

SLOWLY HUMS THE TUNE TO LONDON'S BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN.

JIAYI

(whisper)

The Gods will take care of me.

MONTAGE OF JIAYI

Jiayi walks up to a stone well.

We are able to see Jiayi and the well from above, it is shown that there is no bottom to the well due to the darkness.

Jiayi sits on the ledge, looking into the well.

END OF MONTAGE

JIAYI

They'll take care of me...

Jiayi slowly falls in, but the camera cuts off right before she falls all the way in.

(POK)