

FADE IN:

1

INT. CATTLEMAN'S RANCH - NIGHT

1

LOUIS waves good-bye as the last customers of the night exit the restaurant.

LOUIS
Thanks for coming!

NANCY rushes to clear the table, MITCH is already putting on his coat and speeding toward the door.

NANCY
Hey, Mitch. I thought I asked you to lock up tonight.

Mitch stop and spins around on his heels with an awkward expression. Mitch inhales through his teeth.

MITCH
Yeah... about that--

NANCY
Mitch! I told you I need to check on my bird! Victoria needs me!

Mitch gives Nancy an apologetic shrug.

MITCH
(proudly)
I don't know how to tell you this... but I got a hot date tonight.

Nancy is stunned and speaks quickly.

NANCY
(nervously)
I'm not jealous, why would I be jealous?

LOUIS
Guys, guys. Don't worry. I'll lock up tonight.

NANCY
(gratefully)
You sure?

LOUIS
Yeah, no worries. I'm giving myself tomorrow off anyway.

(CONTINUED)

NANCY
Thanks so much, boss.

Nancy grabs her coat and speed walks out of the restaurant.
Louis turns to Mitch and raises his eyebrows.

LOUIS
So, whose the lucky lady?

Mitch fidgets.

MITCH
Going to the movies... with my mom.

LOUIS
(confused)
So... why'd you tell Nancy--

MITCH
-- Really appreciate you closing up
for us boss. Enjoy your day off.

Mitch rushes out of the restaurant. Louis pauses and shrugs.
He turns and looks at the taxidermy stuffed bear.

LOUIS
Just you and me now.

Louis whistles a cakewalk tune as he goes about the
restaurant. He clicks off the main lights and friendly
Cattleman's Ranch suddenly becomes uncharacteristically dark
and spooky. Louis CHUCKLES nervously. He turns around and
gets startled by the taxidermy bear. Louis lets out a
GIRLISH SCREAM, followed by more nervous laughter.

LOUIS (CONT'D)
(playfully)
Oh, you.

He shakes his head and punches the bear lightly on the
shoulder.

LOUIS (V.O)
Everything's alright, Louis Huang.
You're safe here.

Louis walks out the front door of Cattleman's Ranch

2 EXT. CATTLEMAN'S RANCH - CONTINUOUS 2

Louis steps outside the restaurant with a smile on his face.

LOUIS (V.O)
See, that wasn't so hard. What a
beautiful night.

He takes one step off the curb onto the street. Out of the blue, a car screeches and swerves out of his way, narrowly missing Louis. Louis's expression drops like a ton of bricks. He stares into the abyss.

LOUIS
Death is all around me.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

3 INT. HUANG'S MASTER BEDROOM - LATER 3

Louis and JESSICA HUANG are getting ready for bed. Jessica has already settled in under the covers, but Louis is livid.

LOUIS
(insistently)
I'm telling you, I saw my life
flash before my eyes.

Jessica rolls her eyes.

JESSICA
Louis, you're overreacting. You're
still right in front of me aren't
you? That means it's not your time
yet.

Louis looks to his wife.

LOUIS
Are you sure?

JESSICA
Of course I'm sure. Have I ever
been wrong?

LOUIS
I suppose you're right.

Louis sighs and climbs onto his side of the bed. He kisses his wife on the forehead.

(CONTINUED)

LOUIS
What would I do without you.

Jessica smiles with satisfaction.

JESSICA
You'd probably be saggy and alone.
Definitely not the successful
businessman you are today.

Louis smiles, completely taking this as a compliment. He sighs.

LOUIS
(in agreement)
Well, certainly no one wants to be
saggy and alone.

He casually runs his hand through Jessica's hair.

LOUIS (CONT'D)
(casually)
Oh, you've got a white hair. Let me
get that for you.

He lovingly plucks the single strand of white hair off of Jessica's head and shows it to her. Her eyes widen in fury as she grabs the hair and throws it onto the ground. Jessica leaps out of bed and stomps on it repeatedly, emphasizing each stomp with a frantic grunt.

JESSICA
I WILL NOT BE SAGGY AND ALONE!

After deeming the strand of hair properly decimated, Jessica settles back into bed. She lets out a contented puff of air, controlling her anger.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(sweetly)
Good night.

She reaches over and turns off the lamp on her bedside table, leaving Louis awake in the dark. Louis stares at his wife with an awkward, yet concerned expression.

4 INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

4

Louis and Jessica are in the kitchen preparing breakfast. Louis cooks bacon. He keeps glancing back at Jessica, who is taking *bao zhi* (stuffed minced pork buns) out of the steamer.

(CONTINUED)

LOUIS
(cautiously)
So, how are you feeling? You had a little bit of a... freak out last night.

JESSICA
(matter-o-factly)
I feel fine. I just realized that you were right all along. Our death is near and we must do everything we can to prevent it.

Jessica sets down the plate of bao zhi on the table. She turns to Louis in a very serious manner.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
If we die too early, we'll never see Emery graduate from Harvard, or Evan graduate from Princeton, or Eddie move out of the house, or even worse... graduate from University of Pittsburgh.

Jessica shudders at the thought of one her sons going to such an 'awful' school.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Our children will be lost without us. Especially Eddie.

Louis scoffs, but right as he's about to counter Jessica, EDDIE trounces down the stairs. He's wearing his signature baggy pants and an oversized T-shirt with rap artist, B-Legit on it. But today, there's a backwards cap on his head, a plastic gold dollar sign chain around his neck, and a set of make-shift tinfoil grillz on his teeth. Louis stares.

LOUIS
(concerned)
What are you wearing?

Eddie's voice is muffled by his grillz.

EDDIE
It's for career day, pops.

Louis is dumbfounded, but his expression turns to dread. He looks to Jessica in fear. She responds with a smug expression, knowing that she was right all along.

(CONTINUED)

The entire family sits around the kitchen table with a hearty breakfast of bacon, eggs, and *bao zhi*. Louis stares from one child to the next as if seeing each one of them for the first time. Eddie takes off his grillz to help himself to bacon. EMERY smiles sweetly.

EMERY

Would you like some of my *bao zhi*, father?

EVAN mutters intelligently to himself about the quadratic formula. Eddie explains to Emery about his career day outfit.

EDDIE

Just like my boy, B-Legit's first studio album, I'm just 'Tryin' to Get a Buck.'

EMERY

When I grow up, all I want is to take care of mom and dad when they're retired with my steady but high income job.

Emery looks at Jessica for approval. Jessica gives it to him. She has taught him well. She turns to Louis.

JESSICA

(whispering)

But he won't be able to do that if we die too early.

Louis is cracking, he is simply unable to stand the idea of being without his family. A bead of sweat forms on his temple.

EMERY

Dad, are you okay?

Louis's voice cracks.

LOUIS

No! I'm not okay. This family needs to make some changes around here. We need to adapt a healthier lifestyle. Your mother and I are going to be here to take care of you for a long time.

Louis is tearing up. He notices the heap of bacon on Eddie's plate and regains his fortitude. Louis raises his arms and breaths in, expecting dramatic silence. His family looks at each other awkwardly.

(CONTINUED)

LOUIS (CONT'D)
(excitedly)
We're going vegetarian.

Everyone in the family stares with disbelief. Evan is the only one to speak up.

EVAN
But Dad... you own a steakhouse.

LOUIS
Not important.

5 INT. HONEY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

5

Jessica and HONEY are lounging around on Honey's couch.

JESSICA
Yeah, you know I'm really impressed that Louis is taking so much initiative with this whole health thing.

HONEY
Well, I think it's great. Everyone can always take better care of themselves.

Jessica lower her voice as she speaks.

JESSICA
Actually, last night. Louis found... a white hair. My white hair. I'm worried. I've always relied on my Asian heritage to keep me young forever... but now I'm not so sure.

HONEY
Well. You know I'll never get white hair because I'm naturally this blonde.

Honey casually flips her luscious hair. Jessica nods, she's a bit impressed.

HONEY (CONT'D)
But you shouldn't worry. Getting white hair perfectly normal. Staying young and beautiful isn't easy for anyone! It takes a lot of hard work. You have to exercise, eat right, find the right products...

(CONTINUED)

Jessica is eating this up.

JESSICA

I do always tell my family that
nothing in life is easy...

HONEY

Exactly! Here, you can borrow some
of my Cosmo magazines to get you
started.

She picks out a magazine from a stack on the coffee table
and hands it to Jessica. Jessica looks at the cover with a
little apprehension.

JESSICA

Why does it tell me to eat cake on
page ten and then lose cake weight
on page twelve?

HONEY

Don't read into it too much.

(beat)

Anyway, this is so exciting! We can
do spa days, go jogging... wait I
have some beauty products I could
lend you too!

Honey leans in. Jessica leans in as well.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Get this, I can also give you my
secret face mask recipe. It's been
in my family for generations!

(beat)

Feel how tight my cheeks are.

Jessica touches Honey's cheek.

JESSICA

Wow, I always thought that this was
botox.

HONEY

Yeah, that's what everyone thinks.
But, nope.

Jessica nods in satisfaction, ready to get this plan moving.

6

INT. HUANG'S FOYER/KITCHEN - LATER

6

Evan, Emery, and Eddie come dashing through the front door, all three of them home from school.

EDDIE

Mom, you got snacks?

The boys wander into the kitchen only to be greeted with a horrific sight. All three boys scream bloody murder.

JESSICA

Why are you guys screaming?

Jessica is wearing an earthly colored face mask, tin foil in her hair, and a strange contraption (Japanese nose lifter) over her nose. She's really going all out.

EDDIE

What is wrong with your face?

Jessica pretends as if she just noticed. She's quite proud.

JESSICA

Oh, this? This temporary snail slime is for the sake of lifelong beauty. Like I said, nothing in life is easy. Especially staying young.

Evan and Emery nod as if they understand. Eddie is still incredibly lost.

EDDIE

Does no one else find it weird that she has snails on her face?

JESSICA

Be quiet and eat your snacks.

She presents the children with an innocuous, neat plate of celery and carrot sticks. One glance and Eddie SCREAMS. He runs out of the room at full speed. After watching him go, Jessica turns to her two remaining sons. She gives them a threatening glare, all the more terrifying with all that gunk on her face. Each boy hesitantly takes a veggie stick. They give their mother a nervous smile. Jessica beams.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWO

7 INT. HUNAG'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

7

Little Evan and Emery sit identically slumped on their sofa, each boy unsatisfyingly crunching on a crudite. Eddie slumps into the room with a carrot stick in his hand.

EMERY

She got you too?

EDDIE

Yeah.

He throws his nibbled carrot stick onto the ground.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

This blows!

EVAN

You know, Mom only wants the best for us.

EDDIE

Shut up. How can you say that you're loving this?

He kicks his sad carrot stick with his foot.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

If Mom and Dad wanted the best for us, they would want us to be happy. Come on, aren't you going to miss chocolate chip cookies? Shrimp chips?

EMERY

I thought you didn't like shrimp chips.

EDDIE

But I know that you do.

Emery stops talking. Eddie stares into Evan's widening eyes.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

And aren't you going to miss...

(beat)

Nutella?

8 INT. HUANG'S LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK 8

Evan sits on the ground; his eyes darting right and left as if he doesn't know where he is. An empty family sized jar of off-brand Nutella sits guiltily beside him. His face, his hands, and the front of his shirt are smeared with the chocolatey paste.

EVAN
(in horror)
What have I done?

9 INT. HUNAG'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT 9

Evan gulps.

EDDIE
We gotta stick together. Like my dawg, Biggie says, "She gonna do something to us, talk goes right through us."

EMERY
(confused)
What?

EDDIE
What the B.I.G is saying, we gotta take action into our own hands!
(beat)
Otherwise, you guys are gonna have to kiss your hi-chews, Dunkaroos, and *Nutella* good-bye.

Evan is convinced. He leaps up and throws his celery stick on the ground.

EVAN
Let's do this.

Emery stands too, he tries to snap his carrot stick in half but is unable to. He promptly throws it onto the ground as well.

EMERY
I'm in.

GRANDMA HUANG rolls serenely into the room, silent but deadly. She speaks in Chinese with English subtitles

GRANDMA HUANG
Wo ye xiang yao In. [I also want in.]

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE
(confused)
Grandma, why do you want in?

10 INT. HUNAG'S LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK 10

Grandma Huang and Louis are having a ferocious tug-of-war over a bag of Combos. Neither side is giving in.

LOUIS
(screaming and panting)
I JUST WANT YOU TO LEAD A LONGER
AND HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE!

GRANDMA HUANG
Wo de erzhi jujue wo! [You dishonor
me as a son!]

Suddenly, the bag of Combos rip open and fly across the living room. Louis looks at his mother with fear and guilt. Grandma Huang narrows her eyes.

GRANDMA HUANG (CONT'D)
Wo hui dedao wo de baofu. [I will
get my revenge.]

11 INT. HUANG'S LIVING ROOM - PRESENT 11

The boys all stare up at their grandmother, wondering why she hasn't spoken in a while. Grandma Huang turns to look at them.

GRANDMA HUANG
Wo you wo de liyou. [I have my
reasons.]
(beat)
Genzhe wo. Zhe shi nimen the jihua
[Follow me, Here's the plan.]

She wheels out of the room with her three confused grandsons trailing behind her. On her way out, she finds a Combo sitting on top of the television stand, leftover shrapnel from her previous battle with Louis. Grandma Huang eats it with a satisfying crunch.

12 INT/EXT. HUANG'S FOYER/FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS 12

There is a KNOCK on the front door.

Jessica, wearing a face towel like a ninja mask, answers the front door to reveal Honey in trendy athletic wear.

(CONTINUED)

HONEY

You ready to work out?

Jessica looks apologetic and she speaks almost sarcastically.

JESSICA

Oh, I can't. I have to wait for this wonderful face mask to sink into my shrinking pores.

Honey is suspicious. At this moment, Louis comes out of the kitchen.

LOUIS

(casually)

Hey, Honey.

Inspiration hits Jessica.

JESSICA

Louis will go with you!

Honey starts to object, but Louis becomes animated.

LOUIS

That is a great idea, sweetie! I could stand to lose a few notches on the belt.

He pats his stomach.

LOUIS(CONT'D)

Wait right here.

He dashes upstairs. Honey smiles and nods awkwardly at her friend. Louis races back downstairs.

SLOW MOTION: Louis runs down the stairs in obnoxiously 80's workout garb complete with a neon teal sweatband and a cheesy grin.

He stops at the bottom of the steps to catch his breath.

LOUIS(CONT'D)

(joking)

Whew, those are a lot of stairs.

Honey nods uncertainly. Jessica ushers them out the door.

JESSICA

(hurriedly)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA (cont'd)
I'm so disappointed I can't go
jogging with you. Oh well! Have
fun!

She shuts the door before Honey can put in a word.

HONEY
Is something... off about Jessica?

Louis is doing a combination of jumping jacks and dynamic stretching.

LOUIS
Huh, nah. She's just excited that
her man is getting back into shape.

Honey shrugs.

HONEY
Well, alright. Let's get started.

LOUIS
What do you usually do?

HONEY
Well, by myself I usually just go
jogging, but with you and Jessica
on this health trend, I was
thinking of following this 'Hello,
Beach Body' work out routine I
found in Vogue.

Honey pats her stylish fanny pack.

LOUIS
A beach body sounds good to me!

HONEY
Starts with a 10 minute run. You
ready?

Louis flips his hair confidently.

LOUIS
I've never been more read--

Honey jogs off before he even finishes his sentence. Louis is taken back by her speed, but he quickly dashes to follow her.

13 EXT. HUANG'S FRONTDOOR - LATER

13

Eddie, Evan, and Emery peek out of their front door.

EDDIE

Alright, Dad's gone. Mom's hanging
up our laundry.

EMERY

I don't understand why we air dry
everything. We own a dryer.

None of the boys can offer a reasonable explanation.

EDDIE

Guys, stay focused. We meet back in
your room at oh three-hundred
hours.

EVAN

We're meeting at three AM?

EDDIE

No. Just meet back in like half an
hour.

Evan and Emery nod. The two younger ones dart off in
different directions. Eddie watches them go and then strides
over to his neighbor's house and knocks on the front door.
NICOLE answers.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Hey girl. I need a favor.

NICOLE

What kind of favor?

EDDIE

Look, let me in and I'll give you
the run down on what's happening in
the Huang residence.

NICOLE

Alright. I got nothing better to
do.

Nicole shrugs and invites him inside.

14 EXT. HUANG'S NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

14

Louis flails miserably behind Honey's elegant jog. His form is terrible. His sweatband is soaked. He runs kind of like a gasping muppet.

LOUIS (V.O)

My god. How long have we been running for? It's been hours. What is this woman made of? Is she a robot?

HONEY

You know I can slow down if you need to.

LOUIS

(panting)

Oh trust me, I can keep up with what ever you throw at me. I'm a machine. A running, sweating, machine.

Honey shrugs.

HONEY

Well, if you say so.

Honey speeds ahead and Louis stares after her with despair.

15 EXT. HUANG'S NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

15

Emery walks up to TASHA, a young girl about the same age as him, who is playing hopscotch in her driveway. She is clearly delighted to see him.

TASHA

(sweetly)

Hey, Emery.

Tasha giggles flirtatiously.

EMERY

Hey Tasha.

TASHA

What do you need help with, Emery? You know I'm always glad to provide assistance.

EMERY

Thanks Tasha. You're so reliable.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EMERY (cont'd)
I was wondering if you had any
snacks left over from your birthday
party a few days ago.

TASHA
You know what? I'll see what I can
do.

She leads Emery inside her home.

16

EXT. HUANG'S FRONT YARD - LATER

16

Louis and Honey arrive back in front of the Huang residence.
Somehow, Louis has survived the whole running ordeal. He
hangs his head down with his hands on his knees, heaving for
air. Honey jogs in place, obviously pumped.

HONEY
(chipper)
Alright! I bet that got your blood
going!

She pulls out a magazine clipping from her fanny pack.

HONEY (CONT'D)
Let's start with plank push-ups.

Louis is still gasping.

LOUIS
How many?

HONEY
Fifty!

LOUIS
(crying)
Fifty?!

HONEY
Let's do it!

MONTAGE

'SIXX MINUTES" by Snoop Dogg plays as Louis fails miserably
at everything.

-During pushups, Louis's butt is 5 feet in the air as he
tries to keep up with Honey's counting.

-Honey looks downright sexy while doing side leg raises, but
Louis looks more like a flopping fish

(CONTINUED)

-Cool and collected Honey excels at sit ups, but Louis can hardly lift himself off the ground.

-Louis looks even more ridiculous on all fours doing leg lifts, kicking his leg back and into the air like a scorpion

17 EXT. HUANG'S CUL DE SAC - LATER 17

Evan sprints across the frame, from left to right then from right to left, practically running in circles.

Clearly, he has no clue what to do with himself and where to go. Suddenly he stops and clutches his face like Edward Munch's 'The Scream.' Evan SCREAMS.

18 EXT. HUANG'S NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER 18

Evan's SCREAM becomes Louis's SCREAM as he does lemon squeezers, doing his best to lift both of his legs and arms in the air crunching at his core.

HONEY

And fifty!

They both relax . Louis looks like he is on the brink of death. His entire face is soaked with sweat. Some how, Honey still appears flawless. While Louis gasps for his life, Honey hasn't even begun breathing hard.

HONEY

Whew, and it looks like we finish up with some simple yoga.

Louis stands, looking weary but a little relived.

LOUIS

(tired)

Oh, that's easy. Yoga is for--

Louis promptly collapses into the dust.

HONEY

Oh my god! Louis!

She hurries to help him up.

19 INT. HUANG FOYER/KITCHEN - LATER 19

Jessica, still wearing her ninja face towel opens the door to reveal Honey holding up a limp but chipper Louis. Jessica's eyes widen.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA

Louis! Did you get hit by a car?

Louis laughs awkwardly.

LOUIS

(chipper)

Well it turns out, I haven't done cardio in over a decade so...

HONEY

Here. Help me get him into the kitchen.

Jessica and Honey both support Louis under his armpits and basically carry him into the kitchen. Louis is apologizing and laughing the whole way.

LOUIS

Sorry, I just can't really feel my legs and my heart is beating like a scared mouse! I don't think that's natural.

Jessica and Honey manage to get Lois to sit down at the kitchen table. Honey brushes her hands off.

LOUIS

Is it me or is Jessica dressed like a ninja?

Jessica laughs nervously, pretending as if Louis had made a hilarious joke. She turns to Honey.

JESSICA

Ah, boys know nothing about being beautiful.

Honey raises her eyebrows with an awkward grin.

HONEY

Hehe... yeah... Well, I'm going to head out. You know. Finish up that work out. I hope you feel better, Louis.

Honey waves and then dashes out the door. Jessica and Louis make eye contact. Louis looks at Jessica suspiciously.

JESSICA

What are you staring at me for?

(CONTINUED)

LOUIS
 (suspiciously)
 Wait. I'm not imagining the ninja
 mask.

JESSICA
 I don't know what you're talking
 about.

LOUIS
 You dressed up like pirate for two
 weeks because you didn't want
 anyone to know you had pink eye.
 (beat)
 What are you hiding now?

JESSICA
 Nothing!

LOUIS
 We are not having another pirate
 fiasco! The whole family got sick!

Louis grabs away Jessica's towel before she can stop him. He gasps and lets a squeak but quickly silences himself. His expression is awkwardly fearful.

The lower part of Jessica face is swollen and covered in red welts. She quickly covers the blemishes with her hands and glares at her husband.

JESSICA
 I swear it's not contagious
 this time!

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

20

INT. EVAN AND EMERY'S BEDROOM - LATER

20

Evan, Emery, and Eddie sit crisscross applesauce on the floor facing each other in a circle. Eddie has his eyebrows knotted in a serious expression. Evan fidgets with nervousness.

EDDIE
 All right, here's the deal. I show
 you what I got. You show me what
 you got.

Eddie reaches behind himself into his backpack and pulls out two packs of Oreos and a half-full, family sized jar of Nutella. Evan gulps.

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE (CONT'D)
Got the goods from my girl, Nicole.

He beats his chest twice, kisses two of his fingers, and raises them in the air as a salute.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
You'll always have a place in my heart.

Emery and Evan stare. Eddie clears his throat. Back to serious business.

EDDIE
Alright. Where's the dough?

Emery brings out a plastic shopping bag filled with candy and dumps it on the ground. Eddie and Evans' eyes widen staring at the mountain of candy before them. Emery is chipper.

EMERY
You guy's should have seen Tasha's piñata. It was so Tasha.

Eddie is impressed. He runs his fingers through the candy as if it were a pile of coins.

EDDIE
Very nice.

Both the brothers turn toward Evan. It's his turn.

Evan is sweating now. He reaches behind him and reveals... a loaf of white bread. Eddie stands in disbelief, dwarfing Evan.

EDDIE
This is what you bring?
(beat)
I trusted you, Evan. I welcome you into my house, you eat my food--

EMERY
--Eddie, this is our room. And you haven't given us any food.

Eddie pays no heed, much too absorbed in scaring Evan.

EDDIE
How do you repay my generosity? By bringing me *this*?

(CONTINUED)

Eddie kicks the pathetic bag of bread with the side of his foot.

EVAN

It's *white* bread! It's as good of junk food as any! These refined grains will kill you!

Even Emery shakes his head solemnly.

EDDIE

You've disrespected me. But that doesn't even matter. What matters more is that you've disrespected... *her*.

Evan grasps on to Eddie. Eddie tries to shake him off.

EVAN

You have to protect me!

Suddenly, Tupac's 1996 'Ambitionz Az a Ridah' begins to play. Evan, Emery, and Eddie look to the door. It's Grandma Huang, and in her lap is Eddie's boom box, explaining the source of the timely rap music.

Grandma rolls stoically into the room and everyone falls silent. Her eyes wander from the pile of candy to Evan's loaf of white bread. The atmosphere is tense.

GRANDMA HUANG

(demandingly)

Wo de fu kuan. (My payment.)

She raises out her arms expectantly. Eddie reaches back into his backpack and pulls out a family sized bag of Pizza flavored combos and hands them to her. Grandma Huang smiles and nods.

GRANDMA HUANG

Wo manyi le. (You have pleased me.)

She rolls out of the room. In a moment of silence, the boys regain their bearings.

EVAN

(whispering)

I'm alive.

Emery throws two fists full of candy in the air.

(CONTINUED)

EMERY

I believe this warrants a celebration.

EDDIE

Yeah! Let's eat!

The boys descend upon their stash. Eddie makes it rain pixie-stix sugar, Emery goes to town on a pack of Oreos and eaching just the cream out of the cookies. Evan, of course, attacks the Nutella, eating it with his fingers.

JESSICA (O.S)

Boys! Come down for dinner!

The boys freeze. They quickly begin shoveling their junk food under the bed and into the closet. Emery shakes the pixie-stix sugar out of his hair like a wet dog. Evan has Nutella smeared all over his face.

21 INT. HUANG'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

21

Jessica, still donning her ninja disguise, finishes calling the boys down for dinner. She helps the still limping Louis walk over from the living room to the kitchen table.

The boys enter the kitchen still rubbing their faces clean of sugar. Grandma Huang rolls into the kitchen, licking her fingers with a look of satisfaction. Everyone stops when they realize dinner consists of multiple plates of green and brown schlop.

The boys look up at their mother, very much with a 'do we have to eat this?'

JESSICA

(defensively)

What? Don't look at me. I'm not used to cooking without meat. Blame your father.

EDDIE

(grossed out)

What is this stuff?

JESSICA

This stuff is good for you. Will make your skin shiny like Jennifer Love Hewitt.

EDDIE

I do not want to look like Jennifer Love Hewitt. Peace.

(CONTINUED)

Eddie turns around, raises two peace signs in the air, and promptly exits the kitchen.

JESSICA
Eddie! Get back here!

EMERY
Actually... Mom? I was going to help Evan study for his math test.

Evan nods enthusiastically.

EVAN
Grades are more important than eating anyway.

Jessica is in shock that even her two good sons are avoiding eating dinner. Evan and Emery take advantage of her surprise and scurry away.

Jessica and Louis look to Grandma Huang, wondering if she was going to stay. Grandma Huang shakes her head disapprovingly, and wheels away.

Jessica sighs.

JESSICA
I don't understand why they're running away. Louis, we've raised a family of cowards.
(beat)
It can't possibly taste as bad as it looks.

Even as Jessica says this, she looks at her cooking with a worried expression.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
You're not going to skip dinner are you?

Louis laughs nervously

LOUIS
Me? No. Not even if my legs were working.

He sighs as he stares longingly down the empty dinner table at the empty chairs where his sons would normally sit to eat. He looks back at his ninja wife.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA

Well aren't you going to eat? Tell me if it tastes poisonous.

LOUIS

Wait, why am I the poison checker?

JESSICA

Cause it was your idea to eat healthier.

LOUIS

Oh. Right.

Louis nods and smiles awkwardly. He takes a hesitant bite and immediately almost spits it out. He forces himself to chew and swallow.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

Mmmmmmmmm.

He gives his wife a half-heartedly encouraging nod. Jessica is not convinced.

22

INT. HUANG'S MASTER BEDROOM - LATER

22

Jessica and Louis are getting ready to go to sleep. Louis is tucked in on his side of the bed, waiting for Jessica to join him. Unfortunately, his wife is too busy obsessing over her still allergy-ridden face.

JESSICA

(breathing out)

I'm a monster.

Louis sighs and looks over at the empty side of the bed with sadness.

LOUIS

You know what? I don't understand the point of being there when are boys are graduating college if they aren't even going to eat dinner with us now.

(beat)

I love the idea of being around forever, but what's important is spending as much time as we can together now as a family, not being worried about the future.

Jessica is hardly listening to him. She's still poking at her face.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA

What is going on?! Another white hair!

She finally turns to her husband, waving the strand of white hair at him.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I don't understand what I'm doing wrong! I'm following all the directions and beauty guides--

LOUIS

-- You know, I really wish you would stop it. All these crazy beauty products, they're only hurting you. I know you're smart enough to see that.

Jessica relents.

JESSICA

I just want to be as beautiful as I was when I was younger.

Louis shakes his head.

LOUIS

You've always been beautiful to me.

Jessica can't help but smile. She climbs into her side of the bed. Louis wraps his arm around her shoulder.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

Even now.

He kisses the side of her head.

JESSICA

(blushing)

Awh, Louis, somehow you've found a way to make my face redder than it already is.

LOUIS

Well, the point of being married is so we can grow old together. Not look young together.

Jessica rolls her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA
I suppose you are right.

LOUIS
But... we should probably still
find an ointment or something to
fix... all of this.

He waves his hand around Jessica's splotchy face. Jessica
nods in agreement.

JESSICA
So. No more health food?

LOUIS
As long as there's no more beauty
stuff.

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA
Deal.
(beat)
Let's go tell the boys. I bet
they're starving after skipping
dinner.

LOUIS
Yeah. I don't blame them though.
Maybe you could fry up some glass
noodles.

23 INT. OUTSIDE OF EVAN AND EMERY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 23

Jessica and Louis walk down the dark but familiar hallway of
their home. Evan and Emery's room is marked with a sign that
reads: "WELCOME TO EVAN AND EMERY'S HUMBLE ADOBE." In
contrast, Eddie's room has an "ADULTS KEEP OUT" sign.

Jessica and Louis notice that the light is still on in Evan
and Emery's room. They look at each other in confusion.

JESSICA
(whispering)
What are they up to?

Louis and Jessica slowly push open the door.

24 INT. EVAN AND EMERY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 24

The boys are too busy munching away on their hoard of junk food and acting silly to notice Jessica and Louis peeking into the bedroom.

Eddie is making a tower of gumdrops and his brothers are laughing at him. Evan puts a dot of Nutella on Emery's nose.

25 INT. OUTSIDE OF EVAN AND EMERY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 25

At first Louis and Jessica are appalled, but after watching their sons for a few moments they can't help but smile at each other at the touching display of brotherhood.

Suddenly the boys realize that Jessica and Louis are peeking through a crack at the door. Eddie SCREAMS and the gum drop tower collapses. They're caught red-handed.

Jessica looks at Louis, and they shrug.

LOUIS
Boys. It's okay.

EDDIE
(shocked)
It is?

JESSICA
Yeah, we understand that the past few days in this house haven't been so easy.

She sits down next to Evan and ruffles his hair. Louis sits down between Eddie and Emery and helps himself to an Oreo. Jessica opens a Twizzler.

EVAN
What are you doing?

JESSICA
What? I skipped dinner too.

LOUIS
Maybe, we still have time tonight for a family dinner.

EMERY
What about Grandma?

LOUIS
I'm sure she's doing fine.

26 INT. GRANDMA HUANG'S BEDROOM - LOUIS'S IMAGINATION 26

Grandma Huang lies in bed, sleeping and eating Combos from her jumbo bag at the same time. She has a content smile on her face.

27 INT. EVAN AND EMERY'S BEDROOM - BACK TO PRESENT 27

Louis shakes his head in good humor.

LOUIS

Ah, mother.

JESSICA

But no more white bread. Those refined grains will kill you.

She takes away the untouched loaf of bread and places it behind her, out of sight.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

And if I ever catch you boys hiding junk food again, you're going to have to find someone else to feed you.

She smiles and chews calmly on her Twizzler. Her family laughs nervously, unsure if Jessica is joking or not.

END OF ACT THREE

ENDING TAG

28 INT. HUANG'S KITCHEN - DAY 28

Jessica and Louis are doing dishes together. Jessica hand-washes while Louis dries. After carefully drying each dish, he places it into the dishwasher.

JESSICA

Hey, would you ever be interested in working out with Honey again?

Louis nods thoughtfully.

LOUIS

Well, I would definitely be opening to trying it out again now that I know what to expect...

Suddenly Louis dive bombs onto the ground, cheek to the kitchen floor. He breathes heavily in panic. His wife peers out the window in confusion, wondering if Louis had seen

(CONTINUED)

