29/08/2012 S.Ansell

The Sun Is Not For Us

A stage@leedstouring Production

Directed by David Jiang

Script edited by Steve Ansell 28/08/2102

**Scene Breakdown**

**1. Opening Scene**

**2. Wedding**

**3. Flower & Ma**

**4. Flower & Tiger**

**5. Masters & Servants**

**6. Flower & Tiger 2**

**7. Fan-Yi & Ping**

**8. Pai Lu 1**

**9. Wilderness House**

**10. Plum & Jade**

**11. Pai Lu 2**

**12. Fan Dance**

**13. Thunderstorm**

**14. Phoenix and Juehui**

**15. Pai Lu Death**

**16. Death Dance**

**Opening Scene**

**Screens flat at back stage centre - Blocks flat - Lanterns out**.

*Blackout. The lights come up to reveal all female cast members on the stage. Half of them sit, facing the audience, representing the ‘daughter’ in the relationship. The other half sit and their feet, taking their feet and binding them in ribbon. The mothers bind their daughters feet, ignoring their agony. The scene reaches its climax as the pain for the daughters is unbearable, and the binding stops. All women then leave the stage.*

**Right screen move to diagonal - Jess and Kate.**

**Blocks upright - Olly and Toto.**

**Left screen perpendicular to stage- Rose**

Jeuxin: I thought I’d find you here.

Plum: You shouldn’t be here, not on your wedding day. Go and meet

your new bride.

*Jeuxin leaves and stands behind a screen; Plum follows and a moment between them happens as both raise their hands to either side of the screen. Plum comes around the screen, and seeing Jade sat there, leaves.*

**Wedding**

*Behind the right hand screen, silhouettes of a wedding scene appear.*

Jade: I guess this is it, I’m married

Juexin: This one here, poor girl, To be spurned before she set foot in the house. Invisible on her own wedding day. No, I’ll never spend the night with this fledging of a girl.

Jade: Oh mother, how could you leave me with this man. A complete stranger. And I’m supposed to spend the rest of my life with him. How can I trust your choice for me?

Juexin: Still there, not moving a single muscle, A figure of clay,

What have I done to deserve this? Must I spend my life with a slab of stone?

Jade: I don’t even know him and he already terrifies me. Why wont he talk to me? Why wont he look at me? How can I be a good wife to this monster?

Juexin: Oh Plum, it should be you on that chair. You would be if I had the smallest say in the matter. Condemned to spend the rest of my life with this statue.

Jade: No, mother said I must cherish and obey him In sickness and in health, ill offer everything I have and am Maybe I could learn to love this man.

Juexin: Maybe I can learn to exist with this girl.

*The pair leave the stage through the flats. Flower and Ma enter the stage.*

**Flower and Ma**

**Stage right screen back to centre- Jack and Lara Right individual box lift by Kate**

Ma: Flower! What are you looking at?

FLOWER: Nothing

Ma: Is it dark?

FLOWER: Almost

Ma: It’s time we went home.

FLOWER: Let me help you?

Ma: I don’t want your help, you’re only pretending! Out with it! Say right out what you think, tell your mother in law what you really think of her Flower! You’re pretty, and you can speak well enough.

FLOWER: Ma!

Ma: I just have one son, he’s the only thing that belongs to me and now you’ve taken him away. I’m an old woman now, I’m blind, and I’m just a bother to you. I know I should die; I should’ve let you bury me alive long ago.

FLOWER: But Ma, I haven’t said anything about you at all!

Ma: You whore! You cheap thing! You just can’t cheat people enough can you?! While I’m here you can be on your best behaviour, now, help me up! *(Goes to get up and finds the flower)* Oh. What’s this?

FLOWER: This? A flower Ma.

Ma: A flower? Who gave it to you? Who gave it to you?

FLOWER: Who gave it to me? I bought it at the gate all by myself.

Ma: You bought it? What’d you buy it for?

FLOWER: I dreamed yesterday that my husband had come back home.

Ma: Dreamt it? Dreamt what?

FLOWER: That my husband came to the gate and took a bad fall there; and after that I began wearing a red flower, for good luck.

Ma: You have a dream, and now you want to wear some flower! Throw it away! You shan't bewitch him even more by wearing flowers! Throw it away! Come, we’re going home. *(Gets up)* Why haven’t you come home? What are you doing?

FLOWER: Ma, listen, the train is coming.

Ma: Stay there and listen then. I hope that the train comes by and crushes you to death!

**Flower and Tiger**

*Tiger enters the stage.*

FLOWER: Who is it?

TIGER: Me.

FLOWER: Who are you?

TIGER: It’s me, don’t you know me?

FLOWER: No, I don’t know

TIGER: Flower, you’ve forgotten me. I haven’t forgotten you...

FLOWER: Tiger!

TIGER: That’s right, I’m back!

FLOWER: What did you come back for?

TIGER: I came back to see you.

FLOWER: Why see me? I’m already married.

TIGER: I know, you married my good friend Shin

FLOWER: Where did you come from?

TIGER: From a faraway place.

FLOWER: I thought you were in jail.

TIGER: How could I sit in jail knowing my father and sister sit in the ground? I guess I have your new family to thank for that. How do I look?

FLOWER: You...you’re lame.

TIGER: That’s right. Does it make your heart ache?

FLOWER: Maybe it does, maybe it doesn’t.

TIGER: If your heart aches for me you’ll take me home, but if it doesn’t, I’ll take you away with me.

FLOWER: You brute.

TIGER: What?

FLOWER: You’re a brute and a nobody. You should’ve stayed where you were.

TIGER: But, Flower; you don’t know how I’ve thought of you.

FLOWER: Then, why didn’t you come back before?

TIGER: It’s not too late now.

FLOWER: Go away! Go! I don’t want to listen to you.

TIGER: I know you don’t want to listen you’re such a proper girl. But you can’t stop me from speaking my true feelings.

FLOWER: Say what you like? So what?

TIGER: I’ve come back this time to take you away.

FLOWER: Where would you take me?

TIGER: Far away from here. Somewhere where gold covers the ground, where you can dress well and drink well.

FLOWER: Don’t talk about it, you know I can’t leave.

TIGER: Then tell me you won’t take me home with you.

FLOWER: You brute, you really...

TIGER: I really missed you flower; you’re the only one in my heart. So, do you love me or not?

FLOWER: Maybe I do, maybe I don’t.

TIGER: If you do, you’ll take me home.

FLOWER: And if I don’t?

TIGER: I’ll jump into that pit and drown myself.

FLOWER: Then go ahead.

TIGER: Alright, I’ll go.

FLOWER: Don’t!

TIGER: Don’t you want me to jump?

FLOWER: I...

TIGER: You don’t, so when are we going to go up to your house and have a nice little chat about where I come from.

FLOWER: Tonight.

TIGER: Tonight?

FLOWER: Yes, tonight.

*Flower touches Tigers cheek and leaves. He watches her go and then leaves in the other direction*

**Masters and Servants**

*The two scenes run side by side, with one pair freezing as the opposite pair speaks.*

Juehui: Phoenix what’s taking you so long?

Phoenix: Coming!

*Switches to the other pair.*

Ping: Su-Feng

Ssu Feng: No don’t someone might see

Ping: Not a soul Feng, come and sit down.

*Switches back*

Juehui: I missed you so much!

Phoenix: Don’t worry, I’m here now.

Juehui: Let me look at you in the moonlight..

Phoenix: Stop it young master!

Juehui: Don’t call me that, have you thought it through phoenix?

Phoenix: Yes I have.

Juehui: Then what? *(Phoenix shakes her head)* Why?

Phoenix: No, the answer is still no. you know I love you master, but…

Ssu Feng: Where’s the master then?

Ping: Oh he’s seeing visitors.

Ssu Feng: It’s always like this so underhand.

Ping: Mmm..

Ssu Feng: You don’t even dare call out my name.

Ping: That’s why I’m leaving...

Ssu Feng: I... I’m terribly afraid.

Ping: What of?

Ssu Feng: In case the master should find out about us. I’m terrified. You once said you’d tell him about us?

Ping: There are worse things than that to worry about.

Ssu Feng: Such as?

Ping: You haven’t heard anything?

Ssu Feng: No.

Ping: Nothing at all?

Ssu Feng: No..?

Ping: Nothing about me?

Ssu Feng: No? Why? Never? What? What do you mean?

Ping: Nothing to worry about.

Ssu Feng: I trust you. I trust you to be true to me. Always. That’s all I want. A few days ago you told me you were leaving tomorrow?

Ping: I told you all about it last night.

Ssu Feng: Why wont you take me with you?

Ping: Because, because, I don’t choose to.

*Switches back.*

Juehui: Oh phoenix you’re too young to carry such a burden of sadness by yourself! Don’t be so gloomy, there is nothing that can stand between us.

Phoenix: There is, you just can’t see it. Look, why must we thing of the future? Why should we bother about things like your marriage or mine? We should keep things as they are.

Juehui: No phoenix, I feel so stifled. I want to cry out at the top of my voice, tell everybody!

Phoenix: Don’t master, please don’t, you will ruin me.

Juehui: I won’t leave you phoenix, ever. I’ll always be by your side.

Phoenix: You know I love to hear you speak like that. How I wish all this would go on forever; this moon and the breeze and me listening to your words.

Juehui: Had both of us been masters, or even slaves, there would be nothing remarkable about it. But because you are the master and I am the maid…

Phoenix: Now phoenix, I’ve told you again and again, don’t call me master.

Juehui: Let me address you as I’m used to. You are above me, I must remember that.

*Switches back.*

Ssu Feng: Do take me with you Ping, I’ll do whatever you want me to. I’ll do everything I can to make you comfortable. You need someone like me to look after you. I know for certain that once you’re away from home you’ll be lost without someone like me to look after you.

Ping: But don’t you see Feng; I just can’t take you with me. Now don’t you think you’re being rather childish about all this?

Ssu Feng: Do take me with you ping, I promise I won’t be any trouble. If people started gossiping about you because of me I’d go away at once. You needn’t be afraid of scandal.

Ping: Su-Feng, you don’t really think I’m that selfish do you? You really mustn’t think I’m that sort Feng. I’ve had no-one to love for years; do you think now that I have found a woman that I can fall in love with, that I’d start to worry about what people say? Let them say, let them say what they like about young Mr Chou falling for one of the servants, what do I care? I love him.

*Switches back.*

Juehui: How you are suffering!

Phoenix: No.

Juehui: Yes you are, and because of me. No phoenix, I must tell people; I will talk to my mother. To keep this to ourselves is to take advantage of you. I will tell mother I want to marry you.

Phoenix: No, no you must never do that. You must never feel that I’m suffering because of you or that you are taking advantage of me. Even if I suffer for it I don’t care, I will stay with you.

Juehui: No one should give into a fate like that.

Phoenix: I’m not giving in. if the mistress wants to marry me off ill put up a fight. Certain things I will comply with certain things I just will not. I know the difference to are positions in life. I am willing to watch over you and have nothing for myself all my life. Don’t feel sorry. I’m telling you I will go through with what I have decided. ……

*Switches back.*

Ssu Feng: Whatever you’ve done I won’t hold it against you. Tell me honestly how you feel about me.

Ping: How I feel about you? You want me to tell you honestly? Well what do you want me to say?

Ssu Feng: I wish you wouldn’t treat me like this ping. You know very well now that I’m yours, all yours and yet you treat me like this.

Ping: Oh god.

Ssu Feng You’re all I have Ping. They may throw me over one day but you cant, you can’t...

Ping: Now just a minute Feng, let me just think things through. Tell you what; I’ll come over to your house tonight.

Ssu Feng No… Ok.

*Switches back.*

Phoenix: That’s settled then, promise me don’t tell people don’t ever tell anybody.

Juehui: Maybe it is too soon but sooner or later I will tell mother.

Phoenix: Didn’t you say you where going to teach me some poetry about the moon?

Juehui: Yes, can you remember it? When again the moon so bright?

Phoenix: With a jug of wine I question the light.

Juehui: May I query with the immortals?

Phoenix: What marks the year tonight?

Juehui: You’ve learnt it all in one reading! Which line do you like best?

Phoenix: Would that mortals live forever, sharing you bliss over land and sea.

Juehui: My brilliant girl. Why didn’t I find you before?

Phoenix: Master, why didn’t you teach me this before. Thank of it there should be such wonderful people I the world.

Juehui: There are, there are. That’s what makes life so interesting.

Phoenix: Oh I so want to live life fully.

Juehui: Are you happy?

Phoenix: Yes.

Juehui: Truly?

Phoenix: Yes.

Juehui: Someone may be coming, ill see you tonight.

**Flower & Tiger 2**

*Tiger and Flower pair begin a dance.*

Ma: Flower, I want to ask you something.

*The dance is interrupted by Ma, Tiger leaves before Ma enters*

FLOWER: Yes, Ma.

Ma: What kind of sounds have you been making in your sleep these last few nights?

FLOWER: What do you mean?

Ma: During the night, what were you mumbling about all alone here in the house?

FLOWER: Ma, I wasn’t mumbling.

Ma: You weren’t? There was a lot of commotion in your room one night? But when I came to the doorway it had stopped. What was the matter?

FLOWER: Oh you mean that? That was a rat; I got up in the middle of the night to catch a rat.

Ma: Don’t go. Sit down.

FLOWER: OK.

Ma: Sit down.

FLOWER: I’m sitting.

Ma: No you’re not. I know. Sit down.

FLOWER: Yes Ma.

Ma: Flower; do you know where Tiger is?

FLOWER: Tiger?

Ma: Yes, Tiger. Don’t be a fool. You know he wants revenge after my husband killed his family. You know he’s come back here.

FLOWER: How dare he come?! That brute, if he should come by I’ll call the police to take him away.

Ma: Careful, Flower. Remember your father up there is watching you.

**Fan-yi and Ping**

*Fan-yi and Ping enter the stage.*

Fan-yi: Where’s she gone?

Ping: Who?

Fan-yi: Ssu Feng.

Ping: Oh, she’s gone to get you some medicine I think..

Fan-yi: I don’t need anymore medicine!

Ping: I must be going now, I have some packing to do.

Fanyi: Wait a minute. Don’t go. Why don’t you stay with me for a moment?

Ping: What for?

Fanyi: I just wish you’d communicate with me… we could go back to the way things were… you must realise what its like for me not being able to have you around..

Ping: I think I’ve made my position quite clear now, I’ve been avoiding you all this time, I think you understand why!

Fanyi: Only too well.

Ping: What do you want me to say- I am a disgrace and what is more a disgrace to my father!

Fanyi: But your forgetting the person you’ve disgraced most of all…

Ping: Who?

Fanyi: Me, your stepmother… the woman you seduced!

Ping: You must be mad!

Fanyi: You’re in my debt Ping. You can’t just run off the moment the chance of a new life offers itself.

Ping: That’s an outrageous thing to say! You can’t talk like that in a respectable family like fathers.

Fanyi: Father! Father! To hell with your father! Respectable?! From you of all people. I’ve been in this respectable family of yours for 18 years now. I’ve heard the sins of the Chou’s and I have committed them myself. Philanthropists, respectable citizens, pillars of society.

Ping: Every family has is its problems, but father has worked hard to make the Chou family name..

Fanyi: You’re all the same and your father is the biggest hypocrite of the lot… Remind me how old are you now Ping?

Ping: Twenty two.

Fanyi: It was about twenty two years ago that your father seduced a girl from the lower classes..

Ping: There’s no need to go dragging stuff up like that!

Fanyi: And you’re the bastard child he gave her.

Ping: You’re lying what proof have you got?!

Fanyi: Go and ask your respectable father yourself.. He told me about it when he was drunk. Living with him has worn me down. But you appeared… you appeared… it was you who made me who I am … half stepmother, half mistress.. It was you who seduced me!

Ping: Seduced indeed..

Fanyi: You revived me .. Then got tired of me and cast me aside and didn’t care about the consequences. Now you tell me what I should do?

Ping: I don’t know.. What do you think?

Fanyi: I don’t want you to go away.

Ping: What?! You mean you want me to stay here in this godforsaken place? So we have to see each other every day.

Fanyi: I am sorry I didn’t find out what you were like sooner..

Ping: Well now you know don’t you? I have wronged yes, I freely admit that.. But the blame isn’t all mine. This …..( Gesturing)… sickens me!

Fanyi: Ping .. Please.. Wait listen to me. I’m sorry I don’t know who I am anymore. This house.. This life. Why don’t I come with you? We can leave .. We can start a new life together…

Ping: You’re delusional woman. You’ve gone mad.. Look at you. You never meant anything to me. Just take some of this.

*Ping makes Fan-yi lie down, moving a block flat.*

**Pai Lu**

**Left screen moved out- Olly and Becci (become silhouette) Right screen moved out- Fred and Kate (become silhouette) Left long box lowered- Toto**

*Pai-Lu dances with her various gentlemen. At first Pai-lu is with pan, spins to Georgy, falls back over his arm spin back to Pan, who drops, holds and spins her back to Georgy.*

Georgy: Tiens! My little Lulu, this dress of yours is- (*Spin)*

Pai-Lu: (*imitating his manner)* Ravissante!

GEORGY: Exactement, mais vous savez toujours ce qui me passe par la tete.

PAI LU: Oh Georgy, I wish you wouldn’t keep talking this foreign gibberish.

GEORGY: Oh, je m’excuse, pardonnez-moi, I’m terribly sorry but you see I find it rather easier to express myself in French.

PAI LU: Georgie, why are you all dressed up like this today?

GEORGY: Oh you’ve no idea what a lot of things one gets caught up with... working in a government office. (*PL slowly drifts off into P’s arms. They spin away from G slowly)* One day it’s some it’s some ceremony or another, the next it’s a wedding one has to attend. Afterwards I suddenly thought of you and felt I’d better come straight round to see you without waiting to change first. I’ve brought you (*PL takes control, spinning quickly back into G)* these flowers to express my wish that you will always be as beautiful as you are today (*By the time she is back facing G, he has presented her with a set of flowers*) And Lulu, I must tell you the good news.

*PL walks away to Pan, who has sat down, gone around the blocks the other way and meets her face on.*

PAI LU: Ah Pai-Lu, I knew you’d send for me sooner or later- see I ask you to dine, and you won’t dine... I ask you to drink, and you won’t drink. But I knew you’d send for me sooner or later.

PAI LU: You’re very sure of your powers of fascination, aren’t you?

PAI LU: Yes, I may be two, three times your age, but I’m built just like the rest of them- it’s a pity you couldn’t have seen me when I was younger. I knew you were thinking of me though, weren’t you?

PAI LU: Yes... I was thinking... of you and me.

PAI LU: Yes! Thinking of me... and you. I knew it.

PAI LU: I was thinking of you and me… tackling a job together

*By this point they are sat down, w/ PL heavily flirting.*

PAI LU: Tackling a job again?! Is that all that’s on your mind...?

PAI LU: There’s some bills that need paying and those serviceman are awaiting their payment, couldn’t you just sort that out for me?

PAI LU: They probably know me... these men... so it shouldn’t be too much trouble getting rid of them.

PAI LU: Thank you; you’re one of the best!

PAI LU: Pai-Lu, that’s the first time you’ve ever thanked me for anything.

PAI LU: That’s because it’s the first time you’ve been one of the best.

PAI LU: Now there you go making fun of me, you-

PAI LU: Now be patient my darling, I’ll be back soon.

*Pan stands up and walks away. Pai-Lu turns to face Georgy, still sitting. Georgy drags her to her feet*

PAI LU: So tell me about your good news.

GEORGY: Ah yes, my good news.

PAI LU: Your wife presented you with another son?

GEORGY: Ah you’re impossible.

PAI LU: Then you must have been promoted.

GEORGY: It amounts to much the same thing as a promotion what I have to tell you. This is it. Yesterday afternoon, I got... a divorce. A divorce from my wife, a proper divorce.

PAI LU: Oh, a divorce. But hasn’t she given you three children- how can you go and divorce her as soon as you get back from abroad?

GEORGY: What do you mean? I paid her. I made a proper settlement. What’s the matter with you today?

*On this line, Pai-Lu greets Pan who slyly places a bracelet on her and walks away smugly.*

GEORGY: Lulu, do you know why I came here last night?

PAI LU: Don’t tell me you came to propose to me too?

GEORGY: Ooh la la, juste ciel! You must be God himself the way you can guess what’s going on in my mind.

*Says it as if it pleases her/is funny... Pai-Lu scorns at him*

PAI LU: (*sitting down*) What! You...

GEORGY: Now Lulu, you must take pity on me. Take pity on a man who has no-one to love him. You must say yes.

PAI LU: You mean that when you came here and made that scene last night and were sick all over my bed that you mean that you’d come to propose to me?

GEORGY: That was because I was drunk.

PAI LU: I’m well aware of that...

GEORGY: And that was because I was overjoyed. I couldn't get over the realization that I was going to be the luckiest man in the world, because I knew you'd marry me. Lulu, I've now got a house on the main commercial street, I've shares in Ta Hsing Mines, and I've several tens of thousands in cash in Ta Feng Bank, and of course you know I'm still in government service. In addition to this, I didn't do too badly for myself whilst abroad: I'm a PhD a BSc in economics and an MA in political science and also –

*By the middle of the rant, Pai-Lu has fully backed up against Pan; she slyly takes his hands and brings hers up along his. Pan backs out and drop holds her.*

PAI LU: Pai-lu you’re a great burden to me child. Even my own daughter I never took so much trouble over as I do you...

PAI LU: Oh we do treat you badly here, my poor Daddy.

*Pai-Lu is back on her feet and wraps her leg around Pan’s*

PAI LU: Pai-Lu I won’t have you calling me Daddy either.

PAI LU: If I want to call you it, so there. My poor, old Daddy.

PAI LU: I’m not old... why should you call me you’re old Daddy? Look at me, I’m great!

*By this point, Pai-Lu is backed up against Pan with her arms seductively around his neck.*

PAI LU: I’m going to call you it, so there. My poor, old Daddy.

PAI LU: Fine, call me it, I don’t mind. I like it. Dear Lord, I like it.

*(As he says this, Pai-Lu sniggers and playfully elbows him in his stomach. He walks off. She blows him a kiss as he is leaving, he seems pleased with this)*

**Wilderness House**

FLOWER: Why is this gold covered land so hard to get to? Why must we kill people and break the law in order to get there?

TIGER: Are you already afraid?

FLOWER: Afraid of what? If things are going to be that way then that’s the way they’ll be.

TIGER: That’s the spirit.

FLOWER: When are you going to do it?

TIGER: In a couple of hours.

FLOWER: couple of hours, time goes fast.

TIGER: But what if it didn’t go so fast?

FLOWER: Tiger, I’ve already given my life to you.

TIGER: Flower, I feel my father hear beside me and my dead little sister, they will protect you.

FLOWER: But, why today?

TIGER: What? It’s wheat I’ve been waiting for?

FLOWER: Why must you kill Shin? Isn’t the blind woman enough?

TIGER: No, death would be a blessing for her, I want her alive...alive and alone.

FLOWER: He’s been good to you, even when you were in jail he told me stories about you.

TIGER: Yes he used to look up to me as his own older brother, but now he’s yen-Wang’s son.

FLOWER: No, Tiger, it’s not right, you can’t do this to my husband. He’s been good to me too.

TIGER: Then I want to kill him even more.

FLOWER: Then why don’t you do it now, why not?

TIGER: Yes, I will! I have to kill him! I want to kill him!

FLOWER: See you can’t, you don’t have the heart to do it tiger. I know you’re a good man.

TIGER: I have to...my heart can’t be soft...my father...

FLOWER: Then let him go, for my sake.

TIGER: For your sake? Now you want to speak in his defence do you?

FLOWER: Why do you look at me like that? You –

TIGER: Now I see that it was for him that you...

FLOWER: Tiger, let go of me! You’re killing me. Why is it you don’t understand people? Do you think I’m not human? Just pinch me and I’ll tell you it hurts, poke me and I’ll tell you it tickles, curse me and I’ll get mad at you. Do you think if someone’s good to me I wouldn’t have any kind of feelings towards him? Sure when he’s here, I feel a kind of disgust in the pit of my stomach; I can’t even look at him. But when’s gone, I think of him and can’t help pitying him. He’s a good man, a kind man. But to grow old with him, I can’t. But you, how can you be so hard hearted?

TIGER: Are you sorry you found me again?

FLOWER: Sorry, it’s only these ten days with you that I’ve really lived.

TIGER: And now?

FLOWER: Please don’t kill my husband.

TIGER: If you don’t let me do this I’ll never forgive you.

FLOWER: Please let’s just go now.

TIGER: No, no, how could I face my dead father and sister with honour? It wouldn’t be right. That would be too good for Yen-Wang!

*Tiger stands behind the stage right flat and kills himself in silhouette.*

**Move right screen to centre- Jack and Olly**

**Move left screen to centre- Freddie and Lara**

**Plum and Jade**

*Plum is leaving.*

Jade: Cousin Plum... Please, let me talk to you before you leave.

*Plum looks uneasy but reluctantly sits down.*

Jade: *(pause)* after your stay here, even the baby doesn’t want you to leave.

Plum: *(Awkward laugh)* you promised me a picture of him?

Jade: Here, take this one... will this do?

Plum: He has eyes just like his father.

Jade: And the same nose.

Plum: With a baby like this, you must be really happy.

Jade: Yes... *(Trying to pretend to be upbeat)* I guess I’m not so lonesome anymore*. (Pause)*

Plum: *(really hurting, big pause)* I don’t think you know what loneliness is.

Jade: Really? And what could be lonelier than the knowledge your husband is in love with someone else?

Plum: I really have to leave, thank you for your hospitality and –

Jade: *(snaps)* I’ve seen the way he looks at you.

Plum: *(walking away)* Jade I really have to go.

Jade: Please Plum, if only you knew how this hurts. Jeuxin is miserable and there is nothing I can do to console him. He doesn’t want me, you know full well who...

Plum: *(interrupts)* Don’t, don’t say it Jade.

Jade: Well? How long am I expected to ignore it? Jeuxin is unhappy, and now I realise who it is that could change that, just listen! I have so much to say, I too have no one to say them to. I am also suffering.

Plum: I know, I really do, but there is nothing to be done about it. You are married, it is done. What is weeping about it now going to change?

Jade: No, I have thought it through. I could go back to my mothers, leaving Jeuxin and the baby in your hands.

Plum: You can’t be serious? (*Jade is adamant, looks at Plum.)* Jade, you don’t know what you are talking about. You’re too young to understand! I’m leaving soon, Jeuxin will forget all about me.

Jade: *(loses temper)* Oh, how stupid of me to have really expected you to understand what I mean.

Plum: What is it you want *me* to understand?

Jade: That I truly love him!

Plum: Yes, I know. You have what your heart wants most, why can’t you just accept that and leave me be?

Jade: No, because I only can be happy if he is happy. But he is suffering. That’s why I began thinking the way I do. I am serious; I’m not a naive little girl anymore. You must know, when I woman loves her husband; she is capable of forgetting everything about herself.

Plum: (Bitter?) Yes, and aren’t you so fortunate to love the man you are married to, and love him so deeply.

Jade: you must at least consider what I said?

Plum: You can’t be serious? (Sits down with jade, holds her hand. Deep breath) Jade, there is no end to suffering. You shouldn’t even consider such strange ideas! There is some reassurance for me, to have come and seen you together has made me happy for him. Now I know he has someone near him. Goodbye Jade.

*Plum leaves, Jeuxin enters.*

Jeuxin: Where is cousin Plum? She hasn’t gone already has she?

Jade: *(gets up and walks to him)* Yes, she’s gone.

**Pai-Lu 2**

*Pai-Lu enters, she looks tired and depressed. She slumps on to a box and takes a pill, we hear the recording of voices demanding payment of bills. Pai-Lu sits alone, Ta-Shing enters, stands there a while, and then coughs to gain Pai-Lu’s attention.*

PAI LU: Oh, do come in- pause- what are you afraid of?

Ta-Shing: Nothing- is there anyone else here?

PAI LU: Who knows.. No probably not.

Ta-Shing: You’ve got a lot bigger-I mean taller than the last time I saw you- This where your living now then?

PAI LU: Yes why is there something wrong with it?

Ta-Shing: No, it’s nice, very arty.

PAI LU: Oh yes I know- isn’t it just me.

Ta-Shing: No I can’t see that it’s like you really.

PAI LU: Oh you’re as pigheaded as ever- you’re impossible.

Ta-Shing: You reminded me just then for the first time of how you used to be a happy little girl.

PAI LU: Was I ever a happy little girl once?

Ta-Shing: Well yes… Pai-lu what’s happened to you- I never knew you could have become so..

PAI LU: So what?

Ta-Shing: So open-handed.

PAI LU: Haven’t I always been open handed?

Ta-Shing: Well I mean so open minded.

PAI LU: Well you can’t say I’ve ever been narrow minded!

PAI LU: I suppose you see me as too free- too reckless, I bet you have quite a disgusted view of me don’t you?

Ta-Shing: Well yes, sorry.. It’s just I could never of imagined you to become like this- you’ve changed the way you speak the way you walk. I’m quite, I’m utterly disappointed.

PAI LU: Disappointed!

Ta-Shing: Yes disappointed, I come here and find you living in this place a single women making friends with all sorted of dubious

characters- this way of living is immoral is decadent.

PAI LU: How dare you call me decadent, how dare you stand there and tell me you’re disappointed of me to my face- what is there between us that you dare preach to me like this!

Ta-Shing: Well of course there’s nothing now!

PAI LU: Are you trying to say there ever was!

Ta-Shing: No well – you were once quite fond of me. Besides you know why I’ve come here.

PAI LU: No I don’t- why?

Ta-Shing: Pai-lu I’ve come to take you back!

PAI LU: Take me back- where too? You know I have no home to go back too.

Ta-Shing: You need to start a family of your own.

PAI LU: Oh I see you’ve come here to bring me a proposal of marriage from somebody else!

Ta-Shing: No I’ve come here to ask you to marry me.

*(Pai-Lu in shock sits on DSL block)*

Ta-Shing: I’ve bought a ring and everything.

PAI LU: Of well that’s at least 3 carats...

Ta-Shing: So that’s it then- you agree.

PAI LU: No wait a moment there’s something I want to ask you first.

Ta-Shing: Yes anything – go ahead.

PAI LU: How much money do you have?

Ta-Shing: I don’t understand.

PAI LU: No, I mean can you keep me?

*(Ts looks at her in disgust)*

PAI LU: Oh don’t look at me like that- I wont be to able to afford the finer things In life- live the life I’m accustomed to- I want to be able to spend lots of money!

Ta-Shing: Pai-lu I can’t believe you- what is wrong with you- what have you turned in to- when did you become such a two-faced money grabbing bitch!

PAI LU: You’re pathetic- I never want to see you again! Get out! Get out!

*(Pushes him to USL- they stare at each other and TS exit*s. *Pai-lu turns to audience upset chocking on tears- walks to DSC)*

**Fan Dance**

**(cue: light change) Right individual block to centre stage: Olly**

**Left individual block to centre- Freddie. At end move right individual block up- Rose**

*All female characters join Pai-Lu to perform a dance, accompanied by a capella singing.*

**Thunderstorm**

Fanyi: No I don’t want them….I…I don’t need any more medicine, get it away from me! (Improv)

*Fanyi Falls*

Ssu Fen: Mistress! You need to get back to bed.

Fan-yi: You don’t understand!

Ssu-fen: Ping! (Corrects herself)Young Master, can you help me.. Help me lift her into bed, I need to get more medicine.

*Ping enters as Ssu-feng leaves.*

Fan-yi: It’s so nice to have you here with me Ping- I’ve missed you so much—I’ve missed this. Look! I have still got it the necklace.. You remember don’t you?

Ping: Don’t listen to her, she’s mad, just look at her..

Fan-yi: I’m not mad! The thing is I know about you two, it’s you Ssu-feng, it’s you that’s brought misery to this family! Pretending to be naïve won’t fool me. It’s you who prepares my medicine! You want me dead don’t you?

*Drags Ssu-feng to floor, Ssu-feng runs to Ping.*

Fan-yi: It’s no use crying Ssu-feng, you see you’re not that different to me. I was the woman in his arm once. But he’ll leave you, like he left me.

Ssu-fen: Ping, what’s she talking about?

Fan-yi: See Ping, this is what happens when you mix with someone from the lower classes. He doesn’t want you anymore, we don’t

need you. You don’t work for this family any longer.

Ssu-fen: Ping please, I don’t have anywhere else to go. I don’t have anyone else, you said that you loved me? Please, please. (Ad lib)

Ping: Ssu-feng, don’t make a scene.

Ssu-feng sits on block. *Fan-yi goes over to Ping.*

Ping: No, I’ve heard enough from you.

**End, right individual block moved along big block- Tori**

**Phoenix and Juehui**

**Right screen to side- Becci and Rose(back at end of scene)**

**Alanna, Rose and Olly use screen as silhouettes**

Juehui: Phoenix, I thought you where never coming.

Phoenix: Of course I would come, I would come and see you one more time.

Juehui: What did mother want?

Phoenix: Nothing important, its late, young master, time for you to retire.

Juehui: Will you remember me?

Phoenix: What a question! Why do you ask?

Juehui: Never! Ill never forget you. Do you believe me?

Phoenix: Yes

Juehui: And you?

Phoenix: I will think of you, all the time, till I die. Even after I die.

Juehui: Oh, no, I want to go on living. You don’t think anymore after you die.

Phoenix: To love someone means to prepare the way for him, and not to become his burden. Remember, Young Master, remember there is someone who loves truly from the heart. She will never be your burden. She truly hopes that you’ll always be carefree, always be, as you put it, courageous, fighting and successful.

Juehui: You are speaking with such eloquence tonight!

Phoenix: I would love to speak like this the whole night, just to you.

Juehui: Don’t, please don’t cry.

Phoenix: Will you – will you kiss ?

Juehui: Phoenix !

Phoenix: You will not!

Juehui: No, no, only you are being so unusual tonight.

Phoenix: Young master, I am not a wicked girl

Juehui: Of course not, of course not.

Phoenix: As a baby, my cheeks we’ve kissed by my mother. Since then they have been touched by only you

Juehui: My own Phoenix.

Phoenix: Juehui, how I love you.

Juehui: Someone is coming.

Phoenix: Shall I fetch you some water?

Juehui: No. I am going to sleep tonight. I am going to lock myself up and finish the article. Now you go and have a good night’s sleep.

Phoenix: I have so much say.

Juehui: Tomorrow. We’ll have the whole day tomorrow.

Phoenix: Tomorrow?

Juehui: Yes, tomorrow then, my phoenix.

*Phoenix goes to the Young Masters window.*

Phoenix: Young Master

Juehui: Phoenix, why haven’t you gone to bed?

Phoenix: I cant sleep. All I want to do is look at you once more.

Juehui: I am busy, Phoenix.

Phoenix: Just one more look.

Juehui: No. I really am busy. Be a good girl and go back to bed.

Phoenix: I will be going then.

Juehui: Yes. Go to bed. Don’t come again.

Phoenix: I won’t. I will really be gone, this time.

**Pai Lu Death**

**Cue: angry voices. Left screen forward- Kate, Alanna. Right screen forward- Lara, Rose. Left big block- Olly, Toto. Left individual block- Jack. Boys + Tori stay behind screens to catch Eleanor**

*Pan enters.*

PAN: Your visitors all gone now Pai-lu?

PAI LU: Yes there’s a few still here.

PAN: To think I should ever live through such a day.

PAI LU: Are you alright?

PAI LU: I’ve lost everything I’ve ever had in a flash. If you’ll excuse me I’ll think I’ll go and talk things over with my accountant. It’s safe to say I’ve had better days.

PAI LU: Oh, those bills you said you were going to pay for me. You can still pay those for me…can’t you? (panic)

PAN: I’ll be going now.

PAI LU: Are you alright?

PAN: Well enough. I’ll be going now.

PAI LU: Are you leaving me now?

PAI LU: No, I’ll be back. (clearly lying)

*(Pan exits- George enters)*

GEORGY: Lulu!

PAI LU: I thought you’d gone.

GEORGY: Well, you wouldn’t be able to see me here now if I had, now would you! Oh, yes (*suddenly becoming animated)* I’ve got something to tell you.

PAI LU: No, wait a moment, there’s something I wanted to ask you.

GEORGY: Go ahead, anything you like.

PAI LU: You know that marriage proposal you came to me with the other day.

GEORGY: Yes?

PAI LU: Well, I’ve been thinking a lot recently, and, well… I think it a wonderful idea.

GEORGY: What?

PAI LU: I want nothing more than to marry you.

GEORGY: Pfft, oh la la… when it rains it doesn’t half pour!

PAI LU: (*hopefully and confused*) so… you agree yes?

GEORGY: Oh… don’t be silly Pai-lu. My wife has given me three children, how can I go and divorce her now? Besides, I haven’t seen her in years whilst abroad, she deserves another chance.

PAI LU: (*sits down, glum)* I see.

GEORGY: I knew you wouldn’t be able to resist, I should never really have asked you in the first place.

PAI LU: So, that’s it then.

GEORGY: (*with an awkward smile*) I suppose so. I know you’ll find the right man eventually.

PAI LU: Somehow I doubt it.

GEORGY: Well… I don’t! Bonne nuit! - I mean: good morning my little Lulu.

(*With a wave of his hand he goes out through the centre door. Pai-lu takes pills and walks up blocks – falls back and dies)*

**Death Dance**

*Phoenix and Ssu-feng both start the scene with the line “I really will be gone this time.” They dance, and toward the end they are joined on stage by the rest of the girls. The girls pick up the lanterns scattered around the stage and form a circle like a sun. The poem is read, and one by one the lights are switched off.*