

四场 Act Four

强子家 *Inside Qiangzi's House*

(强子妈翻箱倒柜，从纸箱里扒出一个沾满灰尘的老相框，拿出抹布仔细地、深情地擦拭着。

此时多媒体上出现七十年代知青的集体合影，音响悠悠地传出“让我们荡起双桨”或六七十年的青春歌曲。强子妈沉浸在对当年的美好回忆中。音乐渐收。强子妈手拿相框，喃喃自语。)

Qiangzi's Mum is rummaging through boxes and cupboards. From inside a cardboard box she pulls out an old photo frame covered in dust. She takes a dusting cloth and carefully and affectionately cleans it. At this time a group photo of a group of educated youth of the 1970s appears on the multimedia presentation screen. The song "Let Us Pull on the Oars" or other songs for youth from the 1960s and 1970s is gradually heard over the sound system. Qiangzi's Mum is immersed in happy memories of those years. The music gradually fades. With the photo in her hand, Qiangzi's Mum mutters to herself.

强子妈：快三十年了，也不知道你现在怎么样了？（对着镜框中的照片说）每次我经过交道口啊，都想起你。从初中到高中，你每天都送我回家，不管刮风下雨，没一天落下过。那时候我们多纯啊，整整六年，连手都没拉过！后来你去插队，我留在城里，咱俩就靠书信联系。那时候，最开心的事儿就是收到你的来信，你那信写得就跟诗一样。那些日子虽然很苦，可我们的心里真的很甜！后来你回城了，可家里非让我嫁给一个有房的人，我不愿意，我心里有你呀！可我每次跟你回家，看到你们一家七口挤在一间小平房里的时候，我就问我自己，我俩将来住在哪儿？就这样，我去你家一次，这心哪就凉一次。你说要我相信你、等你，我们一定会有自己的房子。我相信你，我等你，可我家里能等吗？最后我实在扛不住了，就跟了强子他爸。昨儿个孩子问我，我心中的那个他到底是谁？这话我该怎么跟他说呢？孩子他爸虽然没什么本事，可是对我挺好，[可课](#)我老是不自觉地拿他跟你相比，可这人跟人能比吗？这么多年过去了，日子过得磕磕绊绊的，一眨眼，我们都这岁数了，唉……（姜阿姨溜上，见状）

QIANGZI'S MUM: It is almost thirty years. How are you now? *[talks to the photo in the*

frame] I think of you every time I pass through Jiadaokou. From middle school to high school you walked me home every day without fail, no matter what the weather was like. Our feelings were so pure that through those whole six years we never even held hands. Then you were sent off to the countryside to work on a farm while I stayed in the city. We kept in touch by writing to each other. In those days the happiest moments of my life were when I received a letter from you. Your writing was like poetry. Though life was hard in those days it felt sweet to us. Afterwards you came back to the city, but my family insisted that I should marry a man who had a place for us to live in. I was unwilling to do that because you were in my heart. But then every time I went to your house with you and saw your whole family of seven crammed into a tiny bungalow I would ask myself where we would live in future. And so every time I went to your house, my heart sank a bit more. You asked me to trust you and to wait for you. You told me that we would have our own house one day. I trusted you and could wait for you, but my family couldn't wait. In the end I couldn't hold out against them any longer and so I married Qiangzi's dad. Yesterday my son asked me who it was that was in my heart. How can I tell him the truth? Though his father isn't very capable he does treat me well, but I always subconsciously compare him to you. But how can you compare one person with another? So many years have gone by and life has had so many ups and downs. In just the blink of an eye I'm now this old, Ahhh! *[Sighs. Aunty Jiang enters and sees what is happening.]*

姜阿姨：干嘛呢？（抢过照片）

AUNTY JIANG: What are you doing? *[grabs the photo]*

强子妈：哎呦，吓死我了，你进来怎么也不出声呀？

QIANGZI'S MUM: Aiyo, you scared me to death! Why didn't you say something as you came in?

姜阿姨：哟！又把你那压箱底儿的宝贝翻腾出来了！

AUNTY JIANG: Yo! So you've pulled your precious treasure out of the bottom of the box again have you!

强子妈：我这不是想老同学，把照片拿出来看看嘛！这是瘦猴、这是齐大脑袋、这是你.....

QIANGZI'S MUM: Well as you can see I was missing my old classmates, so I took out the photo to have a look at them! See, here's 'Skinny Monkey', here's 'Brainbox Qi',

here's you.....

姜阿姨：嘚嘚嘚.....你糊弄得了别人，你糊弄不了我。都多大岁数了，还想着第二春呢！

AUNTY JIANG: Oh come off it! You can fool other people, but you can't fool me. Look at you! At your age why are you still dreaming of love?

强子妈：谁想第二春了，你才想了。

QIANGZI'S MUM: You're the only one dreaming about finding love!

姜阿姨：我是想第二春呢，（站起）课你瞧瞧，就我这吨位，谁看得上我啊！

AUNTY JIANG: I AM dreaming of finding love, [*stands up*] but take a look at me. With this tonnage who is going to fall for me!

强子妈：哈哈.....年轻人叫这是丰满。

QIANGZI'S MUM: Hahaha.... Young people call that 'well-developed'

姜阿姨：你站起来，让我看看。

AUNTY JIANG: Stand up and let me look at you.

强子妈：干嘛呀？（强子妈站起来）

QIANGZI'S MUM: What for? [*Qiangzi's Mum stands up*]

姜阿姨：哎呦喂！你还是要哪有哪的。转一圈让我看看。好家伙，你在我眼里，跟那**那**模特差不多。

AUNTY JIANG: Aiyo! Wow! You've still got everything it takes. Turn around and let me see. Oh my god! In my eyes you look like a model!

强子妈：真的？我要是再年轻二十岁，我也去参加超级女声。

QIANGZI'S MUM: Really? If I was twenty years younger, I'd go on *Supergirls*

姜阿姨：那是那是。（看照片）哎呀！当初你啊，就是头发长见识短，你说你要再扛一阵，那好日子不就都来了吗？说不定你现在都住着大别墅、有那丫鬟、厨子伺候着！哪像现在，伺候老的伺候小的，拎着个破篮子天天去菜市场跟那帮菜贩子讨价还价！

AUNTY JIANG: You could, you could! [*Looking at the photo*] Aiyo! You really were long-haired but short-sighted in those days. If you had just held out a bit longer, wouldn't the good life have been all there for you? Who knows, maybe now you'd be living in a spacious villa with housemaids and chefs to serve you! It'd be nothing like you are now: running around serving young and old, taking your tattered basket to the market every day and haggling over prices with the vegetable sellers.

强子妈:唉...咱就这命啊.....行了, 别贫了!

QIANGZI'S MUM: *[sighs]* Ay! That's just my fate!...Alright, enough of your gabbling on!

姜阿姨: 哎, 你还记得昨天那帮戏园子的人要编排强子的事儿吗?

AUNTY JIANG: Hey, do you remember that yesterday those people from the theatre said that they wanted to write a play based on Qiangzi's stories?

强子妈: 就他那点儿破事儿, 编排就编排吧! 谁稀罕看呢!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Just those dumb stories of his. If they want to put them into a play they can. No one would bother to watch it anyway!

姜阿姨: (神秘地) 你听我说啊, 我今儿早上倒垃圾的时候, 故意拐了个弯儿, 到他们那戏园子瞅了一眼, 好家伙! 你猜他们演什么呢?

AUNTY JIANG: *[mysteriously]* Listen to me. This morning when I put out the rubbish I went round the corner to that theatre of theirs and had a look! My gosh! Can you guess what they were rehearsing?

强子妈: 演什么? 强子呗!

QIANGZI'S MUM: What? Qiangzi of course!

姜阿姨: 不光是强子, 还有你呢!

AUNTY JIANG: Not just Qiangzi. You as well!

强子妈: (惊讶地) 我? 我有什么好编排的!

QIANGZI'S MUM: *[astounded]* Me? What is there to write about me!

姜阿姨: (用嘴努了努强子妈手里的相框, 强子妈疑惑地随姜阿姨的暗示, 将视线落到相框。)

AUNTY JIANG: *[purses her lips towards the photo frame in Qiangzi's Mum's hand. Qiangzi's Mum follows Aunty Jiang's motion with her eyes and her eyes fall on the photo frame.]*

强子妈: 什么意思?

QIANGZI'S MUM: What do you mean?

姜阿姨: 什么意思, 编排你跟他呗!

AUNTY JIANG: What do I mean? I mean they've got you and him in the play!

强子妈: (惊讶地) 他?我跟他有什么好编排的呀?

QIANGZI'S MUM: *[astounded]* Him? What's there to write about me and him?

姜阿姨: 那我哪儿知道啊? 反正编排的有鼻子有眼儿的!

AUNTY JIANG: How would I know? Anyway they're presenting it all in vivid detail.

强子妈：（渐渐不安地，急切问道）他们怎么编排我的？

QIANGZI'S MUM: [*becoming increasingly uneasy, asks urgently*] What have they written about me?

姜阿姨：（做难以启齿状）哎咦~~~啧啧啧啧！

AUNTY JIANG: [*looks unsure as to how to say this*] Umm... ahhh.....ummm.

强子妈：什么意思啊？装神弄鬼的，快说！

QIANGZI'S MUM: What do you mean – playing all mysterious. Hurry up and tell me!

姜阿姨：哎，你自己去看吧！反正，我说不出口！

AUNTY JIANG: Uhh, how about you go and see for yourself! I can't bring myself to talk about it!

强子妈：你说这事，就咱们几个人知道，是谁告诉他们的？

QIANGZI'S MUM: But only a few of us know anything about me and him. Who was it that told them?

（二人思考，强子妈怀疑姜阿姨。） [*The two of them think about it and Qiangzi's Mum begins to suspect Aunty Jiang.*]

姜阿姨：哎.....你别看我呀，咱们可都是老同学了，你不相信谁还不相信我呀，这话我可没说。

AUNTY JIANG: Hey...Don't look at me like that. We're old classmates. If you believe anyone you have to believe me, I absolutely did not tell them anything about it.

强子妈：（边想边说）老姜，老齐.....？

QIANGZI'S MUM: (*talks as she is thinking*) Old Jiang, Old Qi.....?

姜阿姨：（神秘的）保不齐！

AUNTY JIANG: [*mysteriously*] Gee! I wonder....

（强子妈正要再追问，强子兴冲冲地上。） [*Qiangzi's Mum is about to pursue this further when Qiangzi comes rushing in excitedly.*]

强子：哟，姜阿姨又来啦！

QIANGZI: Yo! Aunty Jiang is here again!

姜阿姨：瞧你这话说的，什么叫又来了！我才来你们家几趟啊？

AUNTY JIANG: Just listen to you! What do you mean by 'here again'? How often do I ever come to your place?

强子：几趟？有段戏词儿怎么说的来着？有墙是两家，拆了墙就是一家，您啊！有墙没墙差不多！

QIANGZI: How often? How does that line from the opera go again? 'With the wall here we're two families; if the wall were gone we'd be one family.' In your case it doesn't make much difference if there's a wall or not!

姜阿姨：嘿！你这小子！

AUNTY JIANG: Huh! Little ratbag!

强子妈：强子，怎么跟你姜姨说话呢！坐那边去！

QIANGZI'S MUM: Qiangzi, is that any way to talk to your Auntie Jiang! Go and sit down over there!

姜阿姨：强子，瞧你那高兴劲儿，有什么好事儿吧？

AUNTY JIANG: Qiangzi! Look at you all merry and bright! Got something good happening, ey?

强子：（得意的）好……事儿！以前都是咱看人家演戏，今儿是人家演咱！

QIANGZI: [*complacently*] something....good! In the past it always been us watching plays about other people, but now they're putting on a play about us!

强子妈：（不屑的）就你那点儿破事儿，有什么好说的！！

QIANGZI'S MUM: [*contemptuously*] What's there to write about your piddling achievements!

强子：妈，瞧您说的，您儿子就这么没起子？

QIANGZI: Listen to you Mum! You really think your son is such a deadbeat?

姜阿姨：哎，他们都编排你什么事儿了？

AUNTY JIANG: Hey, what was it you did that they put into the play?

强子：什么事儿？（得意的）见义勇为！

QIANGZI: What was it? [*complacently*] It was when I 'acted bravely for a just cause'!

姜阿姨：就你还见义勇为？

AUNTY JIANG: What? Even the likes of you 'acted bravely for a just cause'?

强子：姜姨，您怎么跟我妈一个腔调啊！我就没干过什么好事吗？

QIANGZI: Auntie Jiang, How come you sound just like my mum! Haven't I ever done any good things in my life?

姜阿姨：（摇头）嗯，少……！

AUNTY JIANG: *[shaking her head]* huh, very few!....

强子妈：老姜，别看我们家强子五大三粗的，心地善良。今年下头场雪哪天晚上，强子回来抱一个纸箱子，我打开一看，是一只小狗。就这么大，不知道谁仍马路上，这还不冻死。第二天一看，这小狗有病，我们家强子看这小狗可怜，就送宠物医院去看病了。花了多少钱来着？

QIANGZI'S MUM: Old Jiang, don't be fooled by our Qiangzi's rough looks, he's got a kind heart. In the evening after the first snowfall this year Qiangzi came home carrying a cardboard box. When I opened it up to have look inside, there was a puppy, just this big. Don't know who had turned it out onto the street. It would have frozen to death. The next day we realised it was sick. Qiangzi felt sorry for it, so he took it to the vet hospital. How much was it you had to pay?

强子：九百多！

QIANGZI: Over 900!

强子妈：小一千块钱呢！

QIANGZI'S MUM: Nearly a thousand yuan!

姜阿姨：呦，强子，你还是个挺有爱心的人呢。

AUNTY JIANG: Yo! Qiangzi, so you're quite a caring guy!

强子：不值一提。

QIANGZI: It was nothing.

姜阿姨：那我就不明白了。你怎么老是跟你姜姨，我们家狗过不去呢？把我们家狗往死里整。

AUNTY JIANG: So then I just don't understand: How come you can never get along with your Auntie Jiang and our dog? Just about plague our dog to death?

强子：那是因为你们家狗太贫、太碎！

QIANGZI: That's because your dog yaps too much; just won't shut up!

姜阿姨：呸！你骂谁呢？

AUNTY JIANG: Pah! Who are you insulting?

行、行、行.....你给我讲讲，他们是怎么编排你见义勇为的.....

OK, OK, OK.....Why don't you tell me how they performed the scene of your good deed?

强子：（来情绪了）瞧着啊！他们是这么演的！（开始表演强子拦住肇事司机的场景）嘿！

你丫给我站住，出了事儿想跑？（摆出一副李小龙的架势，以及经典的擦鼻子的招牌动作。）

QIANGZI: *[getting enthusiastic]* Watch this! This is how they acted it! *[He starts to act out the scene of Qiangzi apprehending the driver of the car that had caused the accident.]* Hey! Stop right there you bastard! Thinking of running away from the prang were you? *[He takes up a pose like Bruce Lee doing his classic 'nose-grazing' movement with his hand.]*

姜阿姨：你打架就打架呗，擦什么鼻涕啊！

AUNTY JIANG: If you're gonna fight then just fight, why wipe your nose!

强子：姜阿姨，你这就老土了，这叫……派！

QIANGZI: Auntie Jiang, you are such a hick! This is called..... style!

姜阿姨：派？甬让人把你给拍了就行！

AUNTY JIANG: Style? Just make sure someone doesn't re-style your face for you!

强子妈：（不动声色的）强子，你还给他们说什么了？

QIANGZI'S MUM: *[not turning a hair]* Qiangzi, what else did you tell them?

强子：（意犹未尽的）记不清了，反正说了好（豪）……多呢！嗯……（做思考状）好像那导演问我什么“青梅煮酒”来着。

QIANGZI: *[eager to explain more]* Can't remember clearly, but anyway we talked heaps! *(looks thoughtful)* I think the director asked me something about 'amaretto'.

强子妈：是“青梅竹马”吧？

QIANGZI'S MUM: Was it 'inamorato'?

强子：哎对！是“青梅竹马”！

QIANGZI: Oh yeah, that's right, 'inamorato'!

（强子妈和姜阿姨交换了一下眼神。）

[Qiangzi's Mum and Auntie Jiang exchange a look]

强子：妈，我可没全说，我就说你以前有个挺好的中学同学，再往后我就打住了。

QIANGZI: Mum, I didn't tell them everything. I just said that you were really good friends with a classmate when you were in middle school. I never said anything more than that.

强子妈：谁让你多嘴，跟人家说这个了？

QIANGZI'S MUM: Who asked you to be such a blabbermouth, telling them that?

强子: 哎我说什么了, 我不就说你有一挺好的中学同学吗, 您要心里没事儿您急什么呀?

QIANGZI: Hey, What did I say? Didn't I just say that you were really good friends with a classmate when you were in middle school? If there was nothing to it, why are you getting so het up about it?

强子妈: 谁急了? 我能有什么事儿啊!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Who's het up? How could I have been involved in anything?

强子: 哎呀, 妈, 谁都年轻过, 这也没什么可遮遮掩掩的。

QIANGZI: Aiya! Mum! Everyone has been young once, it's nothing to get all cagey about.

强子妈:(渐急)我有什么可遮遮掩掩的! 我们那是正儿八经的同学, 光明正大, 没什么见不得人的。

QIANGZI'S MUM: [*increasingly agitated*]) What do I have to be cagey about? We were properly behaved classmates, everything was open and aboveboard. We never did anything to be ashamed of.

强子: 妈呀, 也不是我说您, 您说当年要是跟了那个青梅什么“马”, 今儿我还用为了一辆马三儿着急吗? 我不早就开上宝马了! 人家那可是美国的大博士、大老板! 他要是我爹, 那我怎么着也能弄个总经理干干吧!

QIANGZI: Mum! It's not that I'm criticising you, but if back then you had gone with that 'inamoretto' or whatever it was, would I be needing to worry about buying a Mustang now? I'd have been driving the Ferrari long ago! ¹ That guy got a Ph D in the U.S. and he's boss of a big company now! If he was my dad, at the very least he would have set me up with a job as general manager!

强子妈: 你脑子有病! 成天做梦想着天上掉馅饼!

QIANGZI'S MUM: You're sick in the head! You waste all day dreaming about meat pies falling out of the sky!

强子: 哎妈, 这可保不齐! 你看那电视剧《奋斗》里面不就冒出一巨有钱的亲爹来吗!

QIANGZI: Ay Mum, it's not impossible! Don't you remember how in that TV series *The Struggle*, suddenly out of nowhere there appeared the filthy rich real dad!

强子妈: 放你妈的屁! 你妈是那样的人吗!

¹ The translation uses Ferrari here rather the literal translation of BMW, because the Ferrari symbol is a horse and so does have a link to the horse pun in the Mustang. We also need a car that is much more expensive and luxurious than a Mustang.

QIANGZI'S MUM: Stupid bastard! Is your mother that kind of person!

(姜阿姨神秘的瞥了强子妈一眼，这个眼神被强子看到。)

[Aunty Jiang gives Qiangzi's Mum a mysterious look; the look is seen by Qiangzi.]

强子:那.....谁知道?

QIANGZI: Well....Who knows?

强子妈:噢，我明白了，原来是你这混蛋玩意儿跟人家胡说八道，瞎编排你妈，不行，我得找他们说理去!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Oh! Now I see! It was you, you little scoundrel. You told those people a load of nonsense, so that they've put a lot of rubbish about me into their play. It's just not on! I'm gonna go and make them see reason!

姜阿姨:对，找他们去!

AUNTY JIANG: You're right, go and talk to them!

强子:哎呀，妈呀，至于这么大惊小怪吗！我也没说什么呀!

QIANGZI: Aiya! Mum! Why are you getting all worked up about nothing! I didn't even tell them anything!

强子妈:少废话！你也得去！走!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Cut the crap! You have to come with us! Move!

(强子妈拽着强子拖下，姜阿姨在一旁撵掇跟下，行动中收光。)

[Qiangzi's Mum grabs Qiangzi and drags him out. Aunty Jiang follows urging them on. The lights go down as they move off.]

五场 ACT FIVE

小草帽剧场内。 *Inside the Little Straw Hat Theatre*

（情景再现：晓光和楠芳表演强子妈和初恋情人分手，找不着感觉。按照80后的方式表现。）

Xiaoguang and Nanfang are acting out the scene of Qiangzi's Mum and her first love breaking up, but they can't get a feel for it. They are acting in the manner of the post 80s generations of young people

导 演：晓光、楠芳，咱们把强子妈和初恋情人分手的那场戏来来！

DIRECTOR: Xiaoguang, Nanfang, let's do the scene where Qiangzi's Mum and her first love break up.

晓 光：哎呦，导演，上来就玩儿一个高难度啊！

XIAOGUANG: Ai yo! Director, you're throwing us straight into the most challenging scene!

楠 芳：导演，怎么演啊？没感觉啊！

NANFANG: Director, how are we supposed to perform this? I just can't get a feel for it.

导 演：没感觉啊，演演不就有了吗！先来着再说！来！开始！

DIRECTOR: Can't get a feel for it? Just start acting and the feel will come! Let's have a look at it first and then we can discuss it! Come on! Start!

（楠芳饰演的年轻强子妈坐着，晓光饰演的初恋情人站在旁边，情景是现在当下小青年说出的话。）

[Nanfang playing the young Qiangzi's Mum is seated. Xiaoguang playing her first love is standing next to her. Their conversation is focused on the concerns of contemporary youth.]

初恋情人：你到底怎么想的

FIRST LOVE: So what do you want to do?

年轻的强子妈：我不是都说了吗？

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Didn't I already tell you?

初恋情人：你说吧，房子和我你到底选哪个

FIRST LOVE: Tell me! The house or me – which are you choosing?

年轻强子妈：你没长耳朵啊？我还要说几遍啊

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Don't you have ears? How many more times do I have to tell

you!

初恋情人：你还真要，住他们家的那套破房子吗？在哪各地段，多大面积？能跟咱们那儿哪比吗？

FIRST LOVE: You really want to live in their family's crappy apartment, in *that* part of town. How big is it? It just can't stack up against our place.

年轻强子妈：还跟咱们那儿比啊？800块钱一个月那个，没地儿洗澡没地上厕所！早上起来还要倒尿盆

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Can't stack up? The place is 800 bucks a month with no bathroom and no toilet and the first job every morning is to empty the chamber pot!!

初恋情人：我说的是咱们贷款买的那套房子，每个月的按揭不都是我付的吗？你掏过一个子儿吗？

FIRST LOVE: I'm talking about that apartment we took out the loan to buy. Isn't it me who's been paying the mortgage every month? Have you paid a cent towards it?

年轻强子妈：我晕，还我掏过一个子儿吗？首付不就是我付的吗？对了，我妈的钱什么时候还！你说啊，说清楚啊！！（初恋情人又语塞，支吾着。）

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: LOL! Have I paid anything? Didn't I make the downpayment? Oh, and that's right: when are you going to repay the money you owe my mum? Well? Make yourself clear!

初恋情人：我我我我……

FIRST LOVE: I, I, I, I.....

导 演：行了行了行了……你们怎么把你们家里的事搬出来了！还按揭，晓光那个年代没有首付按揭！楠方！你，你是在做一个重大的人生决定！不是跟他怄气，别整得跟那80后小姑娘分手当儿戏似的！别那么轻率!!!

DIRECTOR: Enough! Enough! ...Why have you both brought your own family issues into it! Repaying the mortgage? Xiaoguang, in those days there was no paying the mortgage! Nanfang! You are making one of the greatest decisions of your life, not sulking. Don't behave like a post 80s girl who sees breaking up as a child's game! Don't be so hasty!!!

（楠芳很认真的反驳）*[NANFANG refutes this in all seriousness]*

楠 芳：导演，我是很认真地演，我跟我前男友分手就这样的！

NANFANG: But Director, I am taking this acting very seriously. This is exactly the way I broke up with my ex-boyfriend!

晓 光：导演，这我作证，她就这样的

XIAOGUANG: I can vouch for that Director. That was exactly how she did it.

楠 芳：又有你……又有你，我跟我前男朋友分手你怎么知道的啊!!!你哪只眼睛看见的啊？

NANFANG: You again....You again! How would you know how I broke up with my ex-boyfriend!!! Which eye did you see it with?

晓 光：我就……这只眼睛看见的！

XIAOGUANG: I, ...It was this eye!

楠 芳：……

NANFANG:

导 演：又吵又吵又吵……要吵回家吵去！我是在说你们的状态！（南，晓对笑）状态懂吗！

对于演员来说，什么是生命？

DIRECTOR: Fighting again! Fighting again! If you wanna fight then go home and fight! What I'm talking about is evoking the right 'mood'! *[Nanfang and Xiaoguang exchange a smile]* Do you understand what I mean by 'mood.' What is it that is the very life of an actor?

（晓光、楠芳茫然的）*[Xiaoguang and Nanfang are mystified]*

二人同问：什么？

NANFANG and XIAOGUANG *[together]*: What?

（导演查式手势）*[Director gestures like Zha Mingzhe]*

导演：状态！你们去想一想，在那样的一个状态下他们会怎么样分手，在那样的一个大的环境下，用什么样的方式分手！预备……开始

DIRECTOR: Mood! Think about it! In that kind of situation how would they have broken up? In that broader environment what mode of breaking up would they have used! Get ready.....Go!

初恋情人：你真的想好了？

FIRST LOVE: Have you really made up your mind?

年轻强子妈：想好了。

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Yes.

初恋情人：你真的要为了那套房子，放弃我们的感情？

FIRST LOVE: You're really going to give up our love for the sake of that house?

年轻强子妈：我是舍不得你，可你也得为我的未来想想

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: I can't bear to leave you, but you have to think of my future.

初恋情人：你的未来就是要住大房子？

FIRST LOVE: Your future is just to live in a big house?

年轻强子妈：我不要大房子，我只要一间属于我们俩的小房子，这个要求过分吗？

（初恋情人语塞。）

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: I don't want a big house. I just want a small house that belongs to the two of us. Is that too much to ask?

[First Love stumbles over his words]

初恋情人：你说的都对，我们家地儿是小，可我心里大！我心里有你啊！宝贝儿！

FIRST LOVE: You're right, my home is small, but I have a big heart. I have you in my heart! Babe!

楠方：没有宝贝儿。

NANFANG: There's no 'Babe'.

晓光：你别打断我。

XIAOGUANG: Don't interrupt.

楠方：那时候没有说宝贝儿的。

NANFANG: In those days no one said 'Babe'.

晓光：我说有就有……

XIAOGUANG: If I say it then they did...

导演：停！过来过来过来！刚才这个戏啊，词儿攒的还行！就是你俩这状态不对。你们这是分手不是吵架！（冲晓光）你，那年头没说“宝贝儿”的！

DIRECTOR: Stop! Come here! Come here! This time the lines are pretty good! It's just that the two of you have still not got a handle on the 'mood'! You're breaking up, not having a quarrel! *[to Xiaoguang]* You! In those days nobody said 'Babe'!

晓光：那，那说什么啊？

XIAOGUANG: So then, what am I supposed to say?

导演：自己想去！（嘟囔着）中戏怎么上的！（冲楠芳）

DIRECTOR: Go and think about it yourself! *[mutters to himself]* How on earth did he graduate from the Central Academy of Drama! *[to Nanfang]*

导演：楠方，这次的感觉还可以。但你还得想象在那种大环境下，她的心里依据是什么。

那个年代的人分手，特别是像这对恋人，是在相爱的状态下面对残酷的现实而无奈的分手！知道什么叫有缘无份吗？这两个人心底，都有一种悲哀！男的是真的想留住女的，女的是真不想走，但又不得不走！男的心里知道，他留不住，但他还是想留。什么叫做最后的挽留，自个儿想去吧！再来一遍！（晓光冲楠芳做鬼脸）

DIRECTOR: Nanfang! This time you had quite a good feel for it, but you still have to imagine how her psychology has its foundations in the broad environment of the time. When people of that era broke up, particularly people like this pair of lovers, it was because in the face of cruel reality there was nothing else they could do but break up, even though they were in love. Do you know what 'star-crossed lovers' means? Both of these people felt a deep sadness! The boy truly wanted to hold on to the girl and the girl truly did not want to leave, but she had no choice but to go! The boy knew deep in his heart that he could not hold on to her, but he still wanted to hold on to her. How can you present this last attempt to make her stay? Think about it! Let's try again! *[Xiaoguang grimaces at Nanfang]*

初恋情人：你真的想好了？

FIRST LOVE: Have you really made up your mind?

年轻强子妈：想好了。

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Yes.

初恋情人：你真的要为了那套房子，放弃我们的感情？

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年轻强子妈：我不要大房子，我只要一间属于我们俩的小房子，这个要求过分吗？

（初恋情人语塞。）

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: I don't want a big house. I just want a small house that belongs

to the two of us. Is that too much to ask?

[First Love stumbles over his words]

初恋情人：你说的都对，我们家地儿是小，可我心里大！我心里有你啊

FIRST LOVE: You're right, my home is small, but I have a big heart. I have you in my heart!

（晓光、楠芳很认真的按照导演刚才的指示重来一遍，过程中，齐主任、林经理蹑手蹑脚的上。韩导半起身客套让座，齐主任用手势示意他坐下，齐、林二人找一犄角坐下，看二人的表演。戏毕，导演起身。）

[Xiaoguang and Nanfang earnestly re-enact the scene in accordance with the Director's instructions. As they are doing so, Director Qi and Manager Lin enter on tiptoe. Director Han half gets up, politely offering them his seat. Director Qi uses a hand movement to signal him to sit down. Qi and Lin sit down in a corner and watch the two people's performance. When the performance finishes Director Qi gets up.]

导 演：哟！何大主任，林经理，来视察一下？

DIRECTOR: Yo! Executive Director He, Manager Lin, have you come to inspect our work?

（齐主任谦逊的）

[Director Qi adopts a humble manner]

齐主任：别别别，我们就来学习的。

DIRECTOR QI: No, no, no! We are just here to learn from you.

导 演：那什么，齐主任、林经理，给提提意见吧！

DIRECTOR: Not at all. Director Qi, Manager Lin, we'd appreciate your feedback.

（齐主任和林经理互相谦让）

[Director Qi and Manager Lin each politely urge the other to go first]

齐主任：那我就先说？我觉着啊，首先这演员的劲儿啊，和那个年代的人还有距离，我们那个年代的人表达感情的方式...反正挺那个的！是吧，导演？

DIRECTOR QI: Then I'll go first? I feel that, first of all, the manner of the actors is still a long way from the authentic manner of that era.— The way we expressed our emotions in those days was ...anyway it was really, you know...inhibited! Wasn't it, Director?

（导演点头称是）

[Director nods his head in agreement.]

齐主任：第二呢，我觉着，这俩人，不伤心！

DIRECTOR QI: And second: I don't get the sense that these two people are feeling upset.

（导演点头，冲着俩演员，意思是：听见了吗，跟我说的一样，没走心。）

[Director nods his head and looks at the two actors as if to say: Did you hear that? That's exactly what I said: you didn't put your hearts into the scene.]

齐主任：再一个吧，我觉着吧，这两个人看不出是哪儿的人来。这俗话说啊，北京城是东富西贵，南贫北贱，就说咱这锣鼓巷啊，看着不起眼儿，那名人故居可不老少啊！（冲晓光）就说这中戏吧，你知道它以前是干什么的？

DIRECTOR QI: And one other thing: I feel that there's no way of telling where these two people are from. There's an old saying about the people of Beijing: In the East they're rich and in the West they're noble; in the South they're poor and in the north they're humble. Take for instance our Gong and Drum Alley: it seems pretty inconspicuous, but it contains quite a lot of the former residences of famous people! *[To Xiaoguang]*. Take the Central Academy of Drama for example, do you know what it used to be?

（晓光一脸茫然）*[Xiaoguang's expression shows he has no idea]*

晓 光：不知道。

XIAOGUANG: Dunno.

齐主任冲晓光、楠芳捎带着韩导）

[Director Qi to Xiaoguang, Nanfang and Director Han]

齐主任：中戏以前是段祺瑞政府陆军总长，代理国务总理，靳云鹏的旧宅（晓光、楠芳对视吐舌头）

DIRECTOR QI: It was once the residence of Jin Yunpeng, Army Chief of Staff and acting premier of the Duan Qirui Republican government of the mid 1920s *[Xiaoguang and Nanfang look at each other and stick out their tongues at each other - denoting surprise]*

韩 导：嘿，没想到，还真有来头啊！

DIRECTOR HAN: Wow! I would never have imagined it! That's quite a pedigree!

（林经理插话）

[Manager Lin interrupts]

林经理：就说咱这小草帽剧场吧，以前那是民国财政部长孔祥熙的妹妹住过的地方。

MANAGER LIN: And what about our Little Straw Hat Theatre? In the Republican era it was once the place where the younger sister of the Minister of Finance Kong Xiangxi, lived.

楠 芳：哟，那这么说咱小草帽剧场还是一绣楼呢！

NANFANG: Yo! So Little Straw Hat Theatre was the boudoir of a young lady!

齐主任：所以说，这强子妈虽然是东城一普通人家出来的，可她身上，就有一要面儿的劲儿！
冲晓光）

DIRECTOR QI: So that means that even though Qiangzi's Mum comes from an *ordinary* family in east Beijing, she still feels an overwhelming need to maintain face!
[says to Xiaoguang]

齐主任：她是爱你，可她能到你们家那七八口子人挤一块儿的小平房里跟你生孩子去吗？

DIRECTOR QI: She does love you, but could she go and have your children squashed into a tiny bungalow with seven or eight other members of your family?

（晓光很实诚的）

[Xiaoguang sincerely]

晓 光：不能！

XIAOGUANG: No, she couldn't!

齐主任：所以说，在感情和体面之间，她选择了体面地活着。（冲楠芳）什么才叫体面？那就是住在人住的房子里！（冲晓光）所以，她选择了爱着离开你！明白了吧！

DIRECTOR QI: So that's why when faced with the choice between her feelings and her dignity, she chose her dignity. [To Nanfang] What is dignity? It is living in a house fit for human habitation! [To Xiaoguang] so she chose to leave you even though she was in love with you! Do you understand?

（晓光若有所思的）

[Xiaoguang thoughtfully]

晓 光：嗯，明白了。

XIAOGUANG: Mmm, yes, I do.

齐主任：晓光，就说你吧，听说你现在也在贷款买房子，你今天要是没房，哪个女孩愿意跟你啊！所以，它不管 哪朝哪代，都离不开那个老理儿：嫁汉嫁汉穿衣吃饭！理想在现实面前，永远是脆弱的。（冲楠芳）是吧！姑娘！

DIRECTOR QI: Xiaoguang, think about how it is for you yourself. I heard that you have taken out a loan to buy an apartment. Nowadays if you haven't got an apartment what girl would be willing to marry you? So it doesn't matter which dynasty or which century you're living in, the same principle always applies: A girl can't marry a man unless he can give her the basics of food, clothing and shelter! Ideals always become fragile in the face of reality! *[To Nanfang]* – Isn't that true, young lady!

(楠芳瞥了一眼晓光，表示同意。晓光有同感的但又哀叹的点点头。)

[Nanfang glances at Xiaoguang, and expresses her agreement. Xiaoguang feels the same and sighs sadly nodding his head]

所以说，我们这各级政府，当然还有我们这街道委员会都在尽我们最大努力，尽可能地改善居民的生活，让大家从那七八十年代盖的小平房，地震棚里解脱出来，早点住上更好的房子，让咱这片儿的老百姓生活的更体面！（冲林经理）林经理，你说，是不是这个理儿！

So that's why all different levels of the government right down to our local street committee, are working as hard as we can and doing as much as we can to improve the lives of the local residents; so that everyone can extricate themselves from the tiny bungalows built in the seventies and eighties, and the temporary earthquake relief housing and move into better housing as soon as possible. We want the ordinary people who live around here to be able to live with more dignity! *[To Manager Lin]* Manager Lin, what do you say? Isn't that the principle of it?

林经理：是啊！所以，咱盖这个小剧场，就是为了让大家能够在吃好住好的基础上，在精神上也能活的更好，在家门口就能看上好戏。你就说在咱周围出现的这些酒吧、咖啡馆，那些卖时尚玩意儿的小店吧，这不都是为了方便大家的生活，让大家活得更开心吗！现在咱们这条街啊，那都可以跟三里屯、后海叫板！凭什么，就凭咱们这条街的文化特色。（问楠芳）你知道，咱们这片儿有什么文化特色？

MANAGER LIN: Absolutely! And on top of better food and better housing, we built this little theatre so that everyone could also have better spiritual sustenance by being able to watch good theatre right on their own doorstep. Think about the bars, cafes, and little shops selling whatever's in fashion: aren't they all there to make things more convenient for everyone? Give everyone more enjoyment? This

street of ours is now up there with the streets of Sanlitun and Houhai! Why is that?
It's because of its unique culture. *[to Nanfang]* Do you know what makes this
area culturally unique?

楠 芳: 什么文化特色?

NANFANG: No, what?

齐主任: 傻闺女, 你们中戏啊! 还有帽儿胡同的国话。

DIRECTOR QI: Silly girl, it's your own Central Academy of Drama! And the National
Theatre in Hat Alley.

晓 光: 还有人艺!

XIAOGUANG: And there's the People's Art Theatre too!

楠 芳: 还有七色光的儿艺!

NANFANG: And Rainbow Children's Theatre

林经理: 对啊! 咱们这条街和后海、三里屯那是截然不同! 咱们这的文化特色就是戏剧啊!
所以说, 你别看咱这是个民营的胡同里的小剧场, 那可是谈笑有鸿儒, 往来无白丁
啊! 在那看戏的观众里保不齐就有什么行家能人呢!

MANAGER LIN: That's right! This street of ours is totally different from the streets in
Houhai and Sanlitun because of our unique theatre culture! That's why you
shouldn't dismiss us for being a small private theatre in a back alley: the people
you run into in our theatre are all learned scholars, no one you meet will be
uneducated! And you never know what theatre connoisseurs and professionals
might be in the audience!

韩 导: 所以, 甭管谁来看, 你们随时要保持~~~

DIRECTOR HAN: So don't concern yourself with who is watching the show, just make
sure you always maintain the...

晓光、楠 芳: 什么?

XIAOGUANG and NANFANG: What?

(韩导手势出、查导式的哆嗦)

*[Director Han gestures with a quivering hand in the manner of Director Zha
Mingzhe.]*

韩 导: 状态!

DIRECTOR HAN: the mood!

(场外强子的画外音)

[Qiangzi's voice is heard off stage]

强子: 妈您别拽我! 我自己会走, 您着什么急啊!

QIANGZI: Mum, don't push me! I'll go by myself. What are you stressing about?

(强子妈边拖着上场上场边说)

[Qiangzi's Mum pushes Qiangzi onto the stage as she speaks.]

强子妈: 甭废话, 快走! (姜阿姨跟上)

QIANGZI'S MUM: Cut the crap, get moving! *[Aunty Jiang follows them in.]*

姜阿姨: 对, 这回啊, 好好跟他们理论理论! 齐主任! 齐主任!

AUNTY JIANG: Right! This time we're going to have it out with them! Director Qi! Director Qi!

齐主任: 谁叫我? 哟! 老姐姐, 您今儿怎么大驾光临! 有何贵干?

DIRECTOR QI: Who's calling me? Yo! It's Qiangzi's Mum, what brings you to grace us with your presence today? How can I help you?

强子妈: 我不是找你的, 对, 找你也行! 是你让那帮演戏的编排我来着?

QIANGZI'S MUM: It's not you I'm looking for, but actually, you will do! Was it you who got that mob of actors to put me into their play?

齐主任: 没有啊! 你这听谁说的?

DIRECTOR QI: No! Who said that?

强子妈: 强子, 你说! 是谁让你跟这帮演戏的抖搂咱们家底儿的?

QIANGZI'S MUM: Qiangzi, out with it! Who was it that got you to spill the beans on our family affairs to this mob of actors?

(强子左右为难的支吾着)

[Qiangzi finds himself in a dilemma so equivocates]

强子: 没! 没谁, 是我跟人瞎聊天嘛!

QIANGZI: Um no, uh no one, I was just casually chatting with the guys!

强子妈: 瞎聊天? 你聊你自己啊, 扯上我干嘛? 让人家瞎编排, 我这老脸往哪儿搁!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Casually chatting? Then casually chat about yourself! Why did you have to chat about me and have them put rubbish about me into a play. I'm so ashamed I don't know how I can face anyone!

姜阿姨: 是啊, 齐主任, 咱们都老街坊了, 您怎么胳膊肘往外拐啊!

AUNTY JIANG: That's right Director Qi, we're all old neighbours. Why are you helping outsiders instead of looking out for us!

齐主任：哎呀，老姐姐，你消消气儿，听我说！真的没有瞎编排你，那是往好里演你呢！

DIRECTOR QI: Aiya, My Dear Sister, calm down and listen to me! We honestly didn't slander you in the play, we showed you in a good light!

强子妈：往好里演我？我怎么听说他们净往歪里演我呢！

QIANGZI'S MUM: Showed me in a good light? Then how come I heard that all they did was show me in a bad light?

韩 导：没有啊！（求证式的看了晓光、楠芳一眼，二人点头证实。强子妈看姜阿姨）

DIRECTOR HAN: No, they didn't! *[glances at Xiaoguang and Nanfang looking for support, the two of them nod their heads in affirmation. Qiangzi's Mum looks at Auntie Jiang.]*

强子妈：姜阿姨，您那天可是看见了吧？

QIANGZI'S MUM: Auntie Jiang, that day you saw it, didn't you!

姜阿姨：我看的真真儿的！嘿，我这老脸看得都臊的慌！

AUNTY JIANG: I sure did see it! Huh! And what these old eyes saw left me feeling shocked and ashamed!

（韩导、晓光、楠芳三人疑惑的对视）

[Director Han, Xiaoguang and Nanfang look at each other in puzzlement.]

晓 光：姜阿姨，您什么时候看见的？

XIAOGUANG: Auntie Jiang, when did you see that scene?

姜阿姨：咳，就我那天上午倒垃圾的时候，我特意拐了个弯儿，看见你俩抱一块又搂又啃的！

AUNTY JIANG: Umm, it was that morning when was throwing out the garbage. I specially came round the corner to have a look and saw the two of you hugging and smooching.

（晓光恍然大悟，冤枉地）

[Xiaoguang suddenly realises what has happened, and feels wronged.]

晓 光：咳！姜阿姨！

XIAOGUANG: Oh, Auntie Jiang!

（楠芳臊红着脸，略带气恼的）

[Nanfang blushes in embarrassment, and is slightly vexed.]

楠 芳: 姜阿姨, 您怎么还有这嗜好啊! 怎么偷看啊!

NANFANG: Auntie Jiang, how come you've got that kind of hobby! How could you go spying on people!

姜阿姨: 你甬我怎么看, 你俩是不是抱一块来着!

AUNTY JIANG: Don't you come at me asking how I saw it! Were the two of you hugging or not?

晓 光: 姜阿姨, 她是我女朋友, 我们俩当时正那..那什么来着!是吧? !

XIAOGUANG: Auntie Jiang, she is my girlfriend, at the time we were just, we were just.... you know?!

楠 芳: 行了, 别说了

NANFANG: OK, Let's just not talk about it.

姜阿姨: 哎呦, 甬跟我扯这里格愣!

AUNTY JIANG: Ai yo! Don't give me that crap!

韩 导: 不排了! 不排了! 这戏没法排了.....

DIRECTOR HAN: I quit! I quit! There's no way this play can be staged....

林经理: 韩导, 您不能走, 这戏得排啊!

MANAGER LIN: Director Han, you can't go. This play must go on!

齐主任: 大家听我说说! 什么事儿啊, 街坊邻里的有什么事儿不能好好商量呢? 有话好好说嘛! 韩导, 这戏咱还得排.....

DIRECTOR QI: Everyone listen to me! What is there, what is there that neighbours and friends *can't* work out through some calm negotiations? If you have something to say then say it! Director Han, we have to keep rehearsing this play....

强子妈: 你们甬在这儿矫情! 反正胡编排我就不行!

QIANGZI'S MUM: No need for you to be argumentative! No matter what, it's just not acceptable to make up stories about me in your play!

强 子: 妈! 你搞清楚了再说! 人家真的没胡编排你!

QIANGZI: Mum. Can you find out the facts before you criticise! They really did not write random stuff about you!

强子妈: 住嘴! 要不是你这儿臭显摆, 能扯出这么多事儿来!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Shut up! If it hadn't been for you big noting yourself there wouldn't have been all this trouble!

韩 导：嫂子……。

DIRECTOR HAN: Sister-in-law....

强子妈：谁是你嫂子啊！

QIANGZI'S MUM: Who are you calling "sister-in-law"?

韩 导：大嫂子……

DIRECTOR HAN: Senior sister in law...!

强子妈：你谁啊？

QIANGZI'S MUM: And who are you?

韩 导：我是导演！

DIRECTOR HAN: I'm the director!

强子妈：你参合什么呀，你说话管用吗？

QIANGZI'S MUM: Why are you getting involved? Do you have any clout around here?

韩 导：您先听我说！要不这样，我们把这戏啊，演给您看看，您看完了再批评我们，成吗？

DIRECTOR HAN: First just listen to me! Why don't we go about it this way? We'll perform the play for you; you watch it right through and *then* you can criticise us. OK?

齐主任：老姜，你们都老姐们了，劝劝劝劝！

DIRECTOR QI: Old Jiang, you've been like sisters. Try to persuade her!

姜阿姨：得，看你面上，我就说说！强子妈，你也别生气了，咱们先瞧瞧，然后再说！

AUNTY JIANG: OK, just for you I'll say something! Qiangzi's Mum, don't be so angry! Let's watch the show first and then talk about it afterwards!

强子妈：我才不看呢，没工夫！

QIANGZI'S MUM: There no way I'm watching it: haven't got time!

强 子：妈，瞧瞧，瞧瞧...咱先瞧瞧

QIANGZI: Mum, watch it, watch it. Let's first watch it and then

姜阿姨：先瞧两眼再说！

AUNTY JIANG: First have a look and then we'll talk about it!

齐主任：老姐姐，您先看看！要是您觉得不好看，我就不让他们演了，您看这样成吗？

DIRECTOR QI: My dear sister! Please watch the show first! If you don't like it, I won't allow them to perform it any more. What do you say to that?

强子：妈，行，行！

QIANGZI: Come on Mum, come on!

强子妈：那好吧，那咱们就先瞅一眼，如果编排我了，那就不能演！

QIANGZI'S MUM: Well, OK! Let's have a look then. But if I'm in it then the performance has to stop!

齐主任：好的，导演，准备好了吗？

DIRECTOR QI: OK, Director, are you ready?

韩导：好，演员准备！注意啊！

DIRECTOR HAN: OK, actors, standby! And pay attention to

（韩导和晓光、楠芳三人同时手势）状态！.....开始！

[Director Han, Xiaoguang and Nanfang simultaneously make the same hand gesture] 'Mood!'Start!

（静场三秒钟后，起文革时期的抒情小提琴音乐）

[There are 3 seconds of silence and then romantic violin music from the Cultural Revolution period is heard.]

初恋情人：你真的想好了？

FIRST LOVE: Have you really made up your mind?

年轻强子妈：想好了。

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Yes.

初恋情人：你真的要为了那套房子，放弃我们的感情？

FIRST LOVE: You're really going to give up our love for the sake of that house?

年轻强子妈：我是舍不得你，可你也得为我的未来想想

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: I can't bear to leave you, but you have to think of my future.

初恋情人：你的未来就是要住大房子？

FIRST LOVE: Your future is just to live in a big house?

年轻强子妈：我不要大房子，我只要一间属于我们俩的小房子，这个要求过分吗？

（初恋情人语塞。）

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: I don't want a big house. I just want a small house that belongs to the two of us. Is that too much to ask? *[First Love stumbles over his words.]*

初恋情人：你说的都对，我们家地儿是小，可我心里大！我心里有你啊！宝贝儿！

FIRST LOVE: You're right, my home is small, but I have a big heart. I have you in my heart!

年轻强子妈：光心里有有什么用啊！你的心再大，可我能住你心里吗？

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: What's the use of just having me in your heart! No matter how big your heart is, I can't live there can I?

初恋情人：我们可以一起奋斗，总有一天，我们会有自己的房子的。

FIRST LOVE: We can struggle though together somehow, and eventually one day we *will* get our own home.

年轻强子妈：总有一天？可这一天在哪儿？（初恋情人又语塞，支吾着。）

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Eventually one day? But when is that day going to be? *[First Love is speechless again then stumbles over his words.]*

初恋情人：嗯~~反正你得相信我！

FIRST LOVE: Uhh, anyway, you have to believe in me!

年轻强子妈：我是想相信你，可你拿什么让我相信！（初恋情人语塞）

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: I do believe in you, but you have to show me something to believe in! *[First Love is speechless again.]*

初恋情人：我.....！

FIRST LOVE: I....!

年轻强子妈：算了吧，咱们都别难为自个儿了！你放我走吧！

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Forget it. It's all too difficult for both of us! You have to let me go!

初恋情人：难道我们这么多年感情，就这么完了吗！

FIRST LOVE: I can't believe that so many years of tender feelings can end like this!

年轻强子妈：谢谢你这么多年来对我的好！

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Thank you for treating me so well all these years!

（年轻强子妈无声的从黄色挎包里掏出一捆扎好的信，缓缓地、沉重地递给初恋情人，初恋情人看着信，不接，伤恸的说道）

[Young Qiangzi's Mum silently takes a carefully tied bundle of letters from a yellow khaki satchel and slowly and with a heavy heart tries to hand them to First Love. First Love looks at the letters and refuses to take them. He speaks sadly.]

初恋情人：这些信里，有我们全部的梦，难道就这样烟消云散了吗！

FIRST LOVE: All of our dreams are in those letters. I can't believe that they can just disappear like this in a puff of smoke!

年轻强子妈：再美的梦，总会醒的！

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: Even the most beautiful dreams end with waking up to reality!

（现实中的强子妈拿手绢拭泪，被姜阿姨和强子看到）

[The real Qiangzi's Mum takes out her handkerchief and wipes her tears. This is seen by Auntie Jiang and Qiangzi.]

初恋情人：我能抱抱你吗？

FIRST LOVE: May I give you a hug?

年轻强子妈：不能。

YOUNG QIANGZI'S MUM: No.

（年轻强子妈闭上眼睛等待着。初恋情人迟疑的、心里颤抖着向年轻强子妈走去。走动过程中，姜阿姨偷看强子妈，（引领观众）视线从强子妈的眼睛逐渐转移到强子妈逐渐抓紧手绢的手上，此时初恋情人已走到年轻强子妈跟前，停顿两秒，猛地抱住！年轻强子妈顺从的两手下垂的倒在怀里，两秒钟后两手缓缓的抬起，缓缓的搂住初恋情人的腰，两人紧紧的拥抱在一起！音乐随两人情感的燃点往上推。）

[Young Qiangzi's Mum closes her eyes and waits. First Love hesitates, and then with a trembling heart walks towards Young Qiangzi's Mum. As he is walking towards her, Auntie Jiang steals a glance at Qiangzi's Mum. Guiding the eyes of the audience, Auntie Jiang's gaze slowly shifts from Qiangzi's Mum's eyes to her hand which is grasping the handkerchief more and more tightly. At that point First Love has arrived in front of Young Qiangzi's Mum. He stops for a couple of seconds and then suddenly embraces her! Young Qiangzi's Mum submissively sinks into his arms both of her arms hanging downwards. After a couple of seconds she slowly raises her hands and slowly puts them around his waist. The two of them hold each other in a tight embrace. The music mirrors their emotions, getting louder and louder till they reach the emotional climax.]

（众人鼓掌，过后导演对强子妈说）

[The audience claps and then Director Han says to Qiangzi's Mum.]

导演：您看，我们排的真实吗？

DIRECTOR: What do you think? Is it realistic?

(强子妈痛悔的带着哭腔的摇头说道)

[Qiangzi's Mum shakes her head regretfully and speaks with a sob in her voice.]

强子妈: 不! 不是! (众人愕然 面面相觑) (强子妈痛悔的柔声说道)

QIANGZI'S MUM: No, No it's not! *[Everyone exchanges stunned glances; Qiangzi's Mum speaks quietly and with deep regret.]*

强子妈: 要是那样, 就好了!

QIANGZI'S MUM: It would have been good if it had been like that!

(强子妈从低声抽泣越来越强烈, 放声大哭, 仿佛把一生的委屈都宣泄出来。此时, 强子走过来)

[Qiangzi's Mum starts sobbing quietly, then her sobs get stronger and stronger until she lets go and cries without restraint, as if venting a whole lifetime of grievances. At this time Qiangzi walks over to her.]

强子: 妈, 妈, 您别哭了! 我知道您这辈子不容易, 心里憋屈!

QIANGZI: Mum! Mum! Please don't cry! I know life has never been easy for you and you feel you've been hard done by!

(强子妈闻听此言, 愈加的委屈, 哭中说道)

[when Qiangzi's Mum hears this she feels even more aggrieved and speaks through her sobs.]

强子妈: 当初我就是为了你姥姥、姥爷, 为了让这个家住的宽敞点儿, 我才跟了你爸爸! 谁承想, 房子是住宽敞了, 可我这心哪……老姜, 我憋屈了几十年了!

QIANGZI'S MUM: Back then I did it for your grandma and grandpa, so that the family could live a bit more comfortably. That's the only reason I married your father! But who ever bothered to consider that though we had more space to live in, my heart was…… Old Jiang, I've felt wretched about it for decades!

姜阿姨: 我知道……我知道……

AUNTY JIANG: I know……I know……

齐主任: 老姐姐, 老姐姐, 您听我说, 这种情况啊, 再也不会发生了! 咱们这一带的住家儿啊, 政府都有规划, 让咱老百姓, 住宽敞房, 过舒心日子! 您以后啊, 就敞敞亮亮、开开心心的往前过吧!

DIRECTOR QI: Dear Big Sister, listen to me! This kind of thing will never happen again! The government has already drawn up plans for the residents of our area to

ensure that we ordinary people can live comfortable lives in spacious housing.
You can take comfort and look forward to a happy life.

林经理：是啊！大妈，您看，咱们锣鼓巷这些年不是变得越来越好了！而且我相信，有咱政府的支持啊，咱们锣鼓巷会变得越来越好，成为咱这北京城的一景儿！大妈，您信吗？（强子妈抽泣的点头说道）

MANAGER LIN: That's right! Auntie, Look! In the last few years hasn't our Gong and Drum Alley got better and better! And what's more, I believe it will go on getting better and better and become a famous tourist spot in Beijing! Auntie, do you believe that? *[Qiangzi's Mum nods her head and speaks through her tears.]*

强子妈：我信，我信！

QIANGZI'S MUM: I believe it! I believe it!

韩 导：大嫂，那您看我们这戏，这么演，成吗？

DIRECTOR HAN: Dear Sister, What do you think, is it OK if we keep that scene just as it is?

强子妈：成！成！就这么演！（韩导冲着观众说道）

QIANGZI'S MUM: OK, OK Do it just like that! *[Director Han speaks to the audience.]*

韩 导：好，各位观众，欢迎大家来到小草帽儿剧场，观看我们的小剧场话剧《锣鼓巷的故事》，希望大家看完我们的演出后，度过一个美好的夜晚，能够保持一个愉快的……状态！（导演和演员一起说“状态”；。）

DIRECTOR HAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, we welcome you to the Little Straw Hat Theatre to watch our small theatre drama *The Story of Gong and Drum Alley*. I hope that after our performance you all enjoy a lovely evening and always maintain a happy…… ‘mood’ *[Director and actors together say ‘mood’.]*

完 END