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The Father's Sins

Part 3: The Sam Murphy Saga

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Version 1b
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INT. BOAT CABIN, HONG KONG HARBOUR. NIGHT

December 1974. An elderly Chinese man, GANG LEADER, is tied to a chair in a windowless cabin with no other furniture. The man has obviously been tortured for a number of days. Over his left eye, a simple bandage is fixed but the blood still trickles down his cheek. The room is lit with a single light shining over the man.

From the shadows, AH-LEUNG appears. He is wearing an eye patch over his left eye. He slowly bends down to make eye contact with the Gang Leader.

Note

Dialogue in Cantonese.

AH-LEUNG

My friend, things should not have come to this... You only had to let me go and leave the gang.

GANG LEADER

I should have killed you myself.

AH-LEUNG

That chance has passed.

Ah-Leung pulls out a knife and shows it to the Gang Leader.

GANG LEADER

See you in Hell, you bastard.

Ah-Leung cuts the man's throat. He smiles with evil satisfaction. As he opens the door to leave, two gang members wait to enter the room to remove the body.

AH-LEUNG

Get used to it boys. There's more people on my list. Also... (in a menacing tone) let this be a warning to any traitor in our gang.

INT. WAI KUNG FU SCHOOL, SYDNEY. NIGHT.

WAI, the former doorman of the Kowloon Club and friend of our hero Sam, is doing paperwork in his back office. Since the Gambler's Will, Wai continues to run his Kung Fu school.

The phone rings and he picks it up.

Note

Dialogue in Cantonese.

WAI

Hello. Wai speaking.

He listens intently.

WAI (CONT'D)

Are you sure?... OK, well, we all have to be on guard... Thanks.

He hangs up and nervously taps his fingers on his desk. As the concern begins to show on his face, Wai reaches into his desk drawer, pulls out his handgun, a Berrata 9mm, and begins to practise a few quick draws, pointing to an imaginary target.

There is a knock on his door. He quickly places the handgun back in the drawer.

Note

Dialogue in English. Sifu is Chinese for teacher.

WAI (CONT'D)

Who is it?

FRANK

Frank. Sifu.

FRANK is one of Wai's senior students. In the Gambler's Will, Frank distinguished himself in an act of bravery in one of the scenes.

WAI

Come in.

Frank opens the door. He appears to be in a hurry.

FRANK

Just locked up. You said you wanted to see me?

WAI

Oh yeah. You in a hurry?

FRANK

Just a date with a new girlfriend.

WAI

(With a smile)

Nothing important. Let's meet tomorrow. Is Nathan still here?

Nathan is the son of Ah-leung.

FRANK

Yeah. He's dedicated. Trains more than me.

WAI

Can you ask him to come in before you go. It's urgent.

FRANK

Sure. See you tomorrow.

WAI

Yeah.

INT. MURPHY FAMILY HOME, DARWIN. NIGHT.

Sunday evening before Christmas 1974. Hard rain and strong wind forces the Murphy family indoors. SAM and his wife BETTY, and daughter NORA are in the kitchen preparing for the evening family meal.

Sam is now 50 years old. Betty is a year younger than Sam, and Nora is a beautiful 21 year old woman. It is almost two and half years since his adventure in Sydney in The Gambler's Will. Mick, the youngest son, is on holidays in Sydney.

BETTY

If the cyclone gets any closer
we'll have to prepare for the
worst.

SAM

You hear what they've called it?

BETTY

Not Betty I hope.

SAM

Cyclone Tracy.

NORA

I hate that they use women names
for cyclones. It's so sexist.

SAM

(With a smile)

Well, if it was Cyclone Betty I
would panic and get out quick.

BETTY

(With a mocking tone)

Ha ha. Very funny.

NORA

Dad. That's another example of the
arrogant sexist ideology of our
patriarchal society.

SAM

Sorry. What did you say after
"Dad"?

There is a knock on the front door.

BETTY

That must be Col and the girls.

Betty opens the front door for COLIN JUNIOR, Sam's step-son,
his wife TANYA, and their 6-month-old daughter, Kelly.

COLIN JUNIOR

Hey Mom. Let us in quick. It's pouring out here.

BETTY

Hi Col. Tanya. Come in. How's little Kelly?

Colin's family enters. Betty helps Tanya with the baby capsule.

TANYA

Hi Mom. Lucky she slept through the rain.

BETTY

(Looking inside the capsule)

Isn't she beautiful?

The families greet each other, and in quick time settle at the family dinner table.

SAM

(To the family)

Did you know this is our first Christmas without Mick?

COLIN JUNIOR

How is he? Hope he isn't staying up late and running around Sydney's hotspots with the Fong boys.

SAM

(With a wink to Colin Junior)

I'm sure your Uncle Andrew will impose a strict curfew.

BETTY

You bet. I made your Auntie May promise me that Mick will be in bed by midnight.

SAM

Jeez, Betty. The boy is eighteen and full of hormones.

BETTY

But I will not let my sons anywhere near any shameful behaviour.

COLIN JUNIOR

It's OK Mom. I know Mick. He's the righteous one in the family. The Fong boys will be calling him a party-pooper by now.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM, MURPHY FAMILY HOME. NIGHT

Sam and Colin Junior are chatting together on the lounge chairs while the women help Tanya feed baby Kelly, who is now awake in the master bedroom.

SAM

Col. I've been meaning to ask you about the time you met your real dad a few years ago... How did you feel when you finally had a face-to-face?

COLIN JUNIOR

I had mixed feelings. I did feel uncomfortable. But I also know that it was important to me. You know, to understand who he was and who I am. I still don't like him for what he did to Mom, leaving her alone to care for me. But if I saw him walking down the street, I would greet him and talk to him.

SAM

Did it change you?

COLIN JUNIOR

Of course not... Getting married and having a child changed me... I can't change how it all started. You know, how Mom met him in Melbourne after you left her. Those things are facts. But my future is with Tanya and Kelly, and who knows, maybe more children.

SAM

Mate. I am so proud to call you my son.

COLIN JUNIOR

Dad. I've always wanted to say this. You have always been my father, ever since the day you and Mom got back together.

INT. BEDROOM, MURPHY FAMILY HOME. NIGHT.

Sam and Betty are in bed getting ready to sleep.

BETTY

I heard you talking to Col about him meeting his dad. Is this something to do with your half-sister?

SAM

Kind of.

BETTY

Sam. Take some time off and see her. You know her name and where she lives. Write to her first and set up a meeting.

SAM

You know me. I'm such a coward when it comes to family relationships.

BETTY

I don't get it. Here is a chance to meet someone who remembers your birth mother.

SAM

OK. I just have to find the time. Next year, I'm planning to make Col a partner in our business. That is just as important.

INT. MURPHY FAMILY HOME, DARWIN. NIGHT.

Christmas Eve, 1974. Cyclone Tracey hits Darwin with its full force. The Murphy family (Sam, Betty and Nora), is sheltering in their bathroom, huddled under mattresses as part of the roof has blown off. Rain water is pouring in, and flying debris is blowing overhead, occasionally dropping in and bouncing off their mattresses. Part of the wall on one side of the house has also collapsed, allowing wind to blow into their lounge and dining area.

SAM

Just hang on. The bathroom walls should be strong enough to hold.

BETTY

I'm worried about Col and his family.

SAM

I know you are. But you've got to trust him. If he can't protect them then we are all gone.

NORA

(Hugging Sam and crying
with fear)

I just want it to stop.

BETTY

Oh no, the family photos.

Betty crawls from under her mattress and is nearly out of the doorway.

SAM

No. Betty!

Before Sam can pull her back, a large broken piece of their dining table flies into Betty and pins her against the wall outside the bathroom. Betty screams in pain.

Sam pushes the table aside and drags Betty back into the backroom.

SAM (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

BETTY

I'm so sorry. Aaah. My ribs are hurting.

SAM

Maybe a few cracked ribs. You've got to calm down and breath easy.

Just then, a windless calm falls, to the surprise of everyone. The rain also eases.

NORA

Is it over?

SAM

No. I think the eye of the cyclone is passing through. Stay alert. The winds will be back from the opposite side. Wait here.

Sam leaves the bathroom and returns after a few minutes with the family photos.

BETTY

Did you get them?

SAM

Yeah. Bit wet but they're OK.

EXT. MURPHY HOUSE. DARWIN.

Christmas Day. Sam slowly ventures from the bathroom through the damage that was previously the family house. All around, trees are striped of leafs or up-rooted. Cars and boats are lying in backyards next to kitchen sinks and beds.

As the rain falls, Sam picks through the debris to find anything useful. He picks up a few cans of food and smiles as he digs out a can opener.

Nora approaches him in shock.

NORA

What do we do?

SAM

Survive... See if you can find anything that's catching the
(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)
rainwater. You think it's bad, wait
until you have nothing to drink or
eat... Come on Nora. Get going.

EXT. DARWIN STREET. DAY.

The rain has stopped. Colin Junior is walking along a Darwin street amid the debris. Occasionally, he sees people wandering around their damaged properties, searching for anything. He turns a corner and walks towards the Murphy family home. Betty and Sam are sitting on a couple of slightly bent chairs, eating from the cans Sam had recovered.

COLIN JUNIOR
Mom. Dad.

Sam gets up and walks to Colin Junior. The two men hug.

SAM
Col. Good to see you. How's Tanya
and Kelly?

COLIN JUNIOR
They're OK. A little wet but no
injuries. Thank God. Mom? Are you
OK?

Colin Junior approaches and is about to hug his mother.

BETTY
(Getting up slowly)
My ribs are bruised or maybe
fractured. Gentle.

Mother and son hug gently.

SAM
Mom got smashed by a flying table.

COLIN JUNIOR
Where's Nora?

SAM
Nora is OK. She's somewhere down
the street helping the neighbours.

COLIN JUNIOR
You need anything?

SAM
No. I was going ask you that. I
found clean cans of baby formula.
Luckily your Mom had stocked up.

COLIN JUNIOR

That's great. Our suburb seems to have escaped the worst. Just half of my roof was blown off.

SAM

Have you seen any police officers? Anyone in authority?

COLIN JUNIOR

No. But the rumour is that they will evacuate the town, or at least bring some emergency relief by plane. Whatever they do, we're on our own for a few days.

SAM

Well, let's hang out at your place.

BETTY

Sam. I can't walk there.

SAM

I found the wheelbarrow. Is that OK?

BETTY

It will have to do.

SAM

(With a smile)

Col. Looks like you'll have to push me and Mom in the wheelbarrow.

COLIN JUNIOR

What?

SAM

Just joking. I'll walk. Mom gets first class.

EXT. DARWIN AIRPORT. DAY.

Several Hercules transport planes are parked on the runway. Groups queue on the runway as the airport terminal building is unusable in its damaged state. One transport plane is being unloaded by defence personnel, moving supplies onto waiting army trucks, while people, mostly women and children, are being helped onto the remaining transport planes.

Sam is standing alongside Betty, who is lying on a stretcher waiting to board a transport plane. Nora and Tanya, who is holding baby Kelly, are also waiting with Betty. Two soldiers approach the group indicating that they can board. The soldiers lift Betty's stretcher.

SAM
I'll try to contact you as
regularly as possible.

BETTY
Don't worry Sam. You take care of
yourself and Col.

SAM
Things will get better. I hope to
see you all soon when the things
settle here... (To Nora and Tanya)
Take care.

Sam kisses and gently hugs Betty, then hugs Nora and Tanya.
Sam has one last look at baby Kelly. Sam watches as the
group boards the transport plane.

INT. SYDNEY HOSPITAL. DAY.

Betty is sitting in the waiting area outside of the hospital
X-Ray ward. She is called and is guided by the radiologist,
who performs the routine procedure to x-ray her chest.

INT. DOCTOR SURGERY. DAY.

In the doctor's surgery, Betty sits patiently as the female
doctor reads the medical file.

DOCTOR
Mrs Murphy. Have you ever been a
smoker?

BETTY
Yes, but I gave up over ten years
ago.

DOCTOR
Your ribs were slightly fractured
and they will heal up in a short
period of time... However... I
don't know how to put this in a
nice way...

BETTY
Oh no. There's something serious,
isn't there?

DOCTOR
Yes. There's cancerous growth in
the lower parts of your lungs.

BETTY
(After a long pause)
How do we beat this thing?

DOCTOR

If we act immediately, there is a good chance we can stop it. My recommendation is to operate as soon as possible.

BETTY

Then tell me what I have to do.

INT. COLIN JUNIOR HOUSE, DARWIN. NIGHT.

A month after the evacuation of Darwin, Sam is calling Betty, who is still living in Sydney with the Fong family.

SAM

Hi dear. How's everyone?

BETTY

Good. Yourself?

SAM

Very good. The town is almost back to normal, except it still looks like a giant caravan park. Col finally got his phone re-connected. I'm calling from his place.

BETTY

Is he OK?

SAM

Yeah. Are Tanya and Kelly still flying back to Darwin next week?

BETTY

Definitely. Tanya can't wait to see Col again.

SAM

What about you and the kids? When do you want to return?

BETTY

Sam. There's some bad news. I haven't told anyone yet because I wanted you to know first.

SAM

What is it? ...Is it your injury?

BETTY

It's more than that... I have lung cancer.

SAM

Oh Shit.

BETTY

I want to stay in Sydney until I'm over this. You know the medical facilities in Darwin are limited.

SAM

Betty... Look, I'll be in Sydney as soon as possible.

BETTY

Sam, I miss you so much.

SAM

I miss you too. I promise, Betty. I will never let you down again.

BETTY

I know.

Sam hangs up and turns to Colin Junior, who is a little confused by the conversation.

COLIN JUNIOR

Is something wrong with Mom?

SAM

I've got bad news about your Mom.

INT. MURPHY FAMILY HOME, DARWIN. DAY.

Sam is sitting in his caravan parked on the site of his house. It serves as his living quarters as well as his office while he rebuilds his family home. Colin Junior walks in.

COLIN JUNIOR

Dad, are you all set for the flight this afternoon?

SAM

Yeah. But there is something I need to do before I go.

Sam hands Colin Junior a letter.

COLIN JUNIOR

What is this?

SAM

It's a Power of Attorney letter. You need to sign it.

COLIN JUNIOR

Why?

SAM

You can then sign any document on my behalf. You'll have to take care
(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)
of everything here while I'm in
Sydney.

COLIN JUNIOR
That's no problem.

SAM
There's one more thing. I have
already instructed our lawyer. You
will get 50 percent of the
construction business. It's
something your Mom and I have been
planning to do for a while.

COLIN JUNIOR
Thanks Dad.

INT. SYDNEY AIRPORT. DAY.

Sam has disembarked from his flight and is leaving the
arrival gate. He spots Betty waiting for him.

BETTY
Hi Dear.

SAM
Betty.

The two embrace warmly.

SAM (CONT'D)
Where are the others?

BETTY
Nora and Mick wanted to leave us
alone.

SAM
How are you feeling?

BETTY
Oh Sam. I am so glad to see you.
This illness is like a bad itch but
a thousand times worse.

SAM
We've got to be positive.

BETTY
I know. It's easier now you're
here.

Betty smiles as Sam pulls Betty tighter in their embrace.

INT. WAI KUNG FU SCHOOL, SYDNEY. NIGHT.

Three months after moving to Sydney, Sam visits his friend
Wai at the Ku Fung school. Their mutual friend, NEIL, now a

senior police detective, also joins the two men in a reunion.

WAI

Sam. I'm sorry to hear about your wife's illness.

NEIL

Mate, how are you holding up?

SAM

It's tough, I've got to confess. The emotional strain is almost unbearable.

WAI

Well, anything we can do to help, just ask.

NEIL

Yeah. Even if it is just a chat or a drink at the pub.

SAM

Thanks mate.

WAI

Look Sam, I really wanted to tell you that Ah-Leung is now an active gang leader in Hong Kong.

SAM

Shit.

WAI

Not only that. He took his revenge and killed the 44K gang leader, which pissed off the loyal 44K boys.

NEIL

From Interpol intelligence, he's now running his own gang, the One-Eye gang, who are mostly ex-44K boys. It's an open war between the 44K and their former comrades in the One-Eye gang.

WAI

In a gang, nothing is more hated than a comrade who's betrayed you.

SAM

One-Eye?

WAI

Yeah. Ah-Leung lost his left eye when he was tortured. So he wants
(MORE)

WAI (cont'd)
to remind everyone how tough and
mean he is.

SAM
Does he intend to infiltrate
Australia?

WAI
Yeah. He also wants revenge. All of
us in this room are at the top of
his hit-list.

SAM
That doesn't surprise me.

NEIL
My mates in the police will watch
out for any unusual Asian gang
activity but we've just got to be
alert.

INT. SYDNEY HOSPICE. DAY.

Betty is lying in her hospice bed, straining to hang on her
last few minutes of life. Sam is sitting beside her, holding
her hands.

As Betty takes her last breath, Sam is in tears.

EXT. ROOKWOOD CREMATORIUM, SYDNEY. DAY

Mourners are leaving after an emotional service. MAY Chin,
Sam's adopted sister, approaches him and the pair embrace.

MAY
Nora told me you are flying back to
Darwin in a few days.

SAM
I'm taking Betty's ashes back to
Darwin... I need to tell you
something.

MAY
What Sam?

SAM
I've made you the executor of my
Will. If anything happens to me,
make sure you bury my ashes next to
Betty.

MAY
Oh Sam.

The two embrace again.

EXT. DARWIN CEMETARY. DAY.

The service to intern Betty's ashes is wrapping up. Sam is seen walking away alone from a small group of mourners, mostly family and close friends. Among the mourners is Colin Jnr and his family. Sam reaches the grave of his father, where he lays a fresh bunch of flowers.

SAM
(Speaking to gravestone)
Dad... I may not be back for a long
time.

Scene fades as Sam is seen gazing quietly at his father's grave.

EXT. SYDNEY - INNER CITY SUBURB. DUSK.

Nora is walking towards the apartment formerly owned by Ka-Ming, Sam's former mentor, and now owned by Wai. She knocks on the door and Sam opens it.

SAM
You're late.

NORA
Sorry Dad. Got lost in the narrow
streets.

Sam closes the door and the pair walks down the street towards the city.

NORA (CONT'D)
Have you settled into the
apartment?

SAM
Yeh. But Wai is not the type who's
into furniture. You haven't met
Wai, have you?

NORA
No. I know you talked about him
with Mom many times.

SAM
Listen. If at anytime you are in
trouble and you can't contact me,
contact Wai. After dinner, I'll
take you to see him at his Kung Fu
school.

NORA
What do you mean if I can't contact
you? Are you going back to Darwin?

SAM

No. I've decided to do something that I promised your Mom. Anyway, Darwin is not the same without her. Do you want go back to Darwin?

NORA

No. I have some great news for you.

SAM

You want to stay in Sydney?

NORA

More than that, Dad. You know Ray? The young man who's been taking me out lately?

SAM

The guy from the family who live next door to Auntie May?

NORA

Yes... He's asked me to marry him...

SAM

Oh... Wow.

NORA

I said yes.

Sam breaks into a big smile and he hugs Nora.

SAM

How did I miss this?

NORA

You were so focused on Mom, I didn't want to bother you.

SAM

This is wonderful. Let's go and tell Mick.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - CHINATOWN. NIGHT

Sam, Nora and Mick are having dinner in Sam's favourite restaurant, enjoying Sam's favourite dish, Crispy Skin Chicken.

MICK

(To Nora)

I thought you and Ray were getting a little too close.

NORA

(To Mick)

You know, Ray is a close friend of the Fong boys. I can still remember Ray teasing me when we were young, the first time we came down to Sydney. You didn't know I started writing letters to him a few years ago?

MICK

Ray, a letter writing romantic? Ha ha.

NORA

Hey. He's a gentleman. Not like the Fong boys.

MICK

Congratulation anyway, Sis.

NORA

Thanks.

MICK

(To both Sam and Nora)

Now, I have my own bit of breaking news.

SAM

You're not getting married too?

MICK

No, Dad... I start my police training next month. I'm joining the Police Force.

Sam is shocked. There is a silence as Sam digests this news.

MICK (CONT'D)

What's wrong, Dad?

SAM

It's OK. Sorry. This is a surprise.

NORA

Congratulations to you, Mick.

MICK

Dad. I told Mom that I wanted to join the force years ago. She warned me not to tell you.

SAM

Look, I have my reasons. Mick, if you want this then go for it.

MICK

It is what I want.

SAM

Okay. Just one thing. If I ever find out you are involved in corrupt behaviour, I will personally beat the shit out of you.

MICK

Relax Dad. I will make you proud of me.

INT. MELBOURNE CAFE. DAY.

Sam walks into a quiet and fashionable cafe where Kerry is waiting. Kerry stands up and the pair hugs.

KERRY

It's so nice to see you again, Sam

SAM

I'm sorry it's been so long.

The pair sit down.

KERRY

I heard that you had a lot to deal with. Your wife's illness and all that. How is she?

SAM

She passed away a few weeks ago.

KERRY

(With some guilt)

Oh... Sorry Sam, I'm really sorry.

SAM

It's Okay...(Long pause)

KERRY

You said on the phone that you wanted a favour.

SAM

Oh yes. I'm in Melbourne for the next few weeks to start researching my family history.

KERRY

Your adopted family?

SAM

No. My biological one. My mother and father grew up in Melbourne. I just need somewhere to stay for a few weeks. Can I stay in your Bendigo house?

KERRY

Sure Sam. I only use it for the occasional weekends. Can you do a few maintenance jobs for me?

SAM

Absolutely.

KERRY

There are also Ka-Ming's books in the garage. Just haven't had time to organise a clean-out.

SAM

You're Okay if I take some books myself?

KERRY

All yours... Why didn't you call me earlier about this?

SAM

I'm staying in a hotel around the corner. I had so many things to organise that I forgot to let you know.

KERRY

So what's your plan? Are you doing anything in the next few days.

SAM

I am seeing my half-sister tomorrow. My mother's first child.

KERRY

You didn't tell me about a sister in Melbourne.

SAM

I only found out myself recently. I confess that I'm kinda nervous. Seeing you today really helps.

KERRY

(With laughter)

You really are a big softie.

SAM

(With a grin)

Yeah, OK. And you're a big bully.

EXT. MELBOURNE HOUSE. DAY.

Sam opens the gate and walks down a footpath to the house's front door. He hesitates and fidgets as nervous energy builds. He knocks on the door.

A dignified older woman, KAREN, opens the door.

SAM
Karen Watson?

KAREN
(While staring at Sam)
You must be Sam.

SAM
Yes.

Karen steps out of the doorway and hugs Sam.

KAREN
Please. Come in.

SAM
Thank you.

INT. MELBOURNE HOUSE. DAY.

Sam and Karen are sitting in the dining room where Karen has served tea and cake.

SAM (CONT'D)
You live here by yourself?

KAREN
My husband passed away a few years ago. But my daughter lives in the next suburb. Do you have children?

SAM
Yes. A daughter and a son, and a step-son... I'm sorry it has taken so long to get in touch with you. I only found out about our relationship a few years ago,

KAREN
When I was younger, I dreamed about meeting you. But once you start working and having a family, you lose control over your life.

SAM
I totally understand that. How did you know about me? I thought your father broke off all contact with Mom.

KAREN
I knew about Mom's death because your father, Colin, wrote a number of letters to Uncle Paul, Therese's younger brother. That's how I knew you existed.

SAM

Colin kept a lot of things to himself.

KAREN

Did you know Uncle Paul tried to track you down?

SAM

You mean he visited Darwin after Colin died?

KAREN

Yes. Paul realised there was something wrong when the letters stopped. He contacted the Police in Darwin and was told the news.

SAM

What happened then?

KAREN

He told me later, when I was old enough to understand. He said you went missing.

SAM

I believe my guardians were a little too protective of me.

KAREN

Why would someone hide you?

SAM

A story for another time. There is so much that I don't know about Mom.

KAREN

My memories are limited. I was five years old when Mom left us. Luckily, Uncle Paul filled in the gaps.

SAM

Is Uncle Paul still alive?

KAREN

Sadly no. He passed away nearly twenty years ago. I do have his letters from Colin. Do you want to see them?

SAM

Wow. Absolutely.

Karen walks to her bedroom and returns with a shoe box containing a number of letters and photos. Meanwhile, Sam looks at some of Karen's family photos. He is drawn to one

photo in particular, a family portrait with Karen as a young girl, Therese and Joseph, Karen's father.

KAREN

(Seeing Sam staring at
the photo)

That photo was never displayed
openly when my father was still
alive. God bless him. He forgave
Therese when he found out about her
death. But he could never look at
it for too long.

SAM

(Still looking at the
photo)

The Chinese use to believe a photo
captured your soul. I can see why
they believed that.

KAREN

Sam. You want to take these letters
with you?

SAM

Thanks Karen. I'll bring them back
soon.

KAREN

It's Okay, Sam. You keep them.

INT. BENDIGO HOUSE. DAY.

Sam is sitting on the couch reading the letters from his
father, Colin, to his uncle. He occasionally stops to look
at old family photos.

EXT. BENDIGO HOUSE. DAY.

Sam approaches a modest house in another suburb in Bendigo.
FIONA, an attractive, Eurasian woman, answers the door.
Fiona is almost the same age as Sam.

SAM

Hi. Are you Fiona?

FIONA

Yes. Why are you asking?

SAM

You don't know me but I am friend
of Kerry Tang. She gave me your
address.

FIONA

Are you Sam?

SAM

Yes. I guess Kerry mentioned me.
Anyway, my parents knew your
parents. I believe your mother,
Jin-yi, took care of me when I was
a baby.

FIONA

Please come in.

EXT. FIONA'S HOUSE. DAY

Sam and Fiona are sitting on a deck at the back of the
house.

SAM

Nice garden.

FIONA

Thanks. I'm curious about why you
wanted to see me. Are you doing a
family history?

SAM

Kind of. I was too young when my
father died. And I was too young to
know anything about my real
parents.

FIONA

Kerry told me you were also a
friend of Ka-Ming.

SAM

Did you know him?

FIONA

No. Before she passed away, my
mother mentioned how surprised she
was when Ka-Ming told her about
you.

SAM

I heard she died soon afterwards.

FIONA

Yeh. It was sad. At least she knew
you had lived a full life after
your parents' deaths.

SAM

Did your mother keep a diary?

FIONA

Funny you should mention that.

SAM

Why?

FIONA

She wrote a lot of things. But it's all in Chinese.

SAM

And you can't read it?

FIONA

Yeh. It's embarrassing. I've been thinking of getting someone to translate them for me.

SAM

Ahh. I think I can help. If you give them to me for a week, I can translate them for you.

FIONA

Wow. You read and write Chinese?

SAM

Yeh. I was adopted and raised by a literature loving, Chinese family.

FIONA

Sam, you sure have an interesting history.

SAM

I hope to write my family history one day. You will be the first to get a copy.

Fiona's husband, MARIO, enters.

FIONA

(To Mario)

Hello Dear. (To Sam) Sam. This is my husband, Mario.

The pair shake hands.

EXT. BENDIGO HOUSE. DAY.

Sam and Kerry are relaxing on the back deck.

KERRY

How has your week been?

SAM

Incredible. Oh. Thanks for introducing me to Fiona.

KERRY

That's cool. It's been fun to help you piece together your history... So are you going to tell me?

SAM
(With laughter)
You just want to hear a good story.

KERRY
I'm a sucker for a good yarn.

Note

Start of Colin's Story.

INT. MELBOURNE INNER-CITY APARTMENT. DAY.

1920. Melbourne. COLIN is seen entering an apartment building carrying suitcases. He climbs a set of stairs as he passes another tenant, JOSEPH, who is Therese's husband. Joseph is a solidly built, young man of southern European descent. The two men acknowledge each other without saying a word. Joseph's manner is intense as he appears to be in a hurry, while Colin is alert and curious as he survey's his new surroundings. As Colin opens his apartment door, the door across the hallway opens, revealing a young, beautiful woman, THERESE, and her young child, KAREN. Mother and child appear to be on their way out for a day visiting friends or family. Colin and Therese make brief eye contact.

Colin looks around his new apartment, checking the amenities with a critical eye.

EXT. RACECOURSE. DAY

Colin is working as a bookmaker, shouting betting prices to punters in front of a chalkboard sign. His employer, O'KANE, is counting the day's takings as the race day draws to an end. O'Kane is an older, experienced bookmaker of Irish descent. A young man, HARVEY, who is also a bookmaker, approaches COLIN.

HARVEY
Hey Colin. How's your day?

COLIN
Good mate. Couldn't ask for better.

HARVEY
Mine was shit. Old Casey needs to retire. I told him he needs to let us young blokes do it.

COLIN
Well, (Nodding to his employer, telling Harvey he has to be discreet) we have our ups and downs.

HARVEY
(To O'Kane)
Hey, Mr O'Kane. You looking for another bookmaker?

O'KANE

Fuck off. If I needed one it wouldn't be you. I heard what you said about Casey. He may be a competitor, but he's got more balls than you'll ever have.

HARVEY

(In a mocking tone)

Thanks for the compliment, Mr O'Kane.

COLIN

C'mon Harvey. Bury it. I'll see you at the tea house later.

HARVEY

(As he walks away)

See you later.

O'KANE

Hey, Colin, why are you a friend of his?

COLIN

He's an old schoolmate, Mr O'Kane. He got me into this business when we left school.

O'KANE

Just watch your back. I don't trust him.

INT. MELBOURNE TEA HOUSE. DAY.

Colin and Harvey are sitting in a busy, fashionable tea house. In between drinking tea, the young men are looking at young women, who themselves are looking at them and other young men in the venue.

COLIN

What's this between you and Mr O'Kane?

HARVEY

Sorry, mate. All the old bastards at the races are pissing me off. Old Casey told me to start looking for another job. Once he gets a replacement, I'm out.

COLIN

Shit. Sorry mate.

HARVEY

But Casey's right. This meat and potatoes betting is just wasting my time.

COLIN

So what are you going to do?

HARVEY

I've got a contact in Sydney. In the racing business of course. He's got a proposal that sounds like a money spinner. Maybe a bit dodgy but, mate, I'm all open to any plan.

COLIN

Well, I'll miss your shit stirring.

HARVEY

No worries. If it looks like a goer, I'll let you know too.

COLIN

Thanks, but I'm happy at the moment.

HARVEY

(Looking at one of the women in the tea house)
I'll be happy too if that woman wants to make a bet with me.

COLIN

Ahh shit. You better go ahead and give her your best odds. I'm going home.

HARVEY

You sure you don't want a double-up?

COLIN

(With a smile as he gets up to leave)
Yeh.

HARVEY

Colin, you always were too good for everyone.

COLIN

(With a smile)
Yeh. Fuck off.

INT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY APARTMENT. DAY.

As Colin opens his apartment door, he hears a loud and violent argument coming from Therese's and Joseph's apartment. He stops to listen, hoping it doesn't escalate. After a few minutes, there is a lull and Colin enters and closes the door.

EXT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY APARTMENT. MORNING.

Sunday morning. Church bells are ringing in the distance. Colin is seen walking down the apartment stairs and he encounters Therese and Karen on the street. Therese is straightening Karen's prim looking dress as Colin approaches.

COLIN
(To Therese)
Good moring.

THERESE
Hello.

COLIN
Off to church?

THERESE
Yes. You're the new tenant, are you?

COLIN
Yes. Moved in last week. I saw you when I was moving in.

THERESE
My name is Therese, and this is my daughter, Karen.

COLIN
Nice to meet you. (To Karen) And to you, young lady... Colin's my name.

THERESE
Are you a Catholic?

COLIN
Well. I was baptised as one. But a non-believer now.

THERESE
You're welcome to come to St Mary's Church with us.

COLIN
No thank you. Is there a park nearby?

THERESE
There's a park down the road from St Mary's.

COLIN
Hope you don't mind if I walk with you.

THERESE

Please. You can always change your mind about church. It's never too late.

COLIN

(With a laugh)

Maybe. Who knows. The confessional is maybe what I need.

Colin and Theres continue their light-hearted banter as they walk down the road.

INT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

In his apartment, Colin is preparing his dinner as a knock on his door interrupts him. He opens the door and is greeted by Harvey.

HARVEY

Hey mate. You're not entertaining a guest, are you?

COLIN

No Harvey. Come in.

HARVEY

Look. I won't be long. I just wanted to say good-bye.

COLIN

What? Is it this Sydney thing?

HARVEY

Yep. Mate, I wish I could tell you but I don't know much about it yet. It promises to be a winner though. You want to join me?

COLIN

Sorry, mate. It sounds a bit dodgy.

HARVEY

Look, my contact guarantees I can make double or four times the money old Casey was paying me.

COLIN

Yeah, but at what risk? Not for me. Anyway, good luck to you.

HARVEY

Are you sure you're not interested?

COLIN

I'm good at the moment.

HARVEY
(Giving Colin a note)
This is my address in Sydney. See
me sometime. At least send me a
Christmas card.

COLIN
Thanks.

The two men hug. Harvey leaves.

INT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Colin is walking past his apartment door when he hears a loud argument coming from Therese's apartment. He stops and puts his ear closer to his door to listen. After a short period, he hears the door open and close, and loud footsteps going down the stairs along with a few loud obscenities. Colin opens his door to check if Joseph has left the building. He walks to Therese's door and knocks several times.

COLIN
Therese. Hello. Are you alright?

THERESE
(From behind the closed
door)
Colin. Please leave me alone.

COLIN
Just wanted to check if you're
alright.

THERESE
(With tears)
Yes. Yes. Please go.

COLIN
(With hesitation)
I'm home if you need me.

With no response, Colin slowly returns to his apartment.

INT. SYDNEY CITY PUB. NIGHT.

Harvey and a small-time criminal, THE FIXER, are sitting in a quiet corner of a pub.

THE FIXER
Have you got that job on the track?

HARVEY
No problems. Mate... So what now.

THE FIXER
Good. Remember what I said last
time. Anything I tell you is
(MORE)

THE FIXER (cont'd)
between us. If my governor finds
you can't keep your mouth shut, he
will find a way to silence you
permanently. Understand?

HARVEY
Understood. So far, I know shit.

THE FIXER
You're a man who knows the odds on
the track.

HARVEY
Yeah. So?

THE FIXER
What if you knew a horse had less
handicap weight than the official
weight the stewards see...

HARVEY
That horse would win at favourable
odds. You would make a killing at
the expense of other dead shit
punters.

THE FIXER
Exactly. My governor has found a
way to fix the weight without the
stewards knowing it.

HARVEY
But that's impossible. The stewards
watch the jockey get off the horse
and then weigh the jockey and the
saddle. It's impossible to do a
switch.

THE FIXER
That's what everyone believes. What
if the weighing scale could be
fiddled whenever you wanted. What
about that?

HARVEY
Shit. You're telling me someone can
pull a string and the weight shown
is more than it really is?

THE FIXER
Bingo. But there is a problem. If
you do it too often, someone is
bound to catch it.

HARVEY
So, we do it every now and then.

THE FIXER

Exactly. We also rotate the jockeys so the stewards don't see a pattern.

HARVEY

Mate. We have a gold mine.

THE FIXER

I need to remind you. My governor still takes the big share. But we all get a cut.

HARVEY

Hang on. How do I fit into this fix-up?

THE FIXER

We need a bookie at the track who's going to give us the best odds. But be careful. Don't break your boss's business or we all lose.

HARVEY

Don't worry. Bookies are the house, and the house always wins. In this case, we all win.

THE FIXER

As from today, we don't know each other. Come in here every Friday evening. If you see me, there will be an envelope on the table. Take it and walk away. That's all you'll need.

HARVEY

What if there's a problem?

THE FIXER

You leave me a note. But I warn you. My governor doesn't give anyone a second chance.

The two men leave the pub.

EXT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY STREET. MORNING.

Colin is walking past the local Catholic Church where he meets Therese talking to a young man, PAUL. Their eyes meet and Therese indicates to Colin to wait.

COLIN

Good Morning.

THERESE

Colin, I'd like you to meet my younger brother Paul.

The men shake hands.

PAUL
Nice to meet you.

COLIN
Same here.

PAUL
Sorry I can't hang around. (To
Therese) Next month Therese?

THERESE
Yes of course.

Brother and sister hug as Paul leaves.

COLIN
Where's Karen today?

THERESE
She's spending the weekend with my
in-laws. Every now and then she
plays with her cousins and Joseph
gets to spend time with his
parents.

COLIN
How come you're not with them?

THERESE
I confess, they don't like me.

COLIN
How did you and Joseph meet?

THERESE
My husband runs a cafe with his
parents and I was looking for a
job. Of course, I ended up working
for them and that's how it all
started.

COLIN
The other night. The fight?

THERESE
That. Please don't let it worry
you. If Joseph has a bad day at the
cafe, he gets a bit touchy.

COLIN
That is still no excuse for
behaving like that.

THERESE
Please, Colin. Let it go.

COLIN

If you ever need help, please see me.

THERESE

Look. Joseph can be hot tempered but he is sweet and loving most of the time.

INT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Colin is finishing dinner quietly in his room when there is a knock on his door. He opens it to see a beautifully dressed Therese.

THERESE

Hello, Colin. I'm not bothering you, am I?

COLIN

No...no. Wow. You look like you're dressed for a serious evening.

THERESE

I cooked and had everything ready for Joseph. It's his birthday today, so I had a surprise for him... But...

COLIN

Oh. He hasn't returned yet?

THERESE

I'm feeling lonely Colin...

The pair embrace with passion as the pent up sexual tension is released. The pair ends up in Colin's bed.

INT. VARIOUS APARTMENT AND OUTDOOR SCENES. DAY/NIGHT

Over a number of weeks, the relationship becomes stronger as Colin and Therese spends more time together. The pair is also careful in hiding their liaisons.

INT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Colin and Therese are sleeping after a evening of passion. But on this night, they make the fateful mistake of doing so in Therese's apartment while Karen is asleep in the another room.

Joseph enters without suspecting anything and walks to the bedroom. As he reaches the bedroom, the sleeping couple awoken.

JOSEPH

(With intense anger)

You.. You bastard.

COLIN

Oh shit.

Joseph grabs Colin and starts beating him mercilessly.

THERESE

(With hysterical tears)

No. Joseph. No.

It becomes apparent that Colin is in serious trouble as Therese throws herself into the fight to protect Colin. Joseph stops after exhausting himself.

JOSEPH

You (To Therese), get out of here... I'm taking Karen to my mom... If I ever see you and this shit again, I'll kill him.

Joseph wakes up Karen and leaves with her. Therese nurses Colin, hoping he is not seriously injured.

INT. MELBOURNE INNER CITY APARTMENT. DAY.

Colin's apartment. The next day, Colin is in bed as Therese enters into the bedroom. Colin sits up in bed carefully as he is bruised and swollen, and sees Therese in tears.

COLIN

Therese. Where did you go?

THERESE

I went to see Joseph at his parents' place. I was hoping to see Karen.

COLIN

Was Joseph calm?

THERESE

He didn't want to speak to me. His father told me to never see the family again.

COLIN

What about Karen?

THERESE

They will never let me see her again... (Breaking into uncontrollable sobbing)

COLIN

(As he hugs Therese)

We will sort things out. Give it time. At least when Karen is older, she will want to see you again.

THERESE

I hope so. I hope so.

After a long silence as they comfort each other, Colin makes a fateful decision.

COLIN

I know what we have to do... Let's leave Melbourne. I've got a friend who can help us settle in Sydney.

EXT. SYDNEY LUNA PARK. DAY.

Therese and Colin meet up with Harvey and a female Chinese friend, JIN-YI, in Sydney's Luna Park. After the introductions, the two women walk ahead, talking and laughing as they build a friendship.

HARVEY

So you've finally seen the light.

COLIN

Well. Circumstances have changed. I didn't want to stay in Melbourne.

HARVEY

Look mate. You will not regret the decision... You're lucky. My contact wants a new bookie.

COLIN

You're a lucky man too. Her friend seem like a lovely woman. But going out with a Chinese woman, doesn't it bother you?

HARVEY

Of course not. She is my opposite. Cultured. Caring... She's had a better education than I have... Therese also seems like a nice woman.

COLIN

Problem though. She's still married.

HARVEY

Shit. You've definitely taken a bad turn.

COLIN

The divorce will take a while.

HARVEY

Do you want to delay your start? Maybe take a few more weeks off.

COLIN

I'd love to Harvey. But someone has to pay the rent and buy food.

HARVEY

Okay. Let's make it this weekend. Meet me at the track.

The two women stop at a stand where a photographer is taking photos for a fee. The men catch up to them.

JIN-YI

(To Harvey)

How about a photo? We can get a group one and save some money.

HARVEY

(To Colin and Therese)

How about it people?

THERESE

Love it.

COLIN

Okay. (To Harvey) But this is on me.

HARVEY

You sure?

COLIN

It is the least I can do to return the favour.

HARVEY

Oh. I'm sure you will return the favour one day.

The group organises themselves as the photographer takes the photo. This photograph will be seen by a future Sam in Part 2, the Gambler's Will. After this session, the group heads to the next attraction with Harvey chatting to Therese, while Colin strolls with Jin-Yi.

COLIN

Thanks for cheering Therese up.

JIN-YI

Oh. My pleasure. She makes me laugh just as much.

COLIN

She's had a hard time lately. So seeing her laugh so much today is a joy. Thanks, Jie..(He struggles to pronounce her name)

JIN-YI
(With laughter)
Please call me Jinny. No-one can
say my name properly.

INT. SYDNEY APARTMENT. DAY.

Several months later, the two couples have developed a strong and close relationship. Colin and Therese have also settled into a fashionable apartment, reflecting the wealth brought on by the crooked betting scam.

Colin and Harvey enter the apartment after a long day at the race track to find Jin-Yi and Therese enjoying an afternoon of cooking.

HARVEY
Hey girls. What's this cooking? I
thought we're eating Chinese
tonight?

JIN-YI
Change in plans tonight, Harvey. We
are having Chinese but Colin and
Therese are celebrating privately
tonight.

COLIN
We are?

THERESE
Yes. It's a surprise.

JIN-YI
Come on Harvey. Time to go.

HARVEY
What the hurry?

JIN-YI
Private time for them. (With
mocking authority) We have to go.

Jin-Yi and Harvey leave as Colin steps in to help Therese.

COLIN
Okay. What's going on? It's not my
birthday today.

THERESE
(With a big smile)
You'd better put that knife down.

COLIN
Can I get a drink then?

THERESE
Later. (She approaches Colin and
softly hugs him) I'm expecting.

COLIN

Oh my god.

THERESE

Yes. I saw the doctor this morning.

COLIN

This is great news.

INT. SYDNEY HOSPITAL. NIGHT.

Therese is lying on a hospital bed in the final stages of labour. Jin-Yi is present along with a mid-wife. Sam is born, with the friends sharing the joy of holding the crying baby boy.

JIN-YI

Oh Therese. He's beautiful.

Although happy and smiling, the strain of giving birth has left Therese exhausted.

INT. SYDNEY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Colin and Therese are in bed as baby Sam disturb their sleep. Therese awakens first and prompts Colin to take care of crying Sam.

THERESE

Sorry dear. I'm feeling tired tonight. Can you go and feed Sam?

COLIN

Of course... Are you alright. You've been looking really tired lately.

THERESE

I will be Okay. Just need more sleep.

Colin finishes feeding Sam in the living room and returns to bed to find Therese unconscious. At first, Colin believes she is sleeping but something triggers his concern that Therese has suffered some trauma.

INT. SYDNEY HOSPITAL. NIGHT.

Colin is sitting in the waiting area with Sam in his arms. Jin-Yi and Harvey arrive.

JIN-YI

How's Therese?

COLIN

(With red teary eyes)
She suffered a heart attack. She didn't make it.

JIN-YI

Oh no.

HARVEY

Oh mate. I'm so sorry.

The three friends exchange hugs and cry. Slow fade away scene.

INT. SYDNEY APARTMENT. DAY.

One year later. Colin arrives home. Since Therese's death, Jin-Yi has been Sam's carer when Colin is at work. As Colin enters the apartment, he hears Jin-Yi singing a Chinese lullaby to Sam. As he approaches, Jin-Yi puts her finger to her lips, giving the "Ssh" gesture. Colin realises that Jin-Yi is holding Sam and trying to lull him to sleep.

He sits down beside her and gently strokes Sam. After a short silence Jin-Yi carries Sam to the bedroom

JIN-YI

(As she enters)

Where's Harvey?

COLIN

He had a business meeting. Should only be a couple of hours.

JIN-YI

You had a good day?

COLIN

Okay I guess.

JIN-YI

How about a cup of tea?

COLIN

Thanks

Jin-Yi enters into the kitchen and returns to find Colin crying. She places the tea cups on the table and sits beside Colin.

JIN-YI

What's wrong?

COLIN

Sorry. I realised this morning that it has been a year since Therese's passing. It's been a long day.

She puts her arm around Colin to comfort him. The pair share a quiet moment as Colin composes himself.

JIN-YI

I know it hurts but you still have Sam. That's the important thing.

COLIN

I know... Jinny. I don't know what I would do without you... And to think I almost adopted Sam out.

JIN-YI

No, Colin, never even think about that.

COLIN

Don't worry. I would never do anything like that now. Sam is everything to me.

The pair hugs.

EXT. SYDNEY PUB. NIGHT.

Harvey and the Fixer are sitting in a pub, a different one from the scene where they first met.

HARVEY

Why are we meeting?

THE FIXER

Something's happened.

HARVEY

Not something I've done?

THE FIXER

That's what I need to find out.

HARVEY

What do you fucking mean?

THE FIXER

I saw you with the local police inspector today.

HARVEY

I get police officers who punt with us all the time. So what?

THE FIXER

A few weeks ago I got bailed up by that inspector. Somehow he knew about the scam. We're paying him off now. My governor is fucking breathing fire.

HARVEY

Oh shit. And you think it's me who let the bird out of the cage.

THE FIXER

Well... What do you have to say about it?

HARVEY

Look. It was definitely not me.
Fucking no way.

THE FIXER

(After a long menacing
stare)

Alright. I have no proof. But...

HARVEY

(Interjecting)

Fucking hell. Like I would risk
everything.

THE FIXER

My governor does not forget or
forgive. If you shit anywhere near
a police station, you will eat it.
Understand?

Harvey nods timidly. The Fixer walks away.

INT. SYDNEY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Harvey arrives at Colin's apartment looking nervous. Jin-Yi
and Colin are listening to the radio.

HARVEY

Hi Dear.

COLIN

Hey Harvey.

JIN-YI

Harvey... Are you alright?

HARVEY

I've got to talk to Colin for ten
minutes. Outside.

EXT. SYDNEY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Harvey and Colin step out into the street in front of the
apartment where it is quiet.

HARVEY

Mate. I think I've fucked up.

COLIN

What did you do?

HARVEY

A few weeks ago, I had one too many
drink with a mate. I was bragging
about our scam... I forgot that he
was a police officer.

COLIN

Ah shit.

HARVEY

But that's not the bad part. He went to see our contact. Now, the gang is paying him hush money.

COLIN

Doesn't that solve the problem?

HARVEY

No mate. The gang knows it's me, or they think it's me. Whatever. They're going to know the truth soon.

COLIN

What are you going to do?

HARVEY

I'm out of here. Leaving Sydney tomorrow.

COLIN

What about Jinny?

HARVEY

We're going home tonight and I'm going to propose. She's always wanted it so now is a good time. I'm going to tell her the truth. She deserves that.

COLIN

(After a pause)

So this is it.

HARVEY

Mate. If were you I would also think about leaving the scam.

COLIN

But I didn't do anything. I don't need this threat. I don't want anything to happen to Sam.

HARVEY

Okay. Okay... Look, I know you will miss Jinny. I'm sorry she wont be here to care for Sam.

COLIN

That's OK. The couple downstairs is retired. They have always wanted to help. I'll take care of him too.

HARVEY

I'm sorry about all this.

The two men hug.

INT. SYDNEY APARTMENT. DAY.

Various scenes that follows Sam as he grows up from one to five years of age.

SAM (V/O)

The next few years, things were going well. When Colin was working, I was cared for by a retired couple who live in the same apartment. He was making good money at the race track. But each year their profits from the scam were getting less as more cash was paid out as hush money. Then one day, the inevitable happened.

EXT. SYDNEY RACECOURSE. DAY.

Colin is working in the betting area as the crowd of punters places the last bets before a race. As the race starts, a fellow bookie walks to Colin's stall.

BOOKIE

Hey, Murphy. Did you hear the amazing news?

COLIN

No. What?

BOOKIE

The stewards just caught a bloke fiddling with the weigh-in scales.

COLIN

No shit.

BOOKIE

The police are on their way. The shit people do to get an advantage, Ah.

COLIN

Yeah. You're right.

BOOKIE

Well. What's your favourite for the next race?

COLIN

Good one, mate. Like I'm going give you my tips.

BOOKIE

(With laughter)

Have to keep trying.

The bookie walks away, leaving Colin looking worried.

EXT. SYDNEY RACECOURSE. DAY.

The race day is wrapping up as the bookies do their end-of-day reconciliations. A pair of racecourse officials walks towards Colin's stall.

COLIN

What can I do for you gentlemen?

STEWARD 1

(Handing Colin an envelope)

Mr Murphy. You are required to appear before a steward committee this Monday morning. If you fail to attend, you will be banned from all racecourses.

The officials walk away, leaving a stunned Colin. The other bookies stare at him with disapproval.

EXT. SYDNEY PUB. NIGHT.

Colin meets the Fixer at their usual pub.

COLIN

What fucking happened today? I've got to front up to the stewards on Monday.

THE FIXER

It's over mate. Someone's fucking betrayed us. (In a threatening tone) Was it you?

COLIN

Shit no.

THE FIXER

You and Harvey were friends, right?

COLIN

(Sensing danger)

I had nothing to do with the inspector...

Colin realises his mistake.

THE FIXER

I never told you about the copper... You and Harvey have been working together from the beginning. (Pulling out his knife) You shit.

Colin reacts quickly by kicking at the Fixer's knee. As he falls, Colin swings at his head, knocking him unconscious. Colin runs away from the scene.

INT. SYDNEY APARTMENT. NIGHT.

Back at home, Colin hurriedly pack two suitcases, one for him and one for Sam. He leaves the apartment and walks to the downstairs apartment where Sam is being cared for by MRS SMITH.

COLIN

Evening, Mrs Smith. Sorry I'm late.
How's Sam?

MRS SMITH

Wonderful. (Turns to the living room) Sam, your dad's here.

Sam rushes to Colin and gives him a hug.

SAM

Dad, you should see what I did today.

COLIN

Sorry Sam. Dad's in a hurry. (To Mrs Smith) This is going to be a shock, Mrs Smith. I have to leave Sydney urgently.

MRS SMITH

Did something happen to your family?

COLIN

Kinda of. I need a big favour.

MRS SMITH

Sure Colin.

COLIN

(Taking out cash)
Please give this to the landlord.
I've included an extra month's rent.

MRS SMITH

Are you coming back?

COLIN

No... I'm grateful to you and Mr Smith for taking care of Sam over the years.

MRS SMITH

Don't mention it. Sam's been a wonderful boy. (Looking at Sam with sadness) Take care Sam.

Note

End of Colin's story.

EXT. BENDIGO HOUSE. DAY.

Sam and Kerry are still on the back deck when Sam has finished telling his father's life story. Sam is quietly looking up at the sky as Kerry follows Sam's example and quietly meditates, looking at the sky.

KERRY

I envy you, Sam. I hardly know
anything about my parents' lives.

SAM

It's funny. I feel closer to my
parents now and they have been dead
for years.

Kerry gently approaches and caresses Sam's face. The two kiss with some tenderness as they embrace.

INT. KU FUNG SCHOOL, NIGHT.

Wai is seated behind his desk in his office, finishing off paperwork. The door is left open. Students finishing the evening class are passing by the door, bidding goodnight to Wai. The last student, LEE, slowly approaches the door and stands in the doorway.

LEE

Ahh. Sifu. Can I talk to you about
something?

WAI

Sure Lee. Didn't you just come back
from Hong Kong?

LEE

Yes. I bought you something from
Hong Kong.

WAI

You didn't have to ...

Wai is shocked to see a gun pointing at him. Two shots are fired, killing Wai at his desk.

INT. BENDIGO HOUSE. DAY.

Late morning. Kerry and Sam are sleeping contently in Kerry's bed. The phone next to Kerry rings, which wakes both sleepers. Kerry picks up the phone.

KERRY

Hello. Kerry speaking.

Pauses as the caller talks.

KERRY (CONT'D)

Oh my god. No. No... Sam is here
with me. (To Sam) It's Neil.

She passes the phone to Sam, unable to continue the call.

SAM
Hello Neil. What's happened?...
Shit. Did Wai put up a fight?

EXT. ROOKWOOD CEMETERY. DAY.

A week later, Wai's friends are leaving the crematorium where Wai has been cremated. The mourners are leaving. Sam approaches YEE, his former lover and mutual friend of Wai. Yee is also Nathan's mother.

YEE
Sam, please be careful. I know all
this violence is Ah-Leung's fault.

SAM
I'm alright, Yee. But I'm worried
about you.

YEE
Death doesn't scare me. Ah-Leung
knows he can hurt me by hurting my
friends... Sam, if something
happens to you, I would be lost.

SAM
I care about you too.

Yee and Sam embrace.

SAM (CONT'D)
Where's Nathan today? Wai told me
that he and Nathan became friends
after Nathan got out of jail.

YEE
He was upset about Wai's murder,
more than anyone.

SAM
That's why I thought it was strange
he missed today.

YEE
He went to the funeral parlour last
night alone. Some of the students
from the Ku Fung school blame him
and his father, Ah-Leung, for all
this. Nathan didn't want a scene
today. It was his way to pay his
respects.

INT. WAI'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Some days after the funeral, Sam is visited by one of Wai's former Kung Fu student, Frank.

SAM

What's going to happen to the Kung Fu school?

FRANK

We're going to close it. The senior guys don't want to continue without Sifu.

SAM

Take a break. You may find inspiration from your memories of Wai.

FRANK

Thanks... I came here because Sifu gave me something some time ago. I thought he was crazy but I respected Sifu's wishes.

SAM

What is it?

FRANK

This.

Frank hands to Sam a package containing Wai's diary and notebooks.

INT. KINGS CROSS PUB. DAY.

Sam meets with BOB, a mate who served with Sam in the Korean War in the same Australian Intelligence Unit. Bob also played a critical part in the deportation plot in the Gambler's Will, carrying out his duties as an Immigration official.

BOB

I appreciate what you're saying, Sam. My fucking luck. I do my job to deport this Ah-leung and now I'm on his hit-list. What do we do?

SAM

I'm still thinking about options. You know the police have limited authority over this. Can the immigration department do anything to monitor Triad gang movements into Australia?

BOB

That is something I can do. But anyone can hire a cheap hit man. No need for a professional to point a gun and shoot.

SAM
I know. Let's watch each other's
back.

INT. YEE'S HOUSE. DAY.

Sam is sitting in Yee's living room

YEE
Thanks for seeing me Sam. This is
so awful.

SAM
What's wrong?

YEE
Nathan hasn't been home for more
than a week. That's not unusual. If
he wants to hang out with friends,
I can't stop him.

SAM
So what's making you worry now?

YEE
This letter.

Yee hands Sam a letter, neatly typed in English. Sam begins
to read it.

SAM
It's from Ah-Leung. Nathan's been
forced to join him or Ah-Leung will
kill you. Looks like Nathan had to
sacrifice himself for you...
Ah-Leung is also warning you off
from seeking help. Probably he
means someone like me.

YEE
Oh God... Nathan.

Sam hugs Yee as she cries.

INT. MELBOURNE ART MUSEUM. DAY

Sam is waiting in the Asian Gallery in the Art Museum of
Victoria, looking at the Japanese woodcut prints. Gordon
LAWSON, former commander of the Australian military
intelligence unit that Sam served in during the Korean War,
approaches him quietly.

LAWSON
(While looking at the
artworks)
The Japanese were wonderful
exponents of Chinese art forms. In
fact they copied many art styles
but made them their own.

SAM

I agree, the Japanese knew a thing
or two about beauty.

LAWSON

(Turns to face Sam)

Sam, you would've been an inspiring
academic in Asian studies.

SAM

(Now looking at Lawson)

Sorry, Sir. Reading and writing has
always been a necessity rather than
a joy for me.

LAWSON

Sam, you must stop using "Sir". I'm
not your CO anymore.

SAM

I know. It's just hard to break old
habits.

LAWSON

How have you been?

SAM

Good... And some bad. Yourself,
Gordon?

LAWSON

Wonderful... I'm sorry to hear
about your wife. Coping with the
grief?

SAM

It still hurts but I try to
remember the happier times... Can
we go outside? I feel what I want
to talk about will taint the beauty
in front of us.

LAWSON

Of course.

The two men leave the Museum.

EXT. PARK OUTSIDE OF ART MUSEUM. DAY.

The two men are strolling slowly through the park opposite
the Art Museum of Victoria. Families, couples and joggers
are enjoying the clear day but the two men find a quieter
section of the park. They sit on a park bench away from the
crowd.

LAWSON

Why do you want to see me alone?

SAM

I have a big, personal favour to ask.

LAWSON

(Pauses)

You know that we can't use intelligence resources for personal gain. If the Press finds any hint of so called "favours", it would be a national scandal.

SAM

Gordon, you know I've been approached numerous times over the past twenty years as a source for information, particularly about the Australian Chinese community. They should compensate me for my time and efforts. But no, I always feel it is my duty to deliver and keep my mouth shut.

LAWSON

OK. I forget you are not on the government payroll. For me, being an academic has its drawbacks.

SAM

It seems once you're a spy, you're always a spy.

LAWSON

Anyhow, I may not be able to give you what you want. The intelligence community is not the same as it was, even five years ago. Most of my peers have retired or passed on.

SAM

We are still fighting a Cold War... I've heard rumours that beside the official intelligence committees, there is a secret, informal group that monitors all current and previous operatives.

LAWSON

How do you know about this?

SAM

I am guessing. But it makes sense. The spy masters don't want someone like me with all my secrets to switch sides. There's probably a secret protocol to deal with rogue ex-spies.

LAWSON
(Speaking with a smile)
You are something, Sam. Of course,
I cannot confirm or deny any of
this.

Lawson pauses, as Sam smiles back. Lawson turns away as he continues.

LAWSON (CONT'D)
Doesn't it bother you that all of
our successes are not celebrated or
acknowledged by anyone?

SAM
(Also looking away)
Well, it also includes our
failures. I don't care for rewards.
I really don't care what others
think. I do care about things that
involve my family and friends.

LAWSON
Is this something to do with your
previous underworld history?

SAM
Yes. There is someone who wants me
dead. Not just dead but to suffer.
And if that means my family is hurt
then my nemesis will not
hesitate... That's what I'm
dealing with.

LAWSON
Shit, Sam... OK. I think I can
offer you something. But it's a
quid pro quo. So think about it. I
can get you re-activated as a field
operative. It will be on a
short-term, contract basis.

SAM
That's fine with me. Thanks,
Gordon.

Both men pause as they watch people enjoying the park.

LAWSON
So what is the information you
need? What are you going to do with
it?

SAM
I want anything we have on two
Chinese Triad gangs, the 44K and
the Ko Sing gangs, their histories,
current and former members and
(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)
their leadership. I'm sure the intelligence would be out-of-date but I want all of the background stuff. I hope to find something that I can use to stop him.

LAWSON
Terminate with extreme prejudice?

SAM
If I have to.

LAWSON
Remember Sam, you'll have to reciprocate.

SAM
That will be easy. Anything I find while I track him down, the spy masters can have.

LAWSON
Let's go back to the Asian Gallery. I want to show you one of the new Chinese pieces there. It's my favourite.

INT. WAI'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Sam is sitting in the lounge room reading a book when there is a knock on the door. When he opens it, a plain clothes courier is holding a package. The courier looks at Sam and checks against a photo of Sam attached to the consignment note. After Sam signs the consignment note, he is given the package of secret documents. Sam settles at the dining table and opens the package. He starts to read.

INT. KINGS CROSS PUB. NIGHT.

Sam is sitting in his favourite pub with Bob, his ex-army mate.

SAM
You bastard. Why didn't you tell me you were still an active operative?

BOB
Fuck, you know the rules. And my job at the immigration department...

SAM
Yeah, I know. Being a public servant means the spy masters have strings to pull when they want something from you.

BOB

Oh come on, Sam. You're the same. When you're asked to do something for your country, your mates, you fucking do it. Didn't I help you when you asked me to deport that evil asshole Ah-Leung?

Sam nods in agreement and backs off.

SAM

I've read some of your reports about active gang members in Australia.

BOB

Yeah, but that stash of documents and immigration forms you gave me were still a goldmine. Remember, the intelligence I had was only for gang members in Australia. I had nothing on gang activities overseas.

SAM

Well, I found something interesting that we can use.

BOB

What do you mean "we"?

SAM

We're going after Ah-Leung, or One-Eye as he calls himself now.

BOB

Fuck, Sam. You are not getting me involved in some cowboy shootout or a gang hit team. I want this done by the book.

SAM

What if one day your wife finds you lying dead in front of your house?

BOB

I want to take down this Ah-Leung asshole as much as you do. But I am not going to break any law or piss off my spy mates... That's my position. Take it or I walk.

SAM

Alright... We do it your way. I don't have a plan yet anyway.

There is a quiet moment as the two men think over this decision.

BOB

You were saying that you had something interesting?

SAM

Oh yeah... Remember back in Korea when we were asked by the Yanks to help? We had to interrogate a company of Red Army, Cantonese-speaking soldiers who wanted to defect.

BOB

Vaguely.

SAM

Do you remember in the group there was this arrogant captain?

BOB

(Straining to recall)

Ahhh..

SAM

He baited you until I had to restrain you physically from beating the shit out of him.

BOB

Yeah. The memories are coming back to me now. How is this relevant?

SAM

Well, I remember you were annoyed afterwards. You said I was soft on him. I knew he was the first source who had valuable intelligence. Later, his defection was sanctioned by the Yanks.

BOB

So who is he now?

SAM

He's now the leader of the 44K Gang. Tsun-Nam's the name. This happened after Ah-Leung knocked off the last leader and after Ah-Leung took his loyal followers to form the One-Eye Gang.

BOB

You are fucking joking?

SAM

No. It's confirmed in the files by our spy mates in Hong Kong.

Bob smiles.

BOB
We have an obvious ally.

SAM
You've nailed it.

INT. BLUE MOUNTAINS HOUSE. DAY

At home in the Blue Mountains, Nora is on the phone to Mick, her younger brother.

NORA
That was a strange dinner with Dad last night.

MICK
You noticed that too.

NORA
Was he saying goodbye?

MICK
He is flying to Hong Kong tonight.

NORA
No. I mean... like he's never coming back.

MICK
Nora. I know Dad is involved in some shady stuff. You know he never talked about his war experience or his younger days in Sydney.

NORA
Mum did tell me that he was involved in gambling in a big way. So how is Hong Kong connected?

MICK
I found out from Neil that Dad was mixed up with the Triad gangs. You remember his old friend, Ka-Ming?

NORA
Of course.

MICK
Ka-Ming was a gang member.

NORA
So you think he's going to Hong Kong to deal with some gang related problem?

MICK
Definitely.

NORA

Maybe we should stop him at the airport.

MICK

Nora, he is a grown man. He is also a stubborn man. We'll have to trust him.

NORA

I pray he comes back.

MICK

Me too... There is something else you need to know, if he comes back.

NORA

What else is so important?

MICK

There is a new woman in his life now.

NORA

(With laughter)

Mick, now that is lame. Dad's love life is his business. I'll be happy if he comes back.

MICK

But... The woman is almost our age. Neil said Dad started this affair with a young woman, a relative of Ka-Ming.

NORA

Stop, Mick. I don't want to know.

INT. PLANE CABIN, EN ROUTE TO HONG KONG. MORNING.

Sam and Bob are seated together, with Bob in the window seat. The passengers are woken up as the flight captain is announcing that the flight is to arrive in Hong Kong shortly.

The two men sit silently as the plane approaches its destination. Minutes later, the plane's descent takes a spectacular turn as it banks away from the mountains around Kowloon and the New Territories. The plane's approach is also spectacular as it flies above the residential districts of Hong Kong towards Kai Tek Airport.

BOB

(Pointing to apartments below)

Hey Sam. Look at this. You can see the locals in their apartments watching TV.

SAM

Wow.

INT. HONG KONG HOTEL BAR. DAY.

Sam and Bob have checked into their hotel rooms and are waiting for a local contact in the hotel's bar.

SAM

So, who are we waiting for?

BOB

I have a contact in the Hong Kong police who is the local Interpol liaison officer. He monitors all local criminal activities that flow out to foreign countries like Australia.

SAM

What's our plan?

BOB

First, gather intelligence.

SAM

We don't have the luxury of time.

BOB

What Sam? Shoot first and ask questions later? Get fucking real. Two old white guys against a bunch of local badasses. That's suicide.

SAM

I'm sorry. Doing nothing is freaking me out.

Within a few minutes, a plain clothes police officer walks into the hotel bar, carrying a briefcase. He scans the bar until he recognises Bob. He walks to their table. There is brief exchange of greetings and handshakes between the men. The police officer hands over the briefcase and leaves. Sam and Bob also leave the bar and return to Bob's hotel room.

INT. HONG KONG HOTEL ROOM. DAY.

In Bob's hotel room, Sam and Bob are reading the files taken from the briefcase. Sam is sitting on a small couch while Bob is flicking pages on his bed.

BOB

I've got something here. There's a group of ex-Red Army veterans who meet regularly for reunions in Hong Kong. This group includes the company we interrogated in Korea.

SAM
You have a contact person for them?

BOB
Yep. Right here.

SAM
That's a fantastic start.

BOB
You found anything?

SAM
Names and addresses of known gang businesses in Hong Kong, but a lot of them are more than a few years old.

BOB
Also, we don't know whose side the gang members are on, now that One-Eye has taken his followers and split the 44K Gang.

SAM
You're right. The intelligence on the One-Eye Gang is missing.

INT. HONG KONG RESTAURANT. NIGHT.

Sam and Bob are eating and talking with a small group of ex-Red Army soldiers who have defected and settled in Hong Kong. The former enemies are obviously enjoying the reunion, sharing war stories and expressing relief that they have all survived. Sam and Bob are seated with the leader of the group, a former RED ARMY NCO. Bob, who is showing signs of the effects of the alcohol consumed, is the passive listener.

Note

Dialogue in Cantonese.

SAM
Do you still keep in contact with your former commander, Comrade Tsun-Nam?

RED ARMY NCO
He is still around in Hong Kong. But he is living a life different to us common veterans.

SAM
We know he's in a Triad gang.

RED ARMY NCO
He did come to our reunions in the beginning. But the gang life obviously made it difficult. I understand that.

SAM

We want to get in contact with him.
Do you know how?

RED ARMY NCO

There're a couple of businesses I
know he is closely associated with.
One of them is a cheap hotel that
offers a discount to former
comrades. You want the address?

SAM

Yes. Thank You.

INT. HONG KONG HOTEL ROOM. DAY.

Bob wakes up in his hotel room still in the clothes he had
at the restaurant. He looks at the clock and realise it is
already late morning. He struggles out of his bed and walks
to Sam's room. He immediately sees something is wrong. The
hotel cleaning woman is already cleaning Sam's room. Bob
scans the room and realises that Sam has already checked
out.

INT. HONG KONG HOTEL COUNTER. DAY

Bob is at the hotel counter.

HOTEL STAFF

(In English)

Can I help you Sir.

BOB

(In English)

My friend was staying in Room 304.
Did he checkout this morning?

HOTEL STAFF

Mr Murphy?

BOB

That's right.

HOTEL STAFF

Yes. Very early. Are you Mr Bob
Carrington?

BOB

Yes. Room 305.

HOTEL STAFF

Mr Murphy asked me to give you
this.

Bob is handed a sealed envelope. Bob walks to a lounge chair
in the lobby and begins to read the letter

SAM (V/O)

My dear friend. I am sorry to leave you this way. I have to confess that I had information about the 44K and the One-Eye gangs from my friend Wai, which I did not share with you. I have sent this file containing all this intelligence to your Sydney office. All I needed was a way to contact Tsun-Nam. For that I am grateful to you. I have decided to settle my account with Ah-Leung in my own way. Whether I am successful or not I may not return alive. Thank you for being a loyal friend. Sam.

BOB

(To himself)

Fuck, Sam. Why?

INT. KOWLOON CHEAP HOTEL. DAY.

Sam is checking into a cheap hotel in Kowloon, a suburb on the mainland territory of Hong Kong. At the counter, the senior clerk is serving Sam while a junior clerk is filing paperwork. Although appearing to be busy, the junior clerk is taking an interest in the unusual customer.

Note

Dialogue in Cantonese.

KOWLOON HOTEL STAFF

Are you staying long Sir?

SAM

(As he present his passport)

Not long. Can you tell your boss, Tsun-Nam, that an old Australian friend wants to see him. Mention the Korean War. He'll remember.

KOWLOON HOTEL STAFF

(Looks at the passport)

No problem Mr Murphy.

Minutes later, the junior clerk walks to a nearby payphone. He calls a gangster in a bar. After hanging up, the gangster in the bar walks to a secluded part of the bar where Ah-Leung and his gang are having food and drinks. Ah-Leung smiles as he receives the news that his nemesis is in Hong Kong.

EXT. KOWLOON CHEAP HOTEL. DAY.

The next morning, Sam walks out of the hotel. Within a few metres, two men walk up to him from behind, one on each side.

Dialogue in Cantonese

44K GANGSTER
Relax Mr Murphy. Do you still want
to meet with Tsun-Nam?

SAM
(As he stops)
Yes. Of course.

The gangsters also stop, but maintain a safe distance from Sam.

44K GANGSTER
Arms out please.

The second gangster body searches Sam, checking for weapons.

44K GANGSTER (CONT'D)
Follow me.

EXT. WOODLANDS IN NEW TERRITORIES. DAY

Sam is seated in the backseat of a car between the two gangsters he had met at the hotel entrance. The car is driven by a third gangster. After a long drive through narrow crowded streets, the car starts to climb through natural woodlands in the hilly areas of the New Territories, which is not far from the Hong Kong and China border. The car slows to a flat clearing where another larger vehicle, a limousine, is already parked. Sam is pointed to the vehicle as the gangsters let him out of the car.

Waiting for him near the limousine are another two gangsters. Just as he gets to the limosine, he is body-searched again, before the back passenger door is opened. Sam climbs in and sits opposite a well dressed, dignified-looking gentleman, TSUN-NAM.

Note

Dialogue in English.

TSUN-NAM
Apologies for the security, Mr
Murphy.

SAM
No worries. It looks like you are
still fighting a war, Comrade
Tsun-Nam.

TSUN-NAM
True... Well, it is nice to see you
again.

SAM
Thank you for seeing me. Please,
call me Sam. I wish this was a time
to build a friendship. But I am
(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)
here on a personal mission and I
need your help.

TSUN-NAM
What would an old white man want
from a known, Hong Kong criminal?

SAM
It's simple revenge. It's also my
family's survival... I want
Ah-Leung dead.

TSUN-NAM
(With laughter)
And you alone can do it? I know you
want to see the murderer of your
friend, Wai, pay. Correct?

SAM
Yes.

TSUN-NAM
Sam. We share this goal. I too
would love to see the end of
Ah-Leung. My gang would also want
it. But I need to be a patient man.
I know there are a few men in my
gang who are traitors, who will
tell him if I make any plans.

SAM
Then I am your solution. I will
cost you nothing except for two
things. Information and a gun.

TSUN-NAM
You need to know how to find
Ah-Leung?

SAM
Yes.

TSUN-NAM
I can only tell you that he lives
on a luxury boat that belonged to
our former leader. Ah-Leung showed
him no mercy.

SAM
So he moves around with the boat?

TSUN-NAM
Correct. Even I don't have the
manpower to watch every bay and
marina around Hong Kong Island, let
alone the New Territories
coastline.

SAM

Then leave that to me. Just give me a weapon to complete my mission. I need a Beretta 9mm, a silencer and forty rounds.

TSUN-NAM

May I suggest a top-line Uzi sub-machine gun and a dozen hand grenades.

SAM

(With laughter)

I am not starting a war. I'm here to finish one.

TSUN-NAM

Deal. I will have that delivered to your hotel tomorrow.

SAM

Thank you.

TSUN-NAM

Now, how is your family? I understand your wife had a tragic illness.

SAM

Your information is accurate, just like old times. Compliments to your intelligence sources.

They continue to chat about family and their lives after the Korean War.

INT. KOWLOON CHEAP HOTEL. DAY.

The next day, Sam is resting in his hotel when there is a knock on his door. A courier delivers his gun and accompanying package. He dis-assembles and re-assembles the gun, checking its action.

Late afternoon. He dresses with his cold weather jacket and hides the gun in one pocket, and the silencer and bullets in another. Sam leaves the hotel.

EXT. KOWLOON STREET. NIGHT.

Sam walks down a quiet street near the hotel. Two men approach him from behind. Sam remains calm as one of the men sticks a gun to his back.

EXT. HONG KONG MARINA. NIGHT.

Hong Kong Island is blessed with a number of bays, which provide calm harbours for all sorts of boats. Some of the quieter and picturesque bays have marinas for the wealthy to display their trophy, luxury cruisers.

Sam is handcuffed and blindfolded, sitting in the backseat of a black Mercedes. A gangster sits next to him, and the second gangster drives the car to a quiet part of the marina. When the car stops, two other gangsters appear from a building close to the marina.

One of the marina gangsters opens Sam's door and helps him out. Sam is body searched and his blindfold is removed. The two groups of gangsters nod to each other. Before the car is driven away, the gangster driver hands over the Berreta 9mm to the leading marina gangster.

MARINA GANGSTER

(In broken English)

Mr Murphy, you walk to boat. You jump in water, we shoot.

SAM

(In Cantonese)

Don't worry. I want to see your boss.

The two gangsters and Sam walk along the marina walkway until they arrive at a small speedboat. They assist Sam onto the boat and tie him up to the boat's bow. After a few minutes speeding along the calm waters, the speedboat pulls alongside a large luxury cruiser anchored a long distance from any other boat. As they pull alongside, two men aboard the cruiser appear and tie up the speedboat. Sam is assisted onboard. As Sam is escorted to a cabin, Nathan appears. The two men exchange neutral looks. Sam is then led away.

As Sam enters into the cruiser, Nathan approaches the lead gangster from the speed boat.

Note

Dialogue in Cantonese.

NATHAN

Did he have a gun with him?

MARINA GANGSTER

Yeah. I'm taking it to the safe.

NATHAN

Can I have it? You know my father promised me one.

MARINA GANGSTER

Oh. OK.

Nathan is handed Sam's gun, the Berreta 9mm.

INT. BOAT CABIN. NIGHT.

Sam is tied to the chair in the same cabin seen in the opening scene. Before the two gangsters leave, they abuse Sam physically leaving him unconscious.

INT. BOAT CABIN. NIGHT.

Sam is awakened when water is splashed in his face. Ah-Leung appears from the darkness. Two gang members are in the background.

AH-LEUNG
(To his gang in
Cantonese)
Leave me alone with this scum.

The door is closed behind them as the gangsters leave.

AH-LEUNG (CONT'D)
(In English)
Ah. Finally... I have waited so
long for this.

SAM
(In English)
What do you want? Dancing girls
cheering you on? Fuck off.

AH-LEUNG
Ooh. So brave, yet so stupid... Did
you really think you could kill me
all by yourself?

SAM
No, you asshole, but it's a nice
dream.

AH-LEUNG
So why alone? I was expecting a few
friends, or even your son, the
policeman. (Sam is surprised) Yes,
I know about him.

SAM
Does it matter anymore? I know I'm
going to die... (Sam stares at him
with determination) Come on. Are
you a hero? I have been waiting for
this. I'm ready to die.

Ah-Leung punches and kicks Sam until he almost lapses into unconsciousness.

AH-LEUNG
(As he gently slaps Sam
to keep him awake)
Not so easy... Your death wish is
so touching.

SAM
(With strained breathing)
Well. Fucking do it.

AH-LEUNG

You are going to live a little longer, so you can feel every pain there is.

Sam sees something in the corner of his eyes, which energizes him.

SAM

I have some bad news about Nathan... You are not his father.

Ah-Leung is shocked by this revelation. He pulls out his knife, setting it up for the final slash.

AH-LEUNG

So fucking what?

A gun is fired. Ah-Leung's body rocks as the bullet passes through his chest. He turns to face the door and sees Nathan holding the Beratta 9mm, which fires again. This time the bullet smashes through Ah-Leung's forehead.

Sam smiles as he sees his nemesis fall. His head slumps as he loses consciousness.

EXT. LUXURY CRUISER. NIGHT

Nathan carries Sam, who is still unconscious, through the cruiser, which is now a scene of dead gangster bodies. With some difficulty, he carries Sam aboard the speedboat. He returns to the cruiser, below deck to the engine room and grabs a jerry can of gasoline. Before he boards the speedboat, he set fire to the gasoline, which is now sprayed across the cruiser's deck. As Nathan eases the speedboat to the marina, the flames start to gather strength.

EXT. HONG KONG MARINA. NIGHT.

Nathan steers the boat alongside a quieter part of the marina and carries Sam onto the walkway. As he reaches the road that runs to the marina, he is surprised to see two men approaching him from a car hidden from the road.

Note

Dialogue in Cantonese

44K GANGSTER

Relax. We're here to help you.

NATHAN

Who are you?

44K GANGSTER

We're from the 44K gang. Our boss wants to see Mr Murphy safe and alive. We'll take him to the gang hospital.

NATHAN
Why didn't you kill his guards
before they took him to the
cruiser?

44K GANGSTER
Orders. No shootout with the
One-Eye gang.

NATHAN
OK. Help me here.

The two gangsters take Sam and move him to the car. As
Nathan follows them, the lead gangster turns to speak.

44K GANGSTER
My orders. Only Mr Murphy.

The gangster takes out a business card and gives it to
Nathan.

NATHAN
What is this for?

44K GANGSTER
Gang associate. He runs a boarding
house. Give him the card. You'll be
safe there.

NATHAN
Thanks.

44K GANGSTER
Oh. Don't worry about any revenge
from the One-Eye gang. The 44K gang
will take great pleasure in seeing
One-Eye and his bastard traitors
dead.

Nathan quickly walks away as the car speeds off into the
night.

INT. HONG KONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL. DAY.

In a quiet private hospital, Sam is lying unconscious as
Nora sits beside his hospital bed. A male doctor enters.

Note

Dialogue in English.

NORA
Doctor Ng?

DOCTOR NG
Yes. Are you a relative?

NORA
I'm his daughter, Nora.

DOCTOR NG

Your father is in a coma. He suffered a broken leg, as well as some injuries to his internal organs. But he is stable. If he comes out of the coma, I am sure he will recover slowly.

NORA

Do you know when he might come out of his coma?

DOCTOR NG

Can't be sure. It may be tomorrow, or it may be a very long time.

There is a pause as Nora looks at Sam and strokes his face.

NORA

(To Sam)

Come on, Dad. Wake up. Your family needs you.

The Doctor leaves Nora alone with Sam. As Nora grooms and strokes Sam, Yee walks into the private room.

YEE

Oh. Sorry. I thought he was alone.

NORA

Who are you?

YEE

My name is Yee. I'm an old friend from Sydney.

NORA

Oh. I've heard about you. My father knew you from his club days?

YEE

Yes. You must be Nora?

NORA

Yeah. Nice to meet you.

The two women shake hands.

YEE

How is he?

NORA

The Doctor is not sure when he will come out of the coma.

YEE

(Looking at Sam)

He's a tough man, but he needs a soft touch to get him going.

Nora looks at Yee with curiosity.

NORA

How did you know my father was here?

YEE

I came to Hong Kong to see my son, Nathan. Do you know him?

NORA

No. Not really. My father keeps a lot of secrets.

YEE

Sam and Nathan met a few years ago when Nathan was in trouble. It looks like Nathan has repaid his debt to Sam and helped him here.

NORA

Then you might know who beat him up. Did my father get too close to a Triad gang?

YEE

Your father was always involved with bad people.

INT. MURPHY HOME, DARWIN. DAY.

Sam is lying asleep alone in his bed in his Darwin home, which is shown as it was before Cyclone Tracey. Sam is experiencing a dream, which is happening in his comatose state.

The curtains are pulled back to reveal a bright sunny day. As Sam wakes up, he sees a figure of a woman with her back to him, who looks like Betty.

The woman turns to face him. It is Betty.

BETTY

Hello, dear. Time to go.

SAM

(With dreariness)
Betty? What is this?

BETTY

Whatever you want it to be.

SAM

Is this heaven?

BETTY

No... But you will know the way.
You've got to get up.

Sam gets up and looks at himself in the bedroom's mirror. He sees himself in a hospital gown. Betty walks out of the bedroom. Sam hesitates but follows her to the kitchen.

As he enters the kitchen, he recognises LUCY, his adopted mother cooking at the stove. She appears younger as she was when Sam was first adopted.

SAM

Ma?

LUCY

(In English)

Your breakfast is ready. I made you your favourite dish, Crispy Skin Chicken.

SAM

You speak English?

LUCY

In this dream, I can speak any language you want.

Lucy approaches Sam and strokes his face as she looks into his eyes.

SAM

What do I do?

LUCY

Just eat, Sam.

Sam sits at the dinner table and starts to eat. After a few mouthfuls, he stops.

SAM

This is tasteless... Ma?

He turns to see Lucy, but she has disappeared. His eyes catch the sea from the back deck. As he gets up, he feels a woman helping him to his feet. He turns and is surprised to see Jin-Yi, the woman who cared for him after his birth mother's death.

JIN-YI

Come on, Sam. You can make it up.

SAM

Jin-Yi. Why are you here?

JIN-YI

We all need help. You have been so lucky. For you, your path is our path.

SAM

I know... Sometimes I feel it is not mine.

JIN-YI

No Sam. You have shared your path
with others. For that, we are
grateful.

The two walk to the deck and look out at the sea. Sam is about to speak and turns to look at Jin-Yi. She is no longer with him. He turns back to look at the sea again.

Suddenly, he hears footsteps approaching from behind. He turns to see his mother Therese, but a healthy and smiling version of the woman he barely knew.

SAM

Mom?

THERESE

Hello Sam.

The two hug each other.

SAM

Oh. This is a fulfilment of all my
dreams.

THERESE

No Sam. There is something you
seek. You have to go back.

Sam's smile slowly changes to a realisation that this is not the end.

SAM

Do I have to?

THERESE

You can step into the sea out
there, but you know this quest will
not end until you release your
caged heart.

SAM

I know.

Sam steps away and walks back into the house. Just before he step over the threshold, he turns to take one last look at Therese. She smiles.

INT. HONG KONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL. DAY.

Sam wakes from his coma, but he is alone. Sam looks around his private room and sees flowers on the table beside his bed. He slowly sits up and begins to read the get-well cards.

INT. HONG KONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL. NIGHT.

Nora rushes into Sam's hospital room. Doctor Ng is just finishing his medical checks.

NORA
Dad. Thank God.

SAM
Nora.

The two hug.

NORA
(To Doctor Ng)
How is he?

DOCTOR NG
He's doing fine. A few more days
and I think he can leave. (To Sam
as he leaves) Don't push yourself
too hard Mr Murphy.

SAM
Thanks, Doctor.

NORA
Can you remember how this happened?
The Doctor mentioned that maybe the
police shouldn't be involved.

SAM
That's good advice. He told me that
a certain Triad gang owns a large
share of this hospital. That's how
I ended up here.

NORA
Whatever. I don't need to know
anymore.

SAM
Good. Anyway, I just want to get
out and go home as soon as
possible.

INT. HONG KONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL. DAY.

Sam is sitting in a chair beside his hospital bed, reading a
book. Nathan walks in.

SAM
Hi Nathan.

NATHAN
How are you, Sam?

SAM
Good. I'm checking out tomorrow.

NATHAN
Just wanted to see you before you
leave.

SAM

I think I owe you one for saving me. (Getting up and grabbing his walking stick) Come on. Let's take a walk.

EXT. HOSPITAL GARDEN. DAY.

Sam is using his walking stick as he walks with Nathan.

SAM

The doctor told me that my right leg will never fully recover. I'm stuck with this stick.

NATHAN

At least you can still walk.

SAM

True. I shouldn't complain.

NATHAN

How did you know about my real father?

SAM

You mean Wai?

NATHAN

Yes.

SAM

He told me... Well, not directly. He left me his notebook. Our friend Ka-Ming had left his notes to me. So this inspired Wai to do the same.

NATHAN

Did he tell you how he found out?

SAM

Yeah. He had checked Ah-Leung's medical details on the Immigration forms I had inherited from Ka-Ming. Your blood type and Ah-Leung's didn't match up.

NATHAN

Wai told me that he had a very brief relationship with my mom. But they never spoke about it again.

SAM

You know Wai. Secretive to the extreme.

NATHAN

He got me into his Ku Fung school and introduced me to the discipline. It was the best years of my life.

SAM

Did your mom know that you two knew the truth?

NATHAN

No. It really didn't matter. She was happy that Wai accepted me for who I was... How did you know about the Beretta?

SAM

It was in Wai's notes. Did you like that gesture? I knew that it would take a while before they trusted you with a piece... They found Wai's Beretta in his drawer. It wasn't even taken out.

NATHAN

His killer must have been someone he trusted.

SAM

Nathan. You still need to take care... Are you going to stay in Hong Kong?

NATHAN

Yeh, only for a short period. The 44K Gang's got some fall guy who's going to take the blame for Ah-Leung's death and the boat.

SAM

Wow. Now that's real power... There's someone you need to thank.

NATHAN

You?

SAM

Jeez. No. I'm the last person you need to thank.

NATHAN

Who?

SAM

Your uncle.

NATHAN

Who the hell is that?

SAM

Tsun-Nam. The leader of the 44K Gang.

NATHAN

Shit. You're kidding?

SAM

No... He's Wai's older brother. In the 1940s, Tsun-Nam changed his name and joined the Chinese Red Army when they were still fighting the Nationalists. So when they won, he was already an officer.

NATHAN

I can't believe this. Why did they keep their relationship secret.

SAM

Well, I met Tsun-Nam when he was fighting in the Korean War. In fact, I interrogated him when he asked to defect to the West. When he arrived in Hong Kong, Wai suggested that he join a gang. In his case, the rival 44K gang. That's how Wai and Tsun-Nam traded valuable intelligence. Shit, they played each gang off the other. And all the time keeping their relationship secret. In Tsun-Nam's case, it helped him climb the gang hierarchy.

NATHAN

So why didn't Tsun-Nam do anything when Wai was killed?

SAM

He was planning to. But that's when I came in. I told him I had a crazy plan. I knew you also had planned something crazy.

NATHAN

How did you know?

SAM

When I saw that typed threat letter in English I knew you had faked it. Triad gangs use Chinese, not English... Anyway, Tsun-Nam didn't know about you until I told him. You know, about you being Wai's son.

NATHAN

Fuck. This is too much.

SAM
Yeah. Funny how life and luck work together.

INT. SURRY HILLS APARTMENT. DAY.

Months after returning from Hong Kong, Sam is sitting in the lounge room of the apartment that had belonged to Ka-Ming, former club owner and friend of Sam's. Nora is sitting with Sam, drinking tea.

NORA
What are you going to do, Dad? Your future, I mean.

SAM
Nathan is coming back from Hong Kong in a few weeks. This apartment is his inheritance.

NORA
So you have to move out.

SAM
Not straight away, but eventually ... Nora, I need to know something... I've found a woman I want to share my life with. You know I have always loved your mother. God, how I miss her...

NORA
Dad. I'm alright with whatever choice you make. I'm sure Mom would have wanted you to move on... Even if the woman is as young as me.

SAM
(Confused)
What?... Look, let me introduce her next weekend, at my birthday party. You're still alright about me having it at your place?

NORA
Yes, of course.

INT. BLUE MOUNTAINS HOUSE. NIGHT.

Nora is busy doing the last minute tasks, getting the house ready for the party guests.

There is a knock on the door. Nora opens it to see Sam and Yee standing together.

NORA
Dad. (Looking at Yee with some surprise) Hello, Yee.

YEE

Nora.

SAM

Nora. How do you know Yee?

YEE

We met in Hong Kong. You were still in your coma... This is a surprise for you, Sam?

SAM

(Looking at Yee, then at Nora)

I was hoping for a proper introduction.

NORA

Well, this is still a surprise for me. Come on in. You've arrived just in time to help out.

Party scenes as Sam's friends arrive and the party get into a happy groove. Among the guests are the Fong family, Andrew and May Fong, Bob and John, the army buddies, Howard, the retired journalist, Neil, the police detective and a selection of senior students from Wai's Ku Fung school. Sam's family members are also present - Nora, her husband and Mick.

EXT. BLUE MOUNTAINS HOUSE, BACKYARD. NIGHT.

The night sky is cloudless and calm with the stars showing their glory. Nora is talking to Yee outside in the backyard, which backs onto the nature reserve and the valley.

NORA

Have you seen Dad?

YEE

He walked down that path back there. He seems to know it well.

NORA

Yeah. I know where he's gone to. Excuse me.

YEE

Tell him not to stay out too long. He's not a young man anymore.

NORA

(With a laugh)

OK.

Nora walks to the clearing, where Sam is sitting on a wooden bench, staring at the sky and the stars.

Nora sits down beside him, and places her arm around him.

NORA (CONT'D)

Are you alright, Dad?

Sam wipes a few tears from his eyes.

SAM

Yeah.. Yeah..

NORA

Something's wrong, isn't there?

SAM

No. Not at all... Just realised something... It has taken me almost all of my life to remember this one moment. And it has taken a night like this for me to finally work it out.

NORA

What is it?

SAM

The night before your grandfather Colin died, we were camping. The night was exactly like now. Beautiful stars... Anyway, we had planned the whole weekend together but I wanted to have a sleepover with the Chin family. You know they adopted me when Colin died...

NORA

I know Dad.

SAM

Well, that night, Colin hugged me goodnight before I went to sleep. He stayed up and I saw him crying... I had to get up and hug him again...

NORA

Why was that important?

SAM

He said to me, "I'm sorry" several times. I was confused and thought nothing of it again.

NORA

The following night Colin was killed.

SAM

That's right... I have always felt guilty about that night. I felt responsible for his death. What if we had camped the whole weekend...

NORA
But that's crazy thinking...

SAM
I know. But now I know what he was
trying to say...

NORA
What Dad?

SAM
He was asking for forgiveness. You
see, I know because I feel the same
way... All the things I've done...
All the wrongs he had committed.
It's all about being forgiven...

NORA
Oh Dad... I forgive you, I forgive
you.

The tears flow as both Sam and Nora share a tender moment.

INT. SYDNEY HOUSE. DAY

Sam has moved into Yee's house. He is seated in front of the
computer, typing his story.

SAM (V/O)
Unless they are written down,
family secrets fade with the death
of the custodian. Like others have
done before me, this story is for
my family and friends. But there is
one mystery that I will leave for
my children, or their children.

EXT. BENDIGO HOUSE. NIGHT.

SAM (V/O)
On the night I returned Jin-Yi's
diary to Fiona, she invited me to
stay for dinner with her and her
husband, Mario. After dinner, we
sat outside enjoying the clear,
star-filled sky.

Scene of the trio sitting on the deck at the rear of the
house.

MARIO
(To Sam)
I have a nickname for Fiona. I call
her "Skywalker", you know, the hero
from Star Wars.

SAM
Why?

MARIO

Well, she loves staring at the clouds and day-dreaming.

Sam almost chokes on his drink.

MARIO (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

SAM

Yeah... (Gaining composure) Yeah mate.

FIONA

Geez, thanks Mario. (In a mocking tone) That was really funny.

Sam turns and stares at the sky.

SAM (V/O)

The thought hit me like lightning. Could Colin be Fiona's father? In the end, I decided to leave it. Maybe because Fiona and her family are now close friends. There is nothing to gain from knowing the truth.

FADE OUT.

THE END.