

Haight

A New Musical

Book, Lyrics,

And Music

by

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Cast

Aaron Thomas - 22 year old male Caucasian guitarist, tenor
Jing Po - 21 year old Chinese female, alto
Ramon Ochoa - 25 year old male Mexican guitarist, tenor
David Fiske - African-American male bassist, baritone, 22 years old
Paul Escobar - male drummer of Mexican heritage, 24 years old
Scott Morgan - male keyboardist, Caucasian, 21 years old
Ling-si Po - 24 year old Chinese female, older sister of Jing
Mr. Po - Jing's Chinese father
Mrs. Po - Jing's Chinese mother
Yao - landlord of the Po apartment, Chinese and 35 years old
Portsmouth Square Rally Host - Chinese emcee for the Portsmouth Square rally, female
Register girl - Chinese, about 30 years old. Ling-si's daughter
Golden Gate rally host - Chinese male
John Clark - Asian/White, about 35 years old. Aaron's son
Sabrina Clark - John's younger sister, 30 year old caucasian
Nick - African-American male. Guard at prison
The Reverend Marshall Logan - inspirational African-American anti-war speaker, similar to Martin Luther King
George Hoffman-Portsmouth Square Rally speaker-older white male
Coffee Shop Waitress - young white female
Lawyer - Caucasian, 40s, pony tail
Mrs. Lee - older Chinese female at food booth at the night fair
Student No. 1-young Chinese male or female
Student No. 2-young Chinese male or female
Student No. 3-young Chinese male or female
Student No. 4-young Chinese male or female

Time and Place

The story takes place in 1970/1971 with flash forwards to the present day. The location is Chinatown and the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco California.

Scene 1

Present day. A solo spot light slowly comes up on JOHN standing quietly alone in front of a gravestone. HE is dressed in a black suit and obviously distraught. After a few moments SABRINA, his wife, enters the stage slowly and joins JOHN in the solo spot. SHE puts her arms on HIS shoulders. SHE wears a black dress.

SABRINA

I'm so sorry my love.

(pause)

Come on. We'll be late.

(spot fades as SABRINA and JOHN walk together arm in arm to the other side of the stage. A solo spot comes up on the opposite side of the stage where the LAWYER sits at a desk. There are two empty chairs on the other side of the desk. HE stands when HE sees THEM approaching)

LAWYER

John.

(the LAWYER shakes JOHN'S hand)

Sabrina.

(the LAWYER hugs SABRINA. HE motions for JOHN and SABRINA to sit down. THEY sit. LAWYER sits down as well)

LAWYER (cont'd)

(to JOHN)

Please sit down. I'm so sorry to hear about your mother. She was a fine person.

JOHN

Thanks, I appreciate that.

(the LAWYER gets out a stack of papers from the desk drawer)

LAWYER

As your mother's only heir, all of her estate goes to you.

(JOHN and SABRINA nod)

LAWYER (cont'd)

Including this.

(LAWYER reaches into a drawer and puts a safe deposit box on top of the desk. JOHN looks surprised)

LAWYER (cont'd)

Her safe deposit box. I'll give you a few minutes to look it over.

(LAWYER leaves)

SABRINA

(referring to the box)

Did you know about this?

(JOHN opens the box and begins taking things out. Media screen shows the contents)

JOHN

No. No idea.

(JOHN examines a photo from the box)

JOHN (cont'd)

(sadly)

That's me at my 10th birthday party.

(JOHN shows SABRINA the photo. SABRINA puts her hand on JOHN'S shoulder tenderly.)

SABRINA

You were so cute!

(THEY continue to look through the box)

JOHN

This is all memorabilia stuff.

SABRINA

What's this?

(SHE picks up a newspaper clipping and shows JOHN)

JOHN

(looking at the clipping)

I don't know.

SABRINA

This is really old. It's from the Chronicle.

(THEY both examine the clipping more carefully.
Media screen shows an aging photo of AARON with his
band)

JOHN

Who is Aaron Thomas?

(Cut to AARON THOMAS' Haight-Ashbury apartment in
San Francisco. The year is 1970. The time is just
before noon. At the floor level the stage is split
into AARON'S apartment on the left and the PO
family shop on the right. Above is the PO family
apartment and JING'S room. Above the apartment is a
small rooftop area. The action jumps from area to
area. The BAND is practicing "**ANTHEM REHEARSAL**".
The apartment is filled with 60's paraphernalia,
including lava lamps, posters, and many musical
instruments. The scene opens with wild psychedelic
images on the media screen. AARON, RAMON, and DAVID
sing "**ANTHEM REHEARSAL**")

AARON/RAMON/DAVID

NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH

AARON

(Wait for song to end. Now speaking)
Words! We need words!

DAVID

(to RAMON)
Nice solo Ramon.

(AARON pats RAMON on the shoulder)

RAMON

(to AARON)
Great groove Mozart, but it almost doesn't need words. Or you
could make crazy shit up. Like Dylan.

(singing to the tune of the "**ANTHEM**" and emulating
Dylan's voice)

RAMON (cont'd)

LOST IN THE OZONE
ON CHRISTMAS DAY
GATHER ROUND ALL YOU CLOWNS
ON YOUR KNEES TO PRAY

SCOTT
(emulating Dylan's voice to the tune of "LIKE A
ROLLING STONE")
How does it feel? To be a schlamiel?

AARON
(emulating Dylan's voice too)
You guy's are unreal.

(AARON laughs at the boys good-naturedly. The BAND
members put down their instruments and sit down)

AARON (cont'd)
(now in a normal voice)
But this is supposed to be anti-war. Inspirational.

(RAMON lights a marijuana cigarette)

RAMON
Inspire this.

(HE hands AARON the lighted joint. HE waves the
joint away. RAMON gives the joint to DAVID)

DAVID
Speaking of lost in the ozone.

(Takes a long drag on the joint. AARON jumps out of
his chair. Looks at his watch)

AARON
Hey, it's almost time! Paul!

PAUL
I'll do it.

(PAUL goes to the phone)

AARON
Well, here goes. The moment of truth. God help us.

PAUL
Not for me. I'm 4F. Asthma.

(PAUL dials the phone)

AARON
Yeah, well the rest of us are in school. Some more than others...

(AARON looks at his BAND mates)

SCOTT
Hey, college beats Vietnam any day.
(RAMON sings quietly to himself to the tune of
"ANTHEM")

RAMON
LOST IN THE OZONE, ON CHRISTMAS DAY...

PAUL
Shut up Ramon, I can't hear!

DAVID
Please God, a high number.

AARON
I hear they're taking only up through 198.

(PAUL dials the phone)

PAUL
(speaking into the phone)
Hi, I'd like to get the lottery numbers for the draft. I have
four birth dates I'd like to check.
(to RAMON)
Hey Ramon, when's your birthday?

RAMON
(sings this into Paul's ear to the tune of Anthem)
September 27.

PAUL
(into the phone, tries to slap Ramon)
September 27.
(pause and then to RAMON)
233!

RAMON
Yeah! Fuck school!
(Cheering from the BAND)

PAUL
(to SCOTT)
Scott, what's yours?

SCOTT
August 25.

PAUL
(into the phone)
August 25.
(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)
(pause then to SCOTT)
286!

SCOTT
Yes!

(RAMON hugs SCOTT. More cheering)

PAUL
David?

DAVID
(to PAUL)
Mine's July 19th.

PAUL
(into the phone)
July 19th.
(pause and then to DAVID)
227!

DAVID
(relieved)
Thank you, thank you.
(More cheering. RAMON high 5's DAVID)

AARON
(to himself)
Please God.
(then more loudly to PAUL)
February 17th.

PAUL
(into the phone)
February 17th.
(pause and then to AARON)
189.

(EVERYONE is thunderstruck. There is a long silence
as EVERYONE looks at AARON)

SCOTT
(clueless)
Is 189 bad?

(DAVID slaps SCOTT. EVERYONE glares at SCOTT. AARON
begins to pace. RAMON comes over to AARON and puts
his hands on his shoulders to settle him down. PAUL
hangs up the phone)

RAMON
Hey, you're a student. You still get the deferment, right?

AARON
(beginning to panic)
Yeah, but I went below the 15 unit minimum.

(AARON sits down nervously in a chair)

RAMON
Man, that makes you 1A.

SCOTT
(mindlessly)
It's okay. You'll see.

(SCOTT comes over and kisses the top of AARON's head. AARON pats SCOTT'S arm in appreciation)

AARON
Report for active duty?

RAMON
Easy. Let's not panic yet.

(Pats AARON on the back)

DAVID
You can appeal.

AARON
(slightly panicked)
I can't do this.

DAVID
Remember what happened to David Harris?

RAMON
(concerned)
So what are the options, man?

AARON
(calming down)
Not many. Go underground or prison.

PAUL
Tough choice.

DAVID
This will all work out, don't worry.

SCOTT
(mindlessly)
Who's David Harris?

(EVERYONE, except AARON, looks at SCOTT for being so clueless. AARON stands. HE is lost in thought and stares out at the audience. Shakes his head slightly and lets out a sigh of frustration)

RAMON

You better tell Jing. She won't be happy.

AARON

(thinking)

Yeah. Jing.

SCOTT

(mindlessly again)

I'm not happy.

RAMON

Where's that J?

(Flash forward to the present day in the LAWYER'S office. JOHN and SABRINA are seated at the desk. THEY continue their conversation as THEY examine the contents of the safe deposit box. SABRINA picks up a photo from the box. Media screen displays the image)

SABRINA

Here's another one.

(SABRINA holds it for JOHN to see)

JOHN

Wait a minute. Why do you think Mom saved these?

SABRINA

Maybe she knew him.

JOHN

I don't think so. Maybe this has to do with me.

SABRINA

You? Why?

JOHN

This might have something to do with my biological parents.

SABRINA

How?

JOHN

Mom always said she never knew who they were.

SABRINA
(questioningly)
Right...

JOHN
(holding up the clipping)
Maybe Mom did know.

SABRINA
What's the date on that thing?

JOHN
April 24th, 1971.

SABRINA
(wondering)
Right after you were born.

JOHN
(becoming more animated)
It would explain a lot. Why she kept it. The date. And in San Francisco, the same city where I was born.

SABRINA
(not convinced)
Do you really think so?

(JOHN nods)

JOHN
You sound like you *don't* want to know.

SABRINA
Your mom always said the records were lost and it was impossible to find out.

JOHN
We don't *need* records now.

SABRINA
What do you mean?

JOHN
We have a name. And a year.

SABRINA
And not much else.

(JOHN shoots her a look. SABRINA spreads all three photos out on the desk. Media screen displays the photos)

SABRINA (cont'd)

Wait a minute.

(SABRINA looks intently at the photos)

SABRINA (cont'd)

The same girl is in all three photos!

JOHN

Oh my God! She's Chinese!

Scene 2

Flashback to 1970. The PO family Chinatown import shop. The shop is filled with clothing, works of art, jewelry, and furniture. A few customers are looking around. A TV plays in the background. MRS. PO, JING, and LING-SI busy themselves in the shop while MR. PO reads the newspaper.

MRS. PO

Ni xian zai zuo shen mo? (What are you doing?)

MR. PO

Shen mo? (What?)

MRS. PO

Ni xian zai zuo shen mo?

MR. PO

(worried, to MRS. PO)

Things are getting worse back home. Remember what happened to the Fong family?

MRS. PO

Good thing we're here.

MR. PO

Re-education camps. Forced labor.

(Shakes his head)

MRS. PO

Jing dear. Play something for your father.

(JING nods and picks up the guzheng and begins to play the instrumental "**SPRING ON THE MOUNTAIN**", a Guzheng Solo)

MR. PO

Ah, "SPRING ON THE MOUNTAIN". And you play it so well.

JING

Thank you, Father.

MR. PO

(raises his finger)
In Chinese!

JING

Xie xie.

(JING puts down the guzheng and goes over to the counter where LING-SI is working. SHE picks up the newspaper)

JING (cont'd)

Big Brother is at Cal next weekend! We should go.

LING-SI

If I can get away from here.

MRS. PO

Ling-si, would you run to the dry cleaners later please?

LING-SI

(to JING)

See what I mean?

(to MRS. PO)

Shi. (Yes)

JING

We should check out Haight-Ashbury.

LING-SI

Easy for you to say college girl.

JING

Come on. It will be fun!

MR. PO

Girls, help your mother with the new dresses.

JING

(to MRS. PO, with a poor Chinese accent)

Ni xian zai zuo shen mo? (What are you doing?)

(MR. PO shakes his head in disapproval with her poor Chinese)

MRS. PO

(with the proper accent)

Ni xian zai zuo shen mo?

(JING and LING-SI help MRS. PO)

LING-SI

(to JING)

Your Chinese is worse than mine. And it's not like Mom and Dad haven't tried. It's always Chinese everything. Even men.

JING

(teasing)

You don't like Chinese men?

LING-SI

(indignantly)

That's not what I meant. America is such a smorgasbord. So much to choose from.

JING

That's why I like Berkeley. Apollinaire, Edna St. Vincent Millay, the Grateful Dead.

LING-SI

And lots of guys. Like Aaron?

(JING smiles and nods knowingly)

JING

We were both in SDS at Cal.

LING-SI

So when do I meet Mr. Right?

MRS. PO

(to JING)

Again. Ni xian zai zuo shen mo?

JING

Ni xian zai zuo shen mo?

MRS. PO

That's better!

JING

Xie xie ni.

(LING-SI and JING bring the dresses to MRS. PO)

MRS. PO

Tea anyone?

(MRS. PO heads upstairs to the apartment to make the tea)

JING

So what are your prospects if you stay here in the shop? Not good.

LING-SI

I know.

JING

How 'bout our landlord? That guy checks you out big time.

LING-SI

Yao checks out everything in a skirt! Including you.

JING

He's harmless enough I guess.

(JING imitates YAO. Swaggers and comes over to LING-SI and looks her up and down. MR. PO is reading his paper and doesn't notice)

JING (cont'd)

(imitating YAO in a deep voice)

So, my little concubine, I've come for the rent. And perhaps a little Szechuan?

LING-SI

(smiling)

Behave!

JING

(continuing her imitation)

Word on the street is that yours is hot and spicy!

(JING looks LING-SI up and down)

JING (cont'd)

Give us a kiss!

(LING-SI blows JING a kiss. MRS. PO comes down the stairs with the tea and places the tray on the counter next to the register. JING picks up the guzheng and begins to play again)

MRS. PO

Tea everyone.

(JING plays a few bars of a blues riff on the guzheng)

MR. PO

I don't think that was a melody I know. Very different.

JING

Very different.

(JING puts down guzheng while SHE talks to her father)

MR. PO

So you are practicing Chinese with your sister?

JING

Shi, dui de. Especially slang. Ta de mian kong hen xiang yi tiao yu.

MR. PO

(laughing)

She has the face of a fish? Or something like that! Ni gu ke de mian kong yie hen xiang yi tiao yu.

JING

(laughing with her father)

I don't think there's any hope for me!

(The TV news is showing images of the latest anti-war protest. Media screen displays the images)

MRS. PO

(angry, and pointing to the TV)

Look at this. More protestors!

MR. PO

They should show more respect for their country!

(to JING)

Your school has many students who protest this way?

JING

(looks at LING-SI)

Some.

LING-SI

Some even in Chinatown.

MR. PO

The paper said some students were killed in Ohio.

(Media screen shows images of the Kent State killings)

JING

I remember. It was terrible.

MRS. PO

(oblivious to the conversation)

More tea?

(Flash forward to the present day. In a solo spot JOHN is asleep in front of the computer late at night. SABRINA comes slowly onto stage in HER robe. SHE gently touches his shoulder and HE awakens)

SABRINA

Still at it?

(JOHN nods slowly)

SABRINA (cont'd)

Come to bed. It's late.

JOHN

I found something.

(SABRINA comes over to the computer and looks over HIS shoulder at the screen)

SABRINA

This is becoming a bit of an obsession.

(JOHN ignores her)

JOHN

(looking at the screen)

Aaron Thomas and his band played all the big anti-war rallies in San Francisco. And the local coffee houses.

(pause as they look at the computer screen)

SABRINA

That's it?

JOHN

Yeah. And nothing about the Chinese girl.

(JOHN pushes his chair away from the desk in frustration)

I wonder if I'll ever find anything.

SABRINA

You will.

(SABRINA puts her hands on JOHN'S shoulders to comfort him)

JOHN

What if I don't like what I find?

SABRINA

You need to know. Broaden your search. The library. The Pacifica Archives.

(pause, trying to cheer him up)

So. Show me what you've found.

(JOHN goes back to the computer. SABRINA looks over his shoulder)

JOHN

Just these photos of a few rallies. And this coffee house.

Scene 3

Flashback to 1970. Evening.
The PO family's Chinatown
apartment. The apartment is
above the family shop. JING
walks down the hall to her
sister's room and softly
knocks)

JING

(whispering through the door)

Let's go get some coffee. They're always asleep by now anyway.

(LING-SI comes out of her room)

LING-SI

(in a low voice)

I'm just not very good at this. All this sneaking around.

JING

(softly)

When was the last time you went out? Last year?

LING-SI

(whispering)

I know, I know.

JING

(softly)

Come on then. You know, girls' night out!

(THEY start to move quietly downstairs and out of
the apartment)

JING (cont'd)

Besides, you've never even been to Haight-Ashbury. I know a place
that does coffee and poetry.

LING-SI

(teasing)

You and your poetry.

JING

Trust me. This will be a revelation.

(JING smiles at LING-SI)

JING (cont'd)

And I have a little surprise, something important to show you.

LING-SI

(suspicious)

A surprise. What kind of surprise?

JING

(smiling mischievously)

You wanted to meet Aaron?

(Local coffee house in Haight-Ashbury where AARON'S band is playing. Dark and hip coffee shop with a small stage for the band. Lots of 60's decor. On stage the coffee house is now where AARON'S apartment use to be. AARON'S band is setting up for the gig. Cut to the local coffee house in Haight-Ashbury. AARON steps up to the mic. A WAITRESS attends the seated customers. SHE seems to be interested in AARON)

AARON

Good evening everyone. Thanks for coming out tonight for a little music, prose, and coffee. And don't forget to tip your waitress. We'd like to start tonight with something from the controlled substance category. Written by our own union activist Ramon Ochoa. It's called "Mary Jane", a truly loaded title.

(RAMON and AARON sing "**MARY JANE**")

RAMON

SHE GOT YOU IN TROUBLE IN HIGH SCHOOL
 YOU THOUGHT SHE WAS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS
 SHE TOTALLED YOUR CAR
 PUT YOU BEHIND BARS
 BUT THAT'S NOT WHERE THE STORY ENDS
 REMEMBER THAT WEEKEND IN VEGAS
 SHE PROMISED YOU'D HAVE A GOOD TIME
 BUT WHEN YOU GOT CAUGHT WITH 12 POUNDS OF POT
 SHE SAID "DUDE IT'S A VICTIMLESS CRIME"

(LING-SI and JING enter the coffee shop and sit down at a table. In the dimly lit ambience, AARON does not see JING when SHE walks in. The waitress glares at JING and LING-SI as they sit down)

RAMON/AARON

(singing)

MARY JANE, MARY JANE

RAMON

(singing)

I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T HELP BUT LOVE HER
 NO MATTER WHAT I MIGHT SAY
 SHE MAKES IT SO REAL

THE WAY THAT YOU FEEL
AND WITHOUT HER YOU'D NEVER GET LAID
SHE ALWAYS SAID THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
HOW THEY TREAT HER JUST ISN'T FAIR
THERE'S NO WAY TO COPE
WITHOUT PEACE LOVE AND DOPE
IT'S GOT TO BE 4:20 SOMEWHERE

AARON/RAMON

(singing)

MARY JANE, MARY JANE

(JING and LING-SI have their conversation during
the guitar solo)

JING

(speaking)

(to LING-SI, looking at AARON)

Say hello to Aaron.

LING-SI

(speaking)

Are you crazy? I thought it was someone from the neighborhood!

JING

(speaking)

So what do you think?

LING-SI

(speaking)

This guy is not Chinese! Mom and Dad would freak!

JING

(speaking)

Mom and Dad don't need to know, do they?

LING-SI

(speaking and in a teasing voice)

Remember, only Chinese men!

JING

(speaking, smiling)

Too late!

LING-SI

(speaking, concerned)

This is not good.

(WAITRESS brings two cups of tea and put them down
on JING'S table)

AARON/RAMON

(singing)
MARY JANE, MARY JANE

RAMON
(speaking)
SO IS ANYONE HOLDING?

(Applause. SCOTT raises his hand enthusiastically)

AARON
(speaking)
Thank you so much. Now for something different: A little music and poetry. Any poetry lovers out there?

(JING raises her hand and looks at AARON. AARON recognizes JING in the crowd. HE steps away from the mic for a moment)

AARON (cont'd)
(excitedly)
Jing, is that you?

(JING waves back shyly.)

AARON (cont'd)
I didn't know you were coming tonight!

JING
I'm trying to get Ling-si out of the house more!

(Laughter)

AARON
I have an idea. Why don't you do one of your poems?

RAMON
(to JING)
Yeah, come on Jing!

JING
(reluctantly)
I don't know.

AARON
You'll be great!

JING
I'm not sure I can remember it all.

(AARON goes back to the mic)

AARON

(to the crowd)

I'd like to introduce someone very special tonight. A gifted poet and my wonderful friend, Jing Po!

(Applause. The WAITRESS looks annoyed. JING reluctantly comes on stage. AARON kisses her hand and leads her to the mic)

JING

(softly)

This is called "Shimmer".

(JING recites "**SHIMMER**". SHE appears to go into a trance with her eyes closed. The lights come down and the BAND supplies the background music. Media screen shows images of French impressionistic art)

JING (cont'd)

(reciting)

It is a reflection only time may reveal. That singular mirror of our true selves.

(pause, struggles to remember)

The details of our lives are illuminated with painful clarity. No matter the distance, each stands highlighted. Absolute and immutable, waiting to be judged by God. Yet it is a reflection only of what can be seen. Not of the invisible and unknowable depths.

(pause)

But it is in these depths that lives are measured. The shallows of concern and care. The depths of love and sacrifice. The currents that steer our lives. There are those who languish in its depths, and never see the surface. Only you see beyond my reflection, only you have seen my soul.

(JING opens her eyes. Applause. JING and AARON hug)

AARON

(to JING, takes her hand)

Beautiful.

(to crowd)

Jing Po please!

(JING goes back to her table)

AARON (cont'd)

(now speaking)

Thank you so much. I'd like to introduce the band now. On guitar, from Bakersfield California, Ramon Ochoa.

(RAMON bows and acknowledges the applause and holds up his fist in a black power salute)

RAMON

Huelga!

AARON

Next we have our bass player from Reno Nevada, David Fiske.

(Applause. DAVID acknowledges the crowd. Plays a bass riff)

AARON (cont'd)

On keyboards, Scott Morgan.

(Applause. SCOTT raises his hand. Plays the opening of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor)

AARON (cont'd)

On drums, Paul Escobar.

(Applause. PAUL plays a quick drum riff)

AARON (cont'd)

We are the Aaron Thomas band and I'm Aaron Thomas, your host for the evening. This next song is for my favorite poet. It's called "FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON".

(AARON looks at JING. AARON and RAMON sing "**FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON**". Media screen shows psychedelic images)

AARON (cont'd)

WHEN THE MOON IS HIGH, WHEN THE MOON IS HIGH
I LOSE MYSELF, BECOME SOMEONE ELSE
LOSE ALL CONTROL, SACRIFICE MY SOUL

AARON/RAMON

FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
I WOULD GLADLY DIE

AARON

WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES
YOUR FACE IS IN MY MIND, SO DELICATE AND FINE
TRACE ALL THE LINES, IN INFINITE DESIGN
I HAVE TO MAKE YOU MINE
I HAVE TO MAKE YOU MINE

AARON/RAMON

FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
I WOULD GLADLY DIE

AARON

I WASTE AWAY IN THE LIGHT OF THE DAY
 THOSE EVENING SIRENS CALL
 I HOPE TONIGHT THAT YOU'LL COME TO LIGHT
 IT'S YOU OR NOTHING AT ALL
 BESIDES A FACE OF SUCH DELICATE GRACE
 YOUR EYES SEE THROUGH MY WALL
 YOU MAKE ME SEE THE IMPOSSIBLE ME
 SO SLAY ME ONCE AND FOR ALL
 A SLEEPLESS DREAM COMMANDS ME
 SINGULAR IN PURPOSE, SIMPLE IN DESIGN
 WITH UNSPOKEN WORDS IT WHISPERS
 THE QUEST FOR THE DIVINE
 OF LOVELY APPARITIONS, OF DELICATE FIGURES IN MY
 MIND
 YOU ARE TO MY DESIRE ETERNALLY CONSIGNED
 COMPELLED BY ANCIENT EROS
 HIS WILL I CAN'T DENY
 BEFORE THIS DREAM IS OVER
 I HAVE TO MAKE YOU MINE
 BEFORE THIS DREAM IS OVER
 I HAVE TO MAKE YOU MINE
 WHEN THE MOON IS HIGH, WHEN THE MOON IS HIGH
 IN THE EASTERN SKY ALL MY HOPES WILL RISE
 APPARITIONS IN MY MIND
 TWO SLEEPLESS SOULS COMBINE, A GLIMPSE OF THE DIVINE
 IF I COULD MAKE YOU MINE

AARON/RAMON

FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
 FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
 FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON
 I WOULD GLADLY DIE

(Applause. JING is beaming)

AARON

(speaking)

Thanks so much. We'll take a short break and be right back.

(The BAND takes a break. AARON hurries towards
 JING'S table. On the way to the table the WAITRESS
 purposely brushes up against AARON)

WAITRESS

Oh, excuse me.

(AARON doesn't notice the waitress. JING gets up
 and meets AARON half-way. THEY embrace
 passionately. AARON sits down at JING'S table. JING
 leans over to kiss AARON again. THEY are oblivious
 to EVERYONE around THEM)

AARON

I'm glad you decided to come by!

JING

Ling-si needs to get out more.

(JING looks at LING-SI)

AARON

I have some news.

(JING doesn't hear AARON)

JING

This is my sister Ling-si.

AARON

Nice to meet you Ling-si. I've heard a lot about you.

LING-SI

Nice to meet you too Aaron.

(LING-SI inspects AARON closely)

WAITRESS

(sarcastically)

Little far from Chinatown tonight girls, aren't we?

(WAITRESS drops the bill on the table from about 2 feet up. SHE touches AARON'S shoulder and smiles invitingly. AARON tears himself away from JING to intervene)

AARON

(to the waitress, annoyed)

That's enough.

LING-SI

(under her breath to JING)

I think it's time to go.

AARON

(to JING)

I need to tell you about...

JING

(to LING-SI)

We just got here.

LING-SI

This is not exactly Chinatown. Come on.

WAITRESS

Just pay up front. On your way out!

AARON

(to waitress, with authority)
That's enough!

(LING-SI is becoming nervous and pokes JING under
the table)

JING

(to LING-SI)
Okay, okay!
(to AARON)
Good to see you.

AARON

Do you have to go?

JING

I think so.

(JING nods at LING-SI, referring to HER)

AARON

We need to talk.

JING

Give me a call! You can come by the shop when my parents are out.

(AARON nods. JING and LING-SI get up and start to
walk off stage)

LING-SI

So that's your new man. That was a surprise. Mom and Dad will love
him.

JING

You need to read more French poetry.
(JING and LING-SI leave the stage)

Scene 4

The next day. Mid-afternoon.
The PO family Chinatown import
shop. JING and LING-SI are
working in the downstairs PO
family shop. YAO enters the
shop.

YAO
Ni hao. (hello) Good morning lovely ladies.

(Leering slightly at JING)

LING-SI
Ni hao. Good morning Master Yao.

JING
Ni hao.

YAO
Are your parents at home? I'm here for the rent.

LING-SI
(softly to JING)
I hope we have enough.
(to YAO)
They're upstairs. May I call them for you?

YAO
No, that is quite alright thank you.

(Starts towards the stairs, looking intently at
JING)

YAO (cont'd)
(to JING)
Jing, I understand you are quite the guzheng player.

JING
Well, I guess....

YAO
I have quite a few and I'd be glad to let you have one.

JING
(softly)
Thank you.

(Jing bows slightly. YAO goes upstairs and knocks
on the door. MRS. PO answers. YAO enters the
apartment.)

MR. PO is also in the apartment, sitting. HE gets up when YAO enters. THEY all bow. Still visible, the girls busy themselves downstairs in the shop)

MRS. PO
(bowing and scraping)
Ni hao ma, Master Yao?

YAO
Hen hao, xie xie ni.

MR. PO
Please sit down.

(YAO and MR. PO sit. MRS. PO remains standing)

MRS. PO
Tea, Master Yao?

YAO
Qing ni. (Please)

(to MR. PO)

YAO (cont'd)
How is business?

(MRS. PO goes to the kitchen but listens keenly to the conversation)

MR. PO
Very good, thank you.

(Looks at MRS. PO in the kitchen knowingly)

YAO
I saw your lovely daughters downstairs. I offered one of my guzhengs to Jing.

MRS. PO
(from the kitchen)
A very kind offer.

(MR. PO hands YAO an envelope filled with cash)

MR. PO
(quietly to YAO)
We will get you the rest next week. You should be careful with so much cash.

YAO
I can take care of myself.

(YAO pats his coat pocket confidently where he is keeping his gun. Pause)

YAO (cont'd)

Jing is a fine musician. And a beautiful young woman.

MR. PO

And headstrong as well. I believe that Berkeley school is a bad influence.

MRS. PO

(from the kitchen)

She is so American.

YAO

Perhaps I could make a suggestion. Jing might benefit from a Chinese mentor.

MRS. PO

(returning to the living room with the tea)

Yes, her Chinese is terrible!

YAO

Jing in particular seems to be very American. I wonder what would be the best way to approach such a problem?

(MRS. PO begins to pour the tea. THEY begin to drink)

MRS. PO

I'm sure we could convince Jing that such an arrangement would be in her best interest...

MR. PO

Yes, for her own good.

MRS. PO

A mentor would be a great help.

YAO

He must be knowledgeable of tradition with respect for the past.

MRS. PO

Perhaps you might honor us by acting as Jing's mentor. You are a fine son of China.

MR. PO

You know the traditional ways.

YAO

I would be happy to help.

(YAO finishes his tea)

YAO (cont'd)
I must go. Thank you for the tea.

(Gets up to leave and heads downstairs, EVERYONE bows. MRS. PO goes downstairs with YAO)

YAO (cont'd)
(now downstairs and looking at JING)
Goodbye ladies. Think about that guzheng Jing.

JING
Xie,xie.

LING-SI
Zai jian (Good bye). Goodbye Master Yao.

(YAO leaves and goes off stage. MRS. PO corners JING and talks quietly in order not to be heard by the customers. SHE is very excited. LING-SI is behind the register and does not hear the conversation)

MRS. PO
Your father and I have decided to find you a tutor for your Chinese studies!

JING
(nonplussed)
Oh?

MRS. PO
Yes. We have asked Yao to help you!

JING
Yao? The landlord?
(laughing slightly, then pause)
Oh, I see where this is going. I don't think this is about tutoring at all.
(pause,warily)
This couldn't have anything to do with our financial problems?

MRS. PO
(becoming annoyed)
You are Chinese, not American. Honor your heritage and family.

JING
(trying not to over-react)
Well, tell Yao that I am flattered but I'm happy as I am.

MRS. PO

(still annoyed)

Remember who you are young lady. Yao is an important man. His help could save this shop.

JING

(becoming slightly alarmed)

You're really serious about this, aren't you?

MRS. PO

We will talk later of this. There are customers who need help. Off with you.

(JING helps a customer. AARON enters the shop. HE sees JING helping another customer and begins to look around. JING and LING-SI do not notice AARON. MRS. PO comes over to help AARON. SHE doesn't know who HE is)

MRS. PO (cont'd)

(to AARON)

May I help you?

AARON

(trying to charm her)

Yes thank you. Tomorrow is my parents' anniversary and they are quite the art collectors. Your shop was recommended by a friend.

MRS. PO

Why thank you. Any specific art form?

AARON

Mostly painting and sculpture.

(HE looks at the paintings on the wall)

AARON (cont'd)

These are most impressive.

MRS. PO

You have an eye for quality I see. These are all by Yun Shi.

AARON

I love his almost unfocused quality. Very impressionistic.

MRS. PO

Ah, you like French art.

AARON

I prefer a non-graphic approach. Leaves more to the imagination.

MRS. PO

There is similarity between the two styles.

AARON

No doubt.

MRS. PO

You are a well informed young man. It's nice to see a young person take such an interest in these things.

(JING finishes with her customer. SHE sees AARON with her MOTHER and begins to panic. SHE goes over to LING-SI at the register)

JING

(under her breath to LING-SI)
He's talking to Mom!

(LING-SI stares in disbelief)

JING (cont'd)

Don't stare!

AARON

My parents would love any of these. But I think I'll take this one.

MRS. PO

You are a most thoughtful son.

(MRS. PO takes the painting off the wall. JING walks nervously over to AARON and her MOTHER)

JING

I think the tea is ready mother.

AARON

(to MRS. PO)
Oh, this is your daughter! Thank you for your help.

(MRS. PO bows and gives JING the painting)

MRS. PO

My daughter Jing will wrap this for you.
(to JING)

Such a nice young man. For an American.

(JING can hardly believe what has happened. MRS. PO goes upstairs)

JING

(to AARON, smiling and under her breath)
I said to call first! That was my mother!

AARON

(teasing)
I really was looking for something for my folks.

JING

(smiling)
You are so bad...

AARON

(to LING-SI at the register)
Hi Ling-si. How's business?

LING-SI

(nervously)
You're going to get us in trouble.

(MR. and MRS. PO come downstairs with the tea and
begin to drink)

MR. PO

Are you helping your customer Jing?
(referring to AARON)

JING

(flustered)
Uh, no, not yet.

(MR. and MRS. PO watch as THEY drink their tea)

AARON

(enjoying the situation)
Yes, I could use some more help. Pajamas for my grandmother
perhaps?

JING

(under her breath)
Pajamas? Are you kidding? You're killing me here!

(SHE goes to the shelf and starts going through the
pajamas for him)

JING (cont'd)

(in a mocking voice and getting into the spirit of
the situation)
Isn't this one nice? So feminine. I'm sure it would look great
on you!

(MR. and MRS. PO finish their tea and head upstairs)

MR. PO

(to MRS. PO)

What a well mannered boy.

(MR. and MRS. PO disappear into the apartment. JING, LING-SI, and AARON all gather around the register)

JING

(laughing)

You fruitcake! That was supposed to be funny?

AARON

Actually, it was rather funny.

JING

(smiling)

Yeah, I guess.

LING-SI

(with a disapproving look)

Not funny.

(AARON pays LING-SI at the register)

JING

(tenderly)

Was that song for me last night?

AARON

Of course.

JING

I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to thank you. It was wonderful.

AARON

And I meant every line.

(AARON pauses for a moment)

Last night I was trying to tell you...

(AARON looks intently at JING. LING-SI comes out from behind the register and takes AARON good-naturedly by the arm and moves him towards the door)

LING-SI

(interrupting AARON in an exaggerated, patronizing voice)

Time to go now...

JING

What are you doing tonight?

AARON

Something with you I hope.

JING

Meet me at Portsmouth Square at 9 tonight. Next to the Goddess of Democracy statue.

LING-SI

(in a mocking tone)

Thank you. Come again.

(Ushers AARON out the door with his painting)

AARON

(over his shoulder to JING)

We still need to talk.

(AARON leaves while some other tourists enter the store. JING and LING-SI try to have their conversation at the register without drawing attention to themselves)

LING-SI

(to JING)

Are you crazy? He's still white and a musician too!

JING

That's bad? Why is everyone so intolerant around here?

LING-SI

(sarcastically)

Maybe we should introduce him to Mom and Dad right now.

JING

I think Mom likes him already!

(becoming more upset)

Speaking of Mom, you won't believe what she just told me. Yao wants to be my tutor.

LING-SI

Yao's a tutor?

JING

(sarcastically)

Yeah, right.

LING-SI

Wait a minute. I *knew* he had a thing for you.

JING

Mom's leaning on me real hard. Still, I feel kind of bad about this.

LING-SI

Maybe a night out with Aaron *is* what you need.

JING

(trying to bolster her own spirits)

So, what do you think I should wear tonight?

LING-SI

(sarcastically)

How about this?

(Pulls a negligee off the rack. THEY both smile)

Scene 5

That night. Scene changes to Portsmouth Square. The split level arrangement vanishes and the night fair occupies the entire stage. Lots of booths, musicians, lights, and people. Runway from the Holiday Inn is visible with the red roof entry. There are all kinds of booths: food, musical instruments, anti-war info, clothes, health booths, and everything Chinese. The scene is a colorful maze of people and things. A big full moon behind the square and the Holiday Inn. The night fair is in full swing. Media screen shows Chinese art images, as well as the booths with JING and AARON exploring. JING is waiting nervously next to the Goddess of Democracy statue. AARON arrives shortly thereafter amid all the people and hustle and bustle.

AARON
(Enthusiastically)

Hi.

(AARON goes to hug JING, but she motions him to stop)

JING
Not here. Too many neighbors.

(AARON nods)

AARON
(trying to get it off his chest)
I have to go to Vietnam.

(JING becomes very alarmed)

JING
Vietnam? When did this happen?

AARON
Lottery numbers happened the other day.

JING
(slightly annoyed)
Why didn't you tell me?

AARON
I tried to the other night, but you and Ling-si ran off so fast.

JING
She was freaking out.

AARON
(also becoming annoyed)
And you were so busy at the shop.

JING
Not exactly the place to hold a conversation!

AARON
(more annoyed)
I've been trying to tell you! If you could just listen once in a while. This is important.

JING
(emphatically)
Well, I'm listening now!

AARON
I got a low number.

JING
But you're in school!

AARON
I had to drop a class. Went below the minimum.

JING
Oh no. What are you going to do?

AARON
I wish I knew.

(there is a pause in the conversation as THEY look at each other)

JING
Would you really go to Vietnam?

AARON
I don't know. I haven't decided yet.

JING
(concerned)
You could go to prison.

AARON
I suppose it's better than Vietnam.

JING
Talk about a test of conviction.
(pause, thinking)
What about an appeal?

AARON
I don't think so, since I'm below the minimum.

JING
Could you do conscientious objector?

AARON
(shaking his head slightly)
I'd have to show a history of that kind of thing.

JING
How long do you have?

AARON
Less than a month probably.

JING
(surprised)
A month? Oh no.

(AARON pauses and reaches in his pocket)

AARON
I have a little something for you.

(HE hands JING a small box. SHE smiles and opens it)

JING
It's beautiful!

AARON
Blue moonstone from Sri Lanka. May I put it on you?

(JING nods. AARON puts the pendant on JING. SHE is beaming)

JING
I love it. Thank you so much!

(AARON sings a phrase of "**FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON**")

AARON
FOR THE LOVE OF THE MOON.

(JING smiles)

AARON (cont'd)
So this is the night fair.

JING
Happens every Saturday night. Follow me. I want to show you something.

(THEY go to a musical instrument booth that has all kinds of instruments, including traditional Chinese instruments)

AARON
I'm a musician and I don't recognize half of these instruments.

JING
A lot of these are traditional Chinese instruments. Check this out.

(JING goes over to a guzheng and starts to play.
AARON is amazed)

AARON
I thought you played piano!

JING
(referring to herself)
Chinese...all part of the gig.

AARON
A woman of many talents.

(AARON gives a knowing look at JING. SHE smiles)

AARON (cont'd)
That looks hard to play. How is it tuned?

JING
4 octave pentatonic scale. 21 strings. Moveable bridge. I use finger picks on the right hand and push on the strings with the left to bend the notes. It's called a guzheng.

AARON
Very cool. How long have you been playing?

JING
Since I was a little girl.

AARON
Well done.

(JING picks up a guitar and hands it to AARON)

JING
(playfully)
So. Let's see what kind of Chinese chops you got.

(JING sits down to play)

JING (cont'd)
(smiling)
C pentatonic. No f. No b. Try to keep up.

(AARON nods. As the song starts, the booth attendant recognizes the song and adds his own percussion of tapping feet, drums, and gong. JING starts to play and sing "**SPRING ON THE MOUNTAIN**". AARON tries to follow along)

JING (cont'd)
SPRING TIME, NEW BAMBOO
ALL OF THE EARTH BECOMES BRAND NEW
SNOW NOW FEEDS THE STREAM
SUN AND THE LIGHT BEAM
(now speaking)
New part...
(now singing again)
MOUNTAINS STILL ASLEEP
UNDER THE SNOW THAT LAYS SO DEEP
WHEN THEY KNOW IT'S SPRING
ALL OF THE EARTH SINGS

SPRING TIME, NEW BAMBOO
ALL OF THE EARTH BECOMES BRAND NEW
SNOW NOW FEEDS THE STREAM
SUN AND THE LIGHT BEAM

(When the song finishes THEY both break into laughter)

AARON
That was fun.

JING
(smiling)
Not bad for a rocker.

(THEY put down the instruments and begin to walk.
AARON tries to take JING'S hand but she shakes her
head, still wary.)

JING (cont'd)

(More serious and animated)

So, what did you decide? What are we going to do?

AARON

Still not sure.

JING

Would you really go to prison? You're not the kind that runs.

AARON

I guess I don't have much of a choice.

(JING sees a neighbor in a booth)

JING

Ni hao(hello) Mrs. Wong.

AARON

You must know everyone around here!

JING

Some.

(more seriously)

So. It's pretty obvious. But you're gonna have to decide.

AARON

I don't know. Refuse to serve. Or run.

JING

This is a matter of conscience. If you cooperate, you'll have to
live with it all your life.

AARON

That's what bothers me.

JING

An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind. Remember that?

AARON

How do you know all this stuff?

JING

Berkeley student.

AARON

(reflectively)

I know what I have to do. I'm just afraid to do it.

JING

And for how long? And what about us?

AARON

David Harris got two years.

JING

That's a long time.

AARON

(more serious)

So what do you think I should do?

JING

(frightened for AARON)

My God, it's war! You could be killed.

(AARON just shakes his head)

JING (cont'd)

But if you don't go, I see only one choice.

AARON

(thoughtfully)

Yeah. Be the change you want to see.

(pause)

Would you wait two years?

JING

Of course.

(pause)

You know the landlord guy I was talking about, Yao?

AARON

Yeah.

JING

Well, Mom and Dad don't think I'm Chinese enough so they've asked him to tutor me. But it's not about that: Yao wants something else.

(AARON stops and looks at JING)

AARON

(surprised)

What do you mean?

JING

He knows Mom and Dad are in deep financial shit. So he's taking advantage to get what he wants.

AARON
(becoming alarmed)
Over my dead body!

JING
I respectfully declined.

(THEY starts to walk again)

AARON
Glad to hear it. But that's outrageous.

JING
And Mom's not giving up. Makes me feel like a piece of meat.

AARON
That's not fair to you!

(AARON shakes his head in disbelief)

JING
Mom is pissed. She's trying to get the guilt thing to work. I feel terrible about it.

(AARON stops again and looks in her eyes)

AARON
Don't do that! You have a life too. A life with me, I hope.

JING
(smiling at AARON)
I was hoping you might say that.

(Spying the anti-war booth, AARON leads JING to the next booth. YAO now appears and is wandering around the night fair, but hasn't seen JING and AARON yet)

AARON
Come on, I have something to show you.

(THEY head to the anti-war booth. AARON picks up a brochure and shows JING)

AARON (cont'd)
Look who's playing tomorrow at the rally! The Aaron Thomas band. These guys rock!

JING
You're playing tomorrow? How cool!

AARON
Can you come?

JING

Sure.

AARON

Should be a big crowd.

(THEY start to walk again. THEY come to the Planned Parenthood booth. AARON picks up an IUD)

AARON (cont'd)

Hmm, what is this? What does IUD stand for?

(JING laughs and picks a brochure on vasectomies and looks at it blankly)

JING

Gee, what's a vasectomy? And what are these big scissors for?
(under her breath, smiling)
Maybe you should try this.

AARON

(laughing)
Not funny.

JING

(playfully)
Ah, the male ego. Such a fragile thing.

AARON

(in a melodramatic tone)
It's not easy being male.

(THEY start walking again. The tone of the conversation becomes more serious)

JING

(firing right back at him)
Try being Chinese and female.

AARON

(in a more serious tone)
Nothing is simple.

JING

My parents would totally freak if they knew about you. And Americans are just as bad. Like that waitress.

AARON

No joke.
(smiling)
But I think your Mom already likes me!

JING
Yeah. If you buy something.
(pause)
Are you hungry? How about some Chinese?

AARON
Definitely. I could even go for something to eat.

(JING shoots him a look and then smiles. THEY walk
up to a booth)

JING
Hi Mrs. Lee.

MRS. LEE
Hello Jing.

(Looks disapprovingly at AARON)

JING
(to AARON)
Try the Dim Sum. The vegetarian is best.

AARON
Sounds good.
(singing softly to the tune of "FOR THE LOVE OF THE
MOON")

AARON (cont'd)
FOR THE LOVE OF SOME FOOD
I WOULD GLADLY FRY

(JING smiles at AARON's humor)

JING
Two vegetarian Dim Sum please.

(MRS. LEE hands her the food while glaring at
AARON. AARON pays MRS. LEE and starts to walk away)

MRS. LEE
(so AARON can't hear)
Who's your friend? Do your parents know?

JING
(in an exaggerated, patronizing voice)
Thank you Mrs. Lee.

MRS. LEE
(softly to JING)
He's American.

JING
(beginning to anger)
Yes, he is American. Is that a problem?

(AARON hears JING and comes back over to the counter)

AARON
Is everything alright?

JING
Some people don't think I should be with an American boy.

AARON
That's alright, let's go.

JING
It's not alright. It's like you're not good enough!
(starting to get angry)
Maybe this food isn't good enough!

(Puts her food back on the counter and glares at MRS. LEE)

AARON
(to JING)
It's okay. Let's go.
(to MRS. LEE)
Sorry.

(HE picks up JING'S food off the counter)

AARON (cont'd)
(to JING)
Are you okay?

(No response from JING. THEY carry their food to a nearby table. THEY sit)

JING
(still fuming)
You're special to me. And it makes me crazy when people say stuff like that.

AARON
Do you know her?

JING
A neighbor. It's like they're still in China.

AARON
(smiling,teasing)
So. How special am I?

JING
Special enough to piss me off!

(Laughter)

AARON
What higher praise.
(pause)

AARON (cont'd)
I was thinking about your poem the other night. Why such a personal piece?

JING
The usual. Am I Chinese or American? A family that doesn't really know me, except Ling-si.

AARON
And the last lines? Who has seen beyond your reflection?

JING
(looking long and hard at AARON)
I think you know.

(JING and AARON start to kiss tentatively, still wary. YAO comes over to JING and AARON. YAO puts his hands on his hips)

YAO
(In a condescending tone)
Jing, your parents would not be pleased.

AARON
Who's this?
(AARON stands up in a protective manner)

YAO
Jing!

JING
I should go.
(JING looks torn and stands up slowly)

AARON
Why? Who is this guy?

JING
Remember the landlord I told you about?

AARON
(beginning to anger)
So this is Yao.

(AARON turns to face YAO)

AARON (cont'd)
This is none of your...

JING
(interrupting, trying to calm AARON)
It's okay. You don't understand.

AARON
Please...

(JING just shakes her head)

JING
It's late. I need to go.

AARON
Rally tomorrow?

(JING nods as SHE walks away. YAO turns to follow
JING and smirks slightly at AARON as he goes)

Scene 6

Flash forward to present day.
Early morning. A disheveled
JOHN is in his robe sitting in
front of the computer and
working feverishly. HE works
for a few moments by himself.
SABRINA comes on stage dressed
nicely for work.

SABRINA
Aren't you going to work?

(JOHN ignores her question and continues to work)

JOHN
You were right about the Pacifica Archives. I found all kinds of
stuff!

SABRINA
What about work?

(JOHN is absorbed with HIS search and answers
flippantly)

JOHN
I have some sick days. Don't worry.
(now more serious)
Check this. There was an anti-war rally in Chinatown.

(HE shows her on the computer screen. Media screen
displays the images)

JOHN (cont'd)
And guess who supplied the music!

SABRINA
Let's see.

(SHE looks at the computer closely)

SABRINA (cont'd)
It says he was a Cal student.

(SABRINA becomes more animated with the discovery
of this clue)

SABRINA (cont'd)
That's a connection. Check the Cal student newspaper.

JOHN

Good idea.

(pause)

JOHN (cont'd)

And there's more. It says he spent some time in jail.

SABRINA

He's a criminal?

(Flashback to 1970 the day after the night fair. At Portsmouth Square the next day. The split level arrangement is gone and a large stage has been constructed for the anti-war rally. Lots of signs and banners. Large crowd. It's afternoon. Media screen shows anti-war messages and video clips. Psychedelic images appear when the music plays. The scene begins with the BAND on stage playing the instrumental "**OVERDRIVE**". The rally host talks while the BAND plays)

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE RALLY HOST

Good afternoon everyone. I'm Chai Ling, Chair of the Chinese-American Coalition Against the War. Thanks for coming out today. Only together can we make a difference in this world!

(Cheering)

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE RALLY HOST

(cont'd)

Today we have the distinguished professor from MIT George Hoffman. But first let's start with some music by the Aaron Thomas Band. Aaron!

(AARON, RAMON, and DAVID sing "**I DON'T WANT TO KNOW**". During this time, JING is working her way to the front of the crowd to see AARON)

AARON

YOU GOT THAT LOOK, THAT LITTLE SMILE
AND YOU PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW
AND WHAT IT DOES, IS DRIVE ME WILD
ONE LOOK I'M READY TO GO

AARON/RAMON

YOU HIT AND RUN, YOU'RE SUCH A TEASE
BUT I CAN'T LET YOU GO
SO IF IT'S TRUE, THAT YOU DON'T CARE
THEN I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

AARON/RAMON/DAVID

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

AARON

THAT ANGEL FACE THAT CALLS MY NAME
AND YOU KNOW THAT IT'S TRUE
YOU LET ME THINK, I STAND A CHANCE
BUT I KNOW I'M A FOOL

RAMON/DAVID

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

AARON/RAMON

SO GO AHEAD, 'CAUSE I DON'T MIND
I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO
'CAUSE IT'S YOUR LOVE THAT MAKES ME LIVE
SO DON'T SAY THAT WERE THROUGH

DAVID

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

AARON/RAMON/DAVID

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

DAVID

YOU GOT THAT LOOK, THAT LITTLE SMILE
AND WHAT IT DOES, IS DRIVE ME WILD
YOU GOT THAT LOOK, THAT LITTLE SMILE
AND WHAT IT DOES, IS DRIVE ME WILD

DAVID

YOU GOT THAT LOOK
THAT LITTLE SMILE
AND WHAT IT DOES
IS DRIVE ME WILD
YOU GOT THAT LOOK
THAT LITTLE SMILE
AND WHAT IT DOES
IS DRIVE ME WILD
YOU GOT THAT LOOK
THAT LITTLE SMILE
AND WHAT IT DOES
IS DRIVE ME WILD
YOU GOT THAT LOOK
THAT LITTLE SMILE
AND WHAT IT DOES
IS DRIVE ME WILD

AARON/RAMON

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

(Applause. The BAND leaves the stage. HOST comes on stage)

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE RALLY HOST

Thank you Aaron! And now the distinguished professor from MIT...
George Hoffman!

(Cheering. GEORGE HOFFMAN comes on stage)

GEORGE HOFFMAN

(in a large, deliberate orators voice)

Thank you very much. Today the United States is being polarized by the anguish of war. The staggering loss of life. Senseless destruction. A government defying the will of its people. What can a man do in the face of such reckless genocide? Who will speak for the suffering and homeless? Who will speak for the dead who were no more than innocent pawns in a desperate game? There can be only one answer. There will always be only one answer. You, my friends, are the answer. Only you can reclaim the soul of America. If you don't change, then nothing will change. You must demand change. It is not enough to talk of justice. It is not enough to believe in freedom. You must be the vehicle for that change. Make no mistake, it is a dangerous path. Refusing to do the bidding of the warmongers means persecution and perhaps even worse. Yet, our path is clearly set before us. I speak as a citizen of the world as well as America when I say "Transform this world of misery and despair into a place of peace by first transforming yourself". Do not be corrupted by the dangerous arrogance of our imperialistic foreign policy. Do not fall victim to the dogs of war when you as peacemakers are denounced for lack of patriotism. The salvation of America from the wages of war is the culmination of true patriotism. America possesses the potential to effect staggering change for better in this world. The abolition of hunger, disease, war, and hatred are clearly within our grasp. Yet we fall far short of that potential, content to follow the paths of greed and hate, removing anything in our course that might impede our insatiable lust for power. For all our greatness, we squander our heritage of freedom and prosperity on the pursuit of self-gratification. What path will our nation's destiny take? You, my friends, are the answer. If you don't change, then nothing will change. So what can a man do in the face of such reckless power? At every opportunity he must defy the will of the oppressor. Rise above this malaise. He must transform himself and then transform the world. Thank you very much.

(Flashes the peace sign. Applause. GEORGE HOFFMAN leaves the stage, waving. HOST and BAND come back on stage)

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE RALLY HOST

Thank you so much Professor Hoffman for those inspirational words! Words to live by! Alright, time for some more music from the Aaron Thomas Band. Aaron...

(HOST leaves the stage)

AARON

(AARON steps up to the mic and speaks thoughtfully)
I was recently requested to report for active duty in the military. And like Professor Hoffman said, "Defy the will of the oppressor". I am here today to publicly announce my refusal to serve.

(Cheering. JING is moved by all this and puts her hands to her face in admiration and concern.
Cheering dies down)

AARON (cont'd)

This was a hard decision for me. But as Frederick Douglass said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress".

(in a more somber tone)

I'd like to dedicate this next song to the one who helped me be the change I want to see. Only she can see beyond my reflection. Only she can see my soul.

(AARON looks at JING. AARON sings "**DO WHAT'S RIGHT**")

AARON (cont'd)

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE PLANET
GO RIGHT AHEAD
JUST REMEMBER CHEVRON AND WALL STREET
WOULD RATHER SEE YOU DEAD
EVERYBODY KNOWS
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW
SO DO WHAT'S RIGHT INSTEAD
I USED TO THINK THAT I WAS A FOOL
TO TRY TO STOP THE MACHINE
ALL IT TAKES IS YOU AND ME
'CAUSE WAR IS TRULY OBSCENE
IF I DON'T STAND UP AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT
IF I GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT
THERE'S NOBODY LEFT FOR ME TO BLAME
IF YOU WANT TO STOP WAR AND MADNESS
GO RIGHT AHEAD
JUST REMEMBER NIXON AND WALL STREET
WOULD RATHER SEE YOU DEAD
EVERYBODY KNOWS
KILLING PEOPLE BLOWS
SO DO WHAT'S RIGHT INSTEAD
I USED TO THINK THAT I REALLY LIVED
IN THE LAND OF THE FREE
BUT MONEY BUYS WHATEVER YOU WANT
INCLUDING WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE
I FINALLY NOTICED THAT I WAS THE FOOL
IF YOU HAVE MONEY THEN YOU MAKE THE RULES
BUT THERE'S ONE THING THEY CAN'T BUY
AND THAT'S YOU AND ME

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE PLANET
AND PUT AN END TO WAR
JUST REMEMBER ARCO AND WALL STREET
ARE BIG MONEY'S WHORE
EVERYBODY KNOWS
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

(Applause and cheering)

AARON (cont'd)
(now speaking)
Thank you so much!

(HOST comes on stage. The BAND remains on stage)

PORTSMOUTH SQUARE RALLY HOST
Thank you Aaron Thomas band. Inspiring words and music! And thanks
again to our illustrious speaker George Hoffman. Peace!

(HOST leaves the stage. The BAND congratulates
AARON. The BAND starts to pack up. AARON motions
for JING to come up on stage. SHE comes up on
stage)

JING
(amazed)
I can't believe what I just heard.

(SHE hugs AARON)

JING (cont'd)
You were amazing! Did you mean what you said?

AARON
Every word.
(pause)
You know, I didn't even plan to say anything. But after Hoffman
spoke, it just kind of came out.

JING
I'm so proud of you.
(concerned)
You know it's not going to be easy.

AARON
Yeah, I'm trying not to think about it.

JING
(tenderly)
So what happens now?

AARON
I'll probably have a hearing and spend some time in prison.

JING

That's not what I meant. What happens to you and me?

AARON

(thoughtfully)

It would be selfish for me to ask you to wait. So I would understand if...

(JING interrupts)

JING

(smiling)

Don't be stupid.

AARON

We don't have much time left.

JING

Two years is a long time. Who would do poetry for me?

AARON

(tenderly)

I always will.

(pause)

I have some falafel at my place. Are you hungry?

JING

And we can pick up some Chinese from my house on the way.

AARON

(smiling)

Dying man's last request.

JING

And don't worry. My parents are gone tonight.

AARON

Ling-si won't be happy.

JING

Leave Ling-si to me.

AARON

Let me get my stuff.

JING

Sure, Mr. Rock Star.

Scene 7

PO family APARTMENT AND SHOP
that same evening after the
rally. We return to the split
level stage arrangement. The
apartment, shop, and JING'S
room are all visible by the
audience. AARON and JING enter
the shop via the back door and
head up the stairs to the
apartment. The shop is closed
for the evening. AARON is
carrying his guitar over his
shoulder.

AARON

Hi Ling-si.

(LING-SI comes out of the kitchen drying a plate)

LING-SI

(surprised)

Hi Aaron.

(to JING, under her breath)

What are you doing? Mom and Dad would freak if they knew he was here! Did anyone see you?

JING

We came in the back door. We're just here to pick up some food.

LING-SI

(worried)

If anyone saw you, we know who they'd call. Your favorite tutor.

(LING-SI heads back to the kitchen. AARON starts to tune his steel string acoustic guitar. HE sits in a chair in the living room. JING goes to the kitchen and starts collecting food)

JING

(to LING-SI)

Ask Mr. Rock Star here what happened at the rally.

LING-SI

(to AARON)

How did it go?

AARON

I decided not to serve.

JING
In front of 2,000 people!

LING-SI
(concerned)
Really?

AARON
I had to choose. Do what's right...

LING-SI
You're a brave man, Aaron Thomas.

AARON
Not really.

JING
(to LING-SI, with JING beaming)
He is wonderful, isn't he?

(AARON sings "**ARRON'S MIRROR**". LING-SI listens carefully, with a new respect for AARON)

AARON
WHO'S THAT IN THE MIRROR
IS THAT REALLY ME
NO ONE KNOWS THE PERSON
THAT I'VE COME TO BE
SOMETIMES IT JUST HAPPENS
LIFE WILL MAKE YOU CHOOSE
NOW I KNOW, TO LET IT GO
THE LIFE I JUST OUTGREW
THEY CAN'T MAKE ME SOMEONE
I REFUSE TO BE
GLAD TO SAY
I'M JUST NOT THAT WAY
ONLY LOVE WILL MAKE YOU
BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE
NOW I SEE THE ANSWER
RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME
JUST AROUND THE CORNER
THROUGH THAT OPEN DOOR
THERE'S THE KEY
CALLING ME
TO WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR

LING-SI
Very nice.

AARON
(now speaking)
Thanks.

LING-SI

(to JING so AARON can't hear, smiling)
Are you guys in love or what?

(JING nods and smiles)

JING

Before we go, I have to show you where I wrote *Shimmer*.

AARON

Sure.

(AARON grabs his guitar and THEY head to the roof. LING-SI watches THEM ascend the stairs as SHE dries a dish. There is a beautiful view of the city from the top. Lots of city lights. There are a few old chairs, a futon, and a sofa scattered around. THEY stand and admire the view)

AARON (cont'd)

What a great view. Summertime in San Francisco. I love this city.

JING

This is my escape.

(JING takes AARON'S arm)

AARON

I only wish we could escape up here.

JING

If only.

(THEY go to the sofa and sit. AARON plays his guitar as THEY sing. AARON and JING sing "**ALL MY LIFE**")

AARON/JING

I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL MY LIFE
WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN
SOMEONE TO MAKE IT RIGHT
I'M OVERDUE TO FEEL LIKE BRAND NEW
BUT LOVE DOESN'T KNOW MY NAME
I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL MY LIFE
SOMETHING HAS FINALLY HAPPENED
IT MIGHT JUST BE TONIGHT
IT HAS TO BE TONIGHT

(AARON nods and leans over his guitar to kiss JING. SHE leans towards him and gets her long hair caught on the strings. THEY laugh as THEY extricate JING. THEY continue kissing but without the guitar.

THEY move to the futon and start to make love. Cut to the Po family apartment below. LING-SI is still washing and drying the dishes. SHE puts more food into JING'S bag and puts it by the door. LING-SI works in the kitchen while JING and AARON continue to make love. YAO knocks loudly on the door. LING-SI walks to the door)

LING-SI
(trying to be calm)
Yes, who is it?

YAO
(in a forceful voice)
It's Yao! Open the door please.

LING-SI
(panicked)
Uh, just a moment. Let me get something on.

(LING-SI runs up the stairs to the roof. YAO continues to knock. Cut to the rooftop)

LING-SI (cont'd)
You guys! Yao's at the door! I'll try to stall him! I suggest you get dressed!!

JING
(panicked)
Not good. This guy is relentless.

(THEY struggle to get dressed quickly)

AARON
Don't worry. There'll be another time.

(After a brief but passionate kiss, AARON goes down the fire escape to the street, leaving his guitar. JING heads downstairs. LING-SI is already at the front door. YAO is pounding louder and louder. Cut to the PO family apartment)

YAO
Open the door!

LING-SI
Just a minute!

JING
(to LING-SI)
Don't open it.

LING-SI

He sounds seriously miffed.

(YAO opens the door with his key and marches through)

YAO

(animated)

Where is he?

LING-SI

(afraid of YAO)

Master Yao. Please, you should not be here.

JING

(furious)

Get the hell out of my house!

(YAO charges up the stairs to the rooftop and bursts through the door only to find the roof empty. YAO sees AARON'S guitar and picks it up. JING and LING-SI follow behind him up to the roof)

YAO

Looks like someone left in a hurry.

(LING-SI goes over to YAO and snatches the guitar out of his hands)

JING

I'm calling the cops.

(JING starts to head downstairs, YAO intercepts HER and grabs HER by the wrist in anger)

YAO

Then perhaps I should inform your parents of your little get together tonight.

(JING stops walking. YAO now realizes he has some leverage over JING with this discovery)

YAO (cont'd)

And your American friend.

(YAO releases JING. YAO begins to relax and sits down confidently on the sofa. HE speaks more slowly now)

YAO (cont'd)

(with an almost smug tone)

I know about your anti-war musician friend. Aaron is his name?

(MORE)

YAO (cont'd)

But before you do anything rash, let me make a suggestion. I would do what your parents say, if you want to keep the shop. Understand? Ji zhu ni zi ji shi shei. And remember, you are Chinese, not American. Ming bai le ma? (Do you understand)

(JING and LING-SI are speechless and don't respond)

YAO (cont'd)

Good. I think I know the way out. Good night ladies. Wan shang hao. (Good night)

Scene 8

PO family APARTMENT AND SHOP a few days later. LING-SI is working in the shop. JING is in her room. MR. PO and MRS. PO are in the apartment reading. YAO enters the shop.

YAO
Ni hao Ling-si. How is business?

LING-SI
Ni hao Master Yao. Fine, thank you.

YAO
Are your parents upstairs?

(LING-SI nods. YAO goes up the stairs to the apartment and knocks. MRS. PO answers)

MRS. PO
Good morning Master Yao. Ni hao ma?

YAO
Hen hao, xie xie ni. (Fine, thank you)

MRS. PO
Please come in.

(YAO enters and sits down with MR. PO. THEY all bow)

MRS. PO (cont'd)
Tea?

YAO
Yes, thank you.

(MRS. PO goes to the kitchen and brings back tea for everyone. SHE sits down)

YAO (cont'd)
As you know, I enjoy helping Jing with her Chinese studies. I am very fond of her. Still, she is very American.

MRS. PO
Her Chinese is getting better. But she forgets she is Chinese!

YAO
One must honor one's family and heritage.
(pause)

(MORE)

YAO (cont'd)

Let me make a suggestion. I was hoping that my role as a tutor might lead to a more permanent kind of relationship.

MRS. PO

(animatedly)

Yes, an arranged marriage would be most welcome. Like Mr. Po and myself.

YAO

She would profit from my status in the community as well as my bank account!

(HE laughs slightly)

MR. PO

I'm not sure Jing would consent to such an arrangement. She is just like her mother. Stubborn and proud.

(MRS. PO looks indignant)

YAO

I think you will find Jing more willing now.

MR. PO

(not convinced)

I don't know.

YAO

Let me offer a further incentive. If Jing will consent to this arrangement, I will personally give the Po family ownership of this building.

MRS. PO

How very generous Master Yao!

YAO

As a token of my gratitude, as well as an opportunity to solve your financial problems.

MR. PO

We are truly honored by your kind offer.

(MR. and MRS. PO speak quietly to each other for a moment in Chinese. MR. PO looks unconvinced and shakes his head)

MRS. PO

Such an honor! We will speak to Jing.

(YAO stands up)

YAO

Very good. Thank you for the tea.

(MR. and MRS. PO stand and bow. MRS. PO walks YAO to the door)

MRS. PO
Zai jian. (good bye)

(YAO walks down the stairs to the shop)

MRS. PO (cont'd)
Jing! Come down here please!

(JING leaves her room and comes to the living room)

YAO
(to LING-SI)
Say hello to Jing. Tell her not to forget.
(pause)
About the guzheng.

(LING-SI nods. YAO leaves the shop. LING-SI goes upstairs to the living room. Cut to the apartment upstairs. MRS. PO is calling down the hall to JING'S room)

MRS. PO
Yao was just here! He has made us a very generous offer.

JING
(wary)
Oh? Again?

MRS. PO
He will give us this building if you consent to an arranged marriage. As a wedding present!

(JING hangs her head)

JING
(softly)
Father, please.

MR. PO
(painfully)
We agree with Master Yao that an arranged marriage is the only solution to all this.

JING
Please. Don't make me do this.

LING-SI
(to MR. PO, pleading)
Yao's not for her, you know that.

MRS. PO

As long as you are my daughter, you will do as I say.

JING

(softly and beginning to cry)

I can't. Please.

LING-SI

(quietly to MRS. PO)

Don't do this.

MRS. PO

It is what is best for her.

LING-SI

No, it's what's best for you.

(JING slowly walks to her room followed by LING-SI.
SHE comforts her SISTER. Cut to JING'S room)

LING-SI (cont'd)

I'm so sorry.

(LING-SI strokes her SISTER'S hair as SHE cries
softly)

JING

I can't believe they would do this to me.

LING-SI

I'll talk to Dad. Maybe he can figure out something.

JING

Maybe. But what about the shop?

LING-SI

You have a life too. And what about Aaron?

(JING can't respond. LING-SI hugs her sister and
then leaves the stage. JING sings "**JING'S MIRROR**")

JING

(singing)

WHO'S THAT IN THE MIRROR
IS THAT REALLY ME?
NO ONE KNOW THE PERSON
THAT I'VE COME TO BE
ALWAYS DISAPPOINTED
THEY'RE NEVER SATISFIED
ON MY OWN, ALL ALONE
I'M LATE FOR THE SKY

(Cut back to the PO apartment, this dialog must fit into the guitar solo)

MR. PO

(quietly to MRS. PO)

Are you sure this is best? For Jing?

MRS. PO

I am.

MR. PO

She is so American already. They don't do this in America.

MRS. PO

She is Chinese! We live in Chinatown. It is what Chinese do in Chinatown.

MR. PO

(tenderly)

We hardly knew each other when we got married. I know you didn't want to.

MRS. PO

I had the good sense to listen to my mother.

MR. PO

Living in America will make her American no matter what we do.

(pause)

It took a long time for us to, well, get used to each other. Did you ever regret it?

MRS. PO

(finally showing some concern)

At first. But we have a life together now.

MR. PO

I'm not sure I want to take that chance away from Jing.

MRS. PO

She will do fine with Yao.

MR. PO

Should we make that decision for her? She was not happy.

MRS. PO

I wasn't happy either, at first. This will all work out.

MR. PO

I hope.

JING

(singing)

THEY CAN'T MAKE ME SOMEONE
I DON'T WANNA BE
NOT THAT GUY
I WOULD RATHER DIE
ALWAYS WHAT THEY WANTED
NEVER WHAT I NEED
LOVE IS STILL THE ANSWER
IF WE WERE ONLY FREE
JUST AROUND THE CORNER
THROUGH THAT OPEN DOOR
THERE'S THE KEY
CALLING ME
TO WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR

(A few days later LING-SI knocks on JING'S bedroom door)

LING-SI

Can I come in?

JING

Okay.

LING-SI

Are you alright?

JING

No.

LING-SI

What's wrong?

JING

Don't tell anyone.

LING-SI

Of course.

JING

Aaron has been sentenced to two years in prison.

LING-SI

Oh no.

JING

(feeling guilty)

And I'm the one who talked him into it.

LING-SI

It was Aaron's decision. He wanted to do this.

JING
I know. But still...

LING-SI
Can I help?

(JING shakes her head)

LING-SI (cont'd)
I'm your sister. Of course I can help.

JING
There is something.

(LING-SI nods)

JING (cont'd)
I don't trust Mom, so I told Aaron not to call. Mail these for me?

LING-SI
Sure.

(JING hands a few letters to LING-SI)

JING
I told Aaron about Yao.

LING-SI
He won't be happy.

JING
I told him it wasn't for sure yet.

LING-SI
Not for Mom and Dad.

JING
I keep hoping all this will go away.

Scene 9

Flash forward to the present day. Midday. JOHN and SABRINA are in the beautiful San Francisco Public Library. THEY are both staring intently at their respective computers. THEY are surrounded by four STUDENTS who are studying quietly at desks.

JOHN
Sabrina! I found it!

(All four STUDENTS glare at JOHN for talking too loudly)

STUDENT NO. 1
Shhh!

JOHN
(softly)
Sorry.

(SABRINA comes over to JOHN'S computer)

JOHN (cont'd)
(now softly to SABRINA. The conversation gradually gets louder)
Check it out!

(JOHN points to the computer. Media screen shows the image)

JOHN (cont'd)
Aaron Thomas spent time in jail alright. For refusing to go to Vietnam. He's not a criminal, he's a hero! I knew it!

(STUDENTS all turn again and reprimand JOHN and SABRINA for talking too loudly)

STUDENT NO. 2/STUDENT NO. 1
Shhh!

STUDENT NO. 3/STUDENT NO. 4
Please.

SABRINA
(softly but excitedly)
That's the connection! Vietnam and Berkeley! I'll check the Cal anti-war groups.

(THEY both rush back to SABRINA'S computer. SHE sits down and begins to work quickly. JOHN stands behind HER and watches over HER shoulder. Media screen continues to show the images)

SABRINA (cont'd)
What anti-war groups did they have back then?

JOHN
Try SDS.

SABRINA
What's that?

JOHN
Students for a democratic society.

(THEY search quickly. The passing images display on the computer screen until SABRINA stops on a specific image of both AARON and JING together at Cal as officers in SDS)

JOHN (cont'd)
(loudly)
Holy shit!

(All the STUDENTS turn for a final time and reprimand JOHN and SABRINA more adamantly)

STUDENT NO. 1/STUDENT NO.2
Hey!

STUDENT NO. 3/STUDENT NO. 4
Shhh!!

JOHN
(softly but very excitedly)
There they are.

SABRINA
We finally have a name. Jing Po.

JOHN
(excitedly but quietly)
Check Chinatown for Po's.

SABRINA
Right.

(SHE searches quickly for a few moments. Media screen displays the white pages of the phone book.)

There are many Po names. SABRINA stops when she gets to the page with the Po names)

SABRINA (cont'd)

There must be almost 100.

JOHN

Somebody in Chinatown must know about this.

(Flashback to 1970. A few months after the Portsmouth Square rally. At the floor level the stage is split into AARON'S jail cell on the left and the PO family shop on the right. Above is the PO family apartment and JING'S room. During this entire scene all four areas (cell, JING'S room, shop, and PO apartment) are visible to the audience. The action jumps from area to area. JING is in her room on her bed. Media screen shows AARON, dressed in a prison jump suit, being led away and writing letters in his cell. MR. and MRS. PO are reading in the apartment living room. The action starts in AARON'S cell. Cut to AARON'S cell the same day. NICK, the guard, brings a guitar to AARON'S cell. LING-SI kisses JING on the head, leaves her room and goes to the shop)

NICK

Hey Aaron, I got something for you.

(NICK unlocks the cell, hands AARON the guitar)

AARON

Thanks Nick. Can't live without it.

NICK

Just don't keep everybody up.

(AARON sits down and starts playing the opening chords of "**SEND YOU MY LOVE**". NICK watches. Suddenly AARON puts the guitar down in frustration)

AARON

(in frustration)

I just need to be out of here.

NICK

You chose to be here.

AARON

I need to talk to her.

NICK

Ah, Jing. Not a lot you can do from here. If there's one thing I've learned, it's that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.

AARON

I know. When I'm out of here, things will be fine.

(NICK puts his hands on AARON'S shoulders)

NICK

There you go.

(AARON picks up his guitar and starts playing the opening chords of "**SEND YOU MY LOVE**")

NICK (cont'd)

That's the right idea.

(NICK shuts the cell door and leaves the stage. Cut to JING'S room. A few weeks later. AARON is still visible in the cell while HE plays the chords to "**SEND YOU MY LOVE**". MR. and MRS. PO are reading. JING is lying on her bed. LING-SI goes to JING'S room and softly knocks on the door. JING does not respond. LING-SI lets herself in)

LING-SI

Hi.

(SHE sees that her SISTER has been crying. SHE consoles her and strokes her hair. JING hugs her SISTER in despair)

LING-SI (cont'd)

You okay?

JING

(big pause, softly)

I'm pregnant.

LING-SI

(in disbelief)

Oh no. You're sure?

(LING-SI takes her SISTER'S hands)

JING

You've obviously never been pregnant before.

LING-SI

How do you feel?

JING

I alternate between sheer terror and absolute happiness.

(Laughs weakly)

LING-SI

Don't worry, I always take care of you.

(LING-SI hugs JING)

JING

No matter what?

LING-SI

What are sisters for?

JING

What would I do without you?

(LING-SI continues to hold her SISTER'S hands)

LING-SI

We'll get through this together.

(JING regains her composure)

JING

I know I won't be able to keep this a secret for long.

(JING sighs slowly)

JING (cont'd)

But this is not how it's supposed to be.

LING-SI

You have to think what's best for the baby too.

JING

It's so wonderful. He's part of me and Aaron. A miracle.

LING-SI

It's wonderful no doubt, but Mom and Dad won't see it that way. Neither will Yao.

JING

I know.

(Pause. And then more seriously)

I've decided not to tell Aaron.

LING-SI

(in amazement)

Why? Why not?

(JING stands up. LING-SI remains seated)

JING

(summoning up her courage)

Aaron won't be released for another 2 years. If he knew he had a child, it would destroy him. I can't do that to him.

LING-SI

But he has a right to know about his own child!

JING

He will. But all in good time. All in good time.

LING-SI

What about Mom and Dad?

(JING just shakes her head. LING-SI hugs JING. LING-SI goes to the living room. MR. and MRS. PO are still reading in the living room. Media screen shows AARON and JING at the night fair. JING sings "**WITHOUT YOU**")

JING

SING ME A LOVE SONG
 I'LL PRETEND THAT YOU'RE HERE
 TO MAKE ALL THIS GO AWAY
 BUT IT'S NEVER THAT EASY
 WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH TO LOSE
 AND I'M THE PRICE THEY HAVE TO PAY
 I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT
 THAT THIS COULD HAPPEN TO ME
 I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT
 I JUST WANT US BOTH TO BE FREE
 WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
 WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
 SING THE SAME OLD SONG
 PRETEND THAT NOTHING'S WRONG
 OR MAYBE FACE THE FACT
 THAT WE CAN'T GO BACK
 WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
 WITHOUT YOU
 ANY FOOL CAN TELL YOU
 NOTHING'S AS SWEET OH NO
 UNTIL IT SLIPS RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HANDS
 IT'S ALWAYS WHAT THEY WANTED
 AND NEVER WHAT I REALLY NEED
 AND ONLY NOW I UNDERSTAND

ONE DAY AT A TIME NOW
BUT IT'S NO THE SAME
I JUST WISH I COULD SEE YOUR FACE
THERE'S NO MORE LOVE SONGS
WITH THE MOON IN THE SKY
IT'S LIKE YOU DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
THAT THIS CAN KEEP US APART
I WON'T BELIEVE IT
BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS HOLE IN MY HEART
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
SING THE SAME OLD SONG
PRETEND THAT NOTHING'S WRONG
OR MAYBE FACE THE FACT
THAT WE CAN'T GO BACK
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WITHOUT YOU

(JING slowly walks to the living room of the apartment)

JING (cont'd)

(to her parents, with her head down)

Mom. Dad. I have something to say.

(Media screen goes dark. Lighting for JING'S room, the shop, and the living room fades to black. AARON'S cell remains lighted. Cut to AARON'S cell the next day)

NICK

(NICK approaches AARON'S cell)

You alright son?

(AARON hands the letter to NICK. HE reads the letter intently)

AARON

Jing's parents want her to marry some other guy.

(pause)

She says she can't visit. Too busy.

NICK

Something's stopping her. You have to give it time.

AARON

I know. When I'm out of here, things will be fine.

(NICK hands AARON his guitar)

NICK

Get busy.

(AARON reluctantly takes the guitar. Lights come up in JING'S room. JING stands up and looks out towards the audience. Media screen shows AARON and JING at the night fair. AARON and JING sing "**SEND YOU MY LOVE**")

AARON

IT'S BEEN SO LONG,
SO LONG I CAN'T REMEMBER
IT'S BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I'VE SEEN YOUR SHINING FACE
YOUR TENDER HEART
THAT SHATTERED INTO PIECES
THAT DAY THEY CAME
AND PUT ME IN THIS PLACE
REMEMBER HOW
YOU SAID YOU'D WAIT FOREVER
REMEMBER HOW
WE HAD TO SAY GOODBYE
NOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED
AND SADLY NOT FOR BETTER
I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT IT WAS ALL A LIE

AARON/JING

I STILL SEND YOU MY LOVE
I STILL SEND YOU MY LOVE
I STILL SEND YOU MY LOVE
I STILL SEND ALL MY LOVE
WE COULDN'T KNOW THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN
NOW YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT FREE
I NEED YOU TO TELL ME NOT TO WORRY
I CAN'T BELIEVE
THERE'S NO MORE YOU AND ME

AARON

IT'S BEEN SO LONG
SO LONG I CAN'T REMEMBER
IT'S BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I'VE SEEN YOUR SHINING FACE
NOW ALL I HAVE IS JUST A FADED MEMORY
UNTIL THAT DAY
YOU TAKE ME FROM THIS PLACE

AARON/JING

I STILL SEND YOU MY LOVE
I STILL SEND YOU MY LOVE
I STILL SEND YOU MY LOVE
I STILL SEND ALL MY LOVE

(JING hangs her head in despair. Lights come down in JING'S room. Lights come up on the shop. Cut to the PO family shop. A few months later. LING-SI is at the register and her PARENTS are working in the shop. A visibly pregnant JING comes down the stairs to the shop. When JING is half-way down YAO enters the shop carrying a guzheng)

YAO

Good morning Ling-si. Ni hao ma?

LING-SI

Hen hao, xie xie ni. (Fine, thank you) How was your trip?

YAO

Hong Kong was wonderful. But I've been gone too long. I found a beautiful guzheng for...

(YAO looks up and sees JING on the stairs. He stops in his tracks and stares. JING freezes on the stairs. MRS. PO and MR. PO come over to YAO in a panic)

MRS. PO

I can explain.

YAO

Excuse me?

MRS. PO

The American boy.

(YAO begins to pace slightly, thinking)

YAO

(starting to anger)

Why didn't you tell me?

(JING continues down the stairs and sits in a chair, listening with her head down)

YAO (cont'd)

This is outrageous. Who knows about this?

MRS. PO

Just the family.

YAO

If word gets out, I will look like a fool!

MRS. PO

The boy is in prison for a few years.

YAO
So Jing needs a husband.

MRS. PO
More than ever now. Perhaps you would consider an earlier wedding?

YAO
(almost laughing)
I'm afraid not. A half breed child. Hardly respectable for a son of China.

(MRS. PO begins to smile, trying to tempt him. LING-SI goes over to JING and puts her hands on her shoulders)

MRS. PO
(doing damage control)
We know you have always been fond of Jing. She is young and headstrong, but has a good heart.

JING
(softly to her mother)
Mother, please.

MRS. PO
(ignoring JING)
A wife of such talent and beauty is rare indeed.

(YAO glances periodically at JING throughout the rest of the conversation in a nervous fashion. He is clearly torn)

YAO
Why did you let this happen with so much at stake?

MRS. PO
She is a wonderful musician and cook. A man of your importance should have a wife of great beauty and intelligence.

(YAO appears to be weakening)

YAO
I know what you are trying to do.

MRS. PO
And all those guzhengs. Such beautiful music could be made together.

YAO
I am not usually a forgiving man, but I would hate for you to lose all that you've worked for.

(YAO is torn. HE walks slowly, thinking)

YAO (cont'd)

(brusquely)

I will consider this only under one condition. Jing must give the baby up. With no further contact with the father. This dishonor must be swept from our memories. Forever.

JING

(protesting only mildly)

No, I can't do that.

MRS. PO

(almost groveling)

I will personally see to it. You are most forgiving Master Yao.

(YAO leaves the shop. Lights come down on the shop)

Scene 10

A few months later. We now
move to AARON'S cell. NICK
approaches the cell and lets
AARON out.

NICK

(to AARON)

Say goodbye to the slammer Aaron.

(AARON walks up to NICK)

AARON

I couldn't have done it without you. Thanks.

(THEY hug)

NICK

(in fatherly manner)

Get out of here kid. Remember, attitude is everything. Let's go.

(THEY walk away from the cell towards a table)

NICK (cont'd)

Someone's here to pick you up.

(RAMON sees AARON)

AARON

So good to see you. You have no idea.

(THEY hug)

NICK

Here's your stuff. You can keep the jumpsuit as a souvenir.

(AARON gets out of his clothes as the conversation
progresses)

RAMON

We've all missed you man. It's just not the same without you.

(Slaps AARON on the back)

RAMON (cont'd)

Out after only 9 months! That beats two years!

AARON

I am what you call a model prisoner.

(anxious)

Have you heard from Jing?

(RAMON shakes his head)

RAMON

I stopped by the shop this morning but no Ling-si.

AARON

Let's stop by on the way home. I have to see her.

RAMON

Whatever you say. Come on, let's get the hell out of here.

(AARON and RAMON move off stage. Cut to the PO family shop. A little later on the same day. LING-SI is working in the shop. JING is upstairs in the living room. There are no customers in the shop. MR. and MRS. PO are getting ready to go out. THEY put on their coats and begin to descend the stairs to the shop. AARON enters the shop)

LING-SI

(shocked to see AARON)

Oh my God! Aaron!

(LING-SI gives AARON a big hug)

LING-SI (cont'd)

What are you doing here? How..

AARON

(interrupting her, excitedly)

Early release! Can you believe it?

(pause)

Where's Jing?

(MR. and MRS. PO see what's going on. THEY hurry down the stairs and come over to LING-SI)

LING-SI

She's in the...

MRS. PO

(interrupting LING-SI)

That American boy!

LING-SI

(quickly and under her breath)

Jing had to...

MR. PO

(interrupting LING-SI)

Are you Jing's friend?

MRS. PO

(agitated)

Jing is going to marry a Chinese man. She is not here.

(SHE tries to shoo AARON away. MRS. PO firmly grasps AARON'S arm and moves him towards the door)

AARON

(to LING-SI)

Is she here?

LING-SI

(to AARON)

You need to...

MRS. PO

(interrupting LING-SI)

Do not come here again. I will call the police.

AARON

(louder as he begins to anger)

Where is Jing?

(AARON and MRS. PO are approaching the door)

MRS. PO

Go now!

AARON

(frantic, to LING-SI)

What happened?

(LING-SI tries to answer but AARON is already out the door. HE stands looking in with disbelief for a moment, then turns to go)

LING-SI

(to MRS. PO)

Was that really necessary? Aaron should know the truth.

MRS. PO

After the wedding.

LING-SI

This is honorable Chinese behavior?

(MRS. PO dismisses her with a wave of her hand)

MR. PO

We're meeting Yao at the title office. We should be back in about an hour and a half.

MRS. PO
(emphatically)
And you are not to tell Jing about that boy!

(MR. and MRS. PO leave the shop. LING-SI immediately sprints up the stairs to the apartment living room)

LING-SI
(to JING, breathless)
Aaron was just here!

JING
What?

(JING is instantly on her feet)

LING-SI
Early release. Mom and Dad tossed him out.

(JING gets a coat and puts it on. SHE is excited)

JING
I have to explain.

LING-SI
Well, you better hurry. They went to the title office with Yao. You have about an hour and a half.

(THEY both hurry down the stairs to the shop. JING hugs LING-SI and leaves the shop. Cut to AARON'S apartment. A little later the same day. AARON'S cell is now the Haight-Ashbury apartment. Only AARON'S apartment is lighted. AARON and RAMON arrive at the apartment. A banner saying "Welcome Home" is on the wall for his welcome home party. All the BAND members are there, plus friends. Beer and marijuana are everywhere. Music plays. AARON and RAMON enter the apartment. AARON is becoming more and more despondent)

BAND MEMBERS
Welcome home Aaron!

(Much hoopla and good feelings and hugs)

SCOTT
Hail the conquering musician!

(DAVID jumps up on a chair with AARON standing directly in front of him. HE puts his hands on AARON'S shoulders)

DAVID

And now! Fresh from his acclaimed whirlwind tour of the Big House. Your favorite felon and mine, the man who gave "the joint" a whole new meaning.

(Those smoking pot hold up their joints and cheer.
PAUL comes over and stands next to AARON)

PAUL

The sultan of the slammer, the prince of penal. Should I say that? I give you Aaron "Fuck Authority" Thomas!!!

(Cheering. AARON bows graciously as if to an audience. The hoopla dies down and AARON and RAMON settle into some chairs. The other party members visit quietly. SCOTT comes over to AARON and RAMON. SCOTT kisses AARON on the top of his head)

SCOTT

(to AARON)

It's good to have you back man. There's no band without you.

(AARON nods in appreciation. SCOTT goes back to the party people, leaving AARON and RAMON to visit)

RAMON

Did you see Jing inside?

AARON

No. I barely talked to Ling-si and then her parents tossed me out.

(RAMON just shakes his head)

RAMON

I'm sorry man. What a welcome home present.

AARON

I have to see her.

(DAVID comes over to RAMON and AARON and puts his hands on AARON'S shoulders)

DAVID

Welcome home stranger!

(AARON nods and pats DAVID'S hand in appreciation. DAVID goes back to the other party goers. AARON stands up)

AARON

(to RAMON, reluctantly)

I had a lot of time to think in jail.

(MORE)

AARON (cont'd)
And Ramon, you're my best friend on the planet.
(pause)
But I've decided to quit the band.

RAMON
(in disbelief)
Why? Dude, you are the band!

AARON
I love the music and you guys, but I need to finish what I started.

RAMON
What do you have in mind?

AARON
Full-time activist. Maybe a writer and organizer. And not just anti-war.

RAMON
Pretty noble man.

AARON
It's something I have to do.

RAMON
The boys won't be happy. But at least play the rally tomorrow.

AARON
Alright.

SCOTT
(from across the room to AARON and RAMON)
We're going to get something to eat. Come on.

AARON
(to RAMON)
Go ahead. I appreciate the party and all, but I just want to be alone.

(AARON turns to look at the party people. THEY start to disperse, including the BAND members. As people leave, THEY quietly wish AARON well and pat him on the back as THEY go out the door. AARON is left alone in the overstuffed chair with the "Welcome Home" banner right behind him. HE sits for a moment in despair. HE goes to the piano. The lights come down and focus only on AARON. AARON sings "**ALL THE ANSWERS**")

AARON (cont'd)
ALL THE ANSWERS WERE HIDDEN FROM MY VIEW
TO ALL THOSE QUESTIONS, THE ONES I THOUGHT I KNEW

BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD FIND
A REASON WHY

AS A YOUNG MAN I LIVED FROM DAY TO DAY
BLIND TO THE HORIZON, MY LIFE IN DISARRAY
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE, THE THINGS YOU SAW IN ME
THAT I COULDN'T SEE.

NOW IT'S SUCH A BATTLE TO GET ME THROUGH THE DAY
MY SOLITUDE AND ANGER IN A SAD AND GRACELESS AGE
I GUESS I NEVER NOTICED, I GUESS I NEVER KNEW
THAT I WOULD NEVER BE ME WITHOUT YOU

WAS IT WORTH THE ANGUISH AND ALL THE THINGS I LOST
I NEVER THOUGHT A CONSCIENCE WOULD COME AT SUCH A COST
HOW DIFFERENT THINGS WOULD BE, THE SUN, THE MOON, AND ME
IF I'D HAVE BEEN FREE

ALL I SEEM TO THINK OF IS HOW I'D CHANGE THE PAST
HAUNTED BY THE VISION OF A LIFE I COULDN'T HAVE
I GUESS THAT'S ALL BEHIND ME, I GUESS IT'S SAD BUT TRUE
THAT I DON'T WANNA BE ME WITHOUT YOU

(When HE finishes HE sits still at the piano for a
moment and then slams his hands down on the
keyboard in frustration. HE sits at the piano in
darkness with his head down. JING arrives at
AARON'S apartment door and finds it unlocked. SHE
knocks but no one answers. AARON ignores the
knocking)

JING

Hello?

(SHE knocks again and then goes in. SHE turns on
the light)

JING (cont'd)

Hello, anyone here? It's Jing. Aaron? Are you here?

(AARON hears her voice and is instantly alert)

AARON

Jing?

(THEY rush together for a long passionate embrace.
THEY are ecstatic. Later in the evening on the same
day. The PO family's Chinatown shop. The shop is
the only lighted element on stage. LING-SI is
downstairs minding the shop as her PARENTS and YAO
return from the title office)

YAO

(to Ling-si)

Well, your parents will be the proud owners of this building on Monday!

MRS. PO

(to LING-SI, concerned about JING)

Where is Jing?

LING-SI

In her room.

(MR. and MRS. PO with YAO head up the stairs to the apartment. Cut to the living room)

MRS. PO

Master Yao, would you care for some tea?

YAO

Xie xie ni. (Thank you) You are too kind.

(MRS. PO heads to the kitchen to fix the tea. YAO and MR. PO are chatting in Chinese at the table. MRS. PO puts the water on to boil and heads down the hall to check on JING. SHE knocks gently on JING'S door)

MRS. PO

Jing dear, would you like some tea?

(No response)

MRS. PO (cont'd)

Jing?

(pause)

Jing?

(SHE enters JING'S room and discovers JING isn't there. SHE comes out in a hurry and goes to the living room)

MRS. PO (cont'd)

(to MR. PO and YAO)

Jing isn't in her room! Is she downstairs?

MR. PO

I don't know, ask your daughter.

(MRS. PO calls to LING-SI from the top of the stairs)

MRS. PO
(quietly but with urgency since there are customers
in the shop)
Where is your sister?

LING-SI
In her room.

MRS. PO
(a little louder now)
She is *not* in her room!

(No response from LING-SI. MRS. PO is becoming
annoyed with the fact SHE can't question LING-SI in
front of the customers)

MRS. PO (cont'd)
Come up here please.

(LING-SI slowly ascends the stairs, looking down
and dreading what is about to happen. SHE enters
the apartment)

MRS. PO (cont'd)
(more annoyed)
Where is your sister?

LING-SI
(answering quietly)
I thought she was in her room.

(YAO and MR. PO get up and walk briskly to JING'S
door and look in. The tea kettle is starting to
whistle slightly. THEY return to the living room.
LING-SI is standing, like a prisoner awaiting a
guilty verdict)

MR. PO
(with concern)
Is Jing alright?

(No response from LING-SI)

YAO
(his temper starting to show)
Where is Jing?

(No response from LING-SI. The tea kettle is
starting to make some serious noise. YAO's temper
is starting to show. HE comes over to LING-SI and
stands right in front of her in an intimidating
way)

YAO (cont'd)
 (more emphatically now)
 Where is Jing!?

(LING-SI does not respond but only backs away from YAO. YAO now comes up to LING-SI and takes her firmly by the shoulders. The tea kettle is screaming now)

YAO (cont'd)
 (his anger showing)
 I'm sure you know! Where?

(At this point, LING-SI snaps. After all of the years of being the good daughter, SHE can't take it. As soon as YAO grabs her shoulders, SHE knocks THEM aside in pent up fury)

LING-SI
 (with fury and the tea kettle going full blast)
 As if I would tell you! You disgust me! All of you! Do you really expect me to tell you? This is her only chance to get out of this madhouse. She thinks you want this building more than you want her. And it's true! We are nothing more than the hired help to you!

(looking at YAO)
 Or a pawn to be sold to the highest bidder to get your precious building. You forced her to give up her own child. It almost destroyed her! Your own flesh and blood. And you'll probably never even see her again. It's your own damn fault too!
 (pause, staring at THEM in anger)
 Shut that stupid tea kettle off!! Zhu tou!! (pig head)

(MRS. PO runs over and turns off the tea kettle. YAO'S temper is flaring. HE approaches LING-SI, takes her by the shoulders again and slaps her across the face)

YAO
 Where?!

(LING-SI recoils in fear. MR. PO has now had enough as well)

MR. PO
 (angry)
 Enough!

(HE shields LING-SI and pushes YAO away)

MR. PO (cont'd)
 Stay away from my...

(MRS. PO comes over to YAO. SHE is almost groveling at YAO'S feet)

MRS. PO
(interrupting)
I am so sorry Master Yao, you are...

(MR. PO interrupts)

MR. PO
(speaking slowly and with great authority to MRS. PO)
Sit down!! You've done enough!!

(HE points at MRS. PO. SHE stops in her tracks and reluctantly sits down)

MR. PO (cont'd)
There will be no wedding! Keep your building! And stay away from my family!

(LING-SI looks on in amazement)

LING-SI
Dad, what about...

MR. PO
I will not sacrifice my family!

(MR. PO takes YAO by the arm and moves him toward the door)

YAO
(with malice)
You will regret this.

(YAO turns to go out the door)

LING-SI
(to YAO with anger)
You'll never find her. And get the hell out!

(YAO leaves)

MR. PO
Tell Jing she won't have to marry Yao.

LING-SI
It's a little late for that now.

(Flash forward to the present. The media screen now shows JOHN and SABRINA walking from shop to shop in Chinatown. JOHN and SABRINA walk on stage. JOHN is carrying a list in his hand. THEY appear to be tired. THEY sit on a bench just outside of the PO family shop)

SABRINA

My feet.

JOHN

I think Po's must be like Smith's. They're everywhere.

SABRINA

Here's another Po right here.

(Points to the door of the Po shop)

JOHN

Let's do one more and then I'll buy you lunch.

(SABRINA nods wearily. THEY enter the shop. A young lady minds the register)

JOHN (cont'd)

(to register girl)

Hi. We're looking for information about a Jing Po who used to live here in the 70s.

(The REGISTER GIRL is immediately interested)

REGISTER GIRL

Jing Po? I was named after my aunt Jing Po.

JOHN

Can you tell us anything about her?

REGISTER GIRL

Not really. But my mom can. Mom!

(SHE calls to her MOTHER who is coming down the stairs. It is LING-SI who is now 61 years old. SHE comes over to the register. SHE looks at JOHN and gasps slightly)

LING-SI

(regaining her composure)

Can I help you?

JOHN

We're trying to find out about a Jing Po. We think she lived in this area in the 70s.

(LING-SI takes her time to respond. SHE is obviously taken aback by the question)

LING-SI

Jing Po was my sister. My daughter here was named after her.

(Motions to the REGISTER GIRL. SABRINA and JOHN look at each other)

SABRINA

We found this clipping in our mother's things after she died.

(LING-SI inspects the clipping. Media screen displays the old photo of AARON)

LING-SI

I remember Aaron well.

JOHN

I was born just days before this and adopted by the Clark family. This is my wife Sabrina and I'm John Clark.

LING-SI

Nice to meet you. Please sit down.

(LING-SI bows. THEY all sit down at a small table)

LING-SI (cont'd)

(becoming very interested)

You were born just before this?

JOHN

April 17th, 1970. Here in San Francisco.

LING-SI

(in disbelief)

Oh my God.

JOHN

Can you help us?

LING-SI

Oh yes.

(JOHN and SABRINA look at each other)

LING-SI (cont'd)

I knew it when I saw you.

JOHN

What do you mean?

LING-SI

(LING-SI smiles slightly)
You look just like your mother.

SABRINA

John is your sister's son?

(LING-SI nods)

JOHN

Do you think we will ever really know?

LING-SI

I already know.

(LING-SI stands up and pauses before continuing)

LING-SI (cont'd)

I need to show you something.

(LING-SI quickly goes to the counter and pulls an envelope from a drawer. SHE comes over to the table and sits down. SHE takes the contents out carefully and puts them on the table in an almost reverent manner. This is obviously very difficult for her. A teary LING-SI looks at JOHN. JOHN picks up the Blue Moonstone pendant. He holds it out in front of him, looking intently at it and sets it back down on the table)

LING-SI (cont'd)

These are her things from that day.

JOHN

What day?

Scene 11

The next day. The split level staging is removed to reveal a large stage and crowd. April 24th, 1971. Golden Gate Park. Early afternoon. There is a huge crowd of over 150,000 people attending the anti-war rally. AARON and the BAND are on stage. JING watches from the wings. There is a palpable energy in the air. The media screen above the stage shows images of actual footage from the rally. We see images of the BAND playing, JING backstage, Vietnam clips, San Francisco landmarks, and YAO making his way through the crowd. The BAND immediately starts playing "**DEAD JAM**", an instrumental. It continues for a short time. The rally host comes on stage and speaks while the BAND continues to play.

GOLDEN GATE PARK RALLY HOST

Good afternoon everyone! Welcome! We are over 150,000 strong today!

(Cheering)

GOLDEN GATE PARK RALLY HOST

(cont'd)

Because united we stand, divided they fall!

(More cheering)

GOLDEN GATE PARK RALLY HOST

(cont'd)

We have a great line up today. We have live music. The Reverend Marshall Logan will speak. But first let's start with some music from a man of true conviction. A man who was just released from prison for refusing to serve in the military, our own native son, a San Francisco boy himself, Aaron Thomas and his band! Power to the people!!!

(Applause and cheering. JING is standing in the wings, but still visible to the audience)

AARON

Thank you so much. It's great to see so many of you here. The Aaron Thomas Band has been proud to be part of the anti-war movement here in San Francisco over the years.

(pause)

But this is our last rally.

(Turns and looks at the BAND members with a touch of sorrow)

AARON (cont'd)

As the members go on to other things.

(more animated)

Still, we are all here for a reason! So let's get on with it!!

(AARON, DAVID, and RAMON sing "**ANTI-WAR HYMN**")

AARON/RAMON/DAVID

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S WRONG OR RIGHT
WE ALL KNOW THAT IT'S NOT OUR FIGHT
IN OUR HEARTS WE KNOW DAMN WELL
MEN OF WAR WILL BURN IN HELL
THEY STILL THINK GOD IS ON THEIR SIDE
EVEN WHEN THEY KILL AND LIE
DO THEY HELP ALL THE POOR IN NEED
ALL THEY WANT IS TO SEE THEM BLEED
KYRIE KYRIE KYRIE ELEISON
KYRIE KYRIE KYRIE ELEISON

(THEY finish and go directly into the next song.
RAMON sings "**YOU EVER WONDER**")

RAMON

YOU EVER WONDER WHY LIFE AIN'T FAIR
YOU EVER WONDER WHY NO ONE CARES
YOU EVER WONDER WHY THINGS DON'T CHANGE
YOU EVER WONDER WHY YOUR LIFE'S SO LAME
YOU EVER NOTICED YOU GOT NO SAY
YOU EVER NOTICED ALL THIS MALAISE
YOU EVER NOTICED THE COMING STORM
IF YOU'RE NOT OUTRAGED THEN YOU'RE UNINFORMED
CAUSE PEOPLE LIE AND PEOPLE KILL
WE'RE JUST TOO DANGEROUS TO HAVE FREE WILL
WHEN THERE'S A CHANCE TO DO SOME GOOD
WE'D RATHER BURN DOWN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
YOU EVER WONDER WHERE MONEY GOES
YOU EVER WONDER WHY NO ONE KNOWS
YOU EVER WONDER WHO PAYS FOR WAR
IT'S ALWAYS YOU AND ME AND MILLIONS MORE
THEY THINK THAT GOD IS ON THEIR SIDE
EVEN WHEN THEY KILL AND LIE
BUT IN OUR HEARTS WE KNOW DAMN WELL

THAT JESUS SENDS THOSE ASSHOLES ALL TO HELL
INSTEAD OF WHINING AND TALKIN' TRASH
YOU BETTER GET UP OFF YOUR DEAD ASS.
IF YOU DO NOTHING, THEN DON'T COMPLAIN
IT'S REALLY YOU THAT MAKES YOUR LIFE SO LAME

AARON

(speaking)

When the hammer no longer obeys the master, it is the hand that is shaped by the hammer. Now beyond our grasp, the iron blows shape both body and soul. Not only is the enemy crushed into oblivion by the heavy steel blows, but we ourselves are beaten down into numb submission. It is a hammer without a master. With a senseless iron will. But the long slumber must end. Grasp the hammer with the power only the righteous possess. Strike a blow in the battle for peace and regain the upper hand.

(Thunderous applause)

AARON (cont'd)

(to the crowd)

Ramon Ochoa!

(Motioning to RAMON)

RAMON

Thank you so much.

(The BAND leaves the stage)

GOLDEN GATE PARK RALLY HOST

Thank you Aaron Thomas Band. More from them later! Now it is my honor to introduce the distinguished orator from Savannah Georgia, the "Captain of Souls", the Reverend Marshall Logan!!

(Cheering and applause. The media screen shows images of Vietnam, anti-war rallies and speakers. We see YAO moving in the crowd towards the stage)

MARSHALL LOGAN

(in a powerful orator's voice, like Martin Luther King)

Good day my brothers and sisters. In 1917 President Woodrow Wilson described the United States as the "most peace-loving of nations". How our collective memory has failed us! Since the inception of the United States, there have been hundreds of military operations, both here and abroad, resulting in the deaths of millions of people, the bulk of them so-called "non-combatants". The military is, in short, the imperialistic hammer that beats the drums of war. The most peace loving of all nations? We are, without any doubt, the most belligerent of all nations!! To further our own self interest we have engaged in all manner of depravity.

(MORE)

MARSHALL LOGAN (cont'd)

And perhaps most amazing of all, we still collectively see ourselves as the purveyors of freedom and justice in this world. The first step to reversing this heritage of imperialism is simple: Realize the true nature of our past and learn from it. Somehow this madness must stop, for silence is betrayal. We must resolve to change or face the warning of John F. Kennedy: "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible, make violent revolution inevitable". I would like to close with the famous words of Dr. King. "If we will but make the right choice, we will be able to speed up the day, all over America and all over the world, when justice will roll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream!!" Thank you!

(Flashes the peace sign. Huge applause. The BAND comes on stage again. THEY start with "**ANTHEM**" and whip the crowd into a frenzy. The crowd sings along. YAO moves towards the stage)

RAMON

(to the crowd)

Here's a little something I wrote just for you...

(RAMON, DAVID, and AARON sing "**ANTHEM**")

AARON/DAVID/RAMON

WAR'S NOT THE ANSWER
LOVE IS THE KEY
HELL NO WE WON'T GO
FUCK AUTHORITY

WAR'S NOT THE ANSWER
LOVE IS THE KEY
HELL NO WE WON'T GO
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WAR'S NOT THE ANSWER
LOVE IS THE KEY
HELL NO WE WON'T GO
FUCK AUTHORITY

NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH
NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH

WAR'S NOT THE ANSWER
LOVE IS THE KEY
HELL NO WE WON'T GO
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WAR'S NOT THE ANSWER
LOVE IS THE KEY

HELL NO WE WON'T GO
FUCK AUTHORITY

(Song ends. Applause. AARON motions for JING to come on stage. SHE does so reluctantly. THEY embrace in front of 150,000 people. The crowd and the BAND MEMBERS cheer. YAO is enraged and charges toward the front of the stage, pushing people aside. JING spots YAO in the crowd)

JING

Aaron! It's Yao!

(SHE points to him in the crowd and backs away from the front of the stage and ends up a few yards behind AARON)

YAO

(furious)

She belongs to me, hippie!! Me!!

(All this happens very quickly. YAO is standing right in front of the stage and the line of security guys. HE whips out a hand gun)

JING

He's got a gun!!

(YAO gets off 3 shots before security bring him to the ground. All hell breaks loose. Screaming and people running. AARON falls to the stage, slightly wounded in his arm. BAND members gather around AARON. RAMON rips his shirt into pieces to make a bandage for AARON's arm. Pandemonium. AARON seems to recover a bit. Security guys are hustling YAO out the back of the theater.)

AARON

(weakly)

Where's Jing?

(JING has fallen down, mortally wounded, a few feet behind AARON. EVERYONE turns around and sees JING on the stage floor. Renewed pandemonium as EVERYONE realizes that JING is truly injured. AARON struggles to his feet and goes over to JING. HE holds JING in his arms as SHE dies. RAMON takes the rest of his shirt and gives it to AARON to put on JING'S wound)

AARON (cont'd)

(in a panic)

Jing!

(MORE)

AARON (cont'd)
(seeing her wound)
Dear God! Dear God!

JING
(struggling to speak to AARON)
I'm so sorry
(pause)
For everything...

AARON
(in anguish)
It's okay... Be still....

(JING'S arm falls to her side and SHE becomes unconscious)

AARON (cont'd)
Please... Jing.... Please....

(As AARON holds JING in his arms, the sounds of the crowd diminish, and the lights fade around JING and AARON. A solo spot highlights AARON and JING as HE strokes her hair. The media screen displays a faint image of JING and AARON fading into a diffuse background of images consisting of JING'S PARENTS, the war, YAO, prison, and the angry WAITRESS. The spot slowly fades to black. Flash forward to the present day at AARON'S house. Afternoon. The stage is bare except for a solitary door. JOHN and SABRINA enter the stage. SABRINA stops JOHN about halfway across)

SABRINA
Go ahead.

(JOHN approaches the door and knocks as SABRINA watches. An aging AARON THOMAS answers the door. HE comes out of the doorway and stands face to face with JOHN.)

JOHN
Excuse me. Sorry to bother you, but are you Aaron Thomas?

(AARON nods. JOHN holds up the blue moonstone as the lights slowly fade to black)

THE END