

OSCAR PARTY!

Written by

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INT. CHE HA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CHE HA (7), a determined young girl with an unabashed love for movies, glitter and all things Oscars, applies lipstick in front of her mirror. She wipes away the messy edges. Puckers up like her Mom always does.

MAMA

(OS, in perfect Hmong)  
*Hurry! It's about to start.*

Che Ha's not done yet. She checks herself in the mirror. Loose-fitting flashy evening gown, and oversized high heels. Her designer look for the evening. She kicks off her shoes and twirls into a skilled high kick, landing it close to a stack of Disney fairy tale books displayed neatly on her vanity; the Mulan doll on the shelf rolls off. Oops. She picks up her hair brush and holds it like a microphone. \*

CHE HA

I'd like to thank MaMa.

MAMA

(OS)  
*Che Ha!*

Che Ha grabs Mulan, slips into her shoes and runs out of the bedroom, down the

HALL and into the

LIVING ROOM

AUNTIES, UNCLES and COUSINS enjoy the usual Sunday night family dinner get together. MOM (30s) and DAD (40s) host this large Hmong family. The TV streams RED CARPET coverage LIVE FROM THE OSCARS. This is Che Ha's Oscar Party. At least she thinks so.

MAMA (late 60s), the affectionate grand mother, embroiders on her Paj Ntaub, a Hmong story cloth, in her arm chair.

MAMA (CONT'D)

(in Hmong)  
There you are. You look so pretty!

CHE HA

What did I miss?

Che Ha plops herself right in front of the TV blocking her older brother, WILKY (9).

WILKY

Mom!

Wilky throws a pot sticker at Che Ha, which she promptly catches, pops in to her mouth and focuses on the TV.

MOM

(Hmong)

Go take my dress off before you  
ruin it. Did you finish your  
homework?

Che Ha scoots back a bit and sticks out her tongue at Wilky, ignoring her Mom.

CHE HA

(VO as an adult)

Ever since I can remember, there  
was one night every year when  
dreams came true, right in front of  
my eyes. I, along with the whole  
entire world, watched.

Che Ha holds her breath, focused on the TV.

AWARD PRESENTER ON TV

(VO)

...and The Oscar goes to

Che Ha breaks into a celebration. Claps, jumps up and down.

CHE HA

(VO as adult)

The Oscars. I wanted one so bad I  
could taste it.

She stands in front of the TV and addresses the room.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

Someday I'm going to win an Oscar!

Her family, who've been busy eating and chatting, go dead silent.

MAMA

(Hmong)

Give us your Oscar speech.

CHE HA

(stuttering)

I'd like to th..thank...

Che Ha freezes, like the shocked, discouraging faces in the room. Wilky breaks the silence with gut wrenching LAUGHTER. Her cousins join in.

WILKY

You winning an Oscar? Only in your dreams.

Che Ha now fights back her tears.

WILKY (CONT'D)

Che Ha wants an Oscar.

COUSINS

An Oscar. Dream on.

CHE HA

I will! You'll see.

Che Ha storms out of the room.

INT. CHE HA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Che Ha throws herself onto her bed. MaMa follows her in. Mom waits in the doorway. Dad right behind. Che Ha buries her face in MaMa's shoulder.

CHE HA

I always dream of winning an Oscar.

MAMA

(Hmong)

The people from our country have a saying about chasing your dream. There are only fish that follow the river. There are no rivers that follow the fish.

CHE HA

I don't like fish.

MaMa gives Che Ha the Paj Ntaub she was working on, now embroidered with an Oscar. Che Ha loves it.

MAMA

Be a river. Put this under your pillow and dream about it every night.

Mom walks in, snatches the Paj Ntaub and waves it like a weapon.

MOM

(Hmong)

MaMa, stop! Stop talking nonsense and quoting proverbs.

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

If Che Ha goes to college she'll  
study medicine and marry a doctor.

\*

CHE HA

Medicine's yucky.

MOM

All you do is make up stories, you  
live in a dream world. You need to  
be serious, study more.

\*

\*

MAMA

River is good.

MOM

Fish is better.

CHE HA

I don't want to be a fish. I want  
to be a river.

MOM

This is my fault. We spoil you way  
too much.

\*

Mom points to pictures of Che Ha displayed around the room.  
Photos of Che Ha in dance outfits at recitals, and her  
trophies from martial arts competitions.

MOM (CONT'D)

You want dance, you get dance  
lessons. You want martial arts, I  
find classes.

CHE HA

I want my Oscar.

\*

MUSIC CUE: REFLECTION by Christina Aguilera, from the movie  
Mulan.

MOM

Honey, it's good to have dreams.  
But you need to learn the  
difference between a real dream and  
a pipe dream, the kind you keep  
secret.

\*

\*

Mom puts the Oscar Paj Ntaub in Che Ha's jewelry box and  
locks it. Che Ha SCREAMS and pounds her fists. Mom motions  
for MaMa to leave the room. Dad follows. They close the door  
leaving Che Ha alone with her tantrum. She runs to her vanity  
and swipes it clean. Her books, her Mulan, her dreams fly  
everywhere. She catches herself in the mirror. A single tear  
rolls down her face.

\*

\*

CHE HA

(sings)

Who is that girl I see  
Staring straight, back at me  
Why is my reflection someone I  
don't know. Somehow I cannot hide,  
Who I am. Though I've tried. When  
will my reflection show who I am  
inside

Che Ha sings the song longingly, staring at her reflection in the mirror.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

(VO, adult)

This was the day my Oscar dream  
became a secret...

Che Ha's singing turns to VO as Che Ha moves her mouth like a fish.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

(VO, adult)

...and I became a fish.

Che Ha's song transitions into her adult voice as we flash forward to:

EXT. WISCO UNIVERSITY - DAY

Super: 10 Years Later

Sunny day. Lively University campus buzzes with students.

INT. ANATOMY LAB - DAY

A classroom filled with STUDENTS separated into groups of three. Grey's Anatomy books open on every table, along side CADAVER carts.

Che Ha, now a College Freshman, makes the same fish motion with her mouth. Her lab partners are SPIELBERG (20), a junior, his round glasses and baseball cap pay homage to his hero and nickname, and SKEET (19), a big husky football player type and all around smart-ass. \*

CHE HA

(to Skeet)

Hey, I'm Che Ha. \*

SKEET  
(like the commercial)  
Cha-Cha-Cha -Chi -ha pet?

\*  
\*

As if she hasn't heard that one before. Great, she gets the funny guy as a lab partner.

\*

SKEET (CONT'D)  
Skeet.

CHE HA  
Skeet? Isn't that something you shoot?

SPIELBERG  
(cuts in, while fixing a GoPro camera on his head)  
Spielberg.

CHE HA  
Seriously?

PROFESSOR GREY (40s) greets the class.

PROFESSOR GREY  
Welcome to Anatomy lab 101. It's one thing to read about the human body in a text book but to actually touch one, that's a whole different story.

SKEET  
(pointing to his junk)  
Touch this.

CHE HA  
Gross.

Skeet mouths *I want you* to Che Ha. Che Ha makes a face and raises her hand in protest. Spielberg bumps Skeet hard as he reaches to push start on the go pro.

SKEET  
Settle down, film freak.

\*

SPIELBERG  
To call you stupid would be an insult to stupid people.

Che Ha perks up. Who is this guy quoting *A Fish Called Wanda*?

PROFESSOR GREY  
Ready to take a stab at some real flesh? Unlatch the boxes.

Che Ha puts her hand on the cadaver box clasp.

CHE HA  
Life is like a box of chocolates.

Spielberg is impressed.

SPIELBERG  
You never know what you're gonna  
get.

PROFESSOR GREY  
Open your carts.

Che Ha opens the cart and there inside is a cadaver of an  
older Asian woman. Che Ha does a double take.

CHE HA  
MaMa?

She fights back the bile building in her throat.

SPIELBERG  
You ok?

Che Ha VOMITS all over Skeet.

Half the room applauds and the other half of the room groans.  
A mortified Che Ha makes a quick exit.

EXT. SCIENCE BUILDING - DAY

Che Ha settles down on the front steps. Spielberg, the Go Pro  
still latched on to his head, hurries to her with a bottle of  
water.

SPIELBERG  
Have some.

CHE HA  
(hyperventilating)  
Momma Mia, Mama Mia let me go -.

SPIELBERG  
Bohemian Rhapsody?

CHE HA  
For a second I thought that was  
MaMa in there.

SPIELBERG  
Your mom?



CHE HA

Grandma. It's so freaky. I keep seeing her. It's like her spirit is trying to tell me something.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Che ha stops herself from continuing, he's going to think she's a complete and total Freak.

\*  
\*

SPIELBERG

Never let go.

Che Ha smiles. This guy and his movie quotes. Kinda charming.

SPIELBERG (CONT'D)

You like movies?

CHE HA

Who doesn't? God! I'm such a loser.

\*

SPIELBERG

He deserved it.

\*

Spielberg imitates Skeet as he's being christened in puke. Che Ha becomes even more mortified.

\*

CHE HA

(remembering)

In front of everyone.

\*  
\*

Spielberg cuts into singing LET IT GO by Idina Menzel from the movie Frozen.

WTF? This guy thinks like she does. Oscar winning movie quotes, Oscar winning songs. What the hell? Che Ha joins in. They sing the whole song like a duet, moving around on the sprawling

CAMPUS

They cap it off together with a rousing outro.

\*

SPIELBERG

Won the Oscar for the Best Original Song two thousand fourteen.

CHE HA

Remember? Travolta murdered her name.

\*  
\*

SPIELBERG

(imitating Travolta)

The wickedly talented Gal Dazeem.

\*  
\*

They share a LAUGH.

\*

CHE HA \*  
I always watch. Get dressed up. \*  
Throw a party. \*

SPIELBERG \*  
Rehearse your speech. Do you ever \*  
think about it? \*

CHE HA \*  
An Oscar? \*

Spielberg nods.

CHE HA (CONT'D) \*  
Pipe dream. \*

SPIELBERG \*  
Dreams are what films are made of.

Spielberg shows her the class schedule for film production \*  
101 on his phone. \*

SPIELBERG (CONT'D) \*  
You should come. \*

CHE HA \*  
(points to his GoPro) \*  
You always wear that? \*

SPIELBERG \*  
You never know when you'll get a \*  
good shot. Find a story. \*

CHE HA \*  
Hey if you're so into film why \*  
anatomy? \*

Spielberg just shrugs, not wanting to answer. \*

CHE HA (CONT'D) \*  
A back-up plan? \*

Spielberg air drops the schedule to her phone. Che Ha walks  
away.

CHE HA (CONT'D) \*  
(raising the bottle) \*  
Thanks. \*

SPIELBERG \*  
(holding up his phone with \*  
the class schedule) \*  
(MORE)

SPIELBERG (CONT'D)

Don't let anyone ever make you feel  
like you don't deserve what you  
want.

CHE HA

(thinks for a moment)

Ten Things I Hate About You?

\*

Spielberg gives her a thumbs up.

EXT. WISCO UNIVERSITY - DAY

Spielberg weaves his BIKE through the campus, still wearing  
the GoPro on his head. He doesn't notice all the near miss  
head-on collisions, because he daydreams his Oscar winning  
speech.

SPIELBERG

I'd like to thank the Academy and  
"the movie making God," whose  
aliens, dinosaurs and monsters have  
turned blockbusters into Oscar  
winning films. Spielberg, you the  
man.

Spielberg hits the brakes to avoid running into a group of  
students but collides into a rock nearby. This sends him over  
the front of his handlebars, and crashes to the ground.  
Scripts fly out of his backpack. The group of students break  
into an APPLAUSE.

STUDENT 1

Epic!

STUDENT 2

Freak.

Spielberg checks his GoPro to see if it still works.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

LEGEND (21), a senior, wears a headset, adjusts the mixing  
controls on a Mackie ProFX mixer.

LEGEND

I'd like to thank the musician  
who's obtained the unobtainable,  
Mr. EGOT himself. The man, the  
myth, an actual Legend. John your  
wife is "Smok'n."

\*

\*

INT. CAMPUS THEATER - DAY

STREEP (19), a sophomore, a movie star in a farmer's daughter kind of way, practices a MONOLOGUE. She notices the microphone at the front of the stage. Turns it on.

STREEP  
I'd like to thank...

The microphone lets out a huge FEEDBACK SQUEAL.

STREEP (CONT'D)  
Every character, every breath,  
every emotion, every tear you shed,  
every nomination, every award,  
every role is a Sophie's Choice.  
Meryl, I want to be you.

\*

\*

The house lights turn on, and she scans the seats to see who caught her.

STREEP (CONT'D)  
Who's there?

SPIELBERG  
Class in twenty.

\*

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

DAVIS CHENG (20), a junior, star Quarterback of Wisco's Wolverines Football team, pumps 50 pound dumbbells in a mirror. He uses one of the dumbbells as his microphone.

DAVIS  
(mimics Sylvester  
Stallone's Rocky)  
Yo Adrienne, I'd like to thank my  
coach for making me train every  
morning at six a.m.

Skeet takes his towel and snaps it hard on Davis's right arm. These two guys have that special kind of bromance. Davis drops the dumbbell just missing his foot.

SKEET  
(coughs)  
Rocky sucks. Loser!

MICHELLE MARTINEZ (20), a junior, an overachiever, punter and the only female on the football team, rushes to Davis' defense. He's her man. Or so she thinks.

MICHELLE

Not his throwing arm, jerk off.

\*

INT. GYM DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Che Ha practices Martial Arts opposite a wall of mirrors. She is skilled in nunchucks and kicks ass. She stops and watches from the window as students enter the Media Arts School building. She remembers back to when she was a little girl and the Oscar night, the speech she couldn't deliver.

CHE HA

(VO, 7 years old)

I'd like to thank my MaMa for  
always believing in me.

\*

She does a double take and sees a small Asian woman disappear into the crowd of students going into the Media Arts building. She's losing it. Visions of MaMa, twice in one day?

\*

\*

Che Ha looks at the schedule Spielberg airdropped to her phone. Film production 101. 2pm, Room 105, Media Arts building. She checks the time. 1:55.

WILKY

(OC)

Che Ha.

Che Ha spins around. Her older brother, Wilky, now a Junior, walks into the room.

CHE HA

Hey.

WILKY

Thought I'd find you here. You ok?

CHE HA

Why wouldn't I be?

WILKY

It's a year ago today that MaMa,  
you know.

\*

\*

QUICK FLASH - Che Ha at MaMa's bedside as she slipped away.

BACK TO SCENE

CHE HA

A year. Wow.

\*

WILKY

Heard lab was a rough one.

\*

CHE HA

You heard? What? Does everyone know?

\*

\*

WILKY

You know I'm Grey's T.A.

\*

CHE HA

Great.

\*

WILKY

Chill. Mom's been trying to reach you. We're all going to the cemetery before family dinner on Sunday.

Che Ha looks at her phone.

CHE HA

Don't tell Mom.

WILKY

Answer your phone.

INT. LECTURE PIT - DAY

Che Ha quietly sneaks into the lecture pit, and scans for an open seat, but doesn't walk in immediately so as to avoid any attention.

PROFESSOR WINNIE SCHWARTZ (40s), eccentric, trailblazer, the kind of teacher you always remember and thank in your Oscar speech, in mid-lecture. She doesn't just teach, she inspires. Spielberg, her TA, sits to the side.

\*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Don't think. Thinking is the enemy of creativity. It's self-conscious, and anything self-conscious is lousy. You can't try to do things. You simply must do things. Who said this?

Hands at the front of the pit shoot up. It's all Film Freaks, who cling to her every word. The Footballers at the back of the pit: ROD, JAR, Skeet, Michelle, and Davis, show no interest, just doing time. All except for Davis.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

Legend.

LEGEND

Ray Bradbury.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Right. What did he mean?

No hands. The door suddenly SLAMS shut behind Che Ha. She's caught walking in. All eyes on her.

CHE HA

Sorry.

SKEET

Take cover. It's the puking Chia Pet.

Skeet proudly shows off his stain covered clothes and fake pukes. The FOOTBALLERS laugh. Shit! That asshole is in this class. If only Che Ha could disappear, she would.

Spielberg waves her in. As Che Ha heads down the steps, her eyes connect with Davis. Whoa who is that? He's hot! Move over Romeo and Juliet. The chemistry strikes both of them like a lightning bolt. Che Ha's world goes into slow motion, soaking in every single moment.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Think people.

Che Ha notices Michelle watching. If looks could kill, Che Ha would be so dead. She trips.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

Nobody? How 'bout you, new person?

CHE HA

Me?

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Yes, you.

\*

CHE HA

(timid)

Don't over think, just do.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Again.

CHE HA

Don't over think, just do.

Skeet lets out a PUKE sound. Davis punches him to shut up.

\*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Correct.

Professor Schwartz examines her seating chart.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

Who are you?

CHE HA

Ah, nobody, really.

\*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Who inspires you?

CHE HA

You.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Smart lady.

SKEET

(puking)

Kiss ass.

\*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Don't over think, just do. Listen to your heart. Moving on, and more importantly, how are your ideas coming together for your films?

The lecture pit falls silent. MARVEL (18), artsy, and the type of woman who doesn't apologize for who she is, speaks up. She specializes in visual effects and all things computer driven.

MARVEL

Scripts done.

\*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Good Marvel. Now the rest of you seems like you need some motivation. Monday I need to see scripts.

\*

A collective "UGH" goes around the pit. Marvel gets back to sketching what looks like a 3D model for visual effects.

SKEET

Not happening.

STREEP

Game's on Saturday.



JAR  
Wolverines!

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
It's Monday, people. Plenty of  
time. We're on a deadline here.

\*

SPIELBERG  
Participation is seventy percent of  
your grade.

ROD  
What?

Davis throws his notebook at Rod.

\*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
I have full confidence you will all  
turn in something Oscar worthy.

Rod throws the notebook back at Davis, but misses him and it  
flies to the front of the class, landing in front of  
Professor Schwartz.

SKEET  
Score.

Professor Schwartz picks it up. She knows the ballers take  
her class because there are no written exams. But she still  
likes them and sees their potential. She can play their game.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Carpe Diem. Seize the Day, boys.

She throws the notebook back to Rod. He snatches it.

ROD  
Good arm Professor S.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Make your lives extraordinary.

The students file out.

Marvel approaches Che Ha.

\*

MARVEL  
Looking for me?

\*

CHE HA  
(pointing to Spielberg)  
No, him.

MARVEL  
(do you like him)  
Spielberg?

CHE HA  
He made me an offer I couldn't  
refuse.

MARVEL  
It's not personal, Sonny. Strictly  
business.

Spielberg waves Che Ha down to the front.

SPIELBERG  
Glad you came.

CHE HA  
I wasn't sure. \*

SPIELBERG  
(to Professor Schwartz)  
This is the girl I told you about.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Join us? \*

CHE HA  
Checking it out. \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Hope to see you again. \*

Professor Schwartz gathers her things and leaves.

SPIELBERG  
Well?

CHE HA  
She's cool.

SPIELBERG  
I know you want to.

Che Ha shrugs, still not ready to commit to go for her Oscar  
Dream. \*

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

On one side of the room, movie posters of BRUCE LEE'S ENTER  
THE DRAGON, THE JOY LUCK CLUB, CRAZY RICH ASIANS and  
CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON line the wall.

The shelves hold a couple of Martial Arts trophies, a stack of CHEMISTRY and PHYSICS BOOKS right next to a pile of BOOKS on SCREENWRITING.

Below them sits Che Ha, on her crisply made bed. She traces along the vascular system of the human body. Enough. She closes her Grey's Anatomy Book. Takes the jewelry box and unlocks it. She lovingly touches the Paj Ntaub Oscar from her MaMa.

Che Ha stares at her own face in her smart phone and reflects on her decision. Yes. She's doing this. She pushes the video button and records.

CHE HA

My name is Che Ha. First generation  
U.S.  
First-born daughter of political  
refugees.  
First girl in the family to go to  
University.  
I'm living a secret. I want to make  
movies. Be a screenwriter. Win an  
Oscar. If my Mom finds out, I'm so  
dead.

She hits the stop button on her phone. Shit! Did she really just say those things out loud? She's torn about what to do, keep it or erase it? Her finger hovers over the trash can button. She closes her eyes and we hear the music play in her head.

MUSIC CUE: LOSE YOURSELF by Eminem

CHE HA (CONT'D)

*Look, if you had one shot, or one  
opportunity, to seize everything  
you ever wanted. In one moment,  
would you capture it, or just let  
it slip? Yo*

That does it! What the hell, she's keeping her confession. She removes her finger from the trash button. She closes the script from which she was reading, revealing the title: SECRETS, written by Che Ha. She puts the Oscar Paj Ntaub under her pillow.

Che Ha's phone BUZZES. The display says MOM. How do Moms always know? She looks at the time and scrambles. She puts her script, nunchucks and Grey's Anatomy book into her backpack and answers.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

Hey.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

Mom, in the same house as before, cooks a meal, while on the phone with Che Ha.

MOM  
(in perfect Hmong)  
*You didn't call last night.*

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

CHE HA  
Sorry.

MOM  
(in broken English)  
Me and Daddy worried.

CHE HA  
Don't.

MOM  
(in perfect Hmong)  
*Wilky said you were sick.*

Wilky's such a shit. Che Ha can't bring herself to lie to her Mom, but she's not ready to share her truth either.

CHE HA  
I'm not. He doesn't know what he's  
talking about.

\*  
\*

MOANS come from across the room.

MOM  
What's that noise? You okay?

The MOANS get louder.

CHE HA  
It's nothing.

Che Ha notices men's and women's underwear on the floor by the bed.

MOM  
You don't sound okay. I bring you  
some of MaMa's soup. Make you  
better.

\*

Che Ha grabs her copy of THE ART OF WAR from her shelf and throws it, hitting Marvel, and her latest ONE-NIGHT STAND.

CHE HA  
No, really, I'm fine.

MARVEL  
Knock it off!

Marvel and her pick-up look out from beneath the covers.  
You've got to be shit'n me - Skeet?

MOM  
What's going on?

CHE HA  
Nothing.

Che Ha mouths *you knock it off!*

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
Later. \*

MOM  
Wait. We're all going to MaMa's  
grave... \*

Che Ha cuts her off and hangs up. She takes her NUNCHUCKS out  
and leaps into a kick-ass display of her martial arts  
mastery, landing up in Skeet's face. This jerk is not going  
to intimidate her in her space. \*

SKEET  
Nice numchucks, want in? No puking.

Marvel elbows him hard and stuffs a pillow in his face.

MARVEL  
Nunchucks - Numb nuts.

CHE HA  
You pinky swore. No more - this. I  
swear you're like the Bachelorette  
on roids. \*

MARVEL  
Higher, further, faster, baby.

SKEET  
(kissing Marvel's back)  
Marvel.

MARVEL  
That's Captain to you.

Che Ha opens the door.

MARVEL (CONT'D)  
You'll be there right?

CHE HA  
I have to study.

Marvel hands her a stack of flyers.

MARVEL  
At least post these? \*

Che Ha takes them. Casting call - Campus Mutant Ninja  
Zombies. Warriors, dancers, singers welcome. No experience  
necessary.

MARVEL (CONT'D)  
You promised.

CHE HA  
No, you promised. Get rid of him.

Che Ha looks again at the flyers.

MARVEL  
Pretty please? \*

Cha Ha slams the door behind her.

MUSIC CUE: LOSE YOURSELF continues...

EXT. WISCO UNIVERSITY, ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

The FOOTBALL TEAM runs drills on the field. The LONG DISTANCE  
TEAM runs around the track. Che Ha posts and hands out  
Marvel's audition flyers. She turns her attention to the  
action on the field.

Davis throws a ball to the end zone and Skeet dives for it,  
making a spectacular catch. COACH BEATEM (late 40s), a life  
dedicated to football, dreams of building a championship team  
and believes this one has a shot. He likes what he sees.

COACH BEATEM  
(to Davis)  
Play that way Saturday and the  
championship is ours!

DAVIS  
Check, Coach.

COACH BEATEM  
Martinez, you're up.

MICHELLE

The 40?

\*

DAVIS

You got this.

Michelle and the SPECIAL TEAMS take the field. Michelle kicks the ball from the 40 yard line and the ball hits the uprights bouncing back out to the field.

COACH BEATEM

Keep practicing.

\*

Michelle is devastated.

DAVIS

You'll get it when it counts.

\*

Michelle gives him a hug.

\*

COACH BEATEM

That's it, shower up.

The team head off the field and Che Ha hands them flyers. Some avoid her. Others take the flyers to crumple them up and toss them in the trash. Skeet takes one and fake pukes on it.

CHE HA

At least look at it.

Davis approaches Che Ha. Michelle follows.

DAVIS

What's this?

Che Ha hands him a flyer.

CHE HA

Casting. Need some muscle.

\*

DAVIS

Campus Mutant Ninja Zombies?

CHE HA

Yeah, it's my roommate's project for class.

DAVIS

You go, I'll go.

Che Ha melts. She wants this guy bad. Michelle steps in. No fucking way this is happening.

MICHELLE

Come on. Coach called a meeting.

\*

CHE HA

Nice kick.

Michelle grabs a flyer out of Che Ha's hands.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

Our lives are defined by  
opportunities, even the ones we  
miss.

Michelle has no idea what this weirdo's talking about.

\*

CHE HA (CONT'D)

The Curious Life Of Benjamin  
Button.

\*

MICHELLE

Ah, you're one of them.

CHE HA

Them?

MICHELLE

We have a championship to win. Good  
luck with your little film. Freak.

\*

\*

CHE HA

Judgy.

\*

\*

Michelle leads Davis away, leaving Che Ha with her flyers.

DAVIS

Freak? We have to make one too.

\*

MICHELLE

(pointing to flyer)

You're not seriously thinking about  
this?

\*

DAVIS

(teasing)

Judgy?

\*

\*

MICHELLE

How about you come over to my place  
and we watch this season's games? I  
have links to all of them.

\*

DAVIS

Don't you ever think about what's  
next?



MICHELLE

Like winning the Championship? All the time.

DAVIS

After that.

MICHELLE

What after that?

DAVIS

After football.

MICHELLE

Shut up. Go pro, of course. What else is there?

DAVIS

We're a Division 3 team; there is no going pro.

MICHELLE

There's plenty of division 3 team athletes that went on to play pro ball. That was our plan. Always our plan.

DAVIS

Things change.

MICHELLE

It's her. The flyer freak. I saw you looking.

\*  
\*

DAVIS

I don't even know her.

MICHELLE

I'll make dinner.

Michelle leans in close, and runs her finger along his neck, teasing him.

\*

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Practice some of our favorite plays.

She kisses him. He pulls back.

DAVIS

Whoa, Mrs. Robinson. You're trying to seduce me, aren't you?

Michelle is confused. What kind of response is that?

DAVIS (CONT'D)  
Dustin Hoffman in the Graduate.

Michelle rolls her eyes in disbelief. Davis quoting film lines? What's wrong with him? She grabs his face in her two hands and looks him straight in the eye.

MICHELLE  
You are not you.

How does Davis tell one of his best friends that he doesn't have those feelings for her without hurting her?

DAVIS  
We messed up.

Ouch. The hurt rushes through Michelle.

MICHELLE  
Stop.

DAVIS  
I never, we never.

MICHELLE  
The big game, your nerves, they're getting to you.

DAVIS  
It was one night.

MICHELLE  
Tell me you didn't want it too?

What does she do now? Davis doesn't know what's good for him but she does and that's her.

INT. SCHOOL EDIT BAY - DAY

Che Ha edits, laser focused on the computer.

CHE HA  
(on monitor)  
The fact that I have a secret shouldn't surprise anyone. I come from a family of secrets.

The door opens. Spielberg steps in.

Che Ha stops the video.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
Ever hear of knocking?

SPIELBERG

No one was signed up on the edit  
schedule so...

CHE HA

My mistake.

SPIELBERG

What are you working on?

CHE HA

(mind your own business)  
Nothing.

SPIELBERG

Let me see.

\*

Che Ha blocks the screen.

CHE HA

It's not ready.

SPIELBERG

I look at rough cuts all the time.

Spielberg hits play.

CHE HA

(on the monitor)

My parents were secretly married.  
My very existence was a secret  
until my mother couldn't hide her  
big pregnant belly anymore. My  
grandfather fought in the Secret  
War for God's sake.

Che Ha pushes him away and hits stop.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

I'm not done.

\*

SPIELBERG

Secret War?

CHE HA

No one here talks about it.

SPIELBERG

I never heard of it.

CHE HA

My Grandpa says it's one of those secrets the U.S took 20 years to make right. Anyhow, that was a long time ago.

SPIELBERG

That would be a really cool film.

CHE HA

You're just saying that.

SPIELBERG

The kind Spielberg makes. \*

CHE HA

Like Jaws, a man-eating killer shark or an alien that gets left behind on planet Earth?

SPIELBERG

(pointing to her heart)  
I'll be right here. I was thinking more like Schindler's List.

CHE HA

That's why they call you Spielberg? You want to be a director like him? \*

SPIELBERG

Have you thought of a name for yourself? \*

CHE HA

What do you mean? \*

SPIELBERG

Everyone has a nickname Like Luis is Legend for John Legend. \*

CHE HA

Norma is Marvel, like the comics? \*

SPIELBERG

Phyllis is an actor, and so we call her Streep. \*

CHE HA

Go big. \*

SPIELBERG

Like Professor Schwartz says, Oscar worthy. \*

CHE HA

My parents want me to have a real job.

SPIELBERG

Making films is a real job.

CHE HA

There are only two jobs if you go to college. Doctor or Lawyer.

\*  
\*

SPIELBERG

Why not both?

CHE HA

Doctor and a lawyer?

SPIELBERG

Filmmaker and one of those other ones. To become, act as if.

CHE HA

You're cra cra.

\*

SPIELBERG

Wax on wax off.

CHE HA

You're a pushy little bastard aren't ya? But I like that, I like that.

Che Ha quotes movies too. Spielberg's falling hard. Spielberg jumps up on the nearby chair. Breaks into Irene Cara's FLASHDANCE... WHAT A FEELING, from the movie Flashdance.

\*

Che Ha sings along.

Spielberg motions for Che Ha to join him up on the chair. She refuses. He jumps down and twirls her chair and pushes her around the room and out into the

HALL

They sing as Che Ha jumps out of the chair and dances down the hall. Spielberg follows her.

Che Ha dances back to the

EDIT BAY

Pushing Spielberg in the chair.

Spielberg pushes play on the edit system. The video starts to roll.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
(singing)  
*Pictures come alive when I call*

SPIELBERG  
(singing)  
*I can have it all*

They sing their hearts out.

Finally, Che Ha and Spielberg LAUGH at themselves reveling in their kindred love of films.

SPIELBERG (CONT'D)  
Take your grandpa's story; that  
would make a great film. Have you  
ever written a screenplay?

CHE HA  
I tried. \*

SPIELBERG  
I'll help you.

CHE HA  
I think this is the beginning of a  
beautiful friendship.

Spielberg is crazy about the movie quote but not crazy about the word friendship. Che Ha's phone BUZZES. It's Mom. She sends it to voice mail.

INT. PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ'S OFFICE - DAY

The desk and credenza are full of a creative's clutter. Oscar-winning movie posters line the walls. An Academy Award sits on her desk. Professor Schwartz listens to the person on the phone...

INT. CHANCELLOR REIGNS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CHANCELLOR REIGNS (late 50s), practical and therefore pessimistic, talks on the phone with Professor Schwartz.

CHANCELLOR REIGNS  
I met with the board. Funding for  
the arts has been cut nationwide. \*

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

I saw.

Che Ha KNOCKS. Professor Schwartz looks up.

CHANCELOR REIGNS

So far your department is ok. But,  
you may want to put your feelers  
out.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

I appreciate the call.

Professor Schwartz hangs up the phone and motions for Che Ha  
to come in.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

Take a seat.

Che Ha notices the Oscar. She's speechless.

CHE HA

Is that real?

Che Ha shakes her head, gasping for air. Her dream inches  
from her.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

Can I touch it?

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Hold it.

Che Ha looks to her for permission not believing what she  
just heard.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

Go ahead.

She reaches out but can't dare bring herself to actually  
touch it.

Suddenly she takes it like every Oscar winner before her.  
Feeling the weight of it, the power, the validation.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

Feels good, huh?

CHE HA

What for?

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Live Action Short.

CHE HA  
Spielberg didn't tell me you won an Oscar. \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
It was cool. \*

CHE HA  
Are you kidding me? This is way more than cool. \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Yeah? \*

CHE HA  
Make films, tell a story, win an Oscar? I always... \*

Che Ha catches herself. \*

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
How? \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
I started in college. \*

CHE HA  
Did you ever think it was a dumb idea? Just a pipe dream? \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Every single time I look at a blank page.

CHE HA  
You write? I always wanted to be a writer. \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Then write, even if you think it's crap, just write, every single day.

CHE HA  
Help me Obi-Wan Kenobi.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Do or do not. There is no try.

Che Ha hands Professor Schwartz the document to add her class to her schedule. She signs it and Che Ha leaves.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)  
Shit.



INT. REHEARSAL HALL - DAY

INSERT - a sign at the door: AUDITIONS! CAMPUS MUTANT NINJA ZOMBIES.

Marvel studies the audition list and the script. Che Ha, Spielberg, Legend, Davis and a dozen others watch on, as Streep auditions on the stage.

STREEP  
(in character as Dr. Evil)  
It lives! It lives!

The room APPLAUDS.

MARVEL  
Nailed it! You are Dr. Evil. \*

STREEP  
I got it? \*

Marvel high fives Streep. \*

MARVEL  
(to the group)  
Ready mutants? Show me what you  
got. \*

SPIELBERG  
(looks at the audition  
sheet)  
Arnold, you're up.

MUSIC CUE: the Oscar nominated LIVE AND LET DIE from James Bond

MONTAGE of different students doing crazy ass zombie moves. Some walk like zombies, some do martial arts. None of it working.

MARVEL  
They suck.

CHE HA  
Well. \*

MARVEL  
I'm so failing production 101. \*

CHE HA  
You won't. \*

MARVEL  
Look at them. \*

TWO of the GUYS auditioning fall over each other - lame. \*

MARVEL (CONT'D) \*

You're the expert. You have tons  
of trophies. \*

CHE HA \*

I'm here to help cast, not be cast. \*

MARVEL \*

(to Spielberg) \*  
Do something would you? \*

SPIELBERG \*

(to Che Ha) \*  
Go ahead, make my day. \*

Davis nods. Che Ha grabs her nunchucks and does a kick ass  
interpretation that leaves the group speechless. \*

MARVEL

Bad ass!

DAVIS

I'm scared.

CU of Che Ha's phone BUZZING. Mom on the display.

INT. CAMPUS TV PRODUCTION ROOM - DAY

Che Ha types her script on the computer. Spielberg and Legend  
huddle around her, reading as she types.

Streep rehearses her lines nearby.

SPIELBERG

Not bad. \*

Che Ha and Spielberg share a moment, connected. Finally  
someone who believes in her. For Spielberg, finally someone  
who likes him.

The moment broken by a loud THUD when Marvel slams her  
screenplay on the table. Something's missing.

MARVEL

I need a morgue.

STREEP

A morgue?

MARVEL

Where else can I shoot Campus  
Mutant Ninja Zombies being  
experimented on by Dr. Evil?

SPIELBERG

How about the Anatomy Lab? \*

Che ha can't believe he suggested the scene of the crime. \*

LEGEND

I see dead people.

STREEP

They have dead people?

SPIELBERG

Cadavers.

LEGEND

Do you touch them?

STREEP

Gross.

Streep shudders at the thought.

CHE HA

No way. \*

MARVEL

It's essential to the film. \*

CHE HA

How about a graveyard? There's no  
way they're going to let us shoot  
in the lab.

LEGEND

I got it! Fasten your seat belts.  
It's going to be a bumpy night.

STREEP

No.

LEGEND

(pointing at Spielberg)  
Night maneuvers.

MARVEL

(understanding)  
Night maneuvers.

CHE HA  
Night maneuvers?

MARVEL  
Let's do it.

CHE HA  
I have a bad feeling about this.

Spielberg nods.

LEGEND  
Come on, we're not going to wreck  
anything.

MARVEL  
Tomorrow night.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE TV PRODUCTION ROOM - CONTINUOUS  
Michelle listens in on the plan and devises one of her own.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A lone car drives past farm land.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Dad drives. Mom, in the passenger seat, holds a pot of soup.

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Streep a.k.a Dr. Evil, along with Marvel, Legend, Spielberg, Che Ha, and a few other ACTORS, all made up as ZOMBIES, struggle across the campus, carrying film equipment. They are anything but inconspicuous.

INT. BIOLOGY BUILDING - NIGHT

The group enters the Biology building and walk down

THE HALL

And in to the

CADAVER LAB

It's unlocked. That's weird.

They open the door, turn on the lights and set the equipment down.

MARVEL

Cool.

CHE HA

Ready?

DAVIS

(groaning)

Zombie one.

STREEP

(screams)

Ewe.

Group SHHH.

LEGEND

Keep it down.

STREEP

What's that smell?

CHE HA

(choking)

Dead people.

The room is filled with metal gurneys. Spielberg straps on his ever present Go Pro.

SPIELBERG

Legend, set up the lights. Che Ha,  
give me a hand with the camera.  
Marvel, block the scene.

Legend sets up the lights, while Che Ha and Spielberg put the camera together.

MARVEL

Zombie One, get on that cart over there.

Davis does as he's told.

\*  
\*

MARVEL (CONT'D)

Zombie Two, that one on the right.  
Zombie Three, over there on the  
left. Che Ha, cover them with these  
sheets.

\*

Marvel throws the sheets to Che Ha, hitting her in the face. Che Ha covers Davis. He stops her.

DAVIS  
You know, I didn't laugh.

CHE HA  
What?

DAVIS  
About your, ah, you know, hurl.

Really he's going to bring that back up? \*

CHE HA  
You didn't stop them either.

Guilty as charged. Che Ha puts the sheet over his head. He peeks back out at Che Ha. Is this guy for real? God, she hopes so.

DAVIS  
You make me want to be a better man.

CHE HA  
That's As Good As it Gets?

LAUGHING she covers him back up. \*

MARVEL  
Doctor Evil, let's put you in front of one of the cadaver carts.

Streep buttons up her lab coat and puts on a pair of glasses.

Spielberg and Legend push one of the cadaver carts from out of the cadaver cooler stopping in front of Streep.

SPIELBERG  
(to Legend)  
Open it.

LEGEND  
You do it.

Che Ha pushes her way in. Her moment of truth: will she toss her cookies again? She hesitates before she opens it. There it is. A partially dissected cadaver. \*

STREEP  
I'm going to be sick.

LEGEND

I love the smell of napalm in the morning.

STREEP

But not dead bodies.

CHE HA

(shielding her eyes)  
Formaldehyde. Plug your nose.  
Breathe out through your mouth.

MARVEL

The real Streep would do it.

Streep backs away holding her nose. Overacting as she struggles to breathe through her mouth.

Spielberg looks through the camera lens.

MARVEL (CONT'D)

Everyone, take your places.

Legend adjusts the levels on the sound recorder, Che Ha grabs the boom mic, puts in on a stand above Streep. \*

SPIELBERG

Boom is in the shot.

Che Ha moves it higher and out of the frame. Spielberg gives her a thumbs up. Marvel checks the frame on the monitor.

MARVEL

Roll camera.

SPIELBERG

(starting both the camera  
on sticks and his Go Pro)  
Rolling.

MARVEL

Sound.

Legend hits record.

LEGEND

Speeding.

MARVEL

Action.

The zombies begin to twitch and MOAN. Streep opens the cadaver box and it slams on her finger.

STREEP

Damn!

She jumps around clutching her finger.

MARVEL

Cut!

STREEP

I'm bleeding.

LEGEND

Medic.

Che Ha pulls a band-aid out of the first-aid kit.

CHE HA

Let me see.

Streep sucks on her finger and stares into the cadaver refrigerator. A SHADOW moves.

STREEP

Oh my god!

MARVEL

Reset.

Che Ha puts the band-aid on Streep's finger.

STREEP

There's something in there.

CHE HA

Where?

STREEP

(pointing to the cadaver  
fridge)

There.

CHE HA

More dead people.

MARVEL

Let's go.

Spielberg looks in through the round window of the cadaver fridge. Inside are only a few carts with cadaver boxes.

SPIELBERG

All clear.



STREEP  
I'm not making it up.

Marvel loses her patience.

MARVEL  
Camera, ready?

Spielberg steps behind the camera. \*

SPIELBERG  
Ready.

MARVEL  
Sound?

Legend puts on his headset and listens. Che Ha pushes the boom mic close to Streep. She nods. \*

LEGEND  
Speed.

MARVEL  
Action!

Streep opens the Cadaver box. The Zombies MOAN.

STREEP  
(Evil laugh as Dr. Evil in  
a European accent)  
I, Doctor Evil, will prove to the  
world that I am the greatest  
scientist of all time.

Streep removes a vial from her lab coat.

STREEP (CONT'D)  
(as Dr. Evil)  
This formula I've created will give  
you life...

A CREAK from the adjoining room. They all stop and look.

LEGEND  
It's just the generator kicking in.

MARVEL  
Keep rolling.

STREEP  
Taste the sweet nectar of life and  
do as I command. Live, live, live.

Marvel turns on the smoke machine. Way too thick. Streep COUGHS. The room continues to fill with smoke making it hard to see. Legend, dressed as Michael Jackson's Thriller corpse, hops in front of the camera and does his famous twirl. \*

Legend SINGS Michael Jackson's THRILLER. \*

The zombies get off the carts and join in the THRILLER DANCE with the Film Freaks.

A loud BANG comes from the cadaver fridge. Streep pauses to hear. Everyone else, oblivious, continues their version of the Thriller.

BANG, BANG! This time everyone hears it. The door to the cadaver fridge opens slowly and a hand emerges. Streep let's out a blood curdling SCREAM.

FOUR MASKED FIGURES creep out of the fridge.

All hell breaks lose as everyone runs to the door. They leap over Cadaver carts, now rolling across the floor and smashing into the walls.

They all dash to the door, still singing the chorus. But the door's locked from the outside. They BANG on it. On the other side of it, in the

HALLWAY

Michelle stifles her laughter. Back in the

LAB

The four masked figures close in. Spielberg grabs a sheet and throws it over one of the attackers. One of the figures grabs a Zombie and ties him down to the cadaver table with gauze.

Another figure pushes Spielberg against the wall.

A third figure grabs Streep around the waist. Streep BITES the arm and KICKS, landing her foot in it's groin. The figure goes down.

Che Ha uses her martial arts training in full swing on the fourth masked figure.

Davis grabs the mask off the figure that's pinning Spielberg to the wall. It's Rod.

You! SPIELBERG

You! DAVIS

Rod looks at them and LAUGHS.

Legend STOMPS his foot on the chest of the figure Streep took down. Streep removes the mask, it's Skeet.

SKEET

Freak.

STREEP

Jerk!

ROD

(monster roars)

It's a joke.

LEGEND

*I'm gonna thrill ya tonight*

They keep the song going all along. A final masked figure grabs Marvel. She punches hard and pulls off it's mask, revealing Jar.

The unmasked football players then join in on the Thriller dance.

The DOOR opens and the LIGHTS turn on. Busted.

Standing in the doorway are Professor Grey, TWO CAMPUS POLICE OFFICERS and Coach Beatem. A rolling cadaver cart smashes against the wall and the Cadaver spills out across the floor with a CRUNCH.

SPIELBERG

Houston, we have a problem.

MARVEL

Did you get the shot?

EXT. SCIENCE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Campus police cars' red cherries flash. The film crew files out of the building carrying their equipment.

CHE HA

Did you know about this?

DAVIS

(no)

Swear.

SPIELBERG

Cut the crap. It's a mess in there.

Michelle walks to them, finally revealing her presence at the scene.

MICHELLE

You'd rather shoot films with freaks than watch game tapes with me?

DAVIS

You did this?

MICHELLE

Better watch out or they'll be calling you a film freak too.

Michelle looks at him with a mixture of hurt, love, anger and betrayal. The Film Freaks are a mixture of pissed and worried.

INT. CHANCELLOR REIGNS' OFFICE - NIGHT

The Chancellor sits behind his desk. Coach Beatem paces behind him. Professor Schwartz sits in the small chair in front of the desk. Professor Grey leans against the wall. TWO UNIVERSITY BOARD MEMBERS (50's) sit behind the Chancellor, heads together. \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Yes, you're right they should have asked. But they're just kids exploring boundaries to bring art to the masses. \*

PROFESSOR GREY

They destroyed a Cadaver, the cart, the lab is a mess. Who's going to pay for this? \*

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

They'll clean it up. \*

CHANCELLOR REIGNS

We're this close to upping this University to a Division 2.

COACH BEATEM

Real money on the line. \*

CHANCELLOR REIGNS

Money for scholarships.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Scholarships for who? \*

CHANCELLOR REIGNS  
For all departments.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Even the Arts?

CHANCELLOR REIGNS  
I'm not sure you understand the gravity of the situation. Their behavior is unacceptable...

COACH BEATEM  
Criminal. You've got my star quarterback caught up in your illegal shenanigans.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
If your players didn't mess with my students shoot we wouldn't be having this conversation.

CHANCELLOR REIGNS  
He may get benched for the Championship Game. Every single one of the players involved.

COACH BEATEM  
(sinking in)  
What?!

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
That's on them.

CHANCELLOR REIGNS  
Look, here's the truth.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Truth, you can't handle the truth.

COACH BEATEM  
You can't movie quote your way out of this one.

CHANCELLOR REIGNS  
Fact is enrollment is down considerably in the Film department, and I'm doing everything I can to make sure it remains as part of the curriculum here at Wisco U. This does not help.

COACH BEATEM  
Handle that truth.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Che Ha, Spielberg, Marvel, Legend, Streep and the football players, wait outside.

MARVEL  
Blame me, my fault.

SPIELBERG  
We all screwed up.

LEGEND  
(looking at Michelle)  
More like set-up.

Wilky walks down the hall towards Che Ha. Mom and Dad trail behind him.

CHE HA  
Shit.

STREEP  
Who's that?

CHE HA  
(looking at Wilky)  
He called you? \*

MOM  
I call, you don't call back. You seeing visions of MaMa. I worried about you. I bring you MaMa's soup.

SPIELBERG  
E.T. Phone home.

CHE HA  
(to Spielberg)  
Not now. \*

MOM  
We send you to University, and this is what you do? You lie. Keep secret from us.

CHE HA  
Secrets. This whole family is about secrets. We don't talk about anything real. \*

MOM  
Get arrested. \*

CHE HA  
They're campus cops.

MOM  
Doesn't matter. You come home. \*

CHE HA  
No. I got this.

WILKY  
You got trouble. \*

CHE HA  
This is what I always wanted. You  
can't tell me what to do, to dream. \*

WILKY  
I can't tell you anything anymore.

MOM  
You need to come home.

CHE HA  
Don't take this from me. \*

MOM  
No daughter of mine would dishonor  
her family like this.

CHE HA  
Dad?

Che Ha looks to her Dad for support. As usual, Dad says nothing.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
Dad? \*

The doors to the Chancellor's office open. Coach Beatem, Professor Schwartz, Professor Grey and the two board members walk out. Everyone looks to them. Eerie silence.

INT. FOOTBALL LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The entire team is assembled. Coach Beatem walks in. He's pissed.

COACH BEATEM  
Have you lost your freak'n minds?  
(to Davis)  
You, I expected more than this from  
you.

Michelle nods in agreement.

DAVIS

I didn't think this would happen.

\*

COACH BEATEM

You're the leader of this team.  
They all look to you. How can we  
win without you. Everyone in this  
room is counting on you.

Davis just hangs his head.

MICHELLE

Told you.

\*

COACH BEATEM

Son, then why are you putting  
everyone here at risk?

DAVIS

They're always messing around.

\*

COACH BEATEM

We have the chance to win the  
Championship and now I don't know  
if my star players can take the  
field.

SKEET

Coach's right.

COACH BEATEM

Life is about choices. You chose to  
be a quarterback.

DAVIS

So if I chose football, I can't  
choose to do anything else?

Coach Beatem gets in Davis' face.

COACH BEATEM

Not with the championship on the  
line. I don't give a damn what you  
do afterwards.

DAVIS

But coach.

Michelle smiles.



COACH BEATEM

You better hope the board lets you  
play ball. That's all. You're  
dismissed.

\*

Coach Beatem exits slamming the door behind him.

DAVIS

(to Michelle)

Why?

MICHELLE

Someone had to.

DAVIS

You had to.

Davis turns away from Michelle. Michelle puts her arm around  
him and tries to get through to him. He stiffens.

\*

\*

MICHELLE

Listen to me. Like coach said,  
life's about choices. So, what's  
yours? Football or Freaks?

\*

DAVIS

The past can hurt. But you can  
either run from it or learn from  
it.

MICHELLE

The Lion King?

\*

Davis pulls away and walks towards the door.

\*

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Now you're talking just like them.  
Are those film freaks really worth  
your future? Me? Us?

\*

He turns back. Seals his fate.

DAVIS

I am them.

INT. EDIT BAY - DAY

Che Ha, Marvel, Streep, Legend and Spielberg review the  
footage from the shoot at the anatomy lab.

MARVEL

Check this out.

\*

SPIELBERG

I'm mad as hell and I can't take it anymore. Those helmet heads ruin everything.

MARVEL

No dude. Look. They actually made it better. \*

CHE HA

That game means everything to them. \*

SPIELBERG

Oh, come on. \*

CHE HA

It was our shoot. We screwed up. \*

STREEP

She's right.

SPIELBERG

This is so wrong. \*

LEGEND

Just call us Legends of the Fall. \*

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Marvel, Spielberg, Che Ha, Streep and Legend wait on benches. Ms. HALL (50's), Chancellor Reigns' assistant, comes into the hall.

MS. HALL

He can see you now.

They all get up and head into his office.

INT. LECTURE PIT - DAY

Spielberg sits on top the table at the front, somber, his head down. The rest of the Film Freaks gather around.

CHE HA

What's going on?

Spielberg turns his head away, hurt.

MARVEL

No idea.

Professor Schwartz walks in.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Please take a seat.

CHE HA  
Spielberg?

Spielberg doesn't respond.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
I'm proud of you guys. You did the  
right thing but it's happened  
anyway. The Film department is  
closing.

STREEP  
They can't do that.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
They can and they did.

LEGEND  
But what about our films?

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Finish them.

MARVEL  
This sucks.

SPIELBERG  
All we can do is our best, and  
sometimes the best we can do is  
start over.

MARVEL  
Quoting Agent Carter when we need  
Captain Marvel.

CHE HA  
(to Spielberg)  
I'm sorry.

MUSIC CUE: WHEN YOU BELIEVE by Whitney Houston ft. Mariah  
Carey, from the movie The Prince of Egypt.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ  
Don't let this stop you. Find a way  
through.

Professor Schwartz sings WHEN YOU BELIEVE.

The rest of the class join in. They continue to sing over a  
MONTAGE of the Film Freaks cleaning up the Anatomy Lab.

EXT. CAMPUS QUAD - DAY

Armageddon has arrived. Spielberg, Che Ha, Marvel, Legend and Streep sit on the steps to the library, letting the bad news sink in.

MARVEL

We are so over.

LEGEND

This can't be happening.

CHE HA

My Mom will be happy.

Davis walks up behind the group.

SPIELBERG

(Marlon Brando)

You don't understand. I coulda had class, I coulda been a contender, I coulda been somebody.

DAVIS

Robert DeNiro in Raging Bull.

SPIELBERG

Marlon Brando in *On The Waterfront*. DeNiro quoted Brando in Raging Bull.

DAVIS

My bad.

\*

Spielberg takes a swing at Davis. Davis takes it and pulls him off.

CHE HA

Spielberg.

DAVIS

What?

Spielberg's on the ground humiliated and stinging.

SPIELBERG

It's because of you and those idiots you hang out with.

CHE HA

You haven't heard? The University's closing our department.

DAVIS

Bull.

CHE HA

See, he didn't know.

SPIELBERG

I have one more year before I graduate. If I have to transfer, I'll lose at least a quarter of my credits. All I've ever wanted to do my whole life is make films.

LEGEND

There goes our Oscar.

CHE HA

Heroes are made by the path they choose, not the powers they are graced with.

MARVEL

(knowing)

Iron Man.

DAVIS

Who can I talk to? The Chancellor?

LEGEND

It's not just him it's the entire board.

Davis is in pain searching for a way out with the rest of the film freaks. He gets an idea.

DAVIS

What would Rocky do?

MARVEL

Rocky never gave up.

DAVIS

(imitating Rocky)

Until you start believing in yourself, you ain't gonna have a life!

SPIELBERG

(defeated)

This is life, not a movie.

\*  
\*

DAVIS

Think about it. Sylvester Stallone won an Oscar for screen writing for Rocky. He could have sold the script a hundred times over, but he wouldn't sell the concept to anyone unless he played the lead. He fought for it.

LEGEND

Getting a movie made is a battle.

MARVEL

A Super Hero battle.

CHE HA

If we really are serious about making films, we have to start now.

STREEP

How can we ever get a movie green lit if we can't solve this?

MARVEL

Like Professor Schwartz says, it all begins with an idea.

LEGEND

A script.

MARVEL

We have to sell it.

CHE HA

Pitch it.

DAVIS

Fight for it.

CHE HA

We have to prove to the University that movies are more than mindless entertainment.

\*

STREEP

Movies move us.

DAVIS

Inspire us to be more.

LEGEND

To be something greater.

CHE HA  
They show us different worlds and  
how to live.

SPIELBERG  
But this is about money.

DAVIS  
Show me the money!

Che Ha looks at Davis for support. There's no denying they  
both want the same thing. How can they fix this?

CHE HA  
I got it. What does everybody do on  
Oscar night?

MARVEL  
Place bets on who's going to win.

STREEP  
Get all dressed up?

DAVIS  
They throw a party?

CHE HA  
Yes.

DAVIS  
Yes.

CHE HA  
Let's throw the biggest Oscar party  
the campus has ever seen?

STREEP  
Something fabulous.

LEGEND  
I like it.

CHE HA  
Show Chancellor Reigns and the rest  
of the Board that we're serious,  
and he just can't take money from  
the arts.

MARVEL  
If you build it he will come.

SPIELBERG  
He doesn't care about The Oscars.

CHE HA

Well, he should. It's the night the world comes together and watch dreams come true.

DAVIS

Everyone believes they can win an Oscar that night, don't you?

\*  
\*

SPIELBERG

Yeah, right.

\*

LEGEND

Busted.

CHE HA

It's Hollywood's biggest night.

MARVEL

It's the grand daddy of awards.

CHE HA

We'll show them they should care.

\*  
\*

LEGEND

We can perform Oscar-winning songs.  
(sings)  
Can you feel the love tonight.

MARVEL

(sings)  
A whole new world.

STREEP

We can re-enact scenes from Oscar-winning movies.

DAVIS

Everyone can dress as their favorite character.

CHE HA

Remind everyone what they love about the Oscar's.

MARVEL

Why it's important to celebrate the arts.

SPIELBERG

No one wants to watch a bunch of freaks?

\*



DAVIS  
Film freaks are cool. \*

SPIELBERG  
Reality check. That only applies to  
you.

CHE HA  
Well, that's where he comes in.

DAVIS  
Me? \*

CHE HA  
We need the entire football team. \*

SPIELBERG  
Bad idea.

CHE HA  
We need their celebrity to make  
this Oscar Party a blockbuster.

STREEP  
They're going to have to rehearse.

LEGEND  
Take direction.

DAVIS  
Spielberg, you're in charge. \*

SPIELBERG  
You talking to me?

CHE HA  
You can make this a blockbuster. \*  
Your mind is like a computer of  
movie trivia.

LEGEND  
You're better than Google.

DAVIS  
I've seen your work. It's better  
than being a conference-winning  
quarterback.

SPIELBERG  
A bunch of jocks? \*

DAVIS  
You're the head coach.

SPIELBERG

Not.

\*

CHE HA

Not ready to sacrifice everything?

\*

MARVEL

You think working with actors is easy?

CHE HA

This will give you the chance to show everyone how good of a director we all know you are.

Davis sings EYE OF THE TIGER, by Survivor from Rocky III. Legend, Marvel and Che Ha join in.

They dance towards the top of the steps.

Davis grabs Spielberg's hand and raises it as if he's just won the boxing match. Everything's alright, as Spielberg joins in for the outro.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

So, are you playing Saturday?

\*

DAVIS

You didn't have to do that.

\*

CHE HA

Yes we did.

\*

\*

DAVIS

So do you want to go to a real party?

\*

\*

CHE HA

The Oscar Party?

\*

DAVIS

The bulk house after the game.

\*

SPIELBERG

Shirley you can't be serious.

\*

Che Ha wants desperately to pull Spielberg into the plan so she plays along.

\*

\*

CHE HA

I am serious and don't call me Shirley.

DAVIS  
It will be turnt.

\*

INT. FOOTBALL FIELD LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Coach Beatem waits as the football team, all suited up, settles down on the benches.

COACH BEATEM  
This is the most important game of your life. Of my life. The University is depending on all of you. For those who want to go pro, NFL scouts are out there watching. Don't screw it up. Your future is at stake. In the words of the greatest coach to ever lead a football team, Vince Lombardi, let me hear it...

FOOTBALL TEAM  
Winning isn't everything.

COACH BEATEM  
Louder.

FOOTBALL TEAM  
It's the only thing.

COACH BEATEM  
Now let's get out there and win.

Michelle mouths "we can do this". Davis smiles. This is what he loves about Michelle, her winning spirit.

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INTERCUT - various locations on the Football Field, control broadcast booth, the stands, the sidelines.

FOURTH QUARTER.

The stands are full of spectators wearing their team colors. Legend sits with the MARCHING BAND wearing a trio tom-tom set vest. He BANGS out a bad ass cadence in time with the cheerleaders.

Streep, wearing a Wolverines Cheerleader uniform, leads the spectators with the squad of EIGHT GIRLS and FOUR GUYS.

CHEER SQUAD  
D-E-F-E-N-S-E. Defense get tough.

Michelle, suited up in her Wolverines uniform, practices punting into a sideline net.

The opposing team, THE TITANS, have the ball.

The Film Freaks are in the stands.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

Those Titans have a chance to take the lead with only a minute forty to go. It's third and fifteen. A long shot.

The Titan's QUARTERBACK calls play action.

COMMENTATOR

Stirling back to throw. Oh my God! But watch out, Rod the Nob broke through the offensive line. He's chasing him down.

Rod barrels towards the Titan Quarterback. The Titan QB leaps over the tackle. The Titan QB wings it down the field toward the end zone.

MARVEL

What an arm!

The receiver catches the ball in the end zone.

COMMENTATOR

He snatched it. It's good! Touchdown Titans.

The entire stadium erupts.

COACH BEATEM

Dammit! Cheng! Now or never.

DAVIS

Check, Coach.

The Titan's kicker makes the extra point.

PHIL SHADY (30s), a pro Scout from the Green Bay Packers, watches from the stands.

COMMENTATOR

And the extra point is good. So the Titans take the lead with only one minute left in this championship game. Plenty of time for a GOAT like Cheng and the Wolverines.

In the stands, Spielberg, Marvel and Che Ha follow Davis' every move.

MARVEL

Wolverine, one of my fave Marvel characters.

\*  
\*

CHE HA

He invited me, I mean us, to the after party.

SPIELBERG

I'll pass.

\*

COMMENTATOR

So the Wolverines start the drive from the Titans' 30 yard line. Decent field position but they don't have much time.

STREEP

(on the sidelines)  
Go Wolverines, Go!

Davis calls the play, catches the hike, and barely gets the ball off.

COMMENTATOR

And they get a first down and run it out of bounds to stop the clock.

STREEP

(and the Squad)  
First and ten, do it again!

The Wolverines huddle.

DAVIS

Skeet and Jar, go long.

The teams take position on the field.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

22, 19, 25 hut, hut.

Davis catches the hike. He searches for an open man. Finds one.

COMMENTATOR

Dresden catches the ball, takes it to the 50, but doesn't get out of bounds. The clock keeps running. There's only 25 seconds left. They're out of time outs.

(MORE)

COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

They're going to have to hustle to get this ball into the field goal range for a chance to win.

The Wolverines hustle into position. MIKE hikes the ball. Davis almost drops it. He recovers and looks for a receiver.

COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

Cheng searches for an open man. Not one in sight.

Everyone's covered. Davis sees an opening and takes off.

COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

Cheng's running the ball himself. To the 40, the 30, the 25. Who knew that he could run like that?

\*

Smack. Cheng is hit hard by one of the Titans. His helmet flies off and across the field. He goes down under the weight of the TACKLER. He doesn't move.

The crowd holds their breath. The coaches run out onto the field. Michelle stops practice punting.

CHE HA

Oh my God! Get up.

COMMENTATOR

An injury time-out is called.

COACH BEATEM

Cheng. Cheng! Can you hear me? Give him some room.

SPIELBERG

Looks like the party's over.

\*

Che Ha throws him *you're being an asshole* look.

COMMENTATOR

A hush falls across the stadium as we wait to hear the fate of Cheng. This spells disaster for the Wolverines. Thank God he did get the ball close enough for a field goal attempt. Martinez's longest on record is 35; this is a 40 yarder. Girl, good luck with that. It's not looking good.

Davis opens his eyes.

DAVIS

I'm okay.

COACH BEATEM

You sure, son? How many fingers am I holding up?

Coach puts three fingers in his face.

DAVIS

Three.

COMMENTATOR

Cheng is up on his feet. Looks like he is okay.

The crowd cheers.

MARVEL

Holy Hail Mary.

LEGEND

The tension, the drama, the high stakes. It's like a scene right out of a movie. I can't make this stuff up.

COACH BEATEM

Martinez, get out here and win this thing.

MICHELLE

Yes, Coach.

COMMENTATOR

The Wolverines' Special teams take the field. This is it. The championship is on the line.

Medics try to get Cheng to the locker room but he refuses.

The ball is hiked, caught and held in position. Michelle kicks; the football sails through the air and through the uprights.

COMMENTATOR (CONT'D)

And it's good! The Wolverines win 31 to 30.

The Film Freaks celebrate. The entire Wolverine team, including Davis, runs onto the field. Davis lifts up Michelle.

DAVIS  
You did it!

Michelle revels in the moment.

MICHELLE  
(taking off her helmet)  
We did it.

Che Ha watches as Michelle kisses Davis.

CHE HA  
I'll have what she's having.

Spielberg is crushed. Marvel bumps her to shut up.

Coach Beatem runs over to the two of them.

COACH BEATEM  
Yes! Yes! Yes!

COMMENTATOR  
Well, how about that Michelle  
Martinez? Guess she showed them  
women do belong. Hashtag "me too"  
girlfriend, that was hot. Score one  
for the ladies.

INT. BULK HOUSE - NIGHT

The Party does not disappoint, at the legendary BULK HOUSE.  
Music's blasting. Football players, cheerleaders, and college  
students push their way into the fray.

EXT. BULK HOUSE - NIGHT

Che Ha, Spielberg, Legend, Streep, and Marvel stand outside  
debating.

STREEP  
Come on.

CHE HA  
We can do this.

LEGEND  
It's lit up.

MARVEL  
Reminds me of home.





She slams the door in their faces.

Che Ha looks to Streep.

STREEP  
(interpreting)  
You've got to be kidding me.

SPIELBERG  
Let's go.

CHE HA  
We were invited.

STREEP  
I won't be ignored.

LEGEND  
Nobody puts baby in the corner.

MARVEL  
Except Michelle.

CHE HA  
Mean Girls don't count.

Davis rushes over to the door.

MICHELLE  
Who invited the Film Freaks?

DAVIS  
I did. And they're not freaks.

MICHELLE  
Says you.

DAVIS  
Play nice.

Davis opens the door.

DAVIS (CONT'D)  
Hey guys, come in.

STREEP  
But she...

DAVIS  
Don't worry 'bout her.

Oh no, Davis did not just say that. Michelle has to stop this atrocity.

DAVIS (CONT'D)

Come on.

Streep, Legend, Marvel, and Che Ha head in, but Spielberg heads the other way.

SPIELBERG

Hasta la vista, baby.

Che Ha goes after Spielberg.

CHE HA

Franklin.

He keeps walking.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

I mean Spielberg.

MICHELLE

(laughing)

Spielberg.

Spielberg and Che Ha look at her.

Streep takes Che Ha's arm and pulls her in.

STREEP

Let him. He's jelly. He'll get over it.

\*

Che Ha's face says it all. She doesn't feel the same as Spielberg. Streep touches her shoulder.

\*

\*

STREEP (CONT'D)

I know.

LEGEND

Tomorrow's another day.

STREEP

Let's party!

Legend pulls them in. Che Ha looks back, watching Spielberg walk away defeated. Davis offers her his hand like Jack Dawson to Rose in Titanic. Davis takes her hand and kisses the top of it.

\*

DAVIS

(as Jack Dawson)

You jump I jump.

CHE HA

You ok? That was quite a hit you took.

\*

DAVIS

To making each day count.

Michelle fumes.

The door shuts.

EXT. STREETS AROUND CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS

Spielberg strolls down the street. And like the night couldn't get any worse, it begins to rain. WTF, go with it.

Spielberg sings RAINDROPS ARE FALLING ON MY HEAD by BJ Thomas from the film Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

INTERCUT - SPIELBERG AND THE PARTY AT THE BULK HOUSE.

Davis walks Che Ha through the rowdy party.

Davis sings WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS by Queen.

The entire party joins in the song and dance. Michelle twirls herself into Davis, pushing Che Ha out of the way. Rod follows Streep.

While the party sings We are the Champions, Spielberg sings Raindrops keep falling on my head. He walks down to the

MEDIA ARTS BUILDING

Spielberg heads down the hall to the edit bay, tries opening the door but it's locked.

Spielberg runs back outside into the rain, still singing.

The party goes sing the conclusion of We are the Champions. Davis hugs Che Ha.

STREEP

(high fives Che Ha)  
You go girl!

\*

Michelle hangs out with her group of GIRLS.

GIRL 1

Did you see that?

MICHELLE

That did not just happen.

\*

\*

Michelle strides up behind Che Ha and takes her by surprise.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
Watch out for him.

CHE HA  
Davis?

MICHELLE  
You know he's not really into you.  
He just feels sorry for you.  
Helping you makes him feel like a  
hero.

CHE HA  
What is your problem?

MICHELLE  
Take me for instance. Only girl on  
the football team. Odd woman out.  
Made me feel special, that he  
really cared. Then tossed me aside  
like garbage.

This catches Che Ha off guard.

CHE HA  
We're just friends.

MICHELLE  
He's always has had a soft spot for  
misfits. And you are a misfit film  
freak.

Che Ha watches Davis talking to another girl.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
He'll break your heart.

STREEP  
Get away from her you bitch.

Rod grabs Streep and picks her up above his head.

ROD  
Hey, I'm ready for my close-up, Mr.  
Demille.

STREEP  
(kicking and screaming)  
Get your stinking paws off me, you  
damned dirty ape.

A football player circle forms around them. Marvel pulls at Rod.

ROD

What are you gonna do about it,  
Film Freak?

CHE HA

Better question, what am I going to  
do about it?

Che Ha strikes a martial arts pose, twirls, chops him and high kicks landing it on Rod. He releases Streep as he drops to his knees.

MARVEL

Never mess with a Chicana's homey.

Davis rushes over and pulls Rod back as he's getting up in Che Ha's face.

MICHELLE

The closest you'll ever get to an  
Oscar is from the bleachers  
watching the winners arrive.

CHE HA

I'd rather sit in Oscar bleachers  
any day than football bleachers  
watching you.

MICHELLE

You wish someone cared enough to  
watch you or your stupid little  
films.

\*

CHE HA

Sometimes it is the people who no  
one imagines anything of, who do  
the things that no one can imagine.

MICHELLE

Film Freak.

CHE HA

(to her friends)  
Spielberg's right, we don't belong  
here.

\*

The group of girls laugh.

MICHELLE

You're just a bunch of nobody's  
desperately trying to be  
somebody's.

Che Ha, Streep, Marvel, and Legend make a fast exit and the  
party rages on.

DAVIS

What do you have against them?

MICHELLE

What do you have for them? Or  
should I say her?

Davis watches the Film Freaks hurry down the street.

INT. CAMPUS EDIT BAY - DAY

Che Ha shows Marvel the rough cut of SECRETS.

MARVEL

Whoa.

\*

CHE HA

How am I going to re-create South  
East Asia and the Vietnam War?

MARVEL

Animate it.

CHE HA

Great idea but I don't know how to  
animate.

\*

\*

Marvel cracks her knuckles.

MARVEL

What I have is a very particular  
set of skills.

CHE HA

No way.

\*

MARVEL

You help me, I help you. That's how  
filmmakers do it sista.

\*

There's a KNOCK on the door.

CHE HA

Enter.

\*

Wilky opens the door. He's intense.

MARVEL

Keep your friends close and your  
enemies closer.

Wilky doesn't crack a smile. Marvel makes a quick exit.

CHE HA

Here to gloat.

WILKY

(pointing to the screen)  
Why are you really doing this?  
Dishonor the family?

CHE HA

Making a film is not disrespectful.  
But you want to know the real  
reason?

WILKY

Tell me.

CHE HA

I'm tired of competing with you for  
a dream that isn't mine.

\*  
\*

WILKY

Competing with me?

CHE HA

Mom and Dad always wanted what you  
wanted. And since you were my big  
brother, part of me wanted it too.  
But that's not who I am.

WILKY

Who are you?

CHE HA

I'm a filmmaker. I want to write  
scripts, I want my own voice, I  
want to be heard. I don't want to  
live in your shadow.

WILKY

What are you talking about?

\*

CHE HA

(tearing up)  
You don't see it and neither do  
they. Grandpa's story deserves  
telling.



WILKY

I don't think he'd like it.

CHE HA

Isn't that what he fought for in the war? Freedom?

WILKY

Freedom from what?

CHE HA

To follow your dream. To follow my dream. I can't help it. It's what I have to, no, what I need to do. I want an Oscar.

WILKY

(in Hmong)

*I'm leaving in an hour. They're expecting both of us.*

\*

Wilky leaves closing the door on her. Through her tears, Che Ha looks at the edit monitor which has gone black. Her finger hovers over the play button as she decides her fate.

Everything behind her turns black and she's lit as if she's in a dark movie theater waiting for the film to begin, waiting for her life to begin. She pushes play and poof - it's Movie Magic.

A montage of the scenes they shot. Behind the scenes footage featuring the film freaks, overtake the screen. Che Ha stands in front of the projection as the scenes play out larger than life.

Che Ha breaks into RAINBOW CONNECTION by Kermit the Frog from the Muppet Movie. As she sings, she struggles with her decision to choose making movies over everything else in her life.

\*

INT. / EXT. MONTAGE - DAY

MUSIC CUE: Che Ha's rendition of the Rainbow Connection.

Che Ha's in the Chemistry lab and wears protective goggles mixing chemicals together. It fizzes and EXPLODES into a fire. The other STUDENTS run for cover. THE CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR grabs the fire extinguisher and puts out the fire.

Spielberg and Marvel edit.

Streep rehearses a scene.

Che Ha rings the doorbell to Wilky's apartment. He comes out and they get in the car.

Legend composes music for a film. \*

Che Ha and Wilky drive on the same highway their parents did, past farmland.

Streep rehearses a scene with another ACTOR (19).

Che Ha and her family at graveyard take turns bowing to MaMa's headstone.

Professor Schwartz writes at her computer. Takes a break to look at her Oscar for inspiration.

INT. CHE HA'S PARENTS' HOME, DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A buffet of traditional Hmong dishes fill the table. Aunties, Uncles, Cousins all enjoy the feast. Che Ha sits alone on a chair with a plateful of untouched food. She reaches in her pocket and pulls out MaMa's Oscar Paj Ntaub. Her eyes fill with tears. Dad leads Mom over to Che Ha.

END MUSIC CUE of Che Ha singing Rainbow Connection.

Mom sits next to Che Ha and takes the Paj Ntaub from Che Ha.

MOM

She loved you more than anyone. \*

CHE HA

I miss her.

MOM

That's the way. MaMa and Grand daughter cut from the same cloth.

CHE HA

It's weird, I keep seeing her everywhere. \*

MOM

Your head has always been full of imagination and stories. \*

Her Mom actually gets it? \*

MOM (CONT'D)

It's the way you were made. MaMa understood you most. I don't so much.

CHE HA

Mom.

MOM

Why you do this? Make movies. \*

DAD

It's her dream. \*

CHE HA

I have something I need to tell you.

MOM

No need. I know already.

CHE HA

You know?

MOM

Big brother, big talker.

CHE HA

(in perfect Hmong)  
*I'm going to kill Wilky.*

MOM

(in Hmong)  
*He just watching out for baby sister.*

Wilky shields himself as if Che Ha's going to hit him.

CHE HA

You're not mad?

MOM

Disappointed. \*

CHE HA

I was going to tell you.

MOM

Disappointed that you don't trust me.

CHE HA

But you always wanted me to be a doctor.

MOM

Doctors are safe, secure, not worry about money, the future. But happiness is the greatest gift.

CHE HA

My dream. It's all falling apart.  
Nothing I want works out. They're  
closing the department. Everyone's  
fighting. No one is listening.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

MOM

You make them listen. You know what  
we say about dreams.

MOM AND CHE HA

(in Hmong)

*There are only fish that follow the  
river: There are no rivers that  
follow the fish.*

MOM

You be that river. You know how to  
fight. You come from a family of  
fighters. If this is what you want.  
You lead the way and have fish  
follow your river.

MUSIC CUE: LET THE RIVER RUN by Carly Simon, from the movie  
Working Girl.

BEGIN MONTAGE

Che Ha SINGS Let the River Run. Spielberg, Legend and Marvel  
join in.

In the production office, Che Ha and the team: Spielberg,  
Legend and Marvel, at the production board, make a list of  
things to do to make Oscar Party a success.

1. LETTER TO THE CHANCELLOR
2. VENUE TO HOST THE PARTY
3. GET THE FOOTBALL TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN FILMS
4. LIVE PERFORMANCE
5. SAVE THE FILM DEPARTMENT

Che Ha types a letter to the Chancellor and the Board  
inviting them to the Oscar Party, and asking for permission  
to use the Student Union to throw the party.

Spielberg and Marvel design the stage.

Spielberg and Che Ha select movie scenes to shoot.

Legend and Streep find party supplies in the department's messy storage room.

Che Ha and Marvel design the invitation.

"OSCAR PARTY - Celebrate the Biggest Night in Film. Special Live Performance by the Championship Winning Wolverine Football Players. Hosted by Wisco's Film School. For Arts Sake."

The Chancellor reads the letter. He signs off, yes.

Professor Schwartz shares the Chancellor's approval letter with the Film Freaks.

The Film Freaks finish the song with high fives.

END MONTAGE

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Davis stands in front of the team.

DAVIS  
I need your help.

\*

SKEET  
We got you buddy.

\*

Davis struggles to find the right words, the right way to put this big ask.

\*

DAVIS  
I need you to act.

JAR  
Act what?

DAVIS  
Yeah act, in some films. Actors. You know like The Rock. A song and dance number on stage. It'll be turnt.

\*

MICHELLE  
Wait! Hold up just a minute, are you actually asking us to help the Film Freaks?

\*

A hush falls across the room as they look to Davis for the answer. Davis shakes his head yes and the locker room erupts into chaos.

ROD  
Film Freaks.

SKEET  
Chia pet puker.

JAR  
Crazy talk.

DAVIS  
You've all taken production  
classes.

MICHELLE  
Doesn't make us one of them.

ROD  
Easy A.

SKEET  
Lost it.

ROD  
Lock you up.

Davis WHISTLES. That gets their attention. The ballers quiet \*  
down.

DAVIS  
We have everything. We're the  
champions.

MICHELLE  
Freak lover.

DAVIS  
Let's give back. \*

MICHELLE  
Why don't you give back and leave  
the rest of us out of it.

ROD  
I hate freaks.

DAVIS  
We're more than just these  
uniforms. More than just a game.  
We're all part of the same team  
here.

MICHELLE  
They wish.

DAVIS

What does Coach say? Let me hear you.

The team just glares at him. Rod turns his back.

MICHELLE

Nertz.

\*

DAVIS

Guys, they are out of time outs with only 10 seconds on the clock.

MICHELLE

Who cares?

DAVIS

We should. We all almost lost our dream. We were lucky we got to play the game of our lives because they stood up for us. And what did they get? They got their department shut down. We owe them.

\*

\*

The reality sinks in.

ROD

Sucks.

\*

SKEET

Not fair.

DAVIS

Come on, let's do this. If you won't do it for them. Do it for me.

JAR

Dude!

SKEET

You're pulling that card?

DAVIS

Spielberg, get out here.

Spielberg walks out from behind the lockers.

ROD

Freak!

The team erupts in BOOS.

MICHELLE

You brought one of them - here?

DAVIS  
He's like the head coach.

\*

SKEET  
(turning around pointing  
at his ass)  
Direct this.

Davis WHISTLES. The room quiet downs.

DAVIS  
Give him a chance.

SPIELBERG  
Alrighty then. Team, I'd like to  
begin with one of my favorites from  
Back to the Future - where we're  
going we don't need roads.

The team throws whatever is closest to them. A jock strap  
lands on Spielberg's head. Davis gives him a slap on the back  
and a thumbs up. Michelle mouths "freak lover".

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Heavy wind and choppy waters. Davis drives a FISHING BOAT  
with a V shaped bow. Rod pushes Skeet over the side rail,  
hanging onto his legs so his face is just above the water.

Spielberg, Che Ha, and Legend are on a smaller SPEED BOAT  
with camera and sound equipment.

INTERCUT - BOTH BOATS

SPIELBERG  
(ripping off his headset)  
Look at 'em.

CHE HA  
They'll do it.

SPIELBERG  
How did I ever get talked into  
this?

CHE HA  
Your time to shine.

Davis slows the boat.

DAVIS  
Knock it off.



Skeet pulls Jar up onto his feet.

DAVIS (CONT'D)  
Stand over there.

Skeet points to the front of the boat.

DAVIS (CONT'D)  
Where I showed you.

Skeet points to a huge "X" of red masking tape at the bow.

DAVIS (CONT'D)  
On the red X. Can't miss it.

Rod salutes.

ROD  
Aye, aye Captain.

Skeet and Jar slip and slide towards the front of the boat.

Legend beatboxes the "shark's theme" from Jaws.

CHE HA  
We're gonna need a bigger boat.

Spielberg's not amused.

Davis gives Spielberg a thumbs up.

SPIELBERG  
Cue the drone.

CHE HA  
(into her headset mic)  
Action drone.

Marvel and Streep are on the shore. Streep, on head set, points to Marvel. Marvel pushes buttons on her smart phone. A drone with a smart phone camera takes flight towards the boat.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
Standby, actors.

SPIELBERG  
Action.

DAVIS  
Action.

Skeet and Rod are at the bow of the boat.

SKEET  
Looky there.

ROD  
Where?

Rod squints, looking to the left. Skeet slaps Rod on the back of the head and points to the horizon.

SKEET  
There.

Rod follows Skeet's point.

SKEET (CONT'D)  
Is that the Statue of Liberty I  
see?

Rod squints, looking, then shakes his head no. Skeet slaps Rod's head again.

DAVIS  
Your line, Rod.

Rod climbs up on the bow Jack Dawson style and raises his hands hooting and howling.

ROD  
I'm King of the World.

SPIELBERG  
(into head set)  
Did you get it?

Marvel gives the thumbs up.

SPIELBERG (CONT'D)  
Cut.

Spielberg and Legend high five.

Davis and Che Ha share their joy across the water.

CHE HA  
(to Davis)  
In the words of Rose Dawson, never  
let go.

SPIELBERG  
I'll never let go.

Davis watches Spielberg hug Che Ha.

Skeet tackles Rod, pushing him over the bow into the water.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

A big old fashioned door lights up on set. Streep, dressed as Scarlett O'Hara, and Davis, as Rhett Butler, star in this scene from Gone With The Wind.

STREEP

Rhett, Rhett, where shall I go?  
What should I do?

DAVIS

Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn.

Davis walks out of the door. Streep, crestfallen, cries.

STREEP

Oh no. How will I get him back?  
Tomorrow, I'll think about it  
tomorrow. After all, tomorrow is  
another day.

SPIELBERG

Cut.

Spielberg, Che Ha, Marvel, and Legend approve.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

A glass wall separates Marvel, dressed as Clarise Starling, and Jar, dressed as Hannibal Lecter.

MARVEL

You see a lot, Doctor. But are you  
strong enough to point that high-  
powered perception at yourself?  
What about it? Why don't you look  
at yourself and write down what you  
see? Maybe you're afraid to.

JAR

A census taker once tried to test  
me. I ate his liver with some fava  
beans and a nice chianti. Hisses.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Legend, Marvel and Streep instruct the FOOTBALL TEAM in a song and dance. It does not go well. They fall all over themselves. Legend CLAPS and COUNTS out the beats. Marvel takes Skeet by the hand and he dirty dances with her.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

Davis, dressed as Rick, sits at a bar with a drink in front of him. Legend, dressed like Sam, sits at a piano, like in the scene from Casablanca.

DAVIS

They grab Bugatti and then she walks in. The way it goes. One in one out. Sam.

LEGEND

Yes, boss.

DAVIS

It's December 1941 in Casablanca; what time is it in New York?

LEGEND

My watch stopped.

DAVIS

I bet they're asleep in New York. I bet they're asleep all over America.

(he pounds his fist)

Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world she walks into mine. What's that you're playing?

LEGEND

Oh, just a little something of my own.

DAVIS

Well, stop it. You know what I want to hear.

LEGEND

No, I don't.

DAVIS

You played it for her; you can play it for me.

LEGEND

Well, I don't think I can remember it.

DAVIS

If she can stand it, I can. Play it.

Legend plays AS TIME GOES BY from the movie, Casablanca.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Davis perches on a horse dressed like William Wallace, face paint and all.

DAVIS

They may take our lives, but they  
will never take our freedom!

INT. SKEET'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Skeet on the phone in his house.

SKEET

Now to recap I want to stay in  
Arizona, I want my new contract, I  
like you, you're nice to my wife, I  
will stay with you, that's what I'm  
doing for you, but here's what  
you're gonna do for me. You  
listening.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Davis talks to Skeet from his office.

DAVIS

Mmm. Hmm.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

SKEET

It's a very personal, very  
important thing. It's a family  
motto. So I want to share it with  
you. You ready?

DAVIS

Yes.

SKEET

Here it is. Show me the money.  
(pause)  
Show. Me. The. Money.

DAVIS

I got it.

SKEET

Now doesn't that just make you feel good to say it? Say it with me.

DAVIS

Show Me the Money!

SKEET

Congratulations, you're still my agent.

INT. COACH BEATEM'S OFFICE - DAY

Coach Beatem watches the video of the Championship football game, reliving every moment like he's actually there. His phone RINGS. \*

COACH BEATEM

Speak.

INT. PHIL SHADY'S OFFICE - DAY

Phil Shady talks to Coach Beatem from his office that screams Pro Scout.

PHIL SHADY

Coach Beatem?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

COACH BEATEM

That's me.

PHIL SHADY

This is Phil Shady, I'm in the Packer's front office. I'm calling about your Quarterback.

COACH BEATEM

Cheng?

PHIL SHADY

We were really impressed with Cheng's performance at the Championship game, he's got quite an arm. We'd like to meet with Cheng and you to discuss his future.

COACH BEATEM

Name the time and place. We'll be there. \*

Coach Beatem hangs up the phone with a huge smile. He immediately picks it up and dials.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Davis pumping iron, when his cell phone rings. He answers the call.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

COACH BEATEM

Son, you won't believe who I just got off the phone with.

DAVIS

Coach?

COACH BEATEM

Phil Shady from the Packers.

DAVIS

Who?

COACH BEATEM

He wants to meet you. Thinks you have potential to go pro.

DAVIS

Good one coach. You almost had me.

COACH BEATEM

I don't joke about football son.

DAVIS

For real? \*

COACH BEATEM

Saturday night, dinner 8 o'clock. Wear a suit.

Shit! The same night as the Oscar Party.

DAVIS

Any other day. Any other time. \*

COACH BEATEM

Son, you better change them plans, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Davis hangs up, happy, confused and pissed all at the same time.

INT. STUDENT UNION - DAY

The Film Freaks and other STUDENTS decorate for the event.

MONTAGE

They hang posters of Oscar winning films.

Decorate tables. Hang streamers and balloons from the ceiling.

Set-up the stage and the large video monitors around the room.

Klieg lights on stands, ladders, curtains.

Legend works with a CREW on setting up microphones and a sound board.

Marvel directs a CREW on setting up lights around the room.

A combination movie set that's decorated for a party.

Professor Schwartz walks in.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

The Chancellor and the board  
confirmed they will be here. This  
looks amazing.

\*  
\*  
\*

STREEP

I think everything should be pink.

Streep hits a button on the lighting board and the lights turn pink.

MARVEL

Red.

Marvel hits the same button and red overtakes the design.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

The Oscars are all about the gold.

Marvel hits the same button and the room washes in gold. OOHS and AWWWS escape from everyone.

SPIELBERG

(to Che Ha)

What do you think?

Che Ha sits in a corner with her nose in a Chemistry book.



SPIELBERG (CONT'D)

Che Ha?

CHE HA

Sorry, what?

SPIELBERG

What's wrong?

CHE HA

I got this huge Chem test and I'm  
so not ready.

\*

SPIELBERG

You'll ace it. Just keep swimming.

Che Ha closes her book and pushes it away.

CHE HA

I'm about to flunk out and you're  
quoting me fish wisdom.

SPIELBERG

Drop the class?

CHE HA

You told me to do both.

Che Ha sees Davis and smiles.

SPIELBERG

Great.

Che Ha walks over to Davis and hugs him hello.

CHE HA

What do you think? Pretty cool,  
huh?

DAVIS

I need to talk to you.

\*

Davis talks to Che Ha so no one else can hear.

CHE HA

You're quitting?

The entire room falls silent.

SPIELBERG

I knew he'd mess this up.

CHE HA

If you don't come the rest of the  
football team won't come. This  
won't work if you don't show up.

DAVIS

I've wanted this my entire life.

\*

Spielberg gets in Davis' face. A showdown. Legend and Marvel  
have his back.

SPIELBERG

She trusted you.

STREEP

We all did.

MARVEL

Liar.

SPIELBERG

(to Davis)

Every man dies, but not every man  
really lives.

CHE HA

Can't I count on anyone?

The Oscar Party sign above the stage crashes to the floor  
with a huge THUD splintering into pieces.

\*

CHE HA (CONT'D)

I know, why don't we all just quit.

Che Ha runs out of the room wiping back her tears. Davis  
follows. Spielberg goes after them but Professor Schwartz  
grabs his arm.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Don't.

Spielberg's frustration fills his eyes.

SPIELBERG

(looking at Che Ha)

I wish I could quit you.

EXT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

Che Ha cradles herself on the front steps. Davis sits down  
next to her.

CHE HA  
Everything's ruined.

DAVIS  
No, it's not.

CHE HA  
My family thinks I'm crazy. I'm going to fail Chem and now this Oscar Party is going to be a complete and total disaster. The film department will be shut down.

DAVIS  
You guys put everything you got into this. Just because a bunch of footballers bail doesn't mean it will be a disaster.

CHE HA  
Yes it will. It's on all the flyers, invitations. And when the team doesn't show up, we're history.

DAVIS  
Never in a million years did I imagine a football scout would think I had what it takes to go pro. It's a dream I had since I was a kid.

CHE HA  
We need you.

Davis puts his arms around her. Che Ha pulls back.

DAVIS  
Life is not the amount of breaths you take. It's the moments that take your breath away.

CHE HA  
I need you.

Oh, that cuts deep. Davis releases her. Their eyes lock, wanting each other but knowing they're on separate paths.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
You have to do what is right for you. I get it. Don't worry about me.

\*  
\*  
\*

\*

Che Ha runs away. She looks up at a star filled sky. SINGS  
BORN TO THE STARS by Marina V

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
Whatever happened to  
The dreams that we once knew  
Whatever happened to us  
Did we grow up too fast?

Davis walks across the campus in the opposite direction from  
Che Ha, under the same night sky, SINGING Born to the Stars.

DAVIS  
Well, I don't want to be  
Whatever they decided for me  
And I don't want to feel  
The way it's making me feel

INTERCUT - CHE HA AND DAVIS ON THEIR SEPARATE STARRY NIGHT  
PATHS, SINGING BORN TO THE STARS.

Che Ha heads off campus, along the quiet

CITY STREETS

Davis walks across an

EMPTY QUAD

INT. STUDENT UNION - CONTINUOUS

Streep consoles Spielberg.

Marvel, Legend and other film students repair the Oscar Party  
sign.

All join in singing Born to the Stars.

INTERCUT - FILM FREAKS, CHE HA AND DAVIS COMPLETE THE SONG.

EXT. WILKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Che Ha hesitates before she knocks. The door opens. Che Ha  
stands there not able to talk. Wilky stares at her. Che Ha's  
eyes well up as she struggles to find her voice.

CHE HA  
I tried but it's all ruined.

\*

Wilky brings her in.

EXT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

The Student Union has been transformed into Oscar Party Central, complete with a Red Carpet leading to the entrance.

Students and other guests, dressed as their favorite movie character or Hollywood star, all glammed up, arrive.

There's T'Challa, Pennywise, Wonder Woman, Edward Scissorhands, Holly Golightly, Cruella de Vil, Cher, Marilyn Monroe, Frida, Princess Jasmine, The Shape of Water Creature, Alfred Hitchcock.

Cameras flash. People take selfies. It's flashy and exciting.

INT. STUDENT UNION - NIGHT

Legend, dressed like Elton John, works with the controls at the audio board, set up in the middle of the room. Spielberg checks in, as Indiana Jones.

Chancellor Reigns greets the crowd and the alumni as they arrive.

BACK STAGE

Streep, dressed as Mia in La La Land, talks to herself, pacing the room. Che Ha, dressed as Mulan, puts on headsets, enters the room.

STREEP

Oh my God, Oh my God! We didn't think you were coming.

Streep hugs Che Ha.

CHE HA

I'm like a bad penny, I always show up.

Professor Schwartz walks in.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

It's showtime, folks!

CHE HA

(to Streep)  
You got this.

Streep nods, yes. The lights dim.

SPIELBERG  
Ready to roll intro, standby. Open  
music.

A light follows Streep as she takes the stage.

STREEP  
(sings)  
*City of stars*  
*Are you shining just for me?*  
*City of stars*  
*There's so much that I can't see*  
*Who knows?*  
*I felt it from the first embrace I*  
*shared with you*

Legend joins her on stage. They both sing CITY OF STARS from La La Land.

INTERCUT with a montage of the audience and the film clips of Oscar winning scenes they produced.

Streep and Legend end the song with a rousing applause and whistles from the audience.

The Chancellor and the Board, however, just watch. Che Ha notices their lack of enthusiasm.

CHE HA  
(sotto)  
They don't get it.

MARVEL  
It's not working.

STREEP  
They never were going to consider  
overturning their decision.

The Film Freaks flock to one another. Spielberg's in the directors chair.

MARVEL  
What else do we got?

SPIELBERG  
(resentful)  
This is where the ballers were  
supposed to be.

Che Ha looks up to the empty stage, devoid of emcee or performance. She takes in a deep breath.

Leaving the others to bicker behind her, Che Ha marches over to the computer hooked up to the main projector. She pulls up a file with a few keystrokes. Then, gathering her courage, she strides up onto the stage.

Che Ha takes center stage. The Film Freaks stop bickering and watch, unsure of her plan.

CHE HA

When you decide not to be afraid,  
you can find friends in super  
unexpected places.

(Looks at Marvel)

Ms. Marvel said that, in the film  
Captain Marvel. Films have the  
power to affect us. And I'm no  
longer afraid. Thank you everyone  
who came to spend this star-studded  
night with us. As you know, we are  
putting on this event to save the  
Film Department here at Wisco  
University. And I think everyone  
involved has their own reason for  
sticking up for this. For some, it  
may be about the education, or the  
history, or the glamour of  
Hollywood. But I would like to tell  
you why I am here, because this  
department means so much more than  
simply graduating with a Bachelor  
of Arts. I am here because stories  
are important, and this school is  
teaching me how to tell my story.

(into her headset)

Roll clip.

The lights dim slightly, and the projection screen above Che Ha lights up with a familiar image. It's a close-up selfie video of Che Ha, back from when she decided to record in the beginning. This is the FILM PROJECT she's been working on all semester.

PROJECTION SCREEN - CHE HA'S Film

Che Ha speaks into her phone, BACKGROUND MUSIC sets the tone.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

My name is Che Ha.  
First generation U.S.,  
First-born daughter of political  
refugees.  
First girl in the family to go to  
University.  
I'm living a secret.

(MORE)

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
 If my parents find out, I'm so  
 dead. The fact that I have a secret  
 shouldn't surprise anyone. I come  
 from a family of secrets.

The screen changes to an animation of the Paj Ntaub.

ON THE PROJECTION, an animated man and woman come together in  
 the middle of the story cloth.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
 (VO)  
 My parents were secretly married.  
 My very existence was a secret  
 until my mother couldn't hide her  
 big pregnant belly anymore.

The cloth woman's belly gets bigger and bigger until POP! A  
 cloth baby is in her arms.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
 (VO)  
 My grandfather fought in the Secret  
 War for God's sake.

An animated battle is re-enacted on the story cloth.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
 (VO)  
 Not many Americans know that during  
 the Vietnam War, great promises  
 were made to the Hmong in exchange  
 for them fighting and dying for the  
 U.S.

The battle ends, and a ragtag group of soldiers are left  
 wounded.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
 (VO)  
 But once the war was over, their  
 help was forgotten.

The soldiers are chased by a group carrying weapons. They run  
 to a wall labelled 'U.S,' where they are trapped.

CHE HA (CONT'D)  
 (VO)  
 And when they needed help to escape  
 danger in their own country, the  
 U.S treated them poorly, and  
 immigration was next to impossible.



The crowds and the wall disappear, and a single cloth female appears on the Paj Ntaub.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

(VO)

And that brings us back to me and my secrets. Because secrets are the foundation on which I was born, I kept my talents hidden from my family.

POP! A little camera appears around the figure's neck. She tentatively picks it up and plays with it.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

(VO)

The freedom to pursue our dreams is what my ancestors fought for and for me not to pursue my dream brings no honor at all. Because some things... aren't meant to remain secret forever.

\*

The animated Che Ha points her camera directly at the audience, and it FLASHES, bathing the screen in WHITE. Over the white, the TITLE CARD "SECRETS" appears.

The lights come back on as Che Ha's video ends.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

(holding up her MaMa's Paj ntaub)

The people from our country have a saying about chasing your dream. There are only fish that follow the river. There are no rivers that follow the fish. I encourage all of you to be a river. This is a Paj Ntaub, a Hmong story cloth. My MaMa made this one just for me. It's an Oscar and that is my dream. This is my story, but it is just one story in a world filled with experiences and perspectives we would never be exposed to, if it weren't for the medium of film.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Mom bows her head.

Professor Schwartz beams with pride.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

(to Mom)

Smart girl you raised.

CHE HA

From all the future Streeps, the future Spielbergs, Legends, and even the future Nora Ephron's like myself, thank you for your consideration of keeping the film department open. For keeping our dreams of winning Oscars, for the stories we dare to tell.

Che Ha's voice cracks and she fights back tears. She looks to the audience and sees a vision of MaMa shaking her head, yes.

CHE HA (CONT'D)

For believing in the dream of one girl who knew she had something to share but just didn't know how.

The entire student union stays completely silent for a moment, as if everyone is collectively holding their breath.

The SILENCE finally breaks when the AUDIENCE CHEER and CLAP for Che Ha.

ROD (O.S.)

Hold up! This party's not over yet!

To the Film Freaks' astonishment, the Football Team marches into the Student Union. Davis leads the way carrying a football. They're all in their jerseys. Even Michelle marches along, although she determinedly won't look at Davis or Che Ha.

Coach Beatem steps in front of Davis to block them.

COACH BEATEM

You cancelled the meeting for this?

DAVIS

You said it's all about choices.

COACH BEATEM

Football or Freaks?

DAVIS

I chose both.

COACH BEATEM

You chose to throw your whole life away.

DAVIS

I guess it comes down to a simple choice, really. Get busy living or get busy dying.

Coach Beatem looks at him like he's completely lost it. Phil Shady, the pro scout, steps up.

PHIL SHADY

Shawshank Redemption.

Davis nods his head yes.

DAVIS

Coach, meet Phil Shady.

Davis pushes past the coach and the players follow him.

PHIL SHADY

Congratulations, Coach. I admire a coach who produces well rounded humans.

Coach Beatem goes speechless. Davis leads his team to the stage, where he meets Che Ha in the middle.

DAVIS

Hello, gorgeous.

Che Ha doesn't know how to react. What is Davis doing?

DAVIS (CONT'D)

Wow. You look, your movie, amazing. Just like you.

\*

CHE HA

You don't...

Davis cuts her short. She shakes her head and has a difficult time looking at him. A moment as sweet as it is uncomfortable.

DAVIS

I'm sorry. I'm always talking about taking care of your team but you... you're the most important team member of all. Trust me I'll never let you down ever again. You don't need me, us to make things happen. I want to be there by your side but like I said, just because a bunch of footballers bail, doesn't mean it will be a disaster.

\*

(MORE)

DAVIS (CONT'D)

Just because someone stumbles and  
loses their path, doesn't mean  
they're lost forever.

CHE HA

Stop. Stop. Stop.

Davis is crushed.

DAVIS

I'll go and you'll never have to  
see me again but let me....

CHE HA

(interrupting)

Stop! You had me at hello.

Davis smiles.

Che Ha can't contain her true feelings for Davis.

ROD

(jokingly rude)

Hey, get off our stage! We have a  
dance to perform!

Legend starts the music. Che Ha jumps off the stage, allowing  
the team to take their places for their number.

DAVIS

(sings using the football  
as a prop)

*I got this feelin' inside my bones  
It goes electric, wavy when I turn  
it on*

The team sings CAN'T STOP THE FEELING by Justin Timberlake.

Davis passes the football to Rod. He, then, jumps off the  
stage, and works the crowd.

Davis goes to Che Ha. Twirls her.

Spielberg is crushed. Streep hurts for Spielberg. Just then  
the Football team pulls them into the song and dance.

Michelle punts the football from the stage over the crowd  
right into Coach Beatem's hands. He holds it up in victory.

Davis and Che Ha break into a duet. Spielberg steams. Streep  
slaps Spielberg across the face.

STREEP

Snap out of it!

Streep kisses him. The football team and the film freaks turn the event into one giant party it was meant to be. Professor Schwartz finally lets go.

Che Ha goes to her Mom and dances with her.

The Board and the Chancellor get into a huddle.

Professor Schwartz pulls Coach Beatem into a dance.

Chancellor Reigns comes up to Professor Schwartz.

CHANCELLOR REIGNS

Life moves pretty fast. If you  
don't stop and look around once in  
a while, you could miss it.

PROFESSOR SCHWARTZ

Ferris Buellers Day Off.

CHANCELLOR REIGNS

You bought your department another  
year.

He shakes her hand with approval.

The entire room, the team, the film freaks, teachers, everyone in the audience, all join in the song and dance. It's electric, it's joyous. One big house party, that ends the song in a bone-chilling outro.

Davis takes Che Ha in his arms and at last the moment we've been waiting for. The Hollywood ending. Davis and Che Ha kiss.

THE END.

VIDEO OVER END CREDITS is designed to play into a live portion at the Oscars. We see the cast of Oscar Party in the bleachers, all dressed up, cheering on the nominees as they walk the red carpet. They are invited to walk the red carpet and lead us into the theater in a musical smash-up of Oscar winning songs.

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