

# TUBULAR ROMANCE

By

Robert L. Fallin

INT. JETLINER - EVENING

FADE IN

BOB (40s) is sitting, asleep, in a passenger seat of a Boeing 777. As he awakens he hears the the sound of the aircraft engines. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT taps BOB gently.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

We are serving supper; would you like  
boneless chicken breast, mashed potatoes  
and green beans or roast beef, carrots and  
macaroni?

BOB

(Wearily, with a touch of sadness)

Nothing, thank you?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Not even coffee?

BOB smiles weakly.

BOB

Maybe later. Thanks.

The FLIGHT ATTENDANT smiles and moves to the next row of passengers.

BOB (V.O.)

I started this journey hoping I would  
change the world. Who would have thought  
I would change my life?

BOB closes his eyes.

FADE OUT

TITLE. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND" BY CHRISTIAN PARRAS)

INT. BOB'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

FLASHBACK "FIVE WEEKS EARLIER"

FADE IN

BOB quietly sleeps in his bed, when his phone begins ringing. He clumsily reaches for his phone, nearly dropping it, before fully

opening his eyes, yawning, quietly muttering and looking at the caller ID, which displays "Darren Royster, HYPERTUBE".

BOB forces a smile, then answers.

BOB

Hello, Darren. You are up mighty early, are you not? It must be an awfully pleasant morning in Denver.

DARREN

(On the phone, sarcastic)

I'm certain it *will* be, Bob, *once the sun comes up*. Listen, I have a situation; I need for you to go to Beijing. Can you do that?

BOB grimaces, then again forces a smile.

BOB

How soon do you need me, Darren?  
Moreover, *why do you need me?* I'm just a PR guy; I certainly can't answer any technical questions the clients might ask. Why not Rick Sabato? Rick has a lot more horsepower than me; and, I have it from lots of sources that Rick is a lot more charming and patient than me.

DARREN

(On the phone, sarcastic)

Don't sell yourself short, Bob. We might never have won that Hawaii contract without you. Sure, you may have "ruffled a few feathers" during the Canadian and Russian negotiations. However, you made some pretty good allies in China. Besides, nobody else is available.

BOB flashes a cynical expression and counts to ten under his breath.

BOB

I thought as much, Darren. When do I leave? How long will I be gone?

DARREN

(On the phone, serious)

The first flight to Seattle, Bob. I figure you will be there forty-eight hours, tops. Your point of contact is Zhang Li...and, Bob?

BOB

(Sighing)

Yes, Darren?

DARREN

(On the phone, serious)

Don't screw this up.

BOB turns off the phone, slaps it to the end table before, sitting up, sliding carefully off of the bed, standing, stretching, then stumbling toward the bathroom.

FADE OUT

INT. HYPERTUBE PASSENGER TERMINAL - DAY

FADE IN

BOB enters the HYPERTUBE Passenger Terminal from a corridor.

BOB (V.O.)

While I hated flying from Savannah to Seattle, it was the most practical way to get to Beijing. That is because the **only** HYPERTUBE connection to Beijing in the US is at the Amtrak Terminal in Seattle. Western financial interests had made sure of that. However, when China and Russia agreed to **build** a HYPERTUBE annex in Seattle, how could they refuse? Nonetheless, they made certain it was no where near Seattle-Tacoma airport. Once I had cleared customs, I was on my way.

The HYPERTUBE Passenger Terminal is a 35 foot cube. It is nearly filled with the capsule loader, a large cylinder, approximately 30 feet long, 20 feet high and 20 feet thick, at a right angle to the direction BOB is walking. The capsule loader has chambers about 7 feet high at the top and bottom and on each side, like the chambers of a revolver. Above the capsule loader is a crossbar extending the length of the terminal. On this crossbar are status indicators. Also, inside the terminal, about ten feet in front of the capsule loader, are a few comfortable chairs facing a large HDTV. There is a multipurpose ATM on the wall to the right of the

comfortable chairs. BOB walks toward the ATM, stops and puts down his travel bag. He removes his wallet and takes out the HYPERTUBE credit card, sliding it into the card reader of the ATM. He then looks into an eyepiece on the ATM to perform a retinal scan. The ATM displays "WELCOME, ROBERT HARMON" and "PLEASE SELECT LANGUAGE: 1) CHINESE 2) RUSSIAN 3) ENGLISH" in Chinese, Russian and English. BOB presses "3". The ATM then displays "PLEASE SELECT DESTINATION" and a list of destinations, which include "1) VANCOUVER AIRPORT, BRITISH COLUMBIA," "2) ANCHORAGE AIRPORT, ALASKA," "3) BEIJING AIRPORT, PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA," "4) HYPERTUBE HEADQUARTERS, BEIJING," "5) MOSCOW AIRPORT, RUSSIA," and "6) HYPERTUBE HEADQUARTERS, MOSCOW". Bob presses "4" on the keypad. The ATM then displays "SELECT METHOD OF PAYMENT 1) HYPERTUBE CREDIT CARD, 2) OTHER CREDIT CARD and 3) DEBIT CARD, along with "NOTE: PAYMENT IS BASED ON RESERVE CURRENCY ESTABLISHED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OF BRICS NATIONS". BOB presses "1" and the ATM displays, "PLEASE RE-SWIPE YOUR HYPERTUBE CREDIT CARD". BOB re-swipes his card. The ATM displays, "PLEASE SELECT CLASS OF TRAVEL: 1) ECONOMY 2) BUSINESS 3) FIRST CLASS". BOB presses "2". The ATM then displays, "THANK YOU. ENJOY YOUR TRAVEL". The ATM dispenses a small ticket with a magnetic strip. Bob places the ticket into his pocket, picks up his travel bag and carries it over to a chair in front of the big screen HDTV. He places his travel bag beside the chair, sits and watches "RUSSIA TODAY" on the HDTV. The HDTV audio is turned off and captions in English, Russian and Chinese fill the bottom quarter of the large screen.

#### RUSSIA TODAY ANNOUNCER

(English caption)

In today's news from the Ukraine...

BOB turns his head slightly to glance at the ATM and watches THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN stand in line to buy tickets. A digital countdown clock above the ATM displays "CAPSULE ARRIVING" and the time to the next capsule, which is less than two minutes. BOB hears a bell, signaling the arrival of a HYPERTUBE capsule. He rises from his seat and turns toward the capsule loader and looks at the status crossbar. On the status crossbar are is a label "AIRLOCKS" and red indicators numbered "1," "2 " "3" and "4". Suddenly, the "1" indicator turns green. BOB hears the "hiss" of air entering the airlock. A second later, the capsule loader rotates and the chamber holding the capsule moves to ground level. When it reaches ground level, the chamber's upper clamshell door opens. It is marked "STAND CLEAR OF DOOR". One second later, the capsule forward and aft clamshell doors open. These doors are marked "STAND CLEAR OF DOORS" and the space in between the doors carries the HYPERTUBE trademark. The capsule's aft clamshell door is considerably smaller than its forward. Behind it is a small luggage compartment next to a handicapped-accessible toilet. Behind the forward clamshell door, is passenger seating. The chamber's lower clamshell door lowers into a ramp for passenger and cargo loading. BOB picks up his travel bag and carries it to the ramp, placing it into the luggage compartment. He then walks to the passenger compartment.

INT. CAPSULE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT - DAY

BOB steps into the capsule, sits in one of the six seats and removes the ticket from his pocket. He places it on a spot on the armrest with an icon of a "ticket". He looks toward the other passenger seats and watches the other passengers board.

INT. CAPSULE LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT - DAY

A "mosquito net" lowers over the luggage compartment and tightens to hold the luggage in place.

EXT. GROUND LEVEL CHAMBER - DAY

The chamber ramp retracts and the lower clamshell door closes. A second later, the upper clamshell door closes.

INT. GROUND LEVEL CHAMBER - DAY

The capsule forward and aft clamshell doors close.

INT. CAPSULE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT - DAY

BOB and the THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN feel the capsule loader rotate the chamber containing the capsule from the ground level to the top of the capsule loader.

EXT. HYPERTUBE CAPSULE LOADER - DAY

The capsule loader moves the chamber carrying the capsule from the floor to the NO. 1 TUBE at the top of the loader.

INT. HYPERTUBE CAPSULE - DAY

BOB looks at the bulkhead of the capsule. The bulkhead contains an indicator and a speed display. The indicator is marked "CAPSULE AIR PRESSURE" and is green. The speed display indicates "0000 KPH" and "0000 MPH".

INT. CHAMBER - DAY

The camera aperture-style airlock of the tube opens.

INT. HYPERTUBE CAPSULE - DAY

BOB and the THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN feel the capsule slowly begin to move.

INT. CHAMBER AND TUBE SECTION - DAY

The capsule slowly moves from the chamber through the tube airlock and into the tube section. As soon as the capsule clears the airlock, the tube airlock nearest the chamber closes.

INT. HYPERTUBE CAPSULE - DAY

BOB and the THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN hear air being pumped from the tube section

INT. TUBE SECTION - DAY

After the capsule is fully inside the tube section, the tube airlock farthest from the chamber opens. The capsule has now fully entered the vacuum environment.

INT. HYPERTUBE CAPSULE - DAY

BOB AND THE THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN FEEL THE CAPSULE SLOWLY BEGIN TO ACCELERATE.

BOB (V.O.)

Thank goodness some genius came up with the idea of using a single tube and switching centers for HYPERTUBE. Otherwise, China and Russia would never have built a HYPERTUBE system to the US. It would have been just too expensive.

BOB presses a touchscreen on his seat armrest. The touchscreen is the size of a ten inch tablet mounted sideways toward BOB. The tablet displays "LOCAL TIME" in the upper right-hand corner and "ENTERTAINMENT: 1) MOVIE/TV...1ST CLASS ONLY 2) INFOMERCIAL 3) SCENERY...BUSINESS AND FIRST CLASS ONLY 4) MUSIC...BUSINESS AND FIRST CLASS ONLY 5) SCENERY & MUSIC...BUSINESS AND FIRST CLASS ONLY". BOB selects "5". A view of the Pacific Northwest appears on the top third of the tablet, while the "PANDORA LOGO" appears in middle third with "SEARCH FOR ARTIST" superimposed and tiny keyboard keys appear on the bottom third. BOB keys in "K,E,L,L" and a list of recording artists whose first names begin with "KELL" appear superimposed over the "PANDORA LOGO". BOB uses an arrow key to select "Kelly Clarkson". The "PANDORA LOGO" disappears and is replaced by a picture of a Kelly Clarkson album cover, with the song name, "Catch My BREATH" superimposed over the the album cover. BOB lays his head back into the headrest, and the listens through the headrest speakers.

EXT. PACIFIC NORTHWEST - DAY. MUSIC ("CATCH MY BREATH" SUNG BY KELLY CLARKSON)

BOB'S CAPSULE IS ALMOST A BLUR AS IT PASSES THROUGH THE CLEAR TUBE OF THE HYPERTUBE SYSTEM. (END MUSIC)

FADE OUT

INT. HYPERTUBE CAPSULE - DAY

FADE IN

BOB opens his eyes as he hears the capsule intercom.

CAPSULE INTERCOM

Approaching HYPERTUBE Switching Center.  
Please return to or remain in your seats.

BOB and the remaining MAN and WOMAN passengers sit back in their seats and grasp their armrests.

EXT. HYPERTUBE SWITCHING CENTER - DAY

BOB's capsule slows as it nears the HYPERTUBE Switching Center.

INT. HYPERTUBE SWITCHING CENTER - DAY

BOB'S capsule slows even more as it enters the switching center, passes through a capsule loader and stops in one of the switching center's upper spindle tubes. The upper spindle rotates moving the spindle tube containing the capsule from north to west. Once the tube is in perfect alignment, the upper spindle stops and the capsule slowly begins to move toward its destination.

EXT. HYPERTUBE BEIJING HEADQUARTERS - DAY

BOB'S capsule passes over Beijing then enters the fourth floor of HYPERTUBE Beijing Headquarters.

INT. HYPERTUBE BEIJING HEADQUARTERS PASSENGER/CARGO TERMINAL - DAY

BOB removes his travel bag from the luggage compartment and carries it to an ATM beside a bank of lockers. He puts down his travel bag, removes his wallet and his HYPERTUBE credit card and slides it through the card reader. BOB performs a retinal scan and the ATM displays "WELCOME ROBERT HARMON". The ATM then displays "SELECT 1) TRAVEL 2) LOCKER STORAGE 3) BAGGAGE PICKUP". BOB presses "2" on the keypad. The ATM displays a map of the bank of lockers with "6" highlighted, and he hears the magnetic lock on the locker open. He puts his credit card and wallet away, places his bag in locker number 6 and hears the magnetic lock close. He turns and sees a long corridor, then walks toward it.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

BOB walks down a corridor with multiple meeting rooms. All of the meeting rooms are dark and empty of people, except one. This meeting room is brightly lit and has a DOZEN people, some dressed in South African or Indian garb, sitting in arm-less chairs and watching a beautiful, immaculately dressed woman as she speaks. The door is shut to this conference room and there is a flat panel display on the door. The flat panel displays a "credit crawl"-like message that reads "BRICS HYPERTUBE CONFERENCE" and "CHAIRPERSON: ZHANG LI" in Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Portuguese, English and Afrikaans. BOB reaches for the door handle, carefully opens the door and quietly steps into the conference room, shutting the door behind him.



INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

LI (30s) speaks to the conference in English, while a very large screen HDTV captions Li's speech in Russian, Mandarin, Hindi, Portuguese, English and Afrikaans.

LI

...while an outbreak of dengue fever in the Lesotho province has delayed our surveys of Lesotho, Free State and Kwazulu-Natal...

LI pauses for a moment, her expression changes to sadness.

LI

(gently)

Mr. Botha?

MR. BOTHA

Yes, Ms. Zhang.

LI

(gently)

Please give Mr. Van Rooyen my condolences for the loss of his son, Baruti and my wish for the speedy recovery of his wife Kimberly.

MR. BOTHA

I will, Ms. Zhang. Thank you.

LI suddenly spots BOB standing by the door at the back of the room.

LI

Yes?

BOB

Bob Harmon.

LI

Yes, Mr. Harmon, I have been expecting you. Please be seated.

BOB spots an empty chair at the back of the room, sits in it and watches LI closely.

BOB (V.O.)

Bless those Chinese, for leading the BRICS nations in building HYPERTUBE. Otherwise, I might never have experienced Li; and I do mean *experience*. Let me just say, I cannot remember the last time so many organs were stimulated at the same time, the least of which being my brain. Not to say Li is not brilliant. A mainland Chinese who speaks like an **American?** I can barely *order* Mandarin, much less speak it. While I had never met Li, I know her reputation. In fact, "extremely competent," were the operative words among the male co-workers I knew at HYPERTUBE that had met Li. These were men I knew to be very attentive of the female form. Was I the only one who wants to sleep with her? Well, not exactly, "sleep," but we could do that, too. Li is a melody of gentle curves in motion, in sharp contrast to the "etch-a-sketch" monotone of lingerie models or the latest faux celebrity. However, I wanted to do a lot more than just "sleep" with Li. After all, why settle for a "gummi bear" when you can have a whole box of chocolates? I figure, maybe these other guys were smart enough to realize she was 'out of their league.' I had never been **that** smart, and had been rewarded for my stupidity with liaisons with some very desirable women.

LI notices BOB'S attention, pauses and almost cracks a smile before continuing to speak.

BOB (V.O.)

I could certainly ask myself, 'If you love women so much, WHY haven't you married?' Since I am 40, I must have a reason; right? Well, it has not been for lack of trying, as I have been engaged SEVEN times, twice to the same woman. Somehow, I just cannot seem to 'close the deal.' Used to be, I tried to get them back. Then, I remembered

the old movie, "The Graduate," when Dustin Hoffman stole Katherine Ross from her fiance right at the alter. I will never forget the expression on Katherine Ross' face, as she glanced at Dustin Hoffman's goofy, satisfied expression. She was clearly thinking, 'What the hell have I just done?' Well, I don't want to be 'Dustin Hoffman.' Let's face it; romance is nothing more than reality blinded by passion. The sex drive is instinctual. For our first nine months, we live in the womb; it is warm, wet, dark, tranquil and our mothers cater to our every need. However, after nine months, our mothers rebel and we are cast from their bodies into a bright, loud, smelly environment, where our first experience of human contact is to be held by the heels and slapped on the ass so hard that we cry. *Welcome to reality.* Our mothers hold us, which is reassuring, and place a nipple in our mouths, which is **extremely** satisfying. However, once we men are physically capable, we seek the entrance to that warm, satisfying womb and take solace that at least part of us gets in there. Women, on the other hand, know they are the ones that have to give up nine months of their lives fully catering to us and usually resent their mothers for reminding them. However, daddies usually provide them affection with no strings; so, they spend their lives pursuing 'Daddy' using the tools God gave them. *Thank you, God.* Still, I only expect to be in Beijing for two days; not a lot of time for much more than a 'gummi bear.' Besides, just **how** does one have a serious relationship with someone half a world away?

FADE OUT

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

FADE IN

BOB sits at the end of a six-place table and LI sits at the other end. Also at the table are a BRAZILIAN HUSBAND, a BRAZILIAN WIFE, an INDIAN HUSBAND and an INDIAN WIFE. The restaurant is beautifully decorated and lit. LI is dressed in a beautiful blue Chinese evening dress with a Chinese collar. The BRAZILIAN MAN is wearing a form-fitting, Brazilian cut black suit, shirt and tie. The BRAZILIAN WIFE is dressed in a modest black evening dress. The INDIAN HUSBAND is wearing a black suit with white shirt and modest tie. The INDIAN WIFE is wearing a beautifully decorated sari. BOB is dressed casually, but is wearing a loose tie with his sport coat and slacks. He tries to hide his boredom as LI converses to the BRAZILIAN HUSBAND and his wife in Portuguese.

LI

(Portuguese [English])

Como está sua carne mongol? Não muito apimentado, espero. [How is your Mongolian beef? Not too spicy, I hope.]

BRAZILIAN HUSBAND

(Portuguese [English])

Perfeito! [Perfect!]

BRAZILIAN WIFE

(Portuguese [English])

Sim, perfeito! [Yes, perfect!]

LI looks at the INDIAN HUSBAND AND INDIAN WIFE, further down the table toward BOB, and converses with them in Hindi.

LI

(Hindi [English])

Āpa rēstarām pasanda hai? Yaha abhī khōlā, tō maiṁ tuma sē pahalē yahām\* nahīṁ kiyā gayā hai patā hai. [Do you like the restaurant? It just opened, so I know you have not been here.]

INDIAN HUSBAND

(Hindi [English])

Rēṣṭōrēṅṭa basa ṭhīka hai. [The restaurant is just fine.]

INDIAN WIFE

(Hindi [English])

Arē hām° ! Rēsṭōrēṅṭa ēka khūbasūrata  
māhauḷa hai. [Oh yes! The restaurant has  
a beautiful atmosphere.]

BOB (V.O.)

I don't pretend to understand women.  
Hell, **women** don't even understand  
women. However, I did learn quite early  
that women fascinate me. I  
love **everything** about women; I love how  
they look, they move, they sound, they  
smell, **everything**.

LI

(Portuguese [English])

A que horas é seu vôo amanhã? [What time  
is your flight out tomorrow?]

BRAZILIAN HUSBAND

(Portuguese [English])

Três e cinqüenta PM. [Three-fifty PM.]

LI

(Portuguese [English])

Te arranjei transporte HYPERTUBE para o ae  
roporto para você e sua bagagem? [Have you  
arranged HYPERTUBE transport to the  
airport for you and your luggage?]

The BRAZILIAN WIFE glares at her husband, then looks back at LI.

BRAZILIAN WIFE

(Portuguese [English])

Ainda não. [Not yet.]

LI

(Portuguese [English])

Você deve fazê-  
lo quando você retornar ao seu quarto esta  
noite. [You should do so as soon as you  
return to your room tonight.]

The BRAZILIAN WIFE glares at the her husband again. The BRAZILIAN  
HUSBAND just shrugs his shoulders.

BRAZILIAN WIFE

(Portuguese [English])

Sim. Nós o faremos. [Yes. We will.]

BOB (V.O.)

I will simply have to observe Li over  
the next forty-eight hours to determine  
if there is even a modicum of interest  
on her part, then take advantage of it.

LI suddenly looks down the table at BOB.

LI

**Bob?** You have been pretty quiet. Do you  
have anything to say?

BOB

The Peking Duck was delicious.

LI

Good. I hope you also find your hotel  
accommodations acceptable.

BOB

Actually, I am quite comfortable, thank  
you.

LI

That is just as well. Please enjoy a  
comfortable night's sleep, as I need  
you in my office as soon as you arrive  
in the morning.

LI looks alternately at the BRAZILIAN HUSBAND and his wife and  
smiles.

LI

(Portuguese [English])

Se me desculpam, vou ser logo ir dormir. O  
brigado por vir; como sempre, esta tem sid  
o uma experiênciã gratificante. Boa noite.  
[If you will excuse me, I will be soon be  
going to sleep. Thank you for coming; as  
always, this has been a rewarding  
experience. Good night.]

BRAZILIAN HUSBAND

(Portuguese [English])

Boa noite. [Good night.]

BRAZILIAN WIFE

(Portuguese [English])

Sim. Boa noite e obrigado. [Yes. Good  
night; and thank you.]

LI looks alternately at the INDIAN HUSBAND and his wife.

LI

(Hindi [English])

Āpa mujhē māpha karēngē, tō main̄ jaldī hī  
sōnē kē li'ē jā rahā hō jā'ēgā. Ānē kē  
li'ē dhan'yavāda; hamēsā kī taraha, yaha  
ēka puraskr̄ta anubhava rahā hai. Guḍa  
nā'iṭa. [If you will excuse me, I will be  
soon be going to sleep. Thank you for  
coming; as always, this has been a  
rewarding experience. Good night.]

INDIAN HUSBAND

(Hindi [English])

Śubha rātri. [Good night]

INDIAN WIFE

(Hindi [English])

Śubha rātri. [Good night]

ALL except BOB rise from their seats and walk away from the table.  
BOB, somewhat stunned, remains seated.

LI

Good night, Bob.

BOB (V.O.)

No "gummi bear" for me.

FADE OUT

INT. LI'S OFFICE - DAY

FADE IN

LI stands by her desk, her head cocked so that she can look out the window as well as at the clock, which reads "9:15 AM". BOB walks up and stands in the open doorway, which is opposite LI'S back. BOB has his sport coat slung over his shoulder. LI senses BOB and sharply turns directly toward him.

LI

**Nine-fifteen**, Bob; *really?*

BOB

Jet lag; besides, you did not give me a particular time beyond "as soon as you arrive."

LI

Perhaps it would be better if we both sat down.

LI points to an arm-less chair directly in front of her desk. She then gracefully slides into her executive chair. BOB walks over to the arm-less chair, glances at the front legs of the chair for a moment, then drops into the seat of the chair.

LI

What was that?

BOB

What was what?

LI



You looked at the front legs of your chair.

BOB

I was making sure they were not sawed short. That is an old executive trick to intimidate employees.

LI

This is China. We have **much** better ways of doing that.

LI glances at her laptop computer screen for a moment, then looks at BOB.

LI

I have received a set of confidential emails you sent Darren. Don't worry, Darren sent them to me for reasons I am about to explain. You appear to have a very unique view of our potential clients in the West.

BOB

If you mean by "unique" that I feel they are largely self-serving jackasses unworthy of the people they are supposed to serve, then, yes, I have a "unique" view of them. At one time or another they have betrayed not only their own people but also the innocent peoples of Asia, Africa, you name it.

LI

Every country has done this, at one time or another. Are you not being a bit judgmental?

BOB

Judgmental? Darren is an American, who **invented** HYPERTUBE; yet, he has been blocked at **every** turn from providing HYPERTUBE service to the continental United States. Had China and Russia not intervened, we would not even have the Seattle addition. The only reason Hawaii allowed us to

proceed is their traffic and tourist problems forced them to seek a radical solution. On the other hand, **all** of the BRICS nations have either constructed HYPERTUBE systems or are in the process of doing so.

LI

That is correct. If you had **listened** to my briefing yesterday, you would know how much progress we have made.

BOB

India and Brazil are only months away from completing their first routes and South Africa's first routes will be on line within two years. However, the dengue fever epidemic has slowed progress in Lesotho, Free State and Kwazulu-Natal. **Who** do you think collected the research for your presentation?

LI pauses to take a breath before speaking.

LI

You are correct; as is your assessment of the challenges we face in the West. That is why you are here. Certainly, you are *not* a diplomat.

BOB

No, Li, I am not. I sit at home doing research, concocting schemes, writing letters and press releases, reading about new technologies to improve HYPERTUBE service and to make it more profitable and affordable. I do my best to convey this information through media, plus convince thick-skulled executives of the practicality of my plans. I leave diplomacy to people who prefer 'making nice' with fools and scoundrels to actually getting things done.

LI

I believe **both** are important. Bob, the most popular game in the US is poker;

in Europe, especially Russia, it is chess; in China, however, the most popular game is go. There are only a few hundred possible winning hands in poker, thousands of possible winning moves in chess, and a nearly infinite number of winning moves in go. However, unlike poker and chess, where the purpose is to eliminate the other players, the purpose in go is to coexist, but with the winner at a higher level of well being. **That** is my intention, whether or not **that** is the intention of the Peoples Republic of China. Do you believe me?

BOB

Only until you give me a reason not to, Li.

LI rises from her chair, walks around her desk and stops a foot in front and slightly to the left of BOB.

LI

Good. I am glad we understand each other. Can you stay away from your home in Savannah for the next several months and travel with me to visit potential clients, if we are successful?

BOB

Don't you mean 'when'?

LI

I say 'when' to myself; but you seem to prefer candor.

BOB

Yes, I believe I can tear myself away from Savannah that long. I will need some clothes.

LI

Use your HYPERTUBE credit card. Just do not abuse it. I saw to it that you receive a clothing allowance. Darren told me about how you dress. I see he was

correct. For now, your taste in clothes is acceptable, as you will be spending most of your time here. However, before we leave for London, I will help you pick out appropriate attire.

BOB

London?

LI

Yes. The Bank of England has arranged a meeting with representatives from the International Monetary Fund, the Bank of International Settlements, the Vatican Bank and investors from the European Union. **We** are going to convince *them* to build a HYPERTUBE system connecting Western Europe with Eastern Europe. But first, **you** will examine **every** country on our client list and report your findings to me.

BOB

I do have one question. What happened to the forty-eight hours, tops, Darren said I would be here?

LI smiles wickedly.

LI

Oh, that. Forty-eight hours was all Darren thought you would last, before I fired you.

FADE OUT

INT. HYPERTUBE BULLPEN - DAY

FADE IN

BOB, who is seated in a desk chair with rollers, removes small files from the second drawer from the bottom of a large file cabinet. He takes the pen attached to a long string and signs and dates space holders, placing them into the cabinet drawer. BOB shuts the cabinet drawer, then pushes his chair with his feet back to his desk. He places the file folders on his desk, opens the top folders and examines the contents. The contents include aerial photos and typewritten pages. In addition to the folders on his desk are a laptop, a 24 inch flat screen monitor and a wireless mouse. The laptop has a

large screen and a full-sized keyboard. However, the screen on his laptop is inactive. The 24 inch monitor displays the WINDOWS desktop. BOB uses the mouse to select the drop-down menu selection "New Folder". Over his shoulder, we can see that there are about 30 OTHER WORKERS in the HYPERTUBE bullpen.

BOB stops typing and opens the top drawer of his desk, removing a phone with the HYPERTUBE logo.

BOB (V.O.)

I am not sure exactly how to proceed. Would it be racist to say Li is a bit "inscrutable"? Does she want me to approach her with my tentative results or wait patiently until she summons me. I know, I will approach her, but in a manner requesting her "wise counsel". I was beginning to feel as if I were starring in a "Karate Kid" movie.

BOB presses the keys for LI'S extension.

LI

(On the phone, formal)  
Zhang Li. May I help you?

BOB

Hello, Li. Bob Harmon. I have been going at this data for a week now, and I feel I am at a bit of an impasse. Could you...

LI

Keep going.

BOB hears the dial tone on his phone and is startled. He places the phone back in the top desk drawer and shuts it.

BOB (V.O.)

Yes, Ms. Zhang, "Wax on; wax off". I guess she sees the same movies.

FADE OUT

INT. HYPERTUBE BULLPEN - DAY

FADE IN

BOB, who is clearly fatigued and has "five o'clock shadow", holds his phone.

BOB

Li, it has been nine days now and..

INT. LI'S OFFICE - DAY

LI sits at her desk, holding her phone.

LI

Yes; and I said "two weeks". Please come to my office tomorrow at three.

INT. HYPERTUBE BULLPEN - DAY

BOB hears the dial tone. Resignedly, he places his phone back in the top desk drawer, then slams it. He then notices THREE MALE HYPERTUBE EMPLOYEES nearby giving him knowing looks. He sheepishly looks back at his computer screen and begins typing.

FADE OUT

INT. LI'S OFFICE - DAY

FADE IN

BOB stands in front of LI'S desk, reading his report aloud as LI listens.

BOB

In summary, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippine Islands, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Australia-New Zealand and the United Kingdom offer the same challenges as our successful Hawaii project. So, we can certainly use the HYPERTUBE "lessons learned" reports and supporting documentation to reduce our development costs.

BOB pauses and looks at LI as she sits quietly and watches him, saying nothing. He clears his throat and continues.

BOB

Furthermore, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are offering substantial development incentives, **plus** have highly motivated

populations and skilled labor. Thus, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines virtually assure superior returns on investment. On the other hand, of all highly developed nations, Japan sits at the bottom of our ROI list, due to the following factors: nearly thirty years of economic stagnation largely due to 'crony capitalism,' vested interests from the automotive, aircraft and railroad industries and the disastrous health and environmental consequences of the 2011 tsunami, particularly the meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi reactors. Australia-New Zealand sits in the upper third of our ROI list, but the United Kingdom sits in the lower third, due to the same type of 'crony capitalism' as Japan, only on a much higher scale. Largely because of the Bank of England, the Vatican Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Bank of International Settlements and the United States Federal Reserve, we have met tremendous resistance to development of HYPERTUBE systems in Europe, the Americas or any country affiliated with the IMF. This concludes my report.

BOB places his report on LI'S desk. LI methodically puts his report into the file drawer of her desk, then sits quietly for a moment.

LI

That is it?

BOB

Yes. Just what did you expect?

LI

**Answers,** not just facts. If I asked you for a '**world plan,**' Bob, how would you proceed?"

BOB

I would enlist as many as possible of the multicultural team specialists that we used on the Hawaii project as

advisers on the Malaysian and Philippine projects. I would use locals, wherever possible to not only perform, but supervise the work, as they know their respective cultures and geographies better than **any** outsider.

LI sits up sharply in her chair.

LI

Excellent! This is *exactly* what I plan to tell our audience in London. Now, let us celebrate. Starting tomorrow, I'll show you the sights. But first, let us get you some new clothes.

FADE OUT

EXT. SHIN KONG PLACE - MID MORNING. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

BOB and LI walk up the sidewalk from HYPERTUBE Beijing Headquarters to Shin Kong Place, the largest, most luxurious shopping mall in Beijing. Bob is clearly awestruck by its beauty. They stop near the entrance. (END MUSIC)

LI

Shin Kong Place. We should be able to get everything you need here.

BOB shakes his head in agreement. He looks up slightly and spots the HYPERTUBE LOGO on the rooftop passenger/cargo terminal.

BOB

Hey; why didn't we take the HYPERTUBE over here?

LI

It is such a beautiful day, I thought we should walk. What is wrong, do you have something against exercise?

BOB

Not as long as other people are doing it.

LI

Let us start with a nice suit. If I see you in that sport coat of yours one more



time, I might forget I am a 'demure Chinese lady'.

BOB and LI walk through the turnstiles to the entrance of Shin Kong Place.

FADE OUT

EXT. SHIN KONG PLACE - MID AFTERNOON. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

LI walks through the exit turnstile of Shin Kong Place. BOB, now dressed in comfortable, but expensive-looking shirt and slacks, immediately follows. LI turns in the direction of HYPERTUBE Beijing Headquarters and BOB catches up with her. (END MUSIC)

BOB

I thought you told me not to abuse the clothing allowance.

LI

It is not abuse when I pick out the clothes. I hope you did not mind my having everything shipped to HYPERTUBE headquarters.

BOB

The only thing I minded was you would not let me buy the Russian hat.

LI

I did not say you could not buy the Russian winter hat.

FLASHBACK

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

BOB

Well, what do you think?

BOB is wearing a Russian winter hat with the ear flaps down.

LI

(Suppressing a laugh)

"Scooby Doo".

FLASH FORWARD

EXT. SHIN KONG PLACE - MID AFTERNOON.

BOB

(Grudgingly) Well, the Alpine Rescue  
Patrol hat will do. Where to?

LI

How about "The Great Wall"?

BOB smiles and walks faster, LI matching his pace.

FADE OUT

EXT. GREAT WALL OF CHINA - LATE AFTERNOON MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

BOB and LI stand on the Great Wall of China. There is a watch tower and staircase to their left and a building near the bottom of the staircase. LI is looking into the distance. Bob is turned slightly toward her and is able to see both LI and into the distance. She turns slightly to look into his face.

LI

"Changcheng," or as you would call it,  
"The Great Wall of China," has been used  
for defense, immigration control and the  
collection of tariffs on imported goods.

BOB

Sort of like the U.S. Customs, on  
steroids.

LI

(Wistfully)

I have always felt it also is our  
national shame. The Wall represents  
China rejecting the rest of the world;  
it is as though we were afraid our  
culture was so fragile that it could  
not survive exposure to other cultures.

BOB

(Sympathetically)

**That** I can certainly relate to. We have the same controversy in my country. So much fear of that which is unfamiliar.

LI

This is probably our biggest challenge, Bob. Overcoming resistance caused by fear.

BOB

Not to mention, the Western bankers.

LI

Bob, the Western bankers draw their power from that fear. Eliminate that fear and the Western bankers will not be a problem.

LI turns slightly to again look into the distance.

FADE OUT

EXT. BEIJING BOTANICAL GARDEN POND AND FOUNTAIN - MORNING

FADE IN

BOB and LI stand beside a beautiful pond and fountain.

BOB

This is incredible! Not to mention, this garden is *huge*!

LI

Five hundred, sixty-four thousand square meters. A reminder of how beautiful the world can be, with the proper care. Want to see more?

BOB shakes his head with childish enthusiasm. Li laughs, takes his hand and leads him like a child.

EXT. BEIJING BOTANICAL GARDEN FOOTBRIDGE - MORNING MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

LI and BOB swing their arms like children as they cross a beautiful stone footbridge, from which the Great Wall of China and mountains can be seen in the distance.

FADE OUT

EXT. BEIJING WEST RAILWAY STATION - EVENING

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BEIJING WEST RAILWAY STATION.

BOB AND LI stand on the walkway outside of Beijing West Railway Station. (END MUSIC)

BOB

I'm glad you saved this for the evening,  
Li. It is breath taking.

LI

The Beijing West Railway Station is the largest railway station in Asia. Now, of course, HYPERTUBE occupies much of the building. However, we expect to complete most of the local passenger terminals within ten years. So, after that, who knows? Maybe it will become an art museum.

BOB

It is a work of art, already.

BOB carefully shifts his gaze toward LI and watches her, admiringly.

FADE OUT

INT. LI'S OFFICE - MORNING

FADE IN

LI sits at her desk, watching BOB as he steps into her open doorway.

LI

Good morning, Bob. Come in and have a seat.

BOB smiles, walks in and respectfully sits in the arm-less business chair in front of her.

LI

Did you have a pleasant night's rest?

BOB

Yes, thank you. A pleasant night's rest that topped off an extraordinary weekend.

LI

So, you like the way I "celebrate"? I know what many Americans say, "All work and no play makes me...Chinese." Well, I have news for you, Bob. If there were "no play" there would not be more than one billion Chinese...

BOB cocks his head slightly, trying to avoid revealing his embarrassment.

LI

*Why, Bob, you're blushing...*In any event, I want you to return to your hotel room, collect any items you want shipped and bring them here. You can reach the cargo terminal/service center through the ATM in the passenger terminal.

BOB

Yes. I saw that on the ATM menu the first day I arrived.

LI

Good. The cargo terminal/service center will send a cargo handler, who will assist you in loading your belongings into a cargo capsule. Please don't forget the clothing items you purchased being held here in our fourth floor storage room. In the morning, be here by seven-thirty as I plan to leave by no later than eight o'clock. Be absolutely sure to check out of your hotel room, as any late fees will be your responsibility and I cannot wait for you if you have to go back to your hotel room to check out. Any questions?

BOB

When do we arrive in London?

LI

We arrive in London on the 25th.

BOB

A week? We are not flying direct?

LI

I have meetings with investors in several countries between here and London.

BOB

"Road trip!"

LI looks at BOB sternly and he responds sheepishly. She then smiles wickedly.

LI

Got you!

FADE OUT

EXT. KREMLIN - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

BOB'S and LI'S capsule slowly passes the Kremlin.

INT. MOSCOW HYPERTUBE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

BOB leans against the corridor wall outside a conference room. The door is shut to this conference room and there is a flat panel display on the door. The flat panel displays a "credit crawl"-like message that reads "BRICS/IMF HYPERTUBE CONFERENCE" and "CHAIRPERSON: ZHANG LI" in Russian, Chinese, English, Polish and German. While the conference room door has a window, the blind for that window has been pulled down so that BOB can only see the light through the slats of the blind. Suddenly, the flat-panel display goes black and LI opens the conference room door. LI, who is dressed in a woman's business suit with lightweight jacket, walks into the corridor and shuts the conference room door behind her.

LI

We have to leave right now.

BOB

Why?

LI

The IMF representatives do not want you to be able to identify them and the Russians quite simply don't like you.

BOB

Oh. Well then, how did it go?

LI smiles and gives BOB a "thumbs up". He grins and walks with her down the corridor.

FADE OUT

EXT. KREMLIN - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

LI and BOB walk toward a RUSSIAN MAN and RUSSIAN WOMAN, who are separated by about twenty-five feet from OTHER TOURISTS. BOB steps back as LI speaks to them and hands the RUSSIAN MAN her phone. LI takes BOB'S hand and leads him a short distance away to a scenic view of the Kremlin. LI and BOB turn toward the couple and the RUSSIAN MAN takes a picture. LI walks over to the RUSSIAN MAN and takes her phone. The RUSSIAN MAN and RUSSIAN WOMAN head toward the spot where BOB is standing. BOB walks toward LI and stands beside her as LI takes a picture of the Russian couple. LI waves at them as she and BOB walk away. The RUSSIAN couple wave back. LI jabs BOB and BOB waves back at them. (END MUSIC)

EXT. RED SQUARE - DAY

LI and BOB stand across the street facing the buildings of Red Square.

LI

Red Square separates the Kremlin from the historic merchant district. The name 'Red Square' does not come from the reddish bricks, nor even from communism. It comes from the Russian word "krasnaya," which can either mean "red" or "beautiful".

BOB

It reminds me more of a Vodka hangover.

LI

(Mockingly)

Oh you've had one of those, have you?

EXT. BOULEVARD RING - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BOULEVARD RING WITH "BOULEVARD RING" SUPERIMPOSED

BOB and LI walk along the Boulevard Ring.

FADE OUT

EXT. OUTER RING ROAD - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF OUTER RING ROAD WITH "OUTER RING ROAD"  
SUPERIMPOSED

BOB and LI walk along the Outer Ring Road. (END MUSIC)

LI stops and removes her phone from the inside pocket of her jacket. BOB stops a discrete distance from her. LI texts on her phone, then puts her phone away.

LI

There. HYPERTUBE Moscow will deliver our luggage to our hotel suite.

BOB

Suite? **One** room, Li?

LI

Moscow hotels are expensive. Why, are you shy?

BOB

No, but I am not easy, either.

BOB (V.O.)

I am lying.

LI

Don't flatter yourself. The suite has two bedrooms.

BOB

Oh.

LI

Let's get one thing straight, Bob. I don't date HYPERTUBE employees and I certainly don't sleep with them.



BOB

I'm glad.

BOB (V.O.)

I am lying again.

BOB

Shtuping your boss can cause problems.

LI

You are in luck, Bob. I also speak  
Yiddish; the "dirty words," anyway.

BOB cocks his head away from LI.

LI

(Coyly)

*Why, Bob, you're blushing again.*

LI laughs, takes BOB'S arm and they proceed down Outer Ring Road.

FADE OUT

EXT. OUTER RING ROAD BOUTIQUE - LATE DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

BOB and LI stop outside of a designer boutique and look in  
the window.

EXT. OUTER RING ROAD RESTAURANT - LATE DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

BOB and LI stop in front of a restaurant. LI reads the menu,  
looks in horror at the prices and quickly drags him away.

FADE OUT

EXT. FLOTILLA RADISON MOSCOW HOTEL - NIGHT. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF FLOTILLA RADISON MOSCOW HOTEL AND FLOTILLA  
RADISON CRUISE SHIP WITH "FLOTILLA RADISON" SUPERIMPOSED (END  
MUSIC)

INT. FLOTILLA RADISON RESTAURANT. NIGHT

BOB and LI are sitting at a four-place table about 30 feet from OTHER DINERS, as the tables around them are unoccupied. A WAITER presents the check to BOB and BOB pays it. BOB is dressed in a black suit, with white shirt and black tie. LI is dressed in a black, form-fitting dress with short black sleeves and a see-through neckline, exposure cleavage of the top third of her breasts.

LI

(Coyly)

I can tell by your expression, Bob, that you approve. However, I would still like to hear it.

BOB

*My gawd.*

LI

(Coyly)

That will do. Anyplace you would like to go?

BOB (V.O.)

Besides the obvious ones?

BOB

Well, you said we were leaving early tomorrow. How about just back to the room? By the way, just where **are** we going next?

LI

Warsaw.

A camera is snapping BOB'S and LI'S conversation as they speak. The camera is particularly focusing on LI's cleavage.

FADE OUT

EXT. WARSAW - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF WARSAW GREEN SPACE WITH SKYSCRAPERS IN THE BACKGROUND AND "WARSAW" SUPERIMPOSED

EXT. WARSAW SUBWAY ENTRANCE - DAY MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

BOB and LI walk up the steps from the subway entrance and stop as OTHER PASSENGERS pass them. They begin to walk slowly, thinning out the PEDESTRIANS until there is a large gap between them and the PEDESTRIANS. (END MUSIC)

BOB

(Quietly)

How come I didn't know about a Polish  
HYPERTUBE system?

LI

(Quietly)

State secret. The entire system is either  
hidden by forest or underground.

BOB

(Quietly) Any more "state secrets" you  
want to share?

LI

(Quietly)

No.

FADE OUT

EXT. LAZIENKI PALACE - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

MEDIUM SHOT OF BOB AND LI

BOB and LI stand by the waters outside Lazienki Palace as a swan swims by. LI is reading a tourist guide application on her phone as BOB watches. (END MUSIC)

LI

The Lazienki Palace began as a  
bathhouse.

LI glances up from the phone and sees BOB smirking.

LI

Don't go there, Bob.

LI glances back at the phone and continues reading.

LI

Finished in 1689, it was intended as a habitable pavilion, bathhouse and garden grotto.

INT. LAZIEKI PALACE SOLOMON ROOM - DAY

BOB and LI walk into the Solomon Room. LI reads from the tourist guide on her phone, while BOB glances at the paintings.

LI

The Solomon Room, one of the largest of the palace's ground-floor interiors, is embellished with a series of paintings depicting the *History of Solomon*.

LI glances from the tourist guide to the the paintings. LI then glances at BOB, who is looking at the paintings and grinning broadly.

LI

And, just what is so funny?

BOB

Have you ever read the Old Testament, specifically 'The Song of Solomon?'

LI

(Puzzled)

Actually, I have. Why?

BOB

I remember, in Bible School, they kept insisting the 'Song of Solomon' was about 'love of the church.'

LI punches BOB in the side with her free hand.

FADE OUT

EXT. CHOPIN MUSEUM - DAY MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BOB AND LI WITH THE CHOPIN MUSEUM ENTRANCE IN THE BACKGROUND, WITH "CHOPIN MUSEUM" SUPERIMPOSED.

BOB and LI stand outside the Chopin Museum, then walk away.

EXT. WILANOW PALACE - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BOB AND LI AND WILANOW PALACE, WITH "WILANOW PALACE" SUPERIMPOSED.

BOB and LI enter the Wilanow Palace. (END MUSIC)

FADE OUT

EXT. WIELKI THEATER - NIGHT

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF WIELKI THEATER

INT. WIELKI THEATER. NIGHT

BOB and LI are sitting in balcony seats along with other THEATER PATRONS. LI listens admiringly to the Polish Opera. LI then notices BOB is sleeping and sharply jabs him.

FADE OUT

EXT. TRAIN TUNNEL - EARLY MORNING

FADE IN

A Rail Europe train exits a train tunnel.

INT. RAIL EUROPE TRAIN - EARLY MORNING

LI and BOB are both seated. LI sleeps as BOB reads his Kindle.

BOB (V.O.)

Rail Europe calls it a "high speed train," but the 357 mile trip will take us six hours. After being spoiled by HYPERTUBE, 60 miles per hour is about as exciting as the Wielki Theater Opera.

EXT. RAIL EUROPE TRAIN - EARLY MORNING

EXTREME LONG SHOT OF RAIL EUROPE TRAIN TRAVELING THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE

FADE OUT

EXT. BERLIN - DAY MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BERLIN SKYLINE WITH "BERLIN" SUPERIMPOSED END MUSIC

EXT. BERLIN TRAIN STATION - DAY

As a PORTER carries BOB'S and LI'S bags, BOB and LI walk toward the exit of the train station. LI checks her phone and finds she has a missed call.

LI

Bob? You go with the porter. I have to take a call.

BOB smiles.

BOB

We'll be right outside.

LI smiles at BOB and nods. However as soon as he turns to follow the PORTER, her face turns grim.

EXT. TAXI STAND - DAY

As BOB spots LI, he motions to the porter.

PORTER

**Taxi!**

As the PORTER loads their bags, LI walks over to the TAXI DRIVER.

LI

(German [English])

Waldorf-Astoria Bitten (Waldorf Astoria, please)

LI walks over to BOB.

LI

Sorry, something has come up. I will meet you at the Waldorf Astoria. Do not worry; the desk clerks speak English. I will meet you in the room as soon as I can.

BOB

Any idea how long that will be?

LI

I will call you at six if I cannot get back by then.

BOB

AM or PM?

LI gives Bob a dirty look

LI

Now **go**.

The porter opens the door to the cab. Bob quickly tips him.

BOB

I'm going; I'm going.

The taxi begins to speed off.

LI

(Yelling)

**Do not go anywhere else.**

FADE OUT

EXT. FOREST - DAY

FADE IN

LI and a CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN look at a section of burned and partially demolished HYPERTUBE and tube supports.

LI

(German [English])

Wurde jemand verletzt? [Was anyone hurt?]

FOREMAN

(German [English])

Gott sei Dank, Nr. [Thankfully, no]

LI

(German [English])

Wie schlimm ist es? [How bad is it?]

FOREMAN

(German [English])

Drei Abschnitte, 82 m. Drei Rohr unterstüt-  
zt, leicht beschädigt [Three sections,  
eighty-two meters. Three tube supports  
lightly damaged]

LI

(German [English])

Gott sei Dank. [Thank goodness.]

FOREMAN

Die Rohr-  
Unterstützungen dauert eine nukleare Explo-  
sion. Eine Kapsel eine Druckdichtungen Bla-  
sen. [Those tube supports will take a  
nuclear blast. One capsule did blow a  
pressure seal.]

LI

(German [English])

Also müssen sie jemand auf der Innenseite  
haben? [So, they must have someone on the  
inside?]

FOREMAN

(German [English])

Ja. Jemand sehr dumm. Jemand, der über die  
Schleusen in jedem Rohr-  
Abschnitt nicht kennt. Wer nicht weiß, kön-  
nen wir einen beschädigten Abschnitt zur L  
uft oder Vakuum, bieten nach Bedarf isolie-  
ren. [Yes. Someone very stupid. Someone  
who does not know about the airlocks in  
every tube section. Someone who does not  
know we can isolate a damaged section to  
provide air or vacuum, as needed.]

LI

(German  
[English]) Leider smart genug, um über die  
se HYPERTUBE wissen. [Unfortunately, smart  
enough to know about this HYPERTUBE.]

FOREMAN

(German [English])



Ja. Jedoch wissen wir jetzt ihrer Existenz  
, als auch. Wir kümmern es.[Yes. However,  
we now know of their existence, as well.  
We will take care of it.]

LI and the FOREMAN smile at each other.

FADE OUT

INT. WALDORF ASTORIA PENTHOUSE - LATE NIGHT

FADE IN

When LI enters the penthouse, she finds BOB fast asleep. LI looks  
at BOB fondly, concern crossing her face.

FADE OUT

EXT. BERLIN ZOO ENTRANCE - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BERLIN ZOO ENTRANCE WITH "BERLIN ZOOLOGICAL  
GARDENS" SUPERIMPOSED

EXT. PANDA EXHIBIT - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

BOB and LI watch as the pandas play in their exhibit. BOB is  
smiling, but LI is bored. (END MUSIC)

LI

(Sarcastically)

Eighty-four acres, one thousand five  
hundred species, twenty thousand five  
hundred animals and **you** stop to watch  
to watch the pandas. Did you not get  
enough of the pandas at the Beijing  
Zoo?

BOB

(Grinning)

I love these guys. They look like giant  
guinea pigs; they are so **cute**.

LI

They could cut you in half with one  
swipe of their claws; and they  
are not friendly. Nonetheless, you  
tell the average Chinese that pandas

look like 'giant guinea pigs' and it will not be the pandas you will have to worry about.

BOB

(Mockingly)

My, we are a little cranky today, are we not?

LI

No; I just prefer something more exotic, such as monitor lizards. You know, they say they can squirt blood with their eyes?

BOB

I'll pass. But I will take you to see them in a few minutes.

BOB pauses for a moment, then looks deeply into LI'S eyes.

BOB

(Softly)

Li, are you not just a **little** bit homesick?

LI

Not yet. How about you?

BOB

While there is not much in Savannah or Richmond Hill to hold me, I must admit, I love my home. I have a view of river on one side and marsh on the other. Nothing I have seen so far is more beautiful.

LI

Do you have a picture?

BOB

(Mildly surprised)

I never thought of taking one.

Wistful, BOB pauses for a moment. Then smiles at LI.

BOB

Well, let's get you to the monitor  
lizards and see if you can get a squirt  
out of them.

BOB takes LI'S hand and they walk together toward the reptile  
pavilion.

FADE OUT

EXT. RHEIN RIVER - LATE AFTERNOON. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF A CRUISE SHIP ON THE RHEIN RIVER WITH "RHEIN  
RIVER" SUPERIMPOSED

EXT. CRUISE SHIP - LATE AFTERNOON. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

BOB and LI stand on the deck of the cruise ship and look at the  
banks of the Rhein river. (END MUSIC)

FADE OUT

EXT. BANK OF RHEIN RIVER - NIGHT

FADE IN

BOB and LI walk along the bank of the Rhein river.

LI

What happened to the guy who does not like  
to walk?

BOB

This is the **Rhein**. Do you believe I would  
miss **any** opportunity to walk down this  
bank? Besides, the Brandenburg Gate is  
pretty close and...

LI

And?

BOB

This entire trip has either been work or  
sightseeing. I don't know much more about  
you now than I did when I first arrived in  
Beijing. As delectable as you are on

the outside, a man would be a fool to deny himself what is "inside you." I mean by that, **who** you are.

LI

Good save, Bob. Well, I was an only child; not surprising, given China's "one child" policy. My father was an agricultural engineer; my mother was a subordinate, but she gave that up when they were married.

BOB

What brought you such an interest in languages?

LI

My dad spoke both Mandarin and Cantonese; my mother, just Mandarin. However, when the government of Vietnam began to promote tourism, they also needed to expand their agricultural production. So, their government requested assistance and my dad was sent to Vietnam to advise on the agricultural program; and, since it was a long term assignment, my mother and I accompanied him. I went to school with Amerasian and Eurasian children, many of whom spoke French or English. Since I showed an incredible aptitude with languages, when the US and China began the cultural exchange program, I was sent to the best language schools in the United States; UCLA, Stamford, Middlebury College...

BOB

Middlebury College?

LI

It is in Vermont. It is the coldest place I had ever been until I visited Russia to coordinate our HYPERTUBE projects.

BOB

Well this certainly explains why you speak English like an American.

LI

**That** would not be considered a complement in many quarters.

BOB

Well, consider it a complement from this "Ugly American".

LI

I learned Russian, German, Dutch, Japanese, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Hindi and of all things, Gaelic. Of course, you already know about the Yiddish.

BOB

Li, you are a revelation. You must have really missed your parents.

LI

I really did. However, I was allowed to come home between semesters.

BOB

Well, I was a "rich kid," whose parents, fortunately, taught me the value of work and careful spending. My dad never let me forget that wealth could all be gone in an instant. So, I planned my life fairly early. I joined the Civil Air Patrol, then ROTC, planning a career in the Air Force. But, during my second year of college, my parents were killed in an auto accident.

LI

I am sorry.

BOB

Don't be. My mother always told me we don't have any guarantees beyond this moment. I just cherish the moments we all had together. Anyway, it did change my perspective. I dropped out of ROTC and

used my parent's insurance to pay my way through college.

LI

I lost both my parents in the 2008 earthquake.

BOB

I am sorry for your loss, as well.

LI

Thank you. However, unlike you, it did not change my perspective. I became more focused than ever.

BOB

Meaning I let myself go? By your values, maybe. I feel I woke up to the world; became more questioning of **everything**. I found myself seeing through people; examining their motives. Since I now knew everything **could** change in an instant, I promised myself to both seek and speak the truth as I knew it at every opportunity.

That if I did not, I might not get a second chance. Fortunately, I had a small trust fund and a house without a mortgage. I started a public relations business out of my home and have been fairly successful with it. Oh, I called a friend and had him take a picture of my home. Do you want to see?

LI

Of course.

BOB

Just a minute.

Bob takes out his phone and brings up a picture of his home.

LI

Wow! It really is beautiful.

BOB

If you ever get back to the states...

LI

I will, Bob, **when** we succeed.

BOB and LI laugh and look at each other with longing glances, that quickly subside.

EXT. BRANDENBERG GATE - NIGHT

FADE IN

BOB and LI stand at a distance from the Brandenburg Gate as a FEW PEDESTRIANS walk through it. BOB takes his phone from his jacket pocket and selects the tourist guide to Berlin.

BOB

Let me take this one. The Brandenburg Gate is a former city gate, redesigned at the commission of King Frederick William the second of Prussia.

LI

(Quietly)

Bob?

BOB

Yes?

LI places her index finger to her mouth

LI

(Quietly)

Shhhh.

BOB smiles, shuts off his phone and places it in his jacket. LI gently grasps BOB'S hand and they stand in silence as they look at the Moon over the Brandenburg Gate.

FADE OUT

EXT. WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL BERLIN - NIGHT MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL WITH "WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL BERLIN" SUPERIMPOSED. (END MUSIC)

BOB and LI enter their suite, a bedroom of which has large windows and glass doors leading to a deck with a view of the water. He shuts the door, just as she turns directly toward him.

LI

(Excitedly) And now for the fun part.

BOB

(Hopefully)

*Fun part?*

LI

Berlin to Paris, then a **slight** detour to Toulon, France. We are going to the French Riviera.

BOB smiles, which melts as soon as LI turns away.

FADE OUT

EXT. PARIS - DAY

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF PARIS SKYLINE WITH "PARIS" SUPERIMPOSED

BOB (V.O.)

I have to admit I wish Li had not told me about The French Riviera before Paris.

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER AND PARK FOUNTAINS - DAY

BOB and LI walk past the park fountains as they head toward the Eiffel Tower. The park fountains spurt just as they walk past.

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER BASE ELEVATOR - DAY

BOB and LI board the elevator to the first floor deck of the Eiffel Tower.

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER FIRST FLOOR DECK - DAY

The elevator door opens on the first floor deck and BOB, LI and OTHER TOURISTS walk to the edge of the deck for a view of Paris.

BOB (V.O.)

Everything in Paris was anticlimactic after that.



EXT. CHAMPS ELYSEES AND ARCHE DE TRIOMPHE - LATE AFTERNOON

BOB and LI walk down the Champs Elysees toward the Arche De Triomphe.

EXT. LOUVRE, PYRAMID AND POND - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BOB AND LI STANDING BETWEEN THE LOUVRE AND PYRAMID, WHICH IS IN THE POND

LI admires the beauty of the pyramid, then smiles and glances over at BOB. BOB is totally lost in thought, oblivious to LI'S presence. LI'S FACE becomes a map of sadness and she slightly hangs her head.

BOB (V.O.)

All I could think about was the French Riviera.

EXT. FRENCH RIVIERA BEACH - DAY

BOB (V.O.)

That blue, blue water, those sandy beaches...Those bikinis...Those Saint Tropez Bikinis...So many bikinis, so little time.

INT. TOULON BEACH HOTEL ROOM - DAY

BOB, DRESSED IN SWIM TRUNKS AND A PULLOVER, SITS NEXT TO THE ROOM WINDOW AND SHIFTS BETWEEN READING HIS KINDLE AND STARING OUT THE WINDOW.

LI

(From bathroom)

I am almost ready.

BOB shifts his gaze back from the window, first to his Kindle, then to the doorway to the bathroom. LI opens the bathroom door, at first carefully, then slams the door open and bounds from the bathroom into the room. LI'S breasts jiggle during her bound; and as she seductively poses, giving BOB front, side and rear views of her in her bikini.

LI

How do I look?

BOB says nothing, but discretely places his Kindle over his crotch.

FADE OUT

EXT. TOULON BEACH - DAY. MUSIC ("HOLD MY HAND")

FADE IN

BOB and LI walk past parked cars down onto the beach and past SUNBATHERS. LI and BOB stop about thirty feet from the water. (END MUSIC)

LI shades her eyes as she stares at the waves.

LI

**Dude!** that's crackin!

BOB

(Puzzled)

**What** is cracking?

LI

"Crackin". Perfect waves. Do you surf?

BOB

No, but apparently *you* do.

LI

I'm amped; come on, let's rent boards and I'll teach you.

JACQUES

(Off Camera) Come surfing with us, Babe. We'll help you teach your friend.

LI and BOB turn into the direction of JACQUES' voice.

Jacques (late 30s) is taller than the OTHER SURFERS, blond, muscular, and with a strong, handsome, but friendly face. JACQUES and the OTHER SURFERS are all carrying worn, but well maintained, expensive-looking boards.

JACQUES

*I might* even teach you some 'new moves'.

LI smiles wickedly. BOB looks pained.

LI

(Coyly) ('Surfer' [English])

What makes you think I am not an 'Emma'?  
['Emma': Beautiful, sexy, skilled surfer]

BOB (V.O.)

(Puzzled)

**An enema?**

JACQUES

('Surfer' [English])

If you're so stoked, where's your board? ['Stoked': Full of enthusiasm] You could be a bammerwee, you could be a marriane, or you might just be a beach bunny. ['Bammerwee': Beautiful, sexy, average surfer; 'Marriane': Beautiful, sexy, clumsy surfer; 'Beach Bunny: Beautiful, sexy, tanner who watches real surfers.] But you are bangin. ['Bangin': Really sexy.]

BOB (V.O.)

(Baffled)

**Banging?**

LI

Thanks. You'll just have to find out for yourself.

JACQUES grins broadly.

SECOND SURFER

(Impatiently)

**Come on, dude; it's cooking; we need to hit the surf before it chills.**

JACQUES

You dudes go ahead.

THE OTHER SURFERS carry their boards toward the surf. JACQUES carries his surfboard toward LI, while BOB slowly inches closer to her.

JACQUES

I am Jacques.

LI

I am Li, and this is my friend, Bob.

JACQUES uses his free hand to take LI'S hand and looks into her eyes for a moment, before turning slightly and gripping BOB's hand and shaking it enthusiastically. JACQUES then points down the beach at a small surfboard rental shop. LI and BOB turn slightly in the direction JACQUES is pointing.

JACQUES

See that shop with the white Channel Islands surfboard? That dude's boards are **bodacious**; nothing bogus.

LI

Mahalo. You go on out with your friends. We'll hit the surf and I will show BOB a few moves.

BOB

That's okay, Li. I will go to the surf shop with you to pick up a board; then I'll watch you from the beach. If I get bored, I'll go back to the room to get my Kindle.

LI looks at BOB, crestfallen.

LI

I can teach you to surf.

BOB

Not in one day, Li. You go out and have a good time and I'll keep an eye on you.

LI

(Resignedly)

You sure?

BOB

Just have a good time. You deserve that.

LI smiles, in gratitude, at BOB. LI looks excitedly at JACQUES.

LI

All Right! Jacques, I'll see you in a few.

JACQUES

A pleasure.

LI

Likewise.

JACQUES turns toward the surf and begins carrying his surfboard toward the water.

LI

Oh, and Jacques?

JACQUES stops and turns his head toward LI

LI

(Coyly)

I might teach you a few moves of my own.

JACQUES grins broadly, turns his head forward and quickly carries his board into the surf.

LI smiles, while Bob slightly burns with jealousy.

BOB

(Grudgingly) Well, let's go get your board.

FADE OUT

EXT. TOULON BEACH - DAY. MUSIC ("WIPEOUT" BY THE SURFARIS)

LI, JACQUES and the OTHER SURFERS ride enormous waves. BOB stands and watches them.

EXT. TOULON BEACH - MID-DAY. MUSIC ("WIPEOUT" BY THE SURFARIS)

LI, JACQUES and the OTHER SURFERS ride medium-size waves. BOB, holding his Kindle, sits in a beach lounger, then glances up and watches them for a moment, before going back to reading. (END MUSIC)

FADE OUT

EXT. TOULON BEACH - LATE AFTERNOON

FADE IN

LI and JACQUES walk together, carrying their boards as they approach BOB. The OTHER SURFERS follow closely behind.

LI

Bob, Jacques has invited us to a surfer party here on the beach tonight. Will you come? If you won't, I won't.

JACQUES

But you *must!* Your surfing is **tubular**. You are the only 'Emma' I have seen here all season. Bob is *certainly* welcome.

BOB

I wouldn't miss it, Jacques. Thanks.

JACQUES take LI'S surfboard from her and gives her a kiss on the cheek. JACQUES then turns toward the surfboard rental shop and carries the surfboards in that direction. JACQUES then turns slightly toward BOB and LI.

JACQUES

(Yelling)

Seven o'clock and don't be late or you won't get a good spot near the bandstand.

BOB

Bandstand?

LI

Yes. The party is in a bar here on the beach. It has a bandstand with a DJ and a dance floor, or so Jacques says.

BOB

Well, I do like to dance; though I  
prefer slow dancing.

LI bends and places her face close to the side of BOB'S face.

LI

(Softly)

Tell you what. You let me dance with  
anyone I like and I will save all the  
slow dances for you.

BOB

Deal.

LI kisses BOB on the cheek, jumps back and dances for joy. He  
watches her and smiles.

FADE OUT

INT. BAR AND GRILL WITH DANCE FLOOR AND BANDSTAND - EVENING. MUSIC  
("BLINK) SUNG BY CASCADA DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY BY CHERYL BURKE

From the front doors of the BAR AND GRILL, on our left we can see  
the bar and dance floor and on the right we can see the DJ,  
bandstand more space for dancing. Single four-place tables line the  
left wall and the front wall.

Near the edge of the dance floor, BOB dances with a BEACH BUNNY who  
is wearing a particularly ugly necklace with large amulet that  
hangs between her breasts. LI and JACQUES dominate the center of  
the dance floor with 'dirty dancing'.

"Blink" (written by Eric Sanicola, Damon Sharpe and Shanna  
Crooks)

I don't want to blink, I can't close my eyes  
These are the best years of our lives  
I don't wanna sleep while I'm alive  
I don't wanna miss a thing tonight

For once in my life I realized  
What I've been given, in an instant  
I don't need this to end to understand  
That I'm gonna miss it, gonna miss it  
I can't believe how the minutes keep passing us by  
Better live my life  
Here in the moment just own it and don't think twice  
Let's go

I don't want to blink, I can't close my eyes  
These are the best years of our lives  
I don't wanna to sleep while I'm alive  
I don't wanna miss a thing tonight  
I don't wanna blink, blink,  
I don't wanna blink, blink  
I don't wanna blink  
No, I don't wanna blink

There used to be a time when I was blind  
I had no vision, wouldn't listen  
Now every heartbeat is tellin' me  
That I'm on a mission to make a difference  
I can't believe how the seconds keep passing us by  
Better live my life  
Here in the moment just own it and don't think twice  
Let's go

I don't want to blink, I can't close my eyes  
These are the best years of our lives  
I don't wanna to sleep while I'm alive  
I don't wanna miss a thing tonight  
I don't wanna blink, blink,  
I don't wanna blink, blink  
I don't wanna blink  
No, I don't wanna blink

Can't stop, won't stop  
Give me some more  
So many things that I wanna explore  
Years ahead, more, we were put in for  
Now I now  
Let's go

I don't want to blink, I can't close my eyes  
These are the best years of our lives  
I don't wanna to sleep while I'm alive  
I don't wanna miss a thing tonight  
I don't wanna blink, blink,  
I don't wanna blink, blink  
I don't wanna blink  
No, I don't wanna blink

LI glances over and watches BOB dancing with the BEACH BUNNY. A look of jealousy crosses LI's face. As soon as the song is over, the BEACH BUNNY runs off without speaking. BOB steps once to return to his table, then stops and glances at the bandstand, which also has a Karaoke machine and a wall-mounted monitor.

BOB races to the DJ. The DJ leans slightly to hear BOB as he speaks. The DJ shakes his head in agreement and BOB takes a small stack of folded Euros out of his pocket. He unfolds the EUROS and hands the DJ five of them. BOB then folds his remaining Euros and



puts them back into his pocket. BOB glances over at LI, who he sees is still on the dance floor and is talking with JACQUES. BOB then walks over to a WAITRESS, points to his table, and orders a drink. She nods in agreement and BOB returns to his table, shifting his seat so he can face the DJ, then sits down.

DJ

I have been told, we have a very  
talented surfer here, who is not only  
beautiful, but is an incredible singer.  
Zhang Li, would you come up here and  
sing us a song?

Shocked, LI glances toward BOB. BOB grins broadly. LI glares at BOB, then smiles wickedly. She walks demurely across the dance floor toward the DJ. The DJ leans toward LI as she speaks quietly to him.

He nods in agreement and points at a wireless microphone. She picks up the wireless microphone and stands facing the audience. The DJ selects "Roar" and LI sings to the lyrics on the wall-mounted monitor.

"Roar" (written by Perry and Bonnie McKee, Dr. Luke, Max Martin & Cirkut)

I used to bite my tongue and hold my breath  
Scared to rock the boat and make a mess  
So I sat quietly, agreed politely  
I guess that I forgot I had a choice  
I let you push me past the breaking point  
I stood for nothing, so I fell for everything

You held me down, but I got up (HEY!)  
Already brushing off the dust  
You hear my voice, you hear that sound  
Like thunder gonna shake the ground  
You held me down, but I got up (HEY!)  
Get ready 'cause I've had enough  
I see it all, I see it now

*[Chorus]*

I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the  
fire  
'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar  
Louder, louder than a lion  
'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
You're gonna hear me roar

Now I'm floating like a butterfly  
Stinging like a bee I earned my stripes

I went from zero, to my own hero

You held me down, but I got up (HEY!)  
Already brushing off the dust  
You hear my voice, you hear that sound  
Like thunder gonna shake the ground  
You held me down, but I got up (HEY!)  
Get ready 'cause I've had enough  
I see it all, I see it now

[Chorus]

I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the  
fire  
'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar  
Louder, louder than a lion  
'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
You're gonna hear me roar  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
You'll hear me roar  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
You're gonna hear me roar...

Ro-oar, ro-oar, ro-oar, ro-oar, ro-oar

I got the eye of the tiger, a fighter, dancing through the  
fire  
'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar  
Louder, louder than a lion  
'Cause I am a champion and you're gonna hear me roar  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
You're gonna hear me roar  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
You'll hear me roar  
Oh oh oh oh oh oh  
You're gonna hear me roar...

BOB sits, dumbfounded, watching LI. The WAITRESS brings BOB his drink and has to nudge him to get his attention. BOB is embarrassed and pays her for his drink. He then sips his drink slowly. The audience sings along every time LI sings, "I got the eye of the tiger" right to "Oh...". When LI completes "ROAR," the audience applauds thunderously. LI quickly walks over to the DJ. As he leans toward LI, she speaks to him, turning her head slightly, so she can look BOB squarely in the eyes. BOB looks puzzled. LI smiles

wickedly. When LI finishes speaking, the DJ nods in agreement. LI again stands facing the audience. The DJ selects "Your Body" and LI sings to the lyrics on the wall-mounted monitor.

"Your Body" (written by Steve Kotecha, Max Martin, Shellback and Tiffany Amber)

I came here tonight to get you out of my mind,  
I'm gonna take what I find (uh oh, yeah!)  
So open the box, don't need no key I'm unlocked  
And I won't tell you to stop (uh oh, yeah!)

Hey boy!  
I don't need to know where you've been,  
All I need to know is you and no need for talking  
Hey boy!  
So don't even tell me your name,  
All I need to know is whose place,  
And let's get walking...

All I wanna do is love your body  
Oh oh oh oh  
Tonight's your lucky night, I know you want it  
Oh oh oh oh

All I wanna do is love your body  
Oh oh oh oh  
Tonight's your lucky night, I know you want it  
Oh oh oh oh

It's true what you heard, I am a freak, I'm disturbed  
So come on and give me your worst (uh oh, yeah)  
We're moving faster then slow,  
If you don't know where to go,  
I'll finish off on my own (uh oh, yeah)

Hey boy!  
I don't need to know where you've been,  
All I need to know is you and no need for talking  
Hey boy!  
So don't even tell me your name,  
All I need to know is whose place,  
And let's get walking...  
Say say hey...

All I wanna do is love your body  
Oh oh oh oh  
Tonight's your lucky night, I know you want it  
Oh oh oh oh

All I wanna do is love your body  
Oh oh oh oh

Tonight's your lucky night, I know you want it  
Oh oh oh oh

I think you already know my name  
I think you already know my name

Hey hey, ha! Alright, say

I think you already know my name

All I wanna do is love your body  
Oh oh oh oh (hey, hey, say)  
Tonight's your lucky night, I know you want it  
Oh oh oh oh

All I wanna do is love your body  
Oh oh oh oh  
(Say, say, hey)  
Tonight's your lucky night, I know you want it  
Oh oh oh oh

Just as LI begins to sing "Your Body," BOB chokes and spits out a swallow of his drink. Embarrassed, he grabs a paper napkin to clean up the mess. JACQUES eyes LI hungrily. As Bob coughs, then recovers, he glares at JACQUES in jealousy. The audience sing "Oh oh oh oh" as backup singers. As LI completes "Your Body," the audience explode into applause. BOB abruptly stands up, nearly kicking away his chair. He marches toward LI and puts his arm around her before JACQUES or the audience can reach her. JACQUES stops in his tracks and watches BOB and LI. JACQUES' face shows initial disappointment, then satisfaction. BOB and LI form a "V," so that she can greet the admiring audience. BOB, still holding LI, moves to arms length length, so that he can face her.

BOB

**That was incredible!** I am so proud of  
you.

The DJ plays "Pretend," sung by Scott Porter and choreographed by Cheryl Burke

"Pretend" (written by Lauren Gold)

Say, won't you stay; we can talk about nothing at all  
Or sit here and make up the words as we go along

The games, we could play  
Maybe silently write us a song  
Quietly shout from the roof that we don't belong

They told me maybe she's crazy a little like you  
Everyone said you were nothing but trouble and

All that I know is that I've never been here before  
And no, I'll never leave, if it's alright with you  
Dreaming of oceans while jumping in puddles and  
All of my life I pretend you were there by the door  
I don't need to pretend any more.

Strange, oh so strange  
When it feels better being alone  
You accept there is nobody else and set it in stone  
And then you, came along  
Your reflection was so sad and strong  
You made me believe once again that I could be wrong.

They told me maybe she's crazy a little like you  
Everyone said you were nothing but trouble and  
All that I know is that I've never been here before  
And no, I'll never leave, if it's alright with you  
Dreaming of oceans while jumping in puddles and  
All of my life I pretend you were there by the door  
I don't need to pretend any more.

And it hurts, to know, there was somebody out there as  
strange and  
As beautiful, as you  
If I'd known sooner  
Maybe she's crazy a little like you  
Everyone said you were nothing but trouble  
All that I know is that I've never been here before  
And no, I'll never leave, if it's alright with you  
Dreaming of oceans while jumping in puddles and  
All of my life I pretend you were there by the door  
I don't need to pretend any more.  
I don't need to pretend anymore  
I don't need to pretend anymore

BOB takes LI into his arms and their bodies writhe in synchronous motion. As the last resonance of "Pretend" subsides, BOB and LI slowly step apart, arms length, holding hands and LI practically drags BOB off of the dance floor at out the door of the bar.

EXT. TOULON BEACH - NIGHT

LI and BOB quickly pass outside tables onto an isolated portion of the beach. She abruptly stops, but he continues moving, until he is facing her directly. Instinctively, both almost attack each other with a long, passionate kiss. But, as they slowly push away, they see conflicted looks of passion, affection and fear in each other's faces. He gently pulls her back to him in an understanding, beckoning manner, and they embrace as two people comforting each other.

FADE OUT

EXT. TOULON BEACH - LATE NIGHT

FADE IN

BOB and LI lay closely beside each other on the beach. They see a nearly full Moon and stars in a cloudless sky.

BOB

(Gently)

I do have two questions for you.

LI

Ask me anything.

BOB

Just what the heck does "tubular" mean?

LI abruptly rolls on her side toward Bob, supporting her head with her elbow, looking at him with mild annoyance.

LI

Really? Just *two* questions and one of them is **that**?

BOB rolls on his side toward LI, supporting his head with his elbow.

BOB

(Defensively)

I really want to know.

LI

Okay. For a surfer, there is nothing better than a big wave with a perfect curl. The really great waves, the 'pipelines' look like a tube as they slide over you. Hence, "tubular" means to a surfer, excellent or awesome, the best. Second question.

BOB

Just **where** did you learn to surf?

LI

Da Nang, Vietnam. They have some great waves there. A couple of the kids from school were surfers and they taught me. I surfed the whole time I was in California at University and I have been following the sport ever since, though I don't get to do it very much.

LI looks deeply into BOB'S eyes.

LI

(Gently)

Bob?

BOB

(Gently)

Yes?

LI

It was tubular of you to let me surf with those guys.

LI kisses BOB passionately, then slowly backs her face from his. There is only warmth, no fear, in her expression. She then lays on her back, as does he; and they quietly continue to look at the Moon and stars. Nearby the BEACH BUNNY, with whom BOB had been dancing, glances at the video she has been recording with the "medallion" smartphone. She then selects CALL on the Medallion display.

BEACH BUNNY

(Russian [English])

Kitayskoye posol'stvo v Londone ?  
Federal'naya sluzhba bezopasnosti  
Rossiyskoy Federatsii prizyvayet posla .  
Da , ya budu derzhat' . [Chinese Embassy,  
London? Federal Security Service of the  
Russian Federation calling for the  
Ambassador. Yes, I will hold.]

FADE OUT

INT. CHUNNEL - DAY

FADE IN

A passenger train travels on tracks inside the Chunnel, which is lit by lights on the inner diameter of the Chunnel.

INT. PASSENGER TRAIN - DAY

BOB sits across from LI. She has her eyes almost fully shut. His eyes dart around nervously.

BOB (V.O.)

The French Riviera came and went **way** too quickly. Now, riding through 'the Chunnel,' to London I knew I have to 'get back on my game' quickly. We would be facing our adversaries, hostile to **any** attempt to 'play in their sandbox.' Compared to Western financial interests, drug cartels might as well be The Muppets.

LI

Relax, Bob, we have 'friends' watching us.

BOB

Friends?

LI opens her eyes and stares at BOB.

LI

Don't look around. The Chinese Ministry of State Security has been watching us since we left Beijing. The Chinese government wants **nothing** to happen with this mission, as HYPERTUBE will be a huge source of revenue **if** we fully penetrate Western Europe.

BOB

And, you know this because...?

LI

**Who** do you think paid for my education? I am a **language** specialist; and, I had a life, long before HYPERTUBE came along. Now, we will be staying at the



Chinese Embassy in London. You are not to leave the embassy, unless I accompany you. Is that clear?

BOB

Completely. Never thought I would be glad I was being watched, especially by a government intelligence agency.

LI

Western financial interests do **anything** to ensure our failure. I **will not** let that happen. You are going to prepare a..., as you would say, 'kick ass[ closing statement for our clients in London. Did you **really** think you were chosen for this mission because 'nobody else was available'? You were **carefully** chosen for this mission. I have a dossier on you an inch thick; and, with my access, I can find you anywhere, anytime I want.

BOB

(Sarcastically)

I'm flattered.

LI

You should be. Bob, when you are not being a 'smart ass,' you can be pretty persuasive.

BOB

So, last night was just a way of 'jerking me off'?

LI

(Regretfully)

I did not plan that; it just happened.

Suddenly, Chinese Agents Han and Fong walk up to LI.

HAN

(Mandarin [English])

Zhùlǐ shǔ zhǎng zhāng? [Assistant Director Zhang?]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Shì ma? [Yes?]

HAN

(Mandarin [English])

Tèbié dài lǐ hán, nǐ shì gēn wǒ lái,  
mǎshàng. Tèbié dài lǐ fāng jiāng jìxù yǔ hā  
méng xiānshēng. [Special Agent Han. You  
are to come with me, immediately. Special  
Agent Fong will remain with Mr. Harmon.]

LI

Wǒ bù míngbái. [I do not understand.]

HAN

Chéng zhōngguó zhù yīngguó, nǐ jiāng bèi  
dài bǔ; bìng qiě, rúguǒ yǒu bì yào, ruǎn jìn  
qián de zhèngshì diào chá fàng zhì. [By  
order of the Chinese Ambassador to the  
United Kingdom, you are to be  
apprehended; and, if necessary, placed  
under house arrest prior to a formal  
inquiry.]

Noticing the look of shock in LI's eyes, Bob starts to rise from his seat.

HAN

That is quite far enough, Mr. Harmon.  
Special Agent Fong will escort you to the  
Chinese Embassy in London. For now,  
Assistant Director Zhang will accompany  
me.

BOB

(Incredulous)

**Assistant Director?**

HAN

Please keep your voice down, Mr. Harmon.  
This will all be explained to you in due  
time.

LI

I will be fine, Bob.

LI rises from her seat and AGENT FONG takes it, peering emotionlessly at BOB. LI walks submissively in front of AGENT HAN.

FADE OUT

EXT. CHINESE EMBASSY - DAY

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF CHINESE EMBASSY, LONDON

INT. WAITING ROOM OUTSIDE OF THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE

LI sits quietly in the waiting room, as the door opens and a Chinese colonel steps partially through the doorway.

COLONEL

(Mandarin [English])

Zhùlǐ shǔ zhǎng zhāng? Dàshǐ xiànzài huì  
kàn dào nǐ. [Assistant Director Zhang?  
The Ambassador will see you now.]

LI walks submissively into the AMBASSADOR'S office and the COLONEL shuts the door.

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Zhùlǐ shǔ zhǎng zhāng. Suīrán tā zǒng shì  
hěn gāoxìng jiàn dào nǐ, wǒ jiù hòu huǐ  
liǎo bùshì nàme zài zhè zhǒng qíngkuàng  
xià. [Assistant Director Zhang. While it  
is always a pleasure to see you, I regret  
it is not so under these circumstances.]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Wǒ zuòle shénme dézuì de dàshǐ? [What have  
I done to displease the Ambassador?]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Wǒ zhǐ xīwàng wǒ shì yīgè nǐ bù gāoxìng.  
Bùxìng de shì, nǐ xiànzài de rènwù zhōng  
nǐ de xíngwéi yǐjīng huòdéle jiǎnchá zhǎng  
de zhùyì. [I only wish I were the one you  
displeased. Unfortunately, your conduct  
during your present mission has gained the  
attention of the Procurators-General.]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Kěnéng wǒ kěnéng zuòle shénme zhāozhì rúcǐ  
dà de guānzhù? [What could I have possibly  
done to incur such attention?]

The AMBASSADOR rotates his computer display and LI sees still pictures of herself dressed in a low cut gown and bikini, as well as a video of her performances at the surfer's party and on the beach with BOB.

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Nǐ bù zhǐshì yóu guójiā ānquán, lǐ bù de  
dàilǐ guānchá. Nín yě zhèngzài yóu  
liánbāng ānquán jú dàilǐ guānchá. [You  
were not just being observed by agents of  
the Ministry of State Security, Li. You  
were also being observed by agents of the  
Federal Security Service.]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Èluósī liánbāng. [The Russian Federation.]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Nǐ rúcǐ jīngyà? Tāmen yǒu hěn dà de  
xìngqù, zhège shìmìng, yěshì rúcǐ. [Are  
you so surprised? They have a great deal  
of interest in this mission, as well.]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Wǒ de dà bùfèn rènwù de chénggōng qǔjué yú  
wǒ de wèizhì zuòwéi yīgè chénggōng de  
zhíxíng, ér bùshì guójiā ānquán. [Much of  
the success of my mission depends on my

position as a successful executive, not State Security.]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Wǒ tóngyì. Dàn bùshì zài èluósī de méngyǒu de zūnyán wèi dàijià. [I agree. But not at the expense of the dignity of Russian allies.]

LI

(Indignant) (Mandarin [English])

Zūnyán? Wǒ cānjiā chōnglàng zhě de jùhuì. Méiyǒu rén zhīdào zàirèn HYPERTUBE huò guójiā ānquán bù wǒ de lìchǎng. [Dignity? I was attending a party of surfers. No one knew my position at either HYPERTUBE or the Ministry of State Security.]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Bié dānxīn, lǐ. Yīqiè dūhuì hǎo qǐlái de, zhǐyào nǐ chénggōngle nǐ de shǐmìng. [Do not worry, Li. Everything will be fine as long as you succeed with your mission.]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Ér rúguǒ wǒ méiyǒu chénggōng? [And what if I do not succeed?]

AMBASSADOR

Zébèi; jiàng zhí, cízhí, shènzhì kěnéng duǎnzàn rù yù. Zuì qǐmǎ, nǐ yǒngyuǎn wúfǎ kàn dào hā méng xiānshēng zàicì nǐ de rènwù wánchéng hòu. [Rebuke; demotion, resignation, possibly even a short imprisonment. At the very least, you can never see Mr. Harmon again after your mission is completed.]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Bào bó·hā méng? Tā jiùjìng yǒu shé me  
guānxì ne? [Bob Harmon? What does he have  
to do with this?]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Wǒmen zǒng néng fāchū gōngkāi shēngmíng,  
nǐ de èliè xíngwéi, shì yóuyú xīfāng de  
tuífèi, zài hā méng xiānshēng de rén. [We  
can always issue a public statement that  
your deplorable conduct was due to Western  
decadence, in the person of Mr. Harmon.]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

..... Shuāngfāng xúnqiú hé shuō zhēn  
huà... [...to both seek and speak the  
truth...]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Nà shì shénme? [What was that?]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Yīxiē rén céngjīng gàosù wǒ. [Something  
someone once told me.]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Tīng qǐlái xiàng yīgè méishìrén. Tóngshí,  
nǐ shì wúlùn rúhé dōu méiyǒu jiēchù hā  
méng xiānshēng, zhídào nǐ de rènwù jiù  
wánchéngle. Shì lǐjiě? [Sounds like a fine  
person. Meanwhile, you are to have no  
contact whatsoever with Mr. Harmon until  
your mission is completed. Is that  
understood?]

LI

(Mandarin [English])

Shì de, dàshǐ xiānshēng. [Yes, Mr.  
Ambassador.]

AMBASSADOR

(Mandarin [English])

Hǎo. Wǒ huì kàn dào nǐ zài jīn wǎn de  
yànhuì. Qǐng tiāoxuǎn héshì de yīfú.  
Bóhuí. [Good. I will see you at tonight's  
banquet. Please dress appropriately.  
Dismissed.]

LI bows and walks out of the room, shutting the door sharply behind her.

FADE OUT

INT. CHINESE EMBASSY, LONDON, BOB'S BEDROOM - NIGHT. MUSIC  
("REFLECTIONS" BY CRISTIAN PARRAS)

FADE IN

EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF BOB'S LAPTOP SCREEN DISPLAYING "AND IN  
CONCLUSION"

BOB GRIMACES IN FRUSTRATION.

BOB stands up from his seat in front of the laptop at the  
desk and walks toward his open bedroom window.

EXT. BOB'S BEDROOM WINDOW - NIGHT. MUSIC ("REFLECTIONS")

BOB, eyes misting, stares out his bedroom window through the  
embassy gate at the rainy London street.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CHINESE EMBASSY GROUNDS - DAY. MUSIC ("REFLECTIONS")

LI, expressionless, walks past BOB as he walks around the embassy  
grounds.

INT. CHINESE EMBASSY CORRIDOR - DAY. MUSIC ("REFLECTIONS")

LI, accompanied by THREE DIGNITARIES, looks away as she  
passes BOB.

INT. CHINESE EMBASSY DINING HALL - NIGHT. MUSIC ("REFLECTIONS")

LI sits at a table with CHINESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS and  
MILITARY OFFICERS. BOB, utterly expressionless sits at a  
separate table, alone.

CLOSE UP OF LI'S FACE

LI'S eyes briefly mist as she glances at BOB. LI then turns slightly and smiles at the MILITARY OFFICER seated next to her.

INT. CHINESE EMBASSY DINING HALL - NIGHT ("REFLECTIONS")

EXTREME CLOSEUP OF LI'S FACE

IN SLOW MOTION, LI'S eye's briefly mist as she glances at BOB. (END MUSIC)

END FLASHBACK

EXT. BOB'S BEDROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

BOB leans slightly out his open window and looks up slightly at the bright Moon as it escapes dark clouds. BOB smiles and turns away from his bedroom window.

FADE OUT

INT. BOB'S BEDROOM - DAY

FADE IN

BOB is dressed in black slacks and white shirt. His collar is open. He removes his laptop from the desk and places it with his travel bag and luggage. He then walks to a clothes rack, on which a black suit coat and blue tie are carefully hung on separate hangers. He carefully slides his fingers across the blue tie.

FLASHBACK

INT. CHINESE CLOTHING STORE - DAY

BOB and LI are walking past a counter which holds a tie rack. BOB spots a beautiful, solid-colored blue tie. He stops and bends, looking closely at the tie.

BOB

Wait.

LI stops just slightly ahead of BOB and turns toward him. BOB carefully removes the tie from the tie rack and places it to his throat.

BOB

What do you think?

LI

It's pretty.



BOB

It should be. It is **exactly** the same shade of blue as the Chinese dress you wore to dinner the first day we met.

END FLASHBACK

INT. BOB'S BEDROOM - DAY

BOB carefully removes the tie from its coat hanger. He removes the coat hanger holding the suit coat from the clothes rack and carefully carries both the tie and the black suit coat into the bathroom.

INT. BOB'S BATHROOM - DAY

BOB carefully closes a Full Windsor knot in his blue tie and tightens it to his throat. He then carefully straightens the tie and removes the black suit coat from the coat hanger, which is hanging on the shower curtain rail. BOB carefully puts on the black suit coat and is straightening it, when he hears a knock at his bedroom door.

INT. BOB'S BEDROOM - DAY

BOB walks out of the bathroom to his bedroom door and opens it. Standing in the doorway is a CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER and TWO ARMED SOLDIERS.

CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER

Good morning, Mr. Harmon. Are you ready for us to assist you?

BOB

Good morning, sir. I had hoped to see Zhang Li before I left.

CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER

You will, Mr. Harmon. If Assistant Director Zhang is successful, you will be traveling back to Beijing with her. If not, you can say goodbye to her on the helicopter pad and we will requisition a taxi to take you to Heathrow Airport for the first available flight to your home.

BOB

Thank you, sir.

CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER

You are welcome, Mr. Harmon. I regret, however, that from now until you leave the Chinese Embassy you must be escorted by me and these soldiers. I will arrange for your luggage to be moved to the appropriate location at the appropriate time.

BOB

Thank you. Sir. Since I must be escorted, I would prefer to be taken to the helicopter pad now.

CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER

As you wish, Mr. Harmon.

The CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER and TWO ARMED SOLDIERS step out of the way. BOB walks past them, shutting the bedroom door behind him.

INT. CHINESE EMBASSY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

LI stands at a podium before approximately TWENTY WESTERN DIGNITARIES.

LI

So, in conclusion, while I feel I have provided ample economic advantages afforded the European Union by HYPERTUBE, I believe it more important to put a 'human face' on this miraculous transportation system. Imagine, the elderly widow from Stuttgart able to visit her grandchildren in Hamburg, staying for supper, reading them bedtime stories until they fall asleep at eight o'clock, then being home by ten. Imagine a working class family in Portugal visiting Euro Disney for a full day, and still able to return home at a decent hour. Imagine a tourist seeing Newcastle, Liverpool and London, all on the same day, at less cost than a London taxi ride. I have shown you the numbers. **The success of our present routes validate my words.** Certainly, HYPERTUBE brings prosperity everywhere it goes. But, more than that, HYPERTUBE brings people together.

EXT. CHINESE EMBASSY HELICOPTER PAD - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BOB, CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER AND TWO ARMED SOLDIERS STANDING NEAR THE HELICOPTER PAD AND A EUROCOPTER AS365 DAUPHIN HELICOPTER

While the CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER and the TWO ARMED SOLDIERS stand at "attention," Bob fidgets and turns his head toward the exit of the Chinese Embassy.

EXT. CHINESE EMBASSY - DAY

LI opens and exits the Chinese Embassy door and begins walking toward the helicopter pad, BOB and the soldiers. LI has a solemn expression on her face.

BOB smiles at LI. LI suddenly recognizes BOB. LI sees BOB smile and that he is wearing the blue tie. LI'S solemn look suddenly brightens. She quickens her pace as she approaches BOB. As she reaches him, she turns to face him. They look into each other's eyes.

BOB

(Hopefully)

Well, how did it go?

LI

They said they will 'get back to us.'

BOB

Oh.

LI

Thank you for all your help. I could not have asked for more convincing, passionate arguments for HYPERTUBE.

BOB

Nothing I could not have have emailed you from home. Thank **you** for a journey I will never forget.

Suddenly, LI hugs BOB tightly and kisses him passionately. He gasps for air and watches, dumbfounded, as she sprints toward the helicopter, regaining her composure only as she crouches and enters the helicopter blade area, when the engine starts up and the blades begin to turn.

EXT. HELICOPTER AND HELICOPTER PAD - DAY

LI carefully climbs steps to the helicopter's passenger entry door and disappears, never looking back. A HELICOPTER CREW MEMBER shuts the door. BOB watches as the helicopter rises. He gazes at the window of the helicopter's passenger entry door, searching for a final glimpse of LI, which never comes. He continues to watch, hopeful, until the helicopter disappears from sight.

FADE OUT

EXT. TOULON BEACH - LATE AFTERNOON. MUSIC ("CLEAR," SUNG BY KEELY HAWKES AND ROB MAYES)

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF BOB, JACQUES AND THE THREE OTHER MALE SURFERS.

BOB, JACQUES and the OTHER SURFERS, all carrying surfboards, reach the shore and walk up the almost deserted beach carrying their surfboards past a few highly separated SUNBATHERS. BOB separates from JACQUES and the OTHER SURFERS and carries his surfboard to the surfboard rental shop. He returns his surfboard and walks back to them. The OTHER SURFERS shake BOB'S hand. JACQUES puts his surfboard down, shakes BOB'S hand and give's BOB a "bear hug". BOB is startled, but grateful as JACQUES hugs him. JACQUES smiles sympathetically at BOB, grins and turns toward the OTHER SURFERS. BOB smiles. The OTHER SURFERS SMILE, turn and follow JACQUES off the beach and past the parked cars. BOB smiles and waves at them. His smile fades to sadness as he turns to his left and walks at a diagonal toward the beach shoreline. (END MUSIC)

"Clear" (written by Faye Greenberg and David Lawrence)

On my way, though I don't know where I'm going  
On a road that's dark and long  
On my way, but I'm fearful that I could be lost  
That the path I have chosen might be wrong

When will it be clear that I made the right choice  
When can I be sure that I know my own voice  
I dream of a day when I'm free from doubt  
Where fate wins out  
And I overcome my fear  
Clear

I don't know where to search for answers  
In a world that isn't fair  
Will I find my strength  
And discover who I really I am  
Or retreat and pretend that I don't care

When will it be clear that I made the right choice  
When can I be sure that I know my own voice  
I dream of a day when I'm free from doubt  
Where fate wins out  
And I overcome my fear  
Clear

I've been told that we learn from our mistakes  
But I just don't know how many mistakes it takes  
I'm trying so hard to let down my guard  
Maybe right now, right here

Clear, that I made the right choice  
Sure, that I know my own voice  
I praise the day when I'm free from doubt  
Where fate wins out  
And I overcome my fear  
Clear

FADE OUT

EXT. TOULON BEACH SHORELINE - SUNSET

FADE IN

BOB walks slowly down an isolated portion of the beach shoreline, then stops and turns toward the waves.

BOB (V.O.)

It has been nearly two years now; and, as I walk on the beach at Toulon at sunset, all I can do is think about Li and the time we had together. Maybe it didn't matter to her; that is not important, *as it matters to me*. Love for someone cannot be taken by anyone, not even that other person. It really is the **only** thing in this God-forsaken world we really own.

BOB, eyes misting, slowly turns and begins to walk further down the beach. He sees a vision LI with her arms open and running toward him along the hazy shoreline.

BOB (V.O.)

I can almost see her, arms open, racing down the beach toward me.

BOB'S expression quickly changes from wistful to incredulous to joyful as he clearly sees LI directly running at him.

BOB (V.O.)

*Wait a minute...that is her!*

LI jumps into BOB'S arms, kissing him passionately.

LI (V.O)

Americans play poker; Russians play  
chess; but *Chinese play go.*

FADE OUT

CREDITS. MUSIC "CATCH MY BREATH" SUNG BY KELLY CLARKSON

"Catch My Breath" (written by Kelly Clarkson, Jason Halbert  
and Eric Olsen)

I don't wanna be left behind  
Distance was a friend of mine  
Catching breath in a web of lies  
I've spent most of my life  
Riding waves, playing acrobat  
Shadowboxing the other half  
Learning how to react  
I've spent most of my time

Catching my breath, letting it go,  
Turning my cheek for the sake of the show  
Now that you know, this is my life,  
I won't be told what's supposed to be right

Catch my breath, no one can hold me back,  
I ain't got time for that  
Catch my breath, won't let them get me down,  
It's all so simple now

Addicted to the love I found  
Heavy heart, now a weightless cloud  
Making time for the ones that count  
I'll spend the rest of my time  
Laughing hard with the windows down  
Leaving footprints all over town  
Keeping faith, karma comes around  
I will spend the rest of my life

Catching my breath, letting it go,  
Turning my cheek for the sake of the show  
Now that you know, this is my life,  
I won't be told what's supposed to be right  
Catch my breath, no one can hold me back,  
I ain't got time for that

Catch my breath, won't let them get me down,  
It's all so simple now  
You helped me see  
The beauty in everything  
Catching my breath, letting it go,  
Turning my cheek for the sake of the show  
Now that you know, this is my life,  
I won't be told what's supposed to be right  
Catching my breath, letting it go,  
Turning my cheek for the sake of the show  
Now that you know, this is my life,  
I won't be told what's supposed to be right  
Catch my breath  
Catch my breath, no one can hold me back,  
I ain't got time for that  
Catch my breath, won't let them get me down,  
It's all so simple now  
It's all so simple now  
Catching my breath, letting it go,  
Turning my cheek for the sake of the show  
Now that you know, this is my life,  
I won't be told what's supposed to be right  
(Catch my breath)  
Catch my breath, no one can hold me back,  
I ain't got time for that  
(Catch my breath)  
Catch my breath (catch my breath), won't let them get me  
down,  
It's all so simple now

**THE END**