

The Blue Rose

By Sean Sun, Ann Ming Yeh, Tammy Dong & Ricky Yu

Characters:

Sung Shu Hua	young woman from China of marrying age; becomes Tang Chiao Ming's second wife and is sent to America
Tang Chiao Ming	a Chinese entrepreneur who has traveled to America to find his fortune; runs the Blue Rose Lounge and Restaurant
Xiang Jun	Tang Chiao Ming's first wife
Tommy Huang	Tang Chiao Ming's partner in America helps him run the Blue Rose
Ruby Wu	a Chinese club singer in San Francisco; involved with Tommy
Fung	waiter at Tang Chiao Ming's restaurant; spy for Xiang Jun; in love with Xiao Lin
Ding A Yi	matchmaker
Sung Tai Tai	Shu Hua's mother
Tang Tai Tai	Chiao Ming's mother
The Flowers	Daisy, Lily and Violet waitresses at the Blue Rose
The Boss	The Gang Boss, only grunts his instructions
The Gangsters	self explanatory
Dock Man	annoying guy at the pier
Old Man	man who can write and helps Fung write his letters to Xiang Jun
The Bartender	also self explanatory
The Dancers	self explanatory as well

Synopsis:

Sung Shu Hua comes home one day from running her errands to find that her mother has met with a matchmaker on her behalf. The matchmaker has found a young Chinese man, Tang Chiao Ming, who is working in China and needs a second wife and believes that Shu Hua, being partially educated, would be a perfect match for him. After some convincing by her mother, Shu Hua agrees to be married and a ceremony is held while her husband is absent. Chiao Ming's first wife, Xiang Jun, however, is not happy with the arrangement and reminds Shu Hua that she outranks her and that her place is little better than that of a concubine. Shu Hua is then immediately sent to San Francisco, to her new husband.

Tang Chiao Ming, however, has not approved his mother's decision to find him a second wife. He makes Shu Hua feel somewhat unwelcome. After telling her that she will be sent back as soon as possible, he takes her to his restaurant, The Blue Rose. Unfortunately, Tommy Huang, Chiao Ming's partner has been two-timing his singer girlfriend, Ruby Wu, who is also the Blue Rose's main attraction. Ruby quits after giving Tommy a piece of her handbag. Desperate for an act, Tommy convinces Chiao Ming to have Shu Hua sing in Ruby's place. Shu Hua becomes an overnight sensation and Chiao Ming rethinks his intention of sending her back to China.

As time passes, Chiao Ming and Shu Hua begin to fall in love. At the same time Tommy realizes that the Blue Rose's three flowery waitresses are unable to keep his mind off Ruby. The two men decide to show their love in different ways. Chiao Ming decides to make Shu Hua breakfast in bed but instead makes her sick. The Blue Rose's head waiter, Fung, seeing Shu Hua vomiting in the morning mistakenly believes that she is pregnant and decides to inform Xiang Jun. Tommy on the other hand decides to try and explain to Ruby how much he loves her and that he will leave his old womanizing ways behind. Ruby will not believe him, however, unless he can prove to her that he will always be faithful.

After some time, Xiang Jun, believing her position as first wife is in jeopardy, travels to America to see what she can do about Shu Hua's pregnancy. Upon her arrival, however, she finds that Fung was mistaken but she does see that Chiao Ming and Shu Hua have fallen in love and the situation has left no room for Xiang Jun in his life. She therefore schemes with Fung to have Shu Hua shipped back to China.

In the meantime, Tommy decides that he has found a way to win back Ruby but she refuses to speak to him and thus he is unable to present her his proof, the engagement ring in his pocket. He then decides to drown out his sorrows at the hotel bar. Fung, deciding to celebrate, also ends up at the hotel bar already drunk. In his inebriated state, he reveals to Tommy Xiang Jun's plan. Tommy however, is too drunk to act on the information and instead proposes to Ruby, believing that she is just an apparition due to his drunkenness.

Meanwhile, Xiang Jun has arranged for Shu Hua to be abducted and taken to the next boat bound for China. Chiao Ming realizes that she's gone and begins to search for her. His search eventually takes him to the hotel where Tommy and Fung are drinking. Ruby is there accepting Tommy's proposal. Tommy suddenly remembers what Fung said and he and get him to tell them where Shu Hua has been taken.

Tommy and Chiao Ming arrive at the warehouse where Shu Hua is being held too late as Shu Hua has already been moved to the boat. Chiao Ming and Tommy tangle briefly with the gang but then escape and rush to the docks. Unfortunately they are too late once more as the boat has already left. Chiao Ming is distraught but then Ruby saves the day.

ACT I

Scene 1

Story begins in the front sitting room of an old house in China. In the center there are two women sitting at an old fashioned table. One is Sung Tai Tai and the other is Ding A Yi, the matchmaker. They are sipping tea and talking in hushed tones. Shu Hua enters. She has just returned from some errands. She is carrying a basket with odds and ends and some food. As she enters the room the two women look at her and smile. Sung Tai Tai motions for her daughter to approach the table.

Sung Tai Tai Here is my daughter. Shu Hua, this is Ding A Yi . She has come for a very special reason today.

Ding A Yi [*taking Shu Hua's hand*] Ah such a pretty girl! Yes, you will do very well for Tang Xian Sheng.

Sung Tai Tai [*drawing Shu Hua to her*] Ding A Yi has found you a husband. You are very lucky. He is a good man and has made much money in America.

Shu Hua looks up with a shocked look on her face then tries to smile.

Ding A Yi Ah don't worry you will be treated well. The Tang household is very honorable and they are good people. Ah, Sung Tai Tai, I must go and bring the good news to Tang Tai Tai. [*exit*]

Sung Tai Tai [*turns her daughter to face her she embraces her briefly*] I thought I had been waiting for this day a very long time, but now that it is here I don't know whether to be happy or sad.

Shu Hua pulls away from her mother and moves a short distance away, her head is down. She drops the things she is carrying and slowly sits down on a nearby chair looking away from her mother.

Sung Tai Tai [*looking at Shu Hua*] I know this is unexpected, but you must believe that this is for the best. When your father died I promised him two things: One was to make sure your brother would go to university and the other was that I would find you a good husband. You are almost twenty. If you don't get married now you never will. I had thought that it had been a mistake to let you go to school, but now it seems that it will do you good after all. I cannot live forever Shu Hua and I do not want you to be left alone. Your brother and his wife will take care of me, but who will take care of you? I only wish I could have made you a first wife.

Shu Hua turns to look at her mother with a look of disbelief.

Sung Tai Tai [*trying not to meet Shu Hua's eyes*] Tang Chiao Ming already has a first wife. But she does not like to travel. Tang Chiao Ming's business needs him to stay in America for very long periods of time. He is a very dutiful man, but like all men he gets lonely from time to time. A married man, so often away from home attracts trouble, but his wife is spoiled and refuses to travel with him. So, Tang Tai Tai has decided to find her son a second wife; one who is educated and could be her son's companion on his long stays outside China.

Shu Hua looks away.

Sung Tai Tai You will get to see America! And you will be able to do things most women can only dream of here in China.

Shu Hua gets up and makes for the door.

Sung Tai Tai Shu Hua!

Shu Hua stops short of the door. She leans on a pillar for support and begins to sob.

Sung Tai Tai [*taking a few small steps towards Shu Hua*] I have turned down many offers for you in the past because they were not suitable. They all just wanted another woman who would have children and take care of their parents. [*moves to behind Shu Hua and puts her hands on her shoulders*] You are a bright girl Shu Hua. I don't want your marriage to be a prison. Here is a chance for you to have a better life than what I could ever dream of. Don't make the wrong decision. [*touches Shu Hua's shoulder then turns and exits*]

Shu Hua [*sings a song of farewell as she walks around the set*]

SONG 1 – CHINESE LYRICS WITH ZITHER ACCOMPAINMENT

Lights fade to black.

Scene 2

Chiao Ming's room in the Tang house. There is a indoor bench in the middle of the stage.

DANCE PERFORMANCE: CHINESE RIBBON DANCERS

It is the end of the wedding ceremony. Shu Hua as just gone through the ceremony alone since Chiao Ming is in America. There are sounds of merrymaking in the background. Shu Hua enters wearing the red wedding garb and has a red veil over her face. She walks to the center of the stage and sits on the bench. She draws her veil and looks around. She begins to weep quietly. Suddenly there is a knock on the door. Xiang Jun enters smugly.

Xiang Jun *[walking into the room and then around Shu Hua very smugly]* Well Xiao Mei (little sister) I hope your wedding day was all you dreamt it would be. All those guests wishing you happiness, prosperity and many sons. You must be think you're the luckiest woman in all of China right now. *[slight pause]* But don't forget, you are only a concubine. I am still Chiao Ming's first wife. You're nothing more than a glorified nurse maid. So take good care of him and make sure he continues to find his fortune in America and don't think I won't know what goes on...

Knock on the door. Enter Ding A Yi and Tang Tai Tai.

Tang Tai Tai Ah there you are. So nice to see that the two of you are getting along.

Xiang Jun sticks her nose in the air and marches out.

Ding A Yi *[shaking her head then turns to Shu Hua]* Aiya. I made a mistake with that one. Mind you, I rarely do but that time I did. She was so spoiled no one else would take her. At least when Chiao Ming was here she was better behaved, now... *[sitting beside Shu Hua and taking her hand]* Never mind that. You are my way of making up for that mistake. I am sure that you two will make a wonderful match.

Tang Tai Tai I just know you will make Chiao Ming very happy. I have already written him a letter with your description and a photograph. He will be meeting you at the pier when you arrive in America. *[lifting up Shu Hua's face by her chin]* Cheer up, you're on you way to a new place. Take care of your husband and all will be well. *[hands her a photo]* Here's a photograph of him so you'll know who to look for.

Ding A Yi And don't get sick on the boat. It will be a very long ride for you.

Tang Tai Tai Keep him out of trouble. And don't let him drink too much. Alcohol makes him very sick.

Ding A Yi Make sure you meet him at the pier. He will take you to his restaurant.

Tang Tai Tai Make sure you keep the house clean. Chow Ming is such a slob sometimes.

Ding A Yi Don't worry, Shu Hua. You will make him a good wife. You know how to be a good daughter. Your mother is very proud of you. We're sure you won't let us down.

Scene 3

YOYO PERFORMANCE

Gangsters and Dancers in other costumes and walk by and stop and watch. Some should be walking about in couples and some in threes of a single sex. After the performance YoYo guy bows. Some people put money in his hat. YoYo guy picks up his hat and shakes it about as some people put money in it. He tries to get some more people to put money in it unsuccessfully. He then takes the coins out of his hat puts them in his pocket. He puts his hat back on his head and exits.

A pier in San Francisco. The Dock Man is sitting on a stool in the middle of the stage reading a Chinese newspaper. Enter Chiao Ming. He is dressed in a western suit with an overcoat and a hat. He is holding a photograph and a piece of paper. He is looking around (lost) the approaches the Dock Man.

Chiao Ming Excuse me.

Dock Man pretends that he doesn't hear Chiao Ming, turns on his chair to face another direction and continues to read his paper.

Chiao Ming [clears his throat] Excuse me, is this pier 21?

Dock Man turns again from Chiao Ming and continues to read his paper.

Chiao Ming [clears his throat] EXCUSE ME, IS THIS PIER 21?

Dock Man looks up from his paper, turns the page and continues to read.

Chiao Ming [reaches into his pocket and pulls out a coin, holds it in front of the Dock Man's face, sarcastic] Gee, I wish I could find out what pier this is. That kind of information would be worth a whole nickel!

Dock Man Mister, for a nickel it can be any pier you want it to be!

Chiao Ming I don't want it to be any pier I just want to know what pier it actually is.

Dock Man What pier are you looking for?

Chiao Ming Pier 21, I've been saying that for the past 5 minutes.

Dock Man You were talking to me? I didn't know you were talking to me.

Chiao Ming What pier is this?

Dock Man Could be pier 21. [looks around] Wait, wait... nope it's pier 12. Sorry. [takes the nickel] Look over that way. [points offstage]

Chiao Ming exits annoyed. Dock Man goes back to his paper. Enter Shu Hua opposite carrying a suitcase and holding a photo. She looks lost. She approaches the Dock Man and tries to catch a glimpse of his face. She is holding up the photo to compare. Dock Man keeps turning pages however and Shu Hua can't get a good look of his face. She finally gives up and taps his paper.

Dock Man Who is it?

Shu Hua holds the photo at the top edge of the paper so that the Dock Man can see.

Dock Man You again! [putting down his paper but talking to the picture] This isn't pier 21, I told you already. Look over that way. [goes back to his paper]

Shu Hua looks confused and decides to ask elsewhere and exits. Enter Chiao Ming again from opposite.

Chiao Ming [yelling at Dock Man] HEY! That guy over there tells me this is pier 21. [holds piece of paper in front Dock Man's face]

Dock Man [takes Chiao Ming's hand and rotates it so that the paper is now upside-down] Oh TWENTY-ONE! Yeah this is the place.

Chiao Ming [rolling his eyes and holds the photo in front of the Dock Man] Have you seen this girl walk by?

Dock Man Weren't you just with her? You were just here a second ago. You stuck your head into my paper. Don't tell me you lost her.

Chiao Ming [confused] What are you talking about? This is supposed to be my new wife. I'm supposed to meet her here. I've never met her before.

Dock Man Then why did you marry her?

Chiao Ming It's a long story. My mother in China was worried that I can't take care of myself here.

Dock Man So your mother wants to take care of you and you married her! That's disgusting!

Chiao Ming WHAT! WHY ARE SO ANNOYING!?! [grabs Dock Man by the neck and starts to strangle him]

Enter Shu Hua. She sees Chiao Ming and the Dock man and is scared. She then recognizes Chiao Ming and begins to compare him to the picture. Chiao Ming looks up and realizes that it's Shu Hua. He quickly let's go of the Dock Man's neck.

Chiao Ming Oh you must be Shu Hua. I'm Tang Chiao Ming.

Shu Hua looks scared.

Chiao Ming I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you. I was just saying hello to him. [trying to hide his embarrassment]

Shu Hua relaxes a bit and takes a few steps towards Chiao Ming.

Chiao Ming Look, you don't have to be scared. You have to stay long. I've been taking care of myself just fine for the last two years. I don't know why my mother thinks I need a nursemaid. Well, we better get you off to my place so you can settle down.

Shu Hua slowly goes to him then they both exit.

Scene 4

Setting is in Chiao Ming and Tommy's restaurant, the Blue Rose. . It is not yet open so there are empty tables all around. There is stage with an old fashioned microphone in the center. Tommy Huang is sitting at one of the tables talking very flirtatiously with Lily, Daisy and Violet.

Tommy Ladies, can I get you a drink on your break?

Lily Virgin Mary

Daisy Bloody Mary

Violet Vodka on the rocks

Tommy And how about we go dancing after the show tonight?

Lily Sure Tommy

Daisy I'd loved to Tommy

Violet What time Tommy?

Chiao Ming (carrying Shu Hua's suitcase) and Shu Hua enter.

Chiao Ming Well this is my restaurant. I hope my mother didn't tell you it was a palace or something. That is my partner, Geng Hao Huang.

Tommy It's TOMMY Huang. I am an American boy now.

Chiao Ming Oh yes, that's Mr. Tommy Huang. [calling to someone in the back of the restaurant] Fung! Fung!

Fung enters opposite from Chiao Ming and Shu Hua. He is wearing a Chinese waiter's uniform. He walks over to Chiao Ming.

Fung What is it, Lao Ban?

Chiao Ming [as Fung is walking] Fung, this is my new wife – Shu Hua. Fung is the head waiter here. Show Shu Hua to the rooms upstairs and help her get settle in.

Fung nods and picks up Shu Hua's suitcase and respectfully motions her to follow him. Shu Hua and Fung then exit the same way Fung entered. Lily starts rubbing Tommy's neck. She gives him a kiss. Chiao Ming rolls his eyes and makes a disapproving motion, starts to straighten things in the restaurant.

Tommy [turning to Chiao Ming] Hey Ming, who is she? She's actually not bad looking. I don't like it when beautiful women walk into my restaurant and I'm not the one bringing them in. [winks at the girls]

The girls laugh.

Chiao Ming Well if you would pay attention to other things aside from women you would remember that I told you that my new wife was arriving today.

Lily Ooooh, Lao Ban, that was your wife?

Daisy How did you catch that one, Lao Ban?

Violet Where are you going to keep her?

Chiao Ming Back to work ladies. Please, we open in an hour.

Tommy [slapping his forehead] Ha ha ha! I'll get Fung to break out that bubbly stuff those barbarians are always drinking when they celebrate! Ha ha! You're finally going to get a social life now.

Chiao Ming [continues to arrange things] Don't break out the champagne. My mother sent her, she's my second wife. I don't know what to do with her.

Lily You have two wives!

Daisy Wow, how do you handle them?

Chiao Ming I used to handle one at a distance. Now my mother sends one over.

Violet You can always ask Tommy for some tips.

Tommy [to Chiao Ming] Here's my first tip: consider yourself lucky. All my mother ever sends me are letters asking for more money and about how I should settle down... blah blah blah [making blabbing motions with his hand]

Chiao Ming I don't really know what I'm going to do with her.

Tommy Do I have to teach you everything! Talk to her, treat her to dinner and dancing. Smooth talk her. Treat your women like queens, the way I do.

Violet Sure Tommy. But at least Chiao Ming has the decency to get married. [smiles]

Tommy HEY. [jokingly] I told you girls never to mention that word in front of me.

Lily OH you mean COMMITMENT.

Daisy NO I think he means RESPONSIBILITY.

Violet NO NO he means LOYALTY

Lily or was it just...

Daisy, Lily & Violet MARRIAGE

The girls giggle and Tommy smiles mischievously.

Tommy What is your problem Ming? You have a beautiful woman sent all the way from China to come and live with you. I don't see anything bad about that... I think you've just been alone for far too long... always

having your nose in the business. You should enjoy your life some more! Enjoy the ladies. You're in America... what do they call this place... the land of opportunity, the land of the free?

Chiao Ming I have responsibilities to my family back home.

Tommy Why don't you get to know her then? Take her to the movies... teach her some English... oh and show her the sights of San Francisco.

Lily dinners at the fancy hotels [*takes Tommy's right arm*]

Daisy walks along the beach [*takes Tommy's left arm*]

Violet and of course shopping [*kisses Tommy*]

Ruby enters loudly. She is very very angry. She is dressed very richly, maybe in a black cheong sam with a very refined design. She is carrying a costume or dress on one arm and a slightly large purse on the other. Tommy pushes the girls away and TRIES to pretend that nothing was happening. The girls try to look busy.

Tommy [*trying to cover up*] Ruby! You're early, I uh, was going to pick you up soon.

Ruby drops the dress and walks up to Tommy, pulls her arm back and slaps him across the face very hard. Chiao Ming is taken aback, but doesn't know what to do.

Ruby [*waving a finger at Tommy*] YOU PIG! YOU GOOD FOR NOTHING, TWO TIMING PIG! Who are all those other girls?

FLOWERS exit discreetly.

Tommy [*takes hold of Ruby's shoulders*] Ruby, please clam down... they are just friends...

Ruby Ming's your friend, he never kisses you! How stupid do you think I am!

Tommy [*he has been caught and is looking for something to say*] Look Ruby, it's not what you're thinking.

Ruby GO JUMP OFF THE PIER, Tommy [*she pushes his hands away and turns to leave, then she stops*] I actually thought you loved me [*she begins to cry*]

Tommy approaches her and is about to embrace her. Ruby suddenly swings her purse and hits him across the face and actually knocks him down.

Ruby I am not use to treatment like this. I am a star singer and you need me. You should treat me like a queen, not like this. I am leaving this place. I AM NEVER GOING TO SING IN THIS PLACE AGAIN!! [*she opens her purse and pulls out a brick and drops it on Tommy's stomach and exits*] I HOPE YOU DIE GENG HAO HUANG!!

Chiao Ming [*calling after Ruby*] Ruby, Ruby Please don't go. People are waiting to see you tonight! [*turns to Tommy who is trying to get off the floor*] You are such an idiot. She's our only singer! What are we going to do now? We open in a few hours. Where are we going to get another singer!

Tommy [*cradling his head with one hand and reaching out to Chiao Ming with the other*] You could at least help me up... was that a brick?

Chiao Ming You might as well stay on the floor because I'm going to hit you next.

Tommy Don't worry about it... I'll sing.

Chiao Ming covers his face with both hands and shakes his head. Shu Hua enters from the back. She tries to look in quietly and see what all the commotion was about.

Chiao Ming If you sing we'll go out of business. You sound like a dying horse.

Tommy *[supporting himself with a chair, he shakes his head and looks up and sees Shu Hua]* I'm not that bad. I just need practice. What about the triplets? They sound great together

Chiao Ming No way. I need them to serve drinks. You are such a trouble maker. NOW WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO!!!

Tommy *[looks up and sees Shu Hua]* How about Shu Hua *[motions Chiao Ming to look over to Shu Hua]*

Chiao Ming *[looks puzzled]* What are you talking about? *[realizes that Shu Hua is looking in]*

Tommy You must have sung before right?

Shu Hua looks scared but slowly nods.

Tommy Well we don't have time to test that out. *[picks up dress from floor and hands it to Shu Hua]* Try this on, if it fits you have the job. Fung! Get ready we're opening soon!

Lights fade to black. Lights rise in the restaurant. Now it is full. The tables are all occupied by people. They are all nicely dressed. Chiao Ming and Tommy are in suits. They are both sitting at a table near the stage, just off the side. Tommy is holding some ice wrapped in a towel to the bruise on his head. Fung is bustling back and forth. He looks exhausted. (If extras are hard to find, some audience members could be invited to sit at the tables.)

Chiao Ming She's not going to be able to pull this off, Tommy. She just got here and is probably feeling very lost. Then you ask her to perform for a packed house! This is not going to work out.

Tommy Are you concerned about her or the business?

Chiao Ming *[he is unprepared for the question]* Does it matter? If this doesn't work out we could lose a lot of customers and on top of that I'll have a traumatized woman on my hands. Maybe I should send her back to China.

Tommy Ahh you worry too much. You complain like an old mother-in-law and you're making my head hurt. If this doesn't work we'll find a way around it, haven't we always.

Chiao Ming *[turning to look at Tommy]* I just hope this doesn't turn out to be a disaster.

Tommy It'll be fine. But you know what, she needs a stage name. Shu Hua won't work. Ruby was so popular because everyone knew her name. *[starts thinking]*

Chiao Ming Her name is Shu Hua. Don't go confusing her.

Tommy I GOT IT! Her name will be ROSE! It'll be great. People will think it's romantic because you named the place after her.

Chiao Ming What? You named the place, not me.

Tommy Well someone's got to do the thinking around here.

Chiao Ming Her name is Shu Hua. I'm going to go help Fung. *[exit]*

Shu Hua enters and walks up the side of the stage very slowly, keeping her head down. She is dressed very beautifully.

Tommy *[standing up]* Well here I go. *[puts down the ice and goes on stage, speaks into mike]* Ladies and Gentlemen. Unfortunately, tonight our nightingale, Miss Ruby Wu is sick and will be unable to perform.

Audience groans their disapproval.

Tommy Fortunately, Chiao Ming's lovely wife, Shu... I mean, ROSE has decided to grace us with a song tonight. Let's give her a big hand. *[steps off the stage and returns to his seat]*

The audience applauds. Shu Hua goes on stage. Chiao Ming enters hearing the name change.

Chiao Ming Tommy! Her name is... [*he sees Shu Hua on stage and is captivated*] Rose?

Shu Hua walks up to the mike, but it's too tall for her. She starts trying to adjust it to her height. Shu Hua can't adjust the mike and it falls. Chiao Ming rushes up and picks it up and fixes it to her height. She is very embarrassed. Chiao Ming takes her hand and quietly asks her if she's alright. She nods and he slowly returns to his seat never taking his eyes off her. All through this Tommy is looking at Chiao Ming and is smiling very mischievously.

Tommy [*to Chiao Ming*] Well since you're going to enjoy the show, I guess I should go and help Fung. [*stands up and helps Fung*]

Shu Hua [*stands closer to the mike and sings a song*]

SONG 2 – CHINESE LYRICS (*possibly the same song she sang in Scene 1*)

All the audience is captivated, especially Chiao Ming. Shu Hua finished her song and the audience applauds thunderously. Everyone is captivated. Shu Hua is very embarrassed on stage she doesn't know what to do. She looks around and bows very hesitantly. She did not expect such a response.

Tommy [*leaning over to Chiao Ming while applauding*] You still want to send her back?

Chiao Ming Huh, oh uh maybe we can keep her for a while... until we find a real singer.

Tommy Ha ha, sure, whatever you say. She's your WIFE.

Lights fade to black.

Lights brighten. The Rose is now empty again except Chiao Ming cleaning up. Enter Shu Hua with a few rowdy male audience members crowding around her and trying to speak to her. Chiao Ming hears them enter. He pushes the guys away and leads her away.

Chiao Ming HEY! Stop bothering my wife! You can hear her sing again another day, but the restaurant is now closed. Go home! [*ushers them out*]

Audience 1 [*on his way out*] Well some guys just have all the luck!

Audience 2 [*before exiting*] Share the wealth!

Chiao Ming Go home! [*they leave*] [*turns to Rose and takes her hand*] Don't worry, those guys won't bother you anymore. You sang wonderfully tonight. You saved the Rose.

Shu Hua I'm was just trying to do what you asked.

Chiao Ming Please don't treat me like I am your master. I am just Chiao Ming, a simple restaurant owner. Most of the time I don't even have anyone to talk to.

Shu Hua What about Geng Hao, I mean, Tommy.

Chiao Ming Ha, I can't talk to Tommy. He's only interested in womanizing and drinking. [*smiling*] If I talk to him too much I might turn into another him.

Shu Hua Then you probably shouldn't talk to him too much.

Chiao Ming Well, now that you're here I won't have to. Come to think of it, this is the first time I've heard you speak.

Shu Hua I didn't really have anything to say before. A wife shouldn't speak unless spoken to.

Chiao Ming You're doing it again.

Shu Hua Doing what?

Chiao Ming Treating me like a master.

Shu Hua Sorry.

Chiao Ming Don't be sorry. I'd like to get to know who you are. Don't let me or anyone else tell you how to act.

Shu Hua You're better than my mother then. My mother doesn't understand my studies. I wanted to learn about the world, and she just wanted me to get married.

Chiao Ming My mother is the same way. She is always running my life. Telling me how to do this and that. How to live, how to dress...

Shu Hua ...how to feel...

Chiao Ming ...how to think...

Shu Hua ...how to act...

Chiao Ming
and Shu Hua ...who to love... [they pause].

Chiao Ming I was never very good at this... [*looking uncomfortable*]

Shu Hua Neither am I. [*looking uncomfortable too*]

Chiao Ming Great. We already have one thing in common. [*smiles*] It's a very nice evening tonight. If you're not too tired, why don't we go for a walk.

Shu Hua I'd like that.

Chiao Ming offers his arm Shu Hua takes it and they both exit. Lights fade to black.

Scene 5

Scene is a park with some benches. Enter Tommy with the Flowers (Daisy, Violet and Lily). They're all fawning over him. Tommy is rubbing the bump on his head.

Violet Tommy are you okay?

Lily Where does it hurt.

Daisy That was really cruel of her, putting a brick in her bag.

Tommy I'm okay. I guess I did deserve that.

Lily Oh Tommy. She doesn't understand you.

Violet She's very selfish, trying to keep you all to herself.

Daisy Yes, there's plenty of Tommy Huang to go around. Right?

Tommy Right. [*looks around*] Hey this is where Ruby and I took our first walk together. We had met on the boat from China. I remember those days. She was so scared.

Daisy I didn't know you've known her for longer than you know us.

The Flowers look hurt.

Violet What was she scared of?

Tommy She had run away from home. She had just saved enough money to come to America. She just wanted to leave China and start a new life.

Lily HMPH! That's everyone's story.

Tommy Yes, but there was a look in her eyes that told me she was going to make it. [*gets a very distant look*]

Daisy Are you okay Tommy?

Tommy Huh? Oh yeah. Look ladies, my head's really bothering me. I don't think I can walk you home tonight. I'm going to go back to the Rose and get some rest.

Violet Are you sure Tommy?

Lily We don't feel safe without you.

Daisy Oooh, walk us home, Tommy.

Tommy Let me get some rest then I'll make it up to you.

Violet Is that a promise?

Tommy Yes I promise. Good night girls.

Flowers exit same way the come in. Tommy sits down on the bench. Ruby enters opposite. She sees Tommy on the bench and quickly walks the other way.

Tommy [*sees Ruby*] RUBY!!! RUBY!!! Don't go!

Ruby What are you doing here, Tommy?

Tommy Please give me another chance. I thought you might be here, since this is where we took our first walk.

Ruby [*sarcastically and very cold*] Well you just know me so well. [*turns to leave*]

Tommy It's such nice night [*pause*] ... I was wondering if we could talk.

Ruby [*turns back*] I heard you have a new singer.

Tommy Who? Shu Hua? She's just an amateur. Ming's wife actually.

Ruby Well I see you've replaced me on stage just like you've replaced me to in you life.

Tommy But it took three girls to replace you!

Ruby gets really angry turns and exits.

Tommy [*realizes his mistake*] RUBY THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT... RUBY RUBY!!!!!!

Enter Shu Hua and Chiao Ming arm in arm. They look happy and Shu Hua is laughing at something Chiao Ming just said. They see Tommy yelling.

Chiao Ming Tommy? Who are you yelling at?

Tommy Oh Ming, Shu Hua. I'm just uh... singing....

Chiao Ming [*to Shu Hua*] See, I told you he can't sing. It's a good thing you came.

Shu Hua and Chiao Ming laugh.

Tommy Very funny. Nice to see you're finally having fun Ming. [*smiles*] Where did you guys come from.

Shu Hua We just went for a walk. Enjoying the night air.

Tommy I see.. [*looking uncomfortable*] Well, I'm going to go back. See you two later. [*exit*]

Chiao Ming and Shu Hua giggle to each other and exit. Lights fade to black.

Scene 6

The scene is in Chiao Ming and Tommy's apartment above the Blue Rose. There is a single table in the middle of the stage. Tommy is sitting in his sleeping clothes (pajamas, no robe). He has a cup in front of him. He looks disheveled and seems like he hasn't slept. Enter Chiao Ming. He is also in his sleeping clothes. He is carrying a tray with food and a flower. He looks very cheerful.

Chiao Ming *[noticing Tommy]* Tommy, how long have you been up?

Tommy All night.

Chiao Ming You haven't slept? *[places tray on the table]*

Tommy I can't. For some reason I just can't fall asleep these past few weeks. *[notices the food]* Hey that looks good. You never used to cook. *[reaches for the food]*

Chiao Ming It's my first time actually. *[slapping Tommy's hand]* That's not for you.

Tommy *[smiling]* What you've only known her for a month and you're already bringing her breakfast in bed? You're the man, she should be bringing YOU the breakfast.

Chiao Ming Shu Hua's been working very hard. I just want to do something nice for her. Besides, it's been a great month. She's brought more people in than Ruby ever did.

Tommy *[noticeably offended]* Hey Ruby brought in a lot of people! She's a great singer! Besides, you're going to tell me that breakfast in bed is a new employee incentive program? Admit it, you actually like her.

Chiao Ming picks up the tray starts to walk to opposite exit.

Tommy *[pointing an accusing finger at Chiao Ming]* ADMIT IT! You're falling for her!

Chiao Ming *[stops before the exit]* You're wrong Tommy.

Tommy *[smug expression, not believing Chiao Ming]* Why am I wrong?

Chiao Ming Because I've already fallen. *[to Shu Hua in next room]* Shu Hua? Are you up? *[exit]*

Tommy Hmp. Weakling. That woman has sure changed our lives. Ever since she came... WAIT, come to think of it. I started having trouble sleeping after she came! That day that Ruby... *[feeling his head then winces]* Still there.

Enter Chiao Ming frantic. He is looking for something.

Chiao Ming I need a bucket! *[runs to opposite exit]* FUNG! FUNG! Bring a bucket!

Enter Fung with a bucket. Chiao Ming grabs it and runs to other room.

Fung What is wrong sir?

Chiao Ming *[as he exits opposite]* Shu Hua is sick.

Fung *[to Tommy]* What happened sir?

Tommy *[smiling]* Only one reason why that woman would be sick in the morning.

Chiao Ming *[surprised]* You mean...

Tommy Yeah it's Chiao Ming's fault. He shouldn't have done this so early. I mean he was probably half asleep.

Fung gasps.

Tommy He's never done this before. It was his first time you know.

Fung This happened on his first try?

Tommy Yeah well he thought he was doing something nice for her, you know since she'd been working so hard, singing every night.

Fung Um.... I think I have some cleaning to do downstairs. *[exits]*

Tommy *[puzzled]* Hmmm, he's got a weak stomach. It's just case of bad cooking.

Enter Chiao Ming supporting Shu Hua. She is in her sleeping clothes too. He helps her to a chair.

Chiao Ming I'm so sorry Shu Hua. I must have undercooked something.

Shu Hua It's... it's okay.

Chiao Ming Are you okay now?

Shu Hua Yes, I think so.

Chiao Ming I will never do that again.

Tommy Yeah, next time let the cook do the cooking. Let me get you some water. *[Tommy leaves.]*

Chiao Ming *[Sits opposite Shu Hua. Looking frustrated. Looks to Shu Hua]* I am really sorry...you know, I never cook.

Shu Hua Not even for your first wife?

Chiao Ming I could never make the food she likes to eat. She has very expensive tastes. The cooks at home already have problems keeping her satisfied. Shu Hua, I am really sorry. I just wanted to make you please you. *[pause]* Do you like your new life here in America?

Shu Hua It doesn't matter if I like it or not, as long as you are happy.

Chiao Ming But it does matter to me. *[music starts playing]* Shu Hua, I was wondering something.

SONG "DO YOU LOVE ME?" DUET CHIAO MING, SHU HUA.

Tommy Hey, here's your water. *[see them together]* Oh...I didn't mean to interrupt anything.

Chiao Ming Let me make this up to you, let's go to the hotel for lunch.

Shu Hua *[sipping the water]* But it is so expensive.

Chiao Ming Well you've been in America a whole month. I think we should celebrate.

Shu Hua But...

Chiao Ming *[helping Shu Hua up]* No, no, don't argue with your husband. Go get changed.

Shu Hua smiles and exits.

Chiao Ming *[to Tommy]* Hey why don't you come along too. You look like you could use some good food.

Tommy It's okay Chiao Ming. I know you treating is a rare occasion but I think I'll pass. I hear Ruby works there now.

Chiao Ming How did you know that?

Tommy I asked around.

Chiao Ming Well there's another first for this morning. You never used to ask about girls after you leave them.

Tommy Hey, I just wanted to make sure she was okay.

Chiao Ming She's the most famous Chinese singer in San Francisco. She wouldn't have trouble finding a new job.

Tommy Still, a girl like her shouldn't be out making deals with those sleazy hotel managers.

Chiao Ming Instead of sleazy restaurant owners who might LIE to her?

Tommy [*smirks*] Go have lunch with your wife, Ming. I'm going to try and fall asleep. [*exit*]

Chiao Ming smiles and exits to his room. Darken main stage and brighten a small part on the side. Enter Fung into the light. He is holding a piece of paper and a pencil.

Fung [*calling out*] Hello! Hello!

Enter Old Man.

Old Man [*yawning*] What do you want this early in the morning?

Fung I need you to write something for me. [*holding out the pencil and paper*]

Old Man Can't it wait?

Fung I'm sorry, but this is an important letter that needs to go out immediately. I'll bring you some extra food from the restaurant later.

Old Man Do you have any General Tsao's chicken? Extra spicy?

Fung Sure.

Old Man And... Moo Goo Gai Pan?

Fung Fine.

Old Man How about some shark fin soup?

Fung Don't push it, Old Man!

Old Man Alright, alright. [*takes the pencil and paper*] Turn around.

Fung Turns around and the Dock Man uses him as a table to write on.

Fung [*dictating*] Mistress Xiang Jun.

Old Man Hey don't call me mistress.

Fung No, no, that's what I want you to write.

Old Man Oh. [*writes*]

Fung It has just come to my attention that your husband's second wife is pregnant.

Old Man [*after long pause*] Oh you want me to write that too?

Fung YES!

Old Man writes as Fung continues to dictate.

Fung I have asked a fortune teller and she says there is a good chance that it might be a boy. I'm sure you know that your status in the family will be greatly reduced if this second wife should bear a son. She might even be promoted to first wife. I hope you will find this information useful. Fung.

Old Man That's it?

Fung Yes, thank you. *[grabs the paper and pencil and rushes to the exit]*

Old Man *[calling after him]* Don't forget the food!

Lights fade to black. Lights brighten with Xiang Jun off to one side of the stage. The rest of the stage is dark. Xiang Jun enters reading a letter. She is holding another letter in her hand. Chiao Ming's voice is reading out the letter over the sound system.

Chiao Ming *[voice from sound system]* Dear wife, I hope this letter finds you well. America is the same as usual and the business is running well. Shu Hua has arrived safely and is slowly getting acquainted with life here. I hope the Spring Festival was a happy occasion. I sadly have to miss it again. Geng Hao sends his regards to Father and Mother. You will find some money with this letter. I must apologize as it is smaller than usual. Do not worry, everything is alright. I have just had some extra expenses due to Shu Hua's arrival.

Xiang Jun looks through the envelope/package and pulls out some bills. She looks disappointed. Goes back to letter.

Chiao Ming *[voice from sound system]* The restaurant is actually getting more business so I should be able to make up the shortfall next time. Your husband, Chiao Ming.

Xiang Jun *[looks at bills again]* Hmph, this better not become a regular occurrence. *[looks at other letter which is from Fung]* Ah, this should tell me what's really going on over there. *[opens the letter and reads for a bit the suddenly closes it up]* She's pregnant! *[pauses, slowly paces]* She's pregnant! Bu hao le Bu hao le. She's pregnant! Zhe me ban le! *[opens letter and reads it again]* That girl must have seduced him. Hmph! Chiao Ming cannot have taken a liking to her. She's so simple and... and... boring. Ugh!
SONG 3: *Xiang Jun sings about Shu Hua taking what is hers and then resolves to go to America to take it back.*

Xiang Jun exits after song. Lights fade to black.

INTERMISSION

ACT II Scene 7

The rest of the stage brightens and the Blue Rose set is set up. Fung and flowers are on stage setting the tables. Tommy is helping him.

Lily *[to Tommy]* Do you need help, Tommy.

Tommy is distracted he is thinking about Ruby. He does not respond.

Daisy Tommy? Are you okay?

Tommy Huh? Oh you three? What did you say?

Violet *[irritated]* Ummm, never mind Tommy. We'll go if we are not needed.

Tommy goes back to being distracted. Enter Chiao Ming and Shu Hua. They actually waltz in slowly. Chiao Ming is teaching Shu Hua how to dance. Tommy turns to look at them.

Chiao Ming See, you got it already.

Shu Hua It's not too hard once you get the rhythm.

Tommy *[clapping his hands]* Very good. You two can dance at the ball next Spring Festival.

Shu Hua What time is it?

Tommy 4:30.

Shu Hua Oh, I'd better get ready. [*exit*]

Tommy [*jokingly to Chiao Ming*] Hey, Mr. Dance instructor, you know we also have a restaurant to run?

Chiao Ming [*distracted*] Huh? Oh yeah. [*pauses and looks at Tommy, crosses his arms*] Hey since when have you helped out without being asked? You're usually out until just before we open. [*pauses then gets a thought*] You even stayed until closing last night.

Exit girls and Fung.

Tommy Well someone had to help out Fung and the girls close, right. I mean you have to help Shu Hua with all the people who want to talk to our new singing sensation.

Chiao Ming I guess so.

Tommy [*smiles*] Seems like we've switched places, haven't we?

Chiao Ming [*smiles*] Yeah, I guess we have. But I have an excuse, I'm married.

Tommy Twice, no less.

Chiao Ming Yes yes, but seriously, this isn't like you Tommy. Is something wrong.

Tommy Wrong? What could be wrong?

Chiao Ming I don't know, you tell me.

Tommy Didn't you used to remind me to no end before that I should actually be helping you out with the business? Aren't you happy that I'm helping out now?

Chiao Ming Hey I'm not saying I'm not happy. I'm just wondering about what brought about this sudden change.

Tommy Nothing. Just been doing some thinking and well guess I realized I should start taking more responsibility.

Chiao Ming Did a certain brick in a certain handbag hitting you on the head have anything to do with this?

Tommy What? Ruby? She's gone. Why would I be thinking about her?

Chiao Ming I didn't say that you were thinking about her. Are you?

Tommy [*trapped*] Me? Uh, of course not! Look, I've been with a lot of women. She's just another girl. I'm not thinking about her.

Chiao Ming You know you could just go down to the hotel and...

Tommy Look, Ming, I'm fine. I'm not hung up on Ruby.

Chiao Ming Okay if you say so. It's just that I haven't seen any new girls in your life lately.

Tommy I'm just... taking a break. That's all. Besides I'm saving money this way. And I don't have a first wife in China -

Enter Xiang Jun in western clothes, carrying a suitcase.

Tommy who is now standing at the door.

Chiao Ming Hey don't joke about- [*turns around, is taken by surprise*] XIANG JUN! You're here!

Xiang Jun Yes, aren't you going to greet your FIRST wife? [*puts down her suitcase and holds her arms out to Chiao Ming*]

Chiao Ming [*Chiao Ming gives Xiang Jun a hug and kisses her on the cheek. He is still in shock.*] Uh... why didn't you send word that you were coming? How did you find this place?

Xiang Jun Aiya, all these questions. Aren't you happy to see me?

Chiao Ming Of course, of course.... Uh....

Xiang Jun [*to Tommy, taking his hand*] Geng Hao how are you? Your mother told me to tell you that she is very worried about you. You never write.

Tommy Uh, please call me Tommy, Xiang Jun.

Xiang Jun Tommy? So American.

Enter Fung and Xiao Lin. Fung sees Xiang Jun and is also shocked.

Fung DA JIE! You're here! Uh... How nice.

Xiang Jun [*to Chiao Ming*] See, Fung is happy to see me. Aren't you Fung?

Fung Uh Yes, of course.

Enter Shu Hua.

Shu Hua Ming, one of my earrings fell behind the dresser can you help me [*sees Xiang Jun*] get it...

Xiang Jun Ah, Shu Hua. [*very fake*] So nice to see you.

Shu Hua Da Jie... Chiao Ming didn't tell me you were coming.

Xiang Jun Well I'm here now. So Shu Hua, how are you feeling?

Shu Hua Me? [*puzzled*] I'm feeling very well, thank you.

Xiang Jun Not feeling sick at all? Especially in the morning?

Shu Hua Um, no. Why do you ask?

Xiang Jun Oh no reason. Just wondering if the um.... food here in America agrees with you.

Tommy [*laughing*] Ha! It agrees fine as long as Ming's not the one cooking.

Xiang Jun Cooking? Chiao Ming?

Chiao Ming starts to try and signal Tommy not to say any more but Tommy doesn't see him.

Tommy Ha ha, yes, he tried to make her breakfast in bed about a month ago and she got sick. You should have seen it. He worked so hard too. [*laughing*]

Xiang Jun [*is irritated but doesn't show it*] I see. Well Chiao Ming, I see America has changed you somewhat. I hope I will get the same kind of treatment.

Tommy Well if you want the same kind of treatment you'd better have an iron stomach.

Xiang Jun Now, take my bag into the master bedroom. Make sure you handle my bags carefully, I have important things in them. And make sure my bed is nice and soft. Later bring me a cup of tea and some of those desserts I enjoy so much.

Chiao Ming [trying to find a way out, grabs the suitcase and gives it to Fung] Uh Fung, please take Xiang Jun upstairs and help her settle in.

Fung [takes suitcase and pauses] Who's room shall Da Jie be using?

Chiao Ming [realizes he hadn't thought of that] Mine of course.

Fung But there's no room...

Chiao Ming [looks at Shu Hua then at Xiang Jun back and forth] Oh... uh...

Shu Hua I'll get my things out... [moves towards exit]

Chiao Ming NO! [realizes he was shouting] Just move my things out, Fung. [pauses then gets an idea] Move them into Tommy's room.

Tommy WHAT! [shocked] But, what the...

Xiang Jun Aren't you coming Chiao Ming?

Chiao Ming I'll be up in a bit. I just need to help Tommy with something.

Tommy Help me with what?

Chiao Ming gives Tommy a look that indicates that he should shut up. Fung and Xiang Jun exit. Lights fade to black Chiao Ming, Tommy, Shu Hua and Xiao Lin freeze. Front strip brighten. Enter Fung carrying suitcase and Xiang Jun following him. They speak as they cross the stage.

Xiang Jun [smacks Fung on the back of the head] She's not pregnant.

Fung [winces] Duai bu ci le da jie. I really thought she was. I didn't think you were going to come all the way over here.

Xiang Jun But he is fond of her. I mean he even tried to cook for her.

Fung Yes he is da jie. He's even taught her how to dance and taught her how to speak English. They go out to the park every weekend.

Xiang Jun Then my trip hasn't been wasted... Now listen to me carefully.

Fung Da Jie?

Xiang Jun She has to go. If she means to take my place, I will not have it.

Fung Da Jie, what do you want me to do?

Xiang Jun We have to work out a plan. I need you to get rid of her, permanently.

Fung You're talking to the right man. My second cousin's third wife's brother's nephew happens to have friends in very low places.

Xiang Jun How low?

Fung Quite low...

Xiang Jun Do they have connections in San Francisco?

Fung Da Jie, they run San Francisco... well Chinatown at least...

Xiang Jun Good you can ask them for a favor.

Fung Just because he's family doesn't mean he's going to do this for free.

Xiang Jun How much persuading will they need?

Fung It depends, what do you want them to do?

Xiang Jun Just to take someone and throw them on a very slow boat to China.

Fung Well, that's simple enough, the usual a hundred should cover it. Wait... you're not thinking of sending me back are you Da Jie? [*drops the suitcase and get's on his knees he grabs at her skirt*] I'm so sorry I really though she was pregnant. Don't send me back... I owe people money...

Xiang Jun Shut up you fool. We are going to send Shu Hua back.

Fung [*getting up*] Oh of course.

Xiang Jun How much does the Blue Rose make in one night.

Fung Oh over 400 on a good night.

Xiang Jun But would it be easy enough to take out a hundred without causing too many problems?

Fung Well I've gone as much as fifty but...

Xiang Jun If he asks I'll just say I had to get some new things. I'll get Shu Hua out of the house and you and your friends can grab her and put her on the boat.

Both exit. Lights brighten over main stage. Chiao Ming relaxes a bit then realizes that Shu Hua is staring at him.

Chiao Ming Oh Shu Hua, your earring...

Shu Hua It's okay... I won't wear them tonight...

Chiao Ming I'll go help you...

Shu Hua I'm going to go help the other girls in the kitchen...

Shu Hua exits to kitchen.

Tommy [*laughing*] I think someone's going to be sleeping on the sofa tonight.

Chiao Ming We don't have a sofa.

Tommy [*smiling*] Maybe we should look into getting one.

Chiao Ming I'll just sleep on the floor in your room.

Tommy BEN DAN AH! You have two women in your room and you want to sleep in my room?

Chiao Ming Oh shut up! [*pulls out a chair*] Help me think of what I'm going to do.

Tommy It's very simple, get a bigger bed.

Chiao Ming Will you get your mind out of the gutter!? I'm really in a bind here.

Tommy Well the best solution I can see is that you have to send someone back.

Chiao Ming What? Who? I can't just pick one. Are you crazy?

Tommy Hey I'm not the one with two wives?

Chiao Ming I can't just... no I can't just choose...

Tommy It's pretty simple... who do you like better?

Chiao Ming I hardly know Xiang Jun. And well Shu Hua is... I can't just pick. It wouldn't be fair.

Enter Shu Hua. She walks in but neither Tommy nor Chiao Ming sees or hears her but it is clear to the audience.

Tommy Well traditionally the first wife gets priority, you know that.

Chiao Ming Send Shu Hua back?

Shu Hua hears Chiao Ming and she is shocked and covers her mouth. She starts to cry quietly and slowly goes back the way she came. Chiao Ming and Tommy don't see her at all.

Chiao Ming No, I'm not going to do that.

Tommy Then you're not going to get any sleep.

Chiao Ming I'll be fine on the floor.

Tommy I snore. REALLY LOUDLY.

Chiao Ming Zhe me ban le.

Lights fade to black.

Scene 9

An empty street late at night. Li and Chen enter from stage right.

Li Hey Chen, gotta job from the boss. Some girl we're supposed to pick up.

Chen What's she look like?

Li Dark black hair, black eyes, about this tall.

Chen Hey I know someone who looks like that.

Li Yeah, come to think about it I do too... Anyway, don't think too hard about it. Boss said she'll be passing by here carrying a lot of stuff. Let's get ready. [exit stage left]

Enter Shu Hua from stage right carrying a few baskets and a long list.

Shu Hua I can't believe Xiang Jun wanted me to buy all this stuff. Who uses ten bottles of facial cream, and why does she need four pounds of chocolate, and where am I going to find sea cucumbers in the middle of the night? [*she stops and puts down her baskets*] He loved me... I love him... but now she's here. It was perfect before she came.

Enter Li and Chen.

Shu Hua OH! I wish... I wish...[restrains herself] No. I am a second wife. I have to live with that. [*Shu Hua walks towards stage left, comes face to face with Li and 2.*]

Li Xiao Jie. Can we help you with those things... they look heavy.

Shu Hua runs the opposite way and runs into Gangsters 3.

Gangster 3 The least you could do is say thank you.

Chen We're just trying to be gentlemen here.

Shu Hua Just take the things... I don't have anything else.

Chen It's nice of you to offer... unfortunately, we have plenty of chocolate and facial cream.

Li Are you sure... I think I'm almost out of facial cream...

Chen SHUT UP!!

They surround her. She screams. Black out.

Scene 10

The scene is a bar at the hotel. The bartender is behind the counter. He is cleaning some glasses. Enter Tommy. He looks around and then decides to sit at the bar. He has the ring in his pocket.

Bartender What can I get for you?

Tommy [*looking over his shoulder as if expecting someone to walk in*] Uh give me a whiskey.

Bartender Coming right up.

Tommy [*taking some money out of his wallet and putting it on the bar*] What time does Miss Ruby Wu come down?

Bartender [*serving the whiskey and taking the money*] Why do you want to know? We don't want anyone giving Miss Ruby any trouble, you hear.

Tommy Oh no, no trouble. I'm.. uh... an old friend of hers. I just wanted to talk to her. I haven't seen her in a long time. [*takes a drink*]

Bartender Ha ha, another "friend". You better get in line.

Tommy [*chokes on drink*] What do you mean?

Bartender Plenty of gentlemen come by every day looking for Miss Ruby. They say they're fans or they're friends. Ha, you didn't even bring flowers. The other ones always bring something: flowers, those nice chocolates you can get in that big department store. One even brought her a beautiful dress from England.

Tommy [*looking forlorn*] Really? A dress from England?

Bartender Yeah! You might want to at least run out and get some flowers.

Tommy It's okay, I brought her something else.

Bartender Well it better be something good, otherwise I don't see how you expect her to even talk to you.

Tommy [*takes a long drink empties the glass and slams it on the counter*] She'll love it. Give me another one!

Bartender pours Tommy another drink. Enter Ruby.

Bartender Good evening Miss Ruby.

Tommy [*turns around*] Ruby.

Ruby [*irritated*] Oh, it's you.

Tommy Can I buy you a drink?

Ruby Why? Where are your other women this evening? Shouldn't you be helping Chiao Ming?

Tommy It's a bit difficult at the Blue Rose right now. Both of Chiao Ming's wives are here and I don't really want to be caught up in all of the tension.

Ruby Hmph. One would think you were used to juggling more than one woman.

Tommy Ruby, about... I'm not like that anymore. Actually...

Ruby Ha ha, what is this Tommy. You wanted to practice your lying so you came looking for me? Well I have some news for you I'M NOT LIKE THAT ANYMORE!

Tommy Ruby, please I...

Ruby You know when other GENTLEMEN come to see me they bring flowers or chocolates.

Bartender gives Tommy a knowing look.

Tommy [*glares at Bartender*] I did bring you something... [*reaches into his pocket*]

Ruby Save it Tommy. Whatever it is, I don't want it. Why did you come here anyway?

Tommy I was going to ask you...

Ruby What? A second chance? [*she becomes very serious*] I'm sorry Tommy, but until I see some proof that you can be faithful I don't think I can trust you. [*quickly exits*]

Tommy Ruby, please... [*takes a few steps after her then stops*]

Bartender You should have brought some flowers.

Tommy [*gives up, turns back to the bar*] Oh shut up. Give me another double and keep them coming.

Bartender [*looks at Tommy and decides to talk to him*] Hey, I've seen a lot of men try to drink their woes away. But they just wake up the next morning realizing that their problems are still there.

Tommy Look, mine just walked out the door. It's not going to be there the next morning. THAT'S my problem.

Bartender WAIT you're Huang Geng Hao! Yes yes didn't Miss Ruby used to work for you and your partner down at the Blue Rose. Well I heard you have a new singer who arrived the day that Miss Ruby left you.

Tommy How did you know that?

Bartender Oh I have a brother who works down by the docks. He saw your partner pick up your singer.

Tommy [*indifferent*] I see.

Bartender Ha ha, yes yes. I remember Miss Ruby came in here one day looking for the boss. She stayed and drank here at the bar after she signed her contract to sing here at the hotel. She mentioned something about a guy too.

Tommy [*suddenly curious*] What did she say?

Bartender She said she had given that man so much of herself but that man had the gall to cheat on her with some second rate waitress.

Tommy Did she say anything else about that guy?

Bartender Yes, well she said that he used to be... Oh yes, Miss Ruby said she found the guy to be charming, refined, and adventurous.

Tommy She said that?

Bartender Yes and that she really loved him.

Tommy Well this guy was an idiot. He let the best thing that ever happened to him slip through his fingers because he was too scared.

Bartender Scared of what?

Tommy Scared that some girl could actually mean something to him. Bah what's the use. She'll never give him another chance. Give me another drink!

Enter Fung. He staggers in drunk.

Fung Make that two!

Tommy Fung!

Fung I'm here to celebrate tonight.

Tommy What are you talking about?

Fung [*staggers tot he bar*] Hah! Wouldn't you like to know? Give me a drink! [*slaps some money on the bar*]

Tommy Wow I didn't know we paid you that much. What the heck Fung, let's get drunk together. Bartender. Two drinks and keep them coming.

Bartender But sir...

Tommy I want to drown my troubles. I mean really drown them. [*slaps more money down on the table*]

Bartender Two drinks coming up! I'll just get some more whiskey from the back. [*exit*]

Tommy stands up and goes behind the bar and grabs a bottle. He pours Fung and himself drinks.

Tommy Fung, let's drink ourselves silly!

Fung takes a glass they toast and drink. Lights fade to black. Lights fade up and Fung and Tommy are both drunk.

Fung Hey. I think you're drunk.

Tommy Me? Ha! I haven't gotten started yet.

Fung Me neither. I could drink until the sun came up. [*passes out on the bar*]

Tommy Ha! Who would have thought that I would be hung up over one woman.

Enter Ruby. She walks in and is surprised to see Tommy still at the bar. Neither Fung nor Tommy sees her. They have their backs to her.

Tommy Ruby. What a girl. She had the grace and beauty of a swan and the voice of a nightingale. And what did I do Fung?

Fung [*suddenly waking up*] Huh? What? What did you do?

Tommy You really want to know?

Fung No, but I think you're going to tell me anyway.

Tommy Well I'll tell you anyway... I threw it away.

Fung You threw what away?

Tommy I threw Ruby's love away. Hey you're not listening to me.

Fung No I'm not.

Tommy Well I'll tell you anyway. Yes I threw it away because I didn't realize that I was in love with her.

Fung You?

Tommy I thought you weren't listening.

Fung I'm not but you keep yelling at me.

Tommy Okay well I'll tell you anyway. You see I've been with a lot of women. They come, they go, I thought whatever. Another one will come along. You know what?

Fung What?

Tommy I thought you weren't listening... But I'll tell you anyway. One time I even had 3 girlfriends at once. They never found out about each other [*laughs mischievously*]

Fung laughs too. Ruby reacts to this and turns to leave.

Tommy [*suddenly serious*] But Ruby was different.

Fung I don't want to know. But [*repeats next line with Tommy*]

Tommy Yeah, but I'll tell you anyway... See after Ruby left me I couldn't look at another girl without seeing her face. I can't hear anyone singing without thinking how much better her voice is. Isn't it crazy?

Fung Crazy.

Tommy Yes it's insane. I can't stop thinking about her.

Ruby hears this and begins to approach Tommy.

Tommy You know what I'd say if Ruby were here right now?

Ruby & Fung What would you say?

Tommy [*starts to laugh*] You know what, you sounded like Ruby just now. This is crazy.

Fung Yes I did, didn't I. [*looks at the alcohol*] This is some strange stuff.

Ruby What would you say Tommy?

Tommy [*turns to look at Ruby*] See Fung? See? I'm seeing Ruby everywhere!

Fung Wow, I can see her too.

Tommy Well since you're here, Ruby I would tell you that I love you. If I could have a second chance I would never ever look at another woman again.

Ruby Is that true?

Tommy Hey Fung, this stuff is great. Ruby's talking back to me.

Fung Yeah and I can hear it too.

Ruby Is that true Tommy?

Tommy Is it true? Of course it's true.

Ruby How far would you go to prove that you love me Tommy?

Tommy How far would I go? I'd go pretty far! Like uh... like....

Ruby Like what?

Tommy [*pauses pulls out the ring and holds it in front of Ruby*] I'd marry you!

Ruby [shocked] What?

Tommy I'LL MARRY YOU! Is that better? See the real Ruby didn't want to talk to me. I was going to tell her that I wanted to marry her. But what the heck she doesn't want me anyway. So here [*places the ring on Ruby's finger*] You take it.

Enter Manager.

Manager Ruby, there you are. The shows about to start.

Ruby What? [*looking at the ring*] It's beautiful.

Manager [*takes Ruby by the arm*] Come on Ruby. Your fans await.

Manager takes Ruby away. She is shocked and is still looking at the ring.

Tommy Bye bye. Wasn't that funny, Fung?

Fung That's almost as funny as what Xiang Jun is doing to Chiao Ming Lao Ban.

Tommy What? What could be funnier than what just happened?

Fung [*laughs*] See I'm not supposed to tell anybody but you're not listening so I'll tell you anyway. [*laughs*]

Tommy What is it?

Fung Last night, Xiang Jun and I... [*laughs*] Xiang Jun and I.. [*laughs*]

Tommy What? You and Xiang Jun hooked up?

Fung Xiang Jun? No way. No, I mean Shu Hua

Tommy YOU AND SHU HUA?

Fung No, no. Shu Hua's not even here. She's gone forever.

Tommy [*laughs*] Yeah, gone forever. Wait, what do you mean gone forever?

Fung [*laughs*] Xiang Jun had her taken care of. Who knows what the gang will do to her?

Tommy [*Laughs*] Wait. That's not funny.

Fung [*laughing*] Yeah it is. [*laughs and falls off the chair and passes out*]

Tommy [*laughing*] Hey Fung, you fell down! [*laughs*] Now that's funny! [*stands up*] You know, I should go tell Chiao Ming right now. [*laughs and falls over*] Oh but I'm too tired [*passes out*]

Lights fade to black. Some indication that some time has passed and that Fung and Tommy have spent the night at the bar. Enter Bartender.

Bartender [*whistling then notices Fung and Tommy*] What the... These two are still here? Better wake them up then. [*walks over to Fung and tries to wake him up but is unsuccessful. He decides to get him back on the chair at least*] I'd better get a good tip for this. [*starts to try and get Tommy off the floor*]

Enter Ruby in different dress.

Ruby [*sees Tommy state*] Tommy! Oh dear is he breathing?

Bartender Oh yes he is. He's just drunk. Let me get him back on the chair.

Ruby *[helping the Bartender then taking hold of Tommy's face]* Tommy? Tommy? Wake up Tommy. Oh please give me some sign that you're okay.

Bartender Nah that won't work. Here, I'll make him a my brother's secret herbal remedy. *[exit]*

Ruby Tommy. I got the ring, see. Tommy, the answer is yes. Tommy wake up, we're going to get married. Tommy.

Enter Bartender with a bowl of liquid and a bucket.

Bartender This is wake him up. *[pinches Tommy's nose and pours the contents of the bowl into his mouth, gently pushes Ruby away from Tommy]* I'd stand back Miss Ruby.

Tommy *[wakes up and sprays out some of the liquid from his mouth]* HELP! MY MOUTH IS ON FIRE!!! *[coughs and wheezes]*

Ruby Tommy! You're awake. *[to Bartender]* What was in that?

Bartender Oh nothing, just my brother's secret recipe for waking people up. Wait it's not over yet. *[gets the bucket ready]*

Tommy's cheeks suddenly puff up and he covers his mouth. He stands up and runs behind the bar and throws up.

Bartender They NEVER see the bucket. I don't understand. And they never make it to the toilet either. I'd better clean up. *[exits]*

Tommy *[staggering from behind the bar]* Oh my head. It feels like the time when Ruby slapped me with the brick in her purse.

Ruby *[helping him up]* I'm so sorry Tommy.

Tommy Ruby? I had this really weird dream and... *[he reaches into his pocket realizes that the ring is gone]* Where did?

Ruby *[holding up her hand showing Tommy the ring]* Are you looking for this?

Tommy Wait, that means...

Ruby Yes.

Tommy Well and then does that mean...

Ruby Yes.

Tommy Yes?

Ruby Yes.

Tommy But I never gave you any proof...

Ruby *[holding up her hand]* For you this is proof enough. Tommy Huang actually willing to settle down.

They embrace.

Tommy *[awkwardly]* I'd kiss you but... *[indicating back of bar]*

Ruby I know.

Tommy This is crazy I fall asleep drunk only to wake up engaged.

Ruby Why didn't you show me this right away?

Tommy I didn't think you would have said yes. You asked for proof that you could trust me and I just couldn't think of any way to prove it to you.

Ruby So now you're officially mine alone. But if you ever...

Tommy I promise... Look ever since you walked out on me I haven't had a day that felt like it was worth living. Wait, there's something else I had to do right now... *[turns to see Chiao Ming running in]* Oh no! SHU HUA!

Ruby WHAT? Who's this Shu Hua girl!? We haven't even been engaged 24 hours and you're already yelling out some other girl's name?!

Tommy NO. NO. Shu Hua is Chiao Ming's wife.

Enter Chiao Ming in great urgency.

Chiao Ming Tommy, I can't find Shu Hua anywhere. She didn't come home last night and I've looked all over the place. Do you know where she is?

Tommy You lost your wife already... It's a good thing you have two.

Chiao Ming I'm not in the mood for this Geng Hao. Do you know where Shu Hua is?

Tommy No, how would I know. I've been here all night... and apparently *[looking at Ruby and taking her hand]* I'm getting married.

Fung Where am I? *[still sleepy]*

Tommy Wait, wait I think Fung knows... *[starts shaking Fung]* Fung! you know where Shu Hua is. Tell us.

Fung What, what?

Chiao Ming *[gabs Fung by his shirt]* Where is my wife Fung? What have you done with her?

Fung Lao Ban! Xiang Jun is at home.

Chiao Ming Don't give me that, where's my REAL wife, Shu Hua.

Fung I – I don't know where she is.

Tommy I vaguely remember you saying something about Shu Hua.

Fung I was drunk I may have said a lot of things.

Chiao Ming You better tell me everything you know Fung or else I'm going to send you back to all the people you money to back in China. I'm sure they'll love to give you what you have coming.

Fung Please Lao Ban! I – I can't. She'll kill me if I tell you.

Chiao Ming Who will kill you?

Ruby Step aside boys. Fung, tell me where Shu Hua is or else ...*[pulls out the brick]*

Fung Please, not the brick... The abandoned warehouse at Pier 16.

Chiao Ming *[let's go of Fung]* Shu Hua better be okay or you're going to have answer to me.

Chiao Ming, Tommy and Ruby exit. Lights fade to black.

Scene 11

Setting is the gangster's hideout. It is a bare place with a big chair where the Boss sits. Gangsters are gambling and telling each other stories of how they last eluded the police. They are being very loud and rowdy. Enter Boss

Boss Liu. Pick up those boxes. Chen, go check on the girl. You, take the door. Make sure there's no funny business. You, take the windows. And you.

Chen Yes Boss?

Boss Do you got a brain?

Chen I think so.

Boss Then go use it. I've seen pigs smarter than you. Get out of my sight you fools. Idiots, I am working with a bunch of idiots.

Enter Chen roughly pushing Shu Hua into the room with a gag on her mouth and gangsters holding her arms behind her back.

Chen Hey Boss, Here she is. [*Shu Hua enters*]

Boss Yes. Don't you lose her. Tie her up. Some rich lady paid a pretty penny for her.

Three gangsters try and tie her up but get in each others' way.

Boss Hey, what's happening here? You morons!!! [*To Shu Hua*] You have a pretty face. Too bad you're going to have to go back to China.

Li Hey Boss, we're just going out to get some cigarettes.

Boss Don't forget to get mine. [*to another gangster*] You, the ship's leaving in a few minutes. Get her on it.

Gangster takes Shu Hua and roughly leads her out. Both exit. As soon as they exit Xiang Jun enters with a package.

Xiang Jun Where is she?

Boss Ah Mrs. Tang. The girl is on the boat as we speak. Where's my money?

Xiang Jun How do I know that she's really on the boat?

Boss [*motioning to another gangster to take the package from Xiang Jun*] You have my word.

Gangster takes the package from Xiang Jun. He opens it and look at the Boss and shakes his head.

Boss Where's the rest?

Xiang Jun When I'm sure she's gone you'll get the rest of the money.

Boss You're a cunning woman Mrs. Tang. I like cunning women...

Xiang Jun I think I'm out of your league. [*exits*]

Enter Chen and Li roughly pushing Chiao Ming and Tommy in front of them.

Chen Boss, we found these two sneaking around outside.

Chen and Li push Chiao Ming and Tommy to the ground.

Boss Are you guys looking for a job or are you police?

Chiao Ming WHERE IS MY WIFE?

Boss Your wife? I don't know what you're talking about friend. Maybe she decided she would sail away with some sailor. [*laughs*]

Gangsters laugh. Chiao Ming lunges for the Boss but is caught and beaten by the other Gangsters.

Li Don't be showing such disrespect to the Boss like that.

Tommy tries to help Chiao Ming but is also held down by the other gangsters.

Boss You two don't seem to know who you're up against here.

Chiao Ming [*through clenched teeth clutching his gut*] WHERE IS MY WIFE you bastard!!!

Boss Ha ha ha... [*to Chen*] What are we running here, a lost and found?

Chiao Ming You took my wife, where is she?

Boss We took your wife? Are you sure your wife didn't pay us to get rid of your mistress? Or was it your mistress paying us to get rid of your wife? I can't remember...

Chiao Ming What are you talking about?

Chen [*cracking his knuckles*] Can't we just beat the crap out of them and throw them out?

Li Yes it's been a while since we had someone to really beat on.

Tommy FUNG!!! NOW!

Suddenly the sound of glass breaking is heard and a bomb is thrown into the room. All the Gangsters duck for cover. Chiao Ming and Tommy exit.

Scene 12

Scene opens with an empty stage. Chiao Ming staggers in. He runs around and looks out into the audience as if he is looking at the ships on the dock. Tommy following him.

Tommy Ming, slow down, you're hurt.

Chiao Ming No no, they put her on a boat. I can't lose her Geng Hao, I can't.

Tommy This pier is huge how are we going to find her?

Chiao Ming I'll search every ship if I have to.

Sound of a ships blow horn is heard.

Chiao Ming NO!!! It's leaving! SHU HUA!!! SHU HUA!!! [*sees someone off to the side*] Shu Hua?

Enter Xiang Jun.

Xiang Jun Chiao Ming, I'm here, I'M your wife.

Chiao Ming YOU!!! You're the one who did this!!! [*pulls his hand back to strike her*]

Tommy [*holds Chiao Ming back*] Ming deal with her later.

Sound of the blow horn is heard again.

Chiao Ming She's gone! She's gone...

Tommy We'll find her Ming... don't worry.

Chiao Ming [*turning back to Xiang Jun*] You came to America to get your money. Well you're not going to go back empty handed... You came here with a Chinese marriage... you'll leave with an AMERICAN DIVORCE!!!

Shu Hua [*from offstage*] Chiao Ming!!!

Chiao Ming [*turning around*] Shu Hua? [*looking offstage*] Shu Hua?

Enter Shu Hua supported by Ruby. Ruby is carrying a purse.

Shu Hua Ruby got me off the boat.

Chiao Ming [*running to Shu Hua*] I thought I'd lost you.

Shu Hua You too.

Tommy and Ruby embrace.

Tommy How did you find her?

Ruby Instead of rushing into the warehouse, I went to ask around where the next ship to anywhere in China was sailing. I saw this thug forcing her onto the boat.

Tommy How did you get her away from the gangster?

Ruby You know. [*reaching into her purse and pulling out the brick*]

Fade out

Scene 13

Enter the Flowers.

Violet [*dabbing her face and sniffing*] I love weddings. Oh that was such a beautiful wedding.

Lily [*sniffing*] Yes Shu Hua and Chiao Ming look so happy together.

Daisy [*to the other girls*] I can't believe Tommy is MARRIED!

Violet Don't worry, there are plenty of other men in this town. [*suddenly breaks down*] Tommy's MARRIED!!!

Daisy [*hugging Violet*] There, there, we'll find someone else.

Lily What are we going to do without him?

Violet We have to find another guy.

Enter Fung.

All three FUNG!! [*they flock to him*]

Fung [*covers his face*] Don't hurt me!!! I said I was sorry!

Daisy It's okay Fung, we forgive you.

Lily What are you doing tonight?

Violet I heard you're working for the hotel now.

Fung Well yes... do you girls want to do dancing at the lounge? I can get in through the back...

Floweres DO WE!!!

The Flowers take Fung's arms and they all exit. Enter Old Man, Dock Man and Bartender.

Old Man [*walking backwards and yelling back at the party*] May you always have food on your table! And don't forget to invite me to dinner next time!

Dock Man [*also yelling back*] Have fun on your wedding bed tonight!

Bartender Hey, Tommy don't keep her all for yourself! Everyone still wants to hear Ms. Ruby sing!

Music starts, Shu Hua and Chiao Ming enter then Tommy and Ruby enter.
FINALE SONG all eventually come on stage.