

1. EXT. HIGHWAY, DAY

A taxi is driving straight along a quiet road. It passes by a signboard, indicating that the airport avenue is straight ahead.

Two silhouettes wearing black outfits are in sight from the rear window, sitting at two ends of the back seat.

2. INT. TAXI

MOTHER, 50, Chinese, wearing a modest, black, long-sleeved, low-rise dress, caresses a golden heart-shaped locket, having an old dull-green handbag next to her.

The locket opens up, revealing an old picture of a man and a woman smiling proudly on their wedding day.

Mother silently weeps, clutching onto the locket tighter. She pulls it close to her chest and takes in a deep breath.

The TAXI DRIVER looks over to Mother from the rear-view mirror, feeling awkward to the sullen mood.

His eyes shift over to DAUGHTER, 29, half Asian, wearing a chic black wrap coat over her white V-Neck blouse and black pants. She has a black new-looking leather handbag beside her, a pair of sunglasses hanging loosely from its strap. She wears a necklace which has a similar design to the Mother's.

In comparison to her weeping Mother, Daughter is nonchalant and does not acknowledge her Mother's state one bit.

She ruffles through the pages of her resume with much concentration, with her earphones plugged in.

Her resume is titled, "Karen Smith", with details such as "Attained a BA (Honours) in Fashion Studies at CalArt, with Distinction...seeking a Fashion (Editorial) Position at Vogue NY... skill in fashion consultant and research...excellent communication skills...achieve the company's long term growth."

She stops and looks out of the car window, staring at the blue clear sky.

AN AIRPLANE FLIES ACROSS, OCCUPYING WITH THE SOUND OF ITS
ENGINE.

3. INT. AIRPORT, DAY

Mother and Daughter queues up before the check-in counter. Daughter has her passport in hand, while Mother clutches onto her bag.

As their turn arrive, AIR STEWARDESS greets them with a smile.

AIR STEWARDESS
Hello! May I have your passport please?

Daughter steps forward to place her passport and boarding pass on the counter. However, Mother frantically searches her bag for her passport but to no avail.

Air Stewardess and Daughter waits for Mother. Daughter starts to grow in annoyance until the Air Stewardess attempts to spark a conversayion.

AIR STEWARDESS
Family trip huh? Where did you go to?

DAUGHTER
(chuckles awkwardly)
Actually...it was my father's funeral.

(Beat)

Air Stewardess takes a look at the black outfits they were weating and flashes an apologetic smile.

AIR STEWARDESS
I am sorry for your loss...

DAUGHTER
No worries.

Daughter flashes a reassuring smile, and redirects her attention back to Mother, her expression changing to be annoyed.

Air Stewardess notices the resume in her hand.

AIR STEWARDESS
Oh, what are you applying for?

Daughter turns back to her, face slightly lighting up.

DAUGHTER
I am applying for an editorial position at Vogue!

AIR STEWARDESS
Wow! Big moment!

DAUGHTER
Yes. They only have one interview for this year's applicants that is later on today, so I am running a tight schedule...

Daughter drifts her eyes back to Mother.

Mother's face is full of guilt, lips quivering. The opened bag on her left hand, leaving the right empty handed.

Her lips opens slightly, wanting to say something, but Daughter interrupts by heaving a big sigh, taking back the passport and boarding pass from the counter.

The air stewardess looks confused but still maintains a smile.

DAUGHTER

Thank you for your time.

Daughter takes off and storm towards the direction of the taxi stand, leaving Mother behind.

Mother is shocked, bowing to the Air Stewardess before running to catch up with her daughter.

MOTHER

(still running behind her)

I'm sorry.

DAUGHTER

Forget it.

MOTHER

I took my medicine really.

Daughter looks at Mother.

DAUGHTER

Sure, can that really solve what is going on right now?

MOTHER

Maybe it is in the room, we can do a quick passby--

DAUGHTER

(cuts MOTHER off)

Our flight is in 1 hour. I spent the whole morning waiting for you as you take your time to pack your bag and you forgot the most important thing? You know what? I'm tired of waiting!

MOTHER

I am so so sorry. I really am. I will reschedule the flight, I will contact your boss--

Daughter turns around and faces Mother.

DAUGHTER

(snaps)

When I have only one moment, one
chance to change my life, you just
have to ruin it.

(Beat)

DAUGHTER

Maybe that is why Dad left. Huh?
Look at you.

(Beat)

DAUGHTER

Acting like you did not hurt anyone
and placing the victim name upon
yourself? Congratulations, you won.

(Thud)

Both of their eyes widen. Mother picks up a passport from the
floor, with a name sticker stating her real name, 'HELEN
WONG' in bold letters.

Daughter seems more calm but is still annoyed. She walks past
Mother.

Mother heaves a sigh of regret and trails behind her
daughter.

4. INT. IMMIGRATION, DAY

Daughter and Mother stands in line: Daughter is in front of
the Mother with two strangers in between them.

Daughter, with her earphones plugged in, seems deep in
thought, occasionally staring into blank space, then looking
back down to her resume.

Mother keeps looking around the crowd.

Her vision gets blurry and she is panting. She gets a glimpse
of Daughter's side profile and back view, but fails to
identify her.

She is suddenly interrupted by a tap on her shoulder. Mother
shrieeks.

People in front of her look back. Daughter hears the shriek
and was about to look back until the IMMIGRATION OFFICER
interrupts her.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

Hi Ma'am, this way.

Daughter files in her resume in a folder and places it in her handheld designer bag, as she walks towards the right lane.

Daughter places the bag on the conveyor belt, along with her hand-held luggage.

Once placed and waiting in line for her security body check, she glances at the baggages.

As each baggage reached the scanner, images of a particular memory were shown on the surfaces.

FLASHBACK TO

5. EXT. ALLEY, NIGHT

A younger Daughter, 9, walks back home from tuition. It is a misty night, post-rain, with minimal light from the two lightstands in the stretch of road.

Younger Daughter sniffs, suddenly bursting out crying. Tears flow uncontrollably as she continues walking forward.

DAUGHTER

(crying)

Mum! Help me! Help me! Mum!

Footsteps start rushing towards Daughter's directions from the other side of the road, stepping harshly on some puddles of water.

Younger Mother, 30s, wearing formal office wear, run towards Daughter and crouches down in front of her.

MOTHER

Are you hurt? Were you scared?

Mummy is sorry.

Daughter walks past Mother and continues crying.

Mother sighs in guilt and catches up with Daughter. She then crouches down and holds Daughter shoulders, bringing her a stop.

MOTHER

Sorry I had to work late, I--

Daughter continues crying.

Mother takes Daughter's hand brings it towards her cheek.

MOTHER

Mummy is here! See?

DAUGHTER

You left me alone! I trusted you!
Why didn't you reach on time? What
if I got lost or taken by a scary
man? I will be along forever! You
are a bad mother!

6. INT. IMMIGRATION, DAY (CONT'D)

As the baggage of the last scene, which is Daughter's
handheld luggage, Daughter picks it up.

Walking away from the immigration section, she stops. She
faces back and waits for Mother.

360 DEGREE TURN AROUND DAUGHTER, TO HIGHLIGHT TRANSITION IN
DAUGHTER'S FACIAL EXPRESSION FROM RELAXED TO CONFUSION.

Daughter starts walking across the different lanes in search
of Mother, but she is nowhere to be seen.

Realisation hits and Daughter enters a stage of panic.

7. INT. DEPARTURE HALL, DAY

SHOT ON DAUGHTER'S HEELS

Daughter walks in a frantic movement and speed.

The passageway is like a pressure cooker, packed with
flustered people. Chatters of different languages and tones
and various announcements contribute to the density of
commuters around Daughter.

Someone unintentionally hits her shoulder without looking back.

She gets overwhelmed and still can not find her mother. She
keeps looking left and right. People passing by her become a
blur. An announcement blares through the walls of the
airport.

ANNOUNCEMENT (VOICE OVER)

Calling for Karen Smith, Flight
A780, heading for JFK, please head
over to gate F7. I repeat. Calling
for Karen Smith, Flight A780,
heading for JFK, please head over
to gate F7. Thank you.

Her breath hitches, as more people start to give her
unbothered and confused gazes, and the anxiety ringing in her
head as the announcement repeated once more.

8. INT.DEPARTURE GATE, DAY

As she glances over to one of the gates, she see a lady wearing a similar black lacy dress. She runs towards her and grabs her shoulder.

The lady jumps in shock as she turns around to lock eyes with Daughter. It was not Mother, but a foreign-looking lady. She starts cussing in another language. Daughter back away.

DAUGHTER

Sorry.

Daughter starts walking again, looking for places her mother could be at. She see a duty-free store and rushes over.

9. INT. DUTY FREE STORE, DAY

As she searches through each lane, more salesmen try to approach her to sell their products, but she walks past them before they could say a word. The announcement plays again.

ANNOUNCEMENT (VOICE OVER)

Second call for Karen Smith, Flight A780, heading for JFK, please head over to gate F7. I repeat. Second call for Karen Smith, Flight A780, heading for JFK, please head over to gate F7. Thank you.

Daughter becomes more frantic and her face becomes more pale. She rushes for the entrance until a SERVICE STAFF approaches her.

SERVICE STAFF

Hi Ma'am, do you need any help?

DAUGHTER

Have you seen a Chinese lady with grey hair, wearing a long-sleeved black dress?

SERVICE STAFF

Uhm...nope...sorry! Would you like me to contact the airport's customer service or--

DAUGHTER

Where is the customer service?

SERVICE STAFF

It is straight ahead!

Daughter looks ahead to find the customer service counter.

SERVICE STAFF

I can help you contact them if it
is faster--

DAUGHTER

Thank you for your help!

10. INT. DEPARTURE HALL, DAY

Daughter rushes out of the store. Before she reaches the
counter, she crashes into a crying YOUNG BOY, 10.

The young boy falls down on the floor and cries harder.
Daughter picks him up.

DAUGHTER

I am so sorry, are you okay? Are
you hurt anywhere?

YOUNG BOY

I lost my mother! I can't find her
anywhere!

Daughter sighs, thinking back at how his situation is similar
to the old memory she had. She feels conflicted whether to
assist the boy or go on her own way. She crouches down to the
boy's eye level.

DAUGHTER

Okay, let me help you find your
mother.

The young boy nods his head. Daughter offers her hand and the
young boy grabs it. They walked past the departure gates to
find his mother.

The young boy calms down but still sniffs. His eyes soon
light up and exclaims happily.

YOUNG BOY

Mum!

Her frantic footsteps run towards him and she opens her arms
wide. The young boy runs to her and hugs her.

YOUNG BOY

(softly crying)
I am sorry that I walked away on my
own...

YOUNG BOY'S MOTHER

It is okay. Mummy is sorry too, I
should have kept you closer to me.

YOUNG BOY

No, it is okay. You are a good mother! I always know you won't ever leave me!

Daughter watches the reunion from afar and smiles to herself. The young boy and his mother thank Daughter and she flashes them a smile of reassurance. As they go their separate ways, the daughter redirects her attention to the locket hanging loosely on her neck. The final call announcement plays at the back.

ANNOUNCEMENT (VOICE OVER)

Final call for Karen Smith, Flight A780, heading for JFK, please head over to gate F7. I repeat. Final call for Karen Smith, Flight A780, heading for JFK, please head over to gate F7. Thank you.

She pick it up and opens it. It was a picture of her mother, father and herself 20 years ago. A happy family photo, as the daughters arms were supported by her mother's and father's.

MOTHER'S VOICE (VOICE OVER)

Here is something your father left behind that he wanted you to have.

Daughter continues looking at the photo, taking in every detail. Her smile, her dad's smile and her mother's smile.

MOTHER'S VOICE (VOICE OVER)

At least one day when both of us are gone, you would not be alone. We are still always with you, in your heart.

11. INT. DEPARTURE GATE, DAY

Daughter puts down the locket and sees gate F7. A lady wearing the same black lacy dress as the Mother sits on one of the seats in front of its doors.

She walks towards the figure and identifies her. It was Mother.

Mother notices Daughter and stands up. Her face is relieved yet surprised, clutching onto her shoulders.

MOTHER

I am sorry, I-I could not find you after the immigration...there was this lady behind me who asked me whether I needed help, and she brought me here to our gate... Just in case I was behind you...

(MORE)

MOTHER (CONT'D)
I guess I just slowed you down
instead. I am sorry.

The sound of the plane taking off caught their attention.
Both of them watched as the plane went off.

Daughter gives Mother a reassuring smile.

DAUGHTER
No worries... I can always try next
year.

Mother gives a soft relieved smile.

MOTHER
Are you not mad?

Daughter shakes her head, tears welling up in her eyes.

DAUGHTER
(voice cracks)
I am just glad you are okay.

Mother pulls in Daughter for a hug. They clutch onto each
other tightly, as if they have not felt each other's touch in
a long time.

DAUGHTER
I miss this.

Mother nods her head.

MOTHER
It must have been hard for you, to
take care of me while being so
ambitious.

DAUGHTER
No, I am your daughter. I should
have own up that responsibility.

Daughter lets go of Mother and looks into her eyes.

DAUGHTER
You have never left me behind, and
neither should I. You are a good
mother.

Mother chuckles and rubs Daughter's shoulders.

MOTHER
And you are a good daughter too.

The two pull into a tight and long hug once more, smiling.

CAMERA SLOWLY ZOOMS OUT TO A WIDE SHOT FROM ABOVE. CREDITS
ROLL IN.