

BANGKOK BUTTERFLY

Written by

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After 'Madame Butterfly' by John Luther Long, David
Belasco & Giacomo Puccini/Giuseppe Giacosa/Luigi Illica

Vogliatemi bene, un bene piccolino, un bene da bambino -
Cio Cio San

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1 TITLE SEQUENCE 1

Fit young Thai men swim in a tank, gracefully interweaving - an underwater ballet.

Middle-aged Caucasian men enjoy their performance through the glass.

Money changes hands discreetly.

The angelic face of CHAI - 16 - comes into focus, reflected in the glass. He has large brown eyes. He looks wistful.. lost.

2 INT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT 2

A shabby small club with a stage. Tacky tinsel decorations.

A handful of middle-aged or elderly Caucasian men sit with drinks enjoying what they see.

A caption reads 'Bangkok, Thailand'

CHAI, dressed in an exotic, quasi-traditional costume designed to show off his physique, heads for the stage in company with other young men similarly dressed. While the others look happy and smiling, CHAI looks reluctant.

But as he reaches the stage he assumes a fixed smile as all begin an erotic dance to a commercial version of a Thai folksong.

GEE - the club manager - is 35, fit and good-looking - an ex-bar boy himself, now a successful businessman, watches them, and their effect on the audience, with pride.

3 EXT. SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT - EVENING 3

BEN, 40, harassed, tired, fighting for a taxi. He has ageing 'pretty boy' looks. Sought after when younger, his dyed hair now suggests denial.

Above him a tourist poster is visible: 'Thailand - where fantasy comes to life'.

He finally secures a taxi.

4 INT. TAXI - NIGHT

4

Ben sits in an old and shabby taxi. The driver jabbars at him in very bad English. Largely unintelligible apart from 'Sexy Girls'.

BEN gets a text from ALEX:

*Hi Ben! Have a great time. I know
you won't be good, but for
Heavens' sake be careful! XX Me*

He texts back:

*Thanks. Arrived safely. Speak soon.
XX*

He pauses before deleting an X, then sending the text. He's sweating - mops his brow.

5 INT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT

5

The end of the night. CHAI is changing out of his costume. He is less comfortable out of his clothes than the other boys who brazenly enjoy their various states of undress. He cuts a lonely figure. A couple of the others giggle as they look at him.

JAIME - a little older than CHAI - pinches his backside as he passes. (He speaks in Thai.)

JAIME
*Hey, Chai. When are you going to
uncork that virgin ass..?*

CHAI throws him a hurt look as JAIME leaves with his middle-aged Caucasian client.

Now dressed and on his way out CHAI passes GEE, who ruffles CHAI's hair affectionately. He points out an ELDERLY MAN clearly looking CHAI's way.

CHAI can see the man is interested, but shakes his head. GEE looks after him, concerned, as he leaves.

6 INT. CHAI'S ROOM - NIGHT

6

CHAI enters his room which is tiny and shabby but immaculately clean and tidy. Pictures of Big Ben and the Statue of Liberty on the wall.

He throws himself on the bed, takes out his phone and replies to a text message in Thai from his Mum.

Hi Mom. I'm fine. I'll send money soon. Give Tam my love and tell him to text me. Big hugs. Your Chai. xx

He scrolls through his phone and finds pictures of TAM his younger brother, aged 11. There are selfies of the two of them.

His eyes are full of tears.

7

INT. OFFICE - DAY

7

BEN is led around a smart office by COLIN, 50. He is fit for his age and has the lived-in face of a man who has experienced a lot in his half-century.

BEN

Business Class would have been nice!

COLIN orders two coffees in Thai from the kiosk they are passing.

COLIN

Mean of them. I was surprised they sent someone so far up the pile. It's a pretty routine job.

BEN

Around a while maybe....

COLIN doesn't believe him.

COLIN

Hotel OK?

BEN

There was a bed...

COLIN

Should be able to sort a flat soon.

COLIN hands BEN his coffee, and offers sugar. Ben refuses the latter.

BEN

Thanks Colin.

COLIN

How's Alex?

BEN
Never stops working.

COLIN
How long've you guys been together
now?

BEN
Seventeen years.

COLIN
Well past the 7-year itch then?

BEN
I think we might be still
scratching.

COLIN smiles knowingly.

BEN (CONT'D)
And how's-?

COLIN
Ngam? She's fine. Two kids now.
Tim's 6 and Emily's 4.

BEN
You obviously like it here....

COLIN
Kind of. I'll leave you to settle
in.

He makes to exit, but stops at the door.

COLIN (CONT'D)
The boy bars are on Silom Soi 4 and
Soi Twilight on Surawong. Couple of
stops on the Skytrain from your
hotel.

He exits with a smile. BEN looks after him, and at his new
colleagues, who pretend not to have understood. He feels
awkward.

8 EXT. SOI TWILIGHT - NIGHT

8

A busy, neon-lit street. Young Thai men accost passing
tourists, mainly male, with menus and offers of massage.

CHAI walks along on his way to work. His eyes scan the bars
which all have tables and chairs outside.

The clientèle is almost entirely male. He sees BEN who sits alone disconsolately nursing a beer.

BEN checks his phone - the last text was the one he sent to ALEX on arrival.

Unseen, CHAI watches him.

A smiling young Thai waiter approaches BEN.

BEN is pleased but suspicious as the WAITER sits down next to him.

Observing this, CHAI walks on.

WAITER (CONT'D)
You buy me drink?

BEN
What would you like?

WAITER
Whisky.

The WAITER calls to a colleague who comes over. BEN checks the menu for the price of whisky. It's 160 Baht. Beer is 70.

The 2nd WAITER goes to get it and converses with his colleague, looking back at BEN, who is apprehensive. The WAITER settles himself very close to BEN and smiles at him. BEN is excited but remains apprehensive.

WAITER (CONT'D)
Sexy Daddy!

'Daddy' hits home.

WAITER (CONT'D)
Take me to hotel.

BEN is taken aback by the forthrightness. He shrugs. The WAITER smiles and communicates in Thai with one of his colleagues. Another bill is added to BEN's pot. BEN examines it -another 500 Baht. He waves it at the 2nd WAITER, questioning.

2ND WAITER
To take boy.

BEN looks at the 1st WAITER who smiles winsomely.

BEN
This is for you?

WAITER

For bar.

Disgusted, BEN gets up, takes out the 500 Baht bill and goes to the bar to settle the rest.

The WAITER looks disappointed. BEN stomps off.

9 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

9

COLIN & BEN are eating Pad Thai and drinking beer.

COLIN laughs loudly.

COLIN

That's the off fee.

BEN

The what?

COLIN

The takeout charge. Only a tenner! You pay the boy later.

BEN

Oh.

BEN dislikes his casual acceptance of the commercialism.

COLIN

Get used to it, my friend. There's no such thing as a free Thai boy!

BEN says nothing.

COLIN (CONT'D)

Not what you expected?

BEN

Not sure what I expected.

COLIN

Well, if you just want a good time find yourself a Go Go bar...

(goes to OOV over following scene)

At least you can choose your boy.

10 INT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT.

10

CHAI dances in his costume with other boys, some of whom have badges with numbers on their costumes. He does not.

COLIN (OOV)
 There will probably be a show of
 some kind.

CHAI scans the audience. He notices BEN sitting alone again.

BEN feels surrounded by smiling boys looking at him and vying
 for his attention.

COLIN (OOV) (CONT'D)
 You'll feel very popular. The
 system is if they have a number
 then they're available.

BEN meets CHAI's gaze and is offered a winning smile. BEN
 smiles back.

COLIN (OOV) (CONT'D)
 If they don't, forget it.

CHAI has no number, so BEN turns his attention to another
 performer - who smiles back at him. It's JAIME, wearing
 number 4.

GEE approaches BEN and offers his hand, which BEN shakes.

GEE
 I'm Gee. You like my boys?

GEE sees BEN's interest in JAIME.

COLIN (OOV)
 'Mama San' will take care of you.

GEE has beckoned JAIME over.

COLIN (OOV) (CONT'D)
 You'll be expected to buy the boy a
 drink.

JAIME sits next to him and throws a look back to CHAI. CHAI
 observes and is clearly upset.

BEN
 What would you like?

JAIME
 Coke please.

BEN orders one, a coke is brought and another bill added to
 the container.

COLIN (OOV)
 Which won't be cheap.

BEN checks it - 350 Baht.

JAIME
Where you from? US?

BEN
UK. What's your name?

JAIME
Jaime.

BEN
Hi Jaime. I'm Ben.

BEN smiles.

JAIME
You take me back?

BEN doesn't refuse. JAIME looks to GEE and another bill - Baht - is added with businesslike efficiency.

COLIN (OOV)
Once you've paid the 'off' fee you'll have to take a chance on the price for the boy. But it won't be that much more than you've already paid. Probably 1000 for a quickie - 2 for the night.

BEN checks his wallet contents as JAIME, now dressed, emerges. As they leave together, BEN nods goodbye to the ever-charming GEE.

CHAI watches them go. He isn't happy.

11 INT. BEN'S HOTEL - NIGHT 11

BEN opens his room door and ushers JAIME in.

COLIN (OOV)
And safe sex for Christ's sake.

The door closes.

12 INTERIOR. BEN'S HOTEL ROOM. NIGHT. 12

BEN lies in bed with JAIME. Two strangers feeling uncomfortable after their intimacy. BEN looks grumpy - it hasn't been good. JAIME smiles a professional smile.

JAIME
You want me stay?

BEN
Work in the morning.

JAIME gets out of bed and quickly gets dressed. There is now a business-like coolness about him.

BEN (CONT'D)
Do you live near here?

JAIME
Asok - on bus.

BEN
With other guys?

JAIME
No. No. With girl. And baby boy.

JAIME is now dressed and stands expectantly. He responds to BEN's puzzled look.

JAIME (CONT'D)
Like girls. Like hot guys.

BEN doesn't feel flattered. JAIME looks cool, business-like, expectant - the smiling charm is gone. BEN reaches for his wallet where he gets out a 1,000 Baht note, which he gives to JAIME.

JAIME (CONT'D)
For taxi? It late...

BEN takes out another 500 baht note and hands it over. It's clearly more than JAIME was expecting.

JAIME (CONT'D)
Thank you Mister.

JAIME leaves. BEN looks at his watch, then calls on the phone. An automated voicemail service replies.

VOICEMAIL VOICE
The number you have dialled is not available....

In disgust BEN stops the phone. He texts angrily.

3 days and nothing. Now your phone's off. Hope you're having a good time. Whoever he is!

He sends the text and walks into the shower to wash away the unhappy experience.

13 INT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT. 13

JAIME is coming in as CHAI is leaving. He shows off his 1500 baht and speaks to CHAI in Thai.

JAIME
Still waiting for love..?

CHAI doesn't answer.

JAIME (CONT'D)
Maybe you'll find one. He'll add you to his collection.. Like a butterfly pinned to a board.

He holds up the money.

JAIME (CONT'D)
Take this and it's you holding the pin!

CHAI is unimpressed and walks off into the night.

14 INT. BEN'S OFFICE - DAY 14

Ben enters. He's hot, irritable and jet-lagged. He can't get at his desk because there are files all over it as two colleagues work at the next desk. Also they are using his chair. He snaps at them.

BEN
Excuse me. I have work to do.

COLIN enters and observes as the two colleagues look very shocked and put out as they clear BEN's desk. BEN is surprised at the effect of his little outburst.

COLIN
Erm - a word Ben..?

BEN follows him out of the office.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Bit of advice mate - throwing a strop goes down like a cup of cold sick in this country. It's got to be smiles and charm.

BEN

Sorry.

COLIN

Yell at a Thai and you'll shock the socks off him.

BEN

Ok.

COLIN rummages amongst papers on his desk.

COLIN

A flat has come up -

BEN is not enthusiastic.

BEN

Right. Sure.

COLIN

Dinner at ours tomorrow?

BEN isn't keen on this either.

BEN

Thanks.

COLIN

I'll pick you up from the flat at 7.

He hands BEN a piece of paper.

COLIN (CONT'D)

That's the address. You can move in in the morning.

15 INT. FLAT - NIGHT

15

BEN lets himself in and enters with his suitcase. He looks around. It's smart but sterile.

There are two bedrooms - one double, one single. He dumps his suitcase in the double.

He looks in the kitchen and finds a saucepan in the cupboard. He picks it up as if he'd never seen one before.

He looks out into the street below.

16 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

16

COLIN and BEN walking. Street foodsellers. Noise and smells assault them. COLIN registers BEN's discomfort.

COLIN

This place is a bit like the sex guys come here for. Usually better in the imagination than in reality.

BEN

Was that what brought you here?

COLIN

I was coming out the wrong end of my first marriage. It was what I needed. For about a week. Then it all got to feel commercial beyond belief. Thank God I met Ngam.

BEN

Was she..?

COLIN looks at him with a wry smile.

COLIN

My boss! Account Manager in the office. She left when we had the kids. The girls in Patpong might all dream of marrying their clients. Almost never happens.

BEN

That sounds harsh.

COLIN

That's Bangkok. It is what it is. The brutal truth is that the sex keeps the place going. Brings in the tourists.

They have arrived at COLIN's apartment. COLIN opens the door and shows BEN in.

17 INT. COLIN AND NGAM'S FLAT - EVENING

17

COLIN, NGAM - 40ish, well-presented, forceful and elegantly dressed - and BEN are finishing a meal.

NGAM

Colin tells me you have a partner in the UK.

BEN

I.. I live with a guy yes. Alex.

NGAM

That sounds very cautious. Is it what they call an 'open relationship'?

BEN is hesitant about revealing gay habits to NGAM.

BEN

Yes.

NGAM

So you love each other but have sex with other guys?

NGAM's directness has disarmed BEN.

BEN

That's the idea. But sometimes the opening gets a bit wide..

NGAM

When the sex becomes less important you see what else is there..

BEN

Or not there....

The noise of a crying child distracts them. NGAM starts to get up.

NGAM

If you'll excuse me..

COLIN

Don't worry - sounds like Tim. I'll go.

He leaves the room. NGAM sits down again.

NGAM

I think there are many men who would envy your freedom, to, how do you say, to have your cake and to eat it. And indeed men who take that freedom even when it is not offered.

She half glances in the direction of where COLIN left. BEN notices.

NGAM (CONT'D)

But the important thing is that they must make love only to their wives.

BEN

And can their wives play away too?

NGAM smiles inscrutably.

NGAM

Why not? Do you have an agreement with Alex?

BEN

Yes. I think that's essential.

NGAM registers this.

NGAM

So is that why you came to Bangkok?

BEN is about to hide behind the 'work' front, but thinks better of it - glad to have a confidante.

BEN

We needed time apart. And I'm not as young as I was..

NGAM

Which of us is? But I hope we're getting a little wiser..

COLIN returns.

NGAM (CONT'D)

He seems quiet now.

COLIN

Bad dream. He's fine. See what you're missing Ben? You lucky man!

NGAM stifles a yawn.

BEN

I'm sorry - I'm keeping you up.

NGAM

Please don't mind me.

COLIN

Alice was awake at 5.30... As per usual. The joys...

BEN

I'll let you get to bed. Thanks for a lovely evening.

He gets up.

NGAM

It was our pleasure.

BEN

I'd return the compliment. But it would have to be beans on toast..

COLIN

I thought you gay guys were all new men?

BEN

Alex is a bit too good in the kitchen.

COLIN

Anyway, we'd need a babysitter.. See you in the morning.

BEN shakes hands with COLIN. Unsure how to say goodbye to NGAM he makes a clumsy effort at the Thai wai, but NGAM kisses him on the cheek.

18 INT. FLAT - NIGHT

18

As BEN enters his phone buzzes.

It's a text from ALEX:

Hello you. Sorry I've not been in touch. A bit crazy here.

BEN texts back:

So many men.. so little time!

The phone buzzes again. Another text from ALEX:

Pots and kettles! Working now - catch u later xx.

BEN looks out of the window again.

19 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

19

BEN walks alone down a busy street. In-your-face advertising for the sex bars. Every five yards he's accosted by someone offering massage.

He walks into Soi Twilight and sees WAITER being very attentive to another customer. They exchange wintry smiles.

BEN walks on.

20 INT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT

20

GEE and CHAI are arguing backstage in Thai.

CHAI waves the envelope he was carrying - his pay packet.

CHAI
You said 1200!

GEE
You were late 2 nights.

CHAI
You said I'm your best boy! I won't look so cute if I'm starving!

GEE
You want more you know how.

He indicates the boys still parading on the stage for the remaining customers.

CHAI
I'm not a money boy. You know that. You promised me 3 months ago. '1-2 weeks - you're flying to New York'!

GEE shrugs

GEE
There's a lot of boys.

CHAI shakes his head sadly and leaves. GEE follows.

GEE (CONT'D)
Chai! Chai!!

BEN is entering and CHAI pushes past him, before recognising him.

BEN returns the look. A moment, then GEE intervenes, changing his manner suddenly to welcome BEN.

GEE (CONT'D)

My friend! So good to see you back. Jaime busy tonight but I find you nice boy.

BEN

I'll just have a beer and watch the show, thanks

GEE gestures to a reluctant waiter who was about to clean up to bring a beer.

CHAI hovers by the door, hoping to catch BEN's eye again.

GEE

Beer no problem. But show finished!

He makes an unhappy grimace.

GEE (CONT'D)

I find you nice boy - he give you private show.

BEN

You have a nice boy who can cook?

CHAI is listening.

GEE

Sure. Plenty cook boys! You take him home - he cook you nice meal.

He whispers in BEN's ear.

GEE (CONT'D)

You fuck him.

BEN shakes his head.

BEN

It's ok. I was joking. I need something a bit longer term.

The beer arrives. BEN takes it and goes to watch the parade.

CHAI approaches GEE and whispers in his ear. GEE listens, then shoos him out of the club, and approaches BEN again.

GEE

How long you stay Bangkok?

BEN

Three months.

GEE

I have good cook. Nice boy.

BEN

How much?

GEE

I give good price. 3,000 baht. 1 week.

BEN looks at him, at the parade, thinks.

21 INT. CHAI'S ROOM/ISAAN - NIGHT

21

CHAI is talking in Thai on his phone to SUMANA in her very shabby home.

CHAI

Hi Mom. I have a new job.

SUMANA

What job?

CHAI

Private cook.

SUMANA

But you don't know how!

CHAI

I learn.

SUMANA

How much?

CHAI

2000 baht a week! I send you 1000.

SUMANA

My clever boy!

22 INT. FLAT - EVENING

22

GEE and CHAI emerge from the lift and GEE rings BEN's bell. CHAI carries a very modest bag. BEN answers the door. CHAI looks down shyly.

BEN

Come in.

GEE holds his hand out to CHAI who gives him his ID card, He gestures to him to wait a moment. He enters the flat, closing the door behind him.

CHAI waits outside. After a few moments the door opens and GEE returns the ID card and ushers CHAI in. BEN is putting his wallet away.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hi.

He looks at GEE

BEN (CONT'D)

Chai did you say?

GEE nods.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm Ben.

CHAI

Hello Sir. I cook good.

He offers a low wai, then looks BEN full in the face for the first time.

Suddenly BEN remembers him.

FLASHBACK - CHAI dances in his costume, with no number.

BEN

You dance well too!

CHAI smiles sheepishly. GEE addresses him in English.

GEE

You look after my friend good!

To BEN.

GEE (CONT'D)

Bye now.

BEN

Bye.

GEE wais and leaves - BEN closes the door behind him and turns to CHAI who is once again smiling rather nervously.

BEN (CONT'D)

Come on through.

He indicates the bedrooms, and hangs back.

CHAI sees into the double room with the door ajar. It's clear that it's BEN's room.

He then sees the empty spare room. He looks back to BEN, not sure what's expected. BEN is equally unsure - he gestures vaguely at the choice of rooms.

CHAI chooses the spare room. He puts his bag on the bed. BEN is disappointed.

BEN (CONT'D)
Bathroom's here. Would you like a drink? Beer? Tea?

CHAI
I make. What you like?

BEN
OK. I'm ready for a beer. There's some in the fridge.

He leads him into the kitchen.

CHAI
You sit down Mister. I bring.

BEN
Hey - less of the 'Mister'. It's Ben.

He sits down in the living room. CHAI brings him a beer, opened, and a glass.

CHAI
I go shops now. Cook Sir nice meal.

BEN
'Ben'. Too late for that now. We'll eat out tonight.

CHAI
No. Not late.

BEN sees CHAI's determination.

BEN
Well if you're sure....

CHAI
You give me money?

BEN
Oh.. I guess. How much?

CHAI shrugs.

CHAI
What you want eat?

BEN gives him a 500 Baht note - uncertainly.

BEN
Don't mind. Not too spicy. That
enough?

CHAI shrugs.

BEN (CONT'D)
Ring the bell when you get back.
I'll get some more keys made
tomorrow.

CHAI
Give me 200 more. I make now - know
place.

BEN nervously hands over another 200 Baht and the keys. CHAI registers that he is on probation, and heads for the door.

BEN
Don't be long.

BEN looks at his watch.

CHAI
30 minutes.

He is gone.

23 INT/EXT. BANGKOK STREET/SUPERMARKET - EVENING 23

CHAI hurries down the crowded street.

He fights his way round a crowded supermarket. The queue at the checkout is enormous.

24 INT. FLAT - EVENING 24

BEN's phone rings. He looks at it before answering.

BEN
Well hello. You are alive!... It's
OK I don't want to know.....

He looks out of the window to see if he can see CHAI.

BEN (CONT'D)

They've got me a flat. Sorry about the joint account.. Well hotels are expensive places - and the eating out... I've got a cook.... It's a boy. Alex? You there?..... Oh, for Christ's sake! He's sleeping in the spare room..... Even if we do what's it to you? It's not something we've done in living memory!.... Look I'm not giving you a hard time about last night... How is it different? Alex? ALEX!!

But ALEX has rung off.

25 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 25

CHAI, carrying supermarket bags, finds a key cutting stall. There is a long queue. He checks the time on his old and cracked phone.

26 INT. FLAT - EVENING 26

BEN sits with his computer in his lap, and sips his beer. He looks at the computer clock. CHAI has been gone an hour.

He puts down the computer and looks apprehensively out of the window.

27 EXT. FLAT - EVENING 27

CHAI runs down the street, and looks apprehensively at the flat window where BEN is looking out for him.

28 INT. FLAT - EVENING 28

CHAI comes in flustered.

CHAI

Sorry mister! Many people in supermarket.

BEN

I was starting to worry.

CHAI returns BEN's keys and holds up another set.

BEN (CONT'D)

Well done.

CHAI hands over a few baht in change.

CHAI
Now I cook.

BEN
No rush. Get your breath back...

But CHAI immediately sets to work in the kitchen.

29

INT. FLAT - LATER.

29

BEN is failing to finish an indifferent and unappetising-looking meal. CHAI looks disappointed. He sits at the table but has no plate in front of him.

CHAI
Shit food. I do better.

Although hungry and disappointed, BEN smiles.

BEN
I'm just not that hungry. Still jet-lagged.

CHAI is not re-assured.

BEN (CONT'D)
And I'm still getting used to Thai food.

CHAI
I do better tomorrow. If not I go.

CHAI goes into the kitchen to clean up. It's a mess - blackened pans etc.. CHAI's plate is there. He tries it, but he doesn't like it either. He throws it away, along with the remains of BEN's.

BEN enters and observes.

BEN
And I'd really rather you ate with me.

CHAI gives him a coy look which BEN registers. CHAI busies himself cleaning up. BEN makes to dry up but CHAI won't let him. He continues the conversation standing in the kitchen.

BEN (CONT'D)
Where do you live?

CHAI

Here.

BEN

Where were you?

CHAI

Shit room in money boy flat.

BEN

You have a girlfriend?

CHAI shakes his head vigorously.

CHAI

No girl. Chai no girl.

BEN registers this, but still doesn't know how to play it.

BEN

I bet you had offers to be a money boy.

CHAI

Chai no money boy!!

He looks at BEN with a very earnest face.

CHAI (CONT'D)

Man who get Chai heart get Chai cock.

He scrubs ferociously at a burnt pan.Â BEN watches him. Silent. Thoughtful.

CHAI (CONT'D)

What you like for breakfast?

BEN

Coffee and orange juice please.

CHAI

What time?

BEN

About 8?

CHAI

OK.

CHAI continues cleaning. He looks happy.

BEN watches him, glad of the service, the company, and wondering about where it might go.

30 INT. FLAT - LATER. 30

CHAI goes towards his room. He notices the door to BEN's room ajar. BEN reads in bed. CHAI looks in briefly before going to his own room.

BEN notices.

31 INT. FLAT - MORNING. 31

CHAI is preparing breakfast in the kitchen. There is already orange juice on the table.

BEN enters sleepily in boxers and a T-shirt.

BEN
Good morning. Sleep well?

CHAI
Sleep good. Coffee?

BEN
Thanks.

CHAI
Eggs?

BEN
Thanks.

CHAI puts a plate of scrambled eggs in front of him. They've clearly been made a while and have the texture of foam rubber. BEN pokes at them and tries to eat them. He manages a mouthful or two, then gives up. He sips his coffee, which he doesn't enjoy. He wants to say something to CHAI but hasn't the heart. He looks at his watch.

BEN (CONT'D)
That was great. I'm late.

He heads back to his room. CHAI looks at the half-eaten breakfast and knows it wasn't good.

BEN returns with his briefcase and sees CHAI's sad face.

CHAI
Shit breakfast. Sorry.

BEN
I just wasn't hungry.

CHAI
I make good dinner. What time?

BEN
About 8? See you later.

CHAI
OK.

BEN is not quite sure how to say goodbye. CHAI wais low. BEN makes a clumsy effort to return it, then leaves.

32 INT. FLAT - DAY 32

CHAI goes around the flat re-arranging it and trying to make it look as good as it can.

33 INT. SHOPS - DAY 33

CHAI is looking at cookery books. They all show how to cook Thai food. In the end he finds one with British recipes. It's 1000 baht.

In another shop he buys a coffee pot with a leaflet on 'How to make perfect coffee'.

34 INT. FLAT - EVENING. 34

BEN sits at the table as CHAI brings in a plate under a cover, puts it on the table in front of him and triumphantly reveals a charred and totally inedible piece of chicken. BEN looks at it, and at CHAI, who has a cheeky grin.

CHAI
Mr. Ben like Chai ros'chicken?

BEN is at a loss how to deal with the situation. CHAI puts on an exaggerated glum face.

CHAI (CONT'D)
Chai still cook shit. Go tomorrow.

He studies BEN's face, careful to notice that BEN looks disappointed at that thought.

BEN
With a bit more practice I'm sure...

But CHAI is laughing. He takes the plate away into the kitchen and returns with a tray containing his version of a roast chicken dinner. Each item - meat, potatoes, veg - is in a separate bowl. He places it all triumphantly in front of BEN, who looks heartily relieved. CHAI giggles.

CHAI
That my practice.

BEN laughs too.

BEN
Where's your plate?

CHAI
Chai eat rice in kitchen.

BEN goes into the kitchen, where he sees the glossy English cooking book on the work surface. He picks up CHAI's bowl of rice and returns with it, putting it on the table in front of CHAI. He reaches for his wallet.

BEN
How much was the book?

CHAI
Chai buy!!

BEN feels guilty, but sees the determination in CHAI's face. He puts his wallet away.

BEN
It worked. Well done!

CHAI beams with pleasure. BEN cuts off some chicken and vegetables and puts them in CHAI's bowl. CHAI smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)
Have you always lived in Bangkok?

CHAI
Three month.

BEN
Where are you from? What brought you?

CHAI
Isaan. Far from here. Need money.
For Mum. For Tam.

BEN
Tam?

CHAI
Kid brother.

BEN
Where's Dad?

CHAI
He dead when Chai little.

CHAI has demolished the extra food BEN gave him, so BEN puts some more in his bowl.

CHAI (CONT'D)
That for Sir!

BEN
For Ben! I have more than enough.
How old is Tam?

CHAI
11 year.

BEN
Does Mum know about your work?

CHAI
She think Chai waiter before.
Uncle know I work in Go Go bar he
kill me!

BEN
Your uncle looks after you too?

CHAI
Uncle give orders. Not money.

BEN holds up his food approvingly.

BEN
This is great!

CHAI beams.

BEN smiles, then stretches and yawns. He winces and massages his shoulder.

CHAI
Sir want massage? Chai good
massage boy.

BEN eyes light up.

BEN
Are you?

CHAI beams.

BEN (CONT'D)
Does it cost extra?

CHAI shrugs, but offers a coy smile.

35 INT. FLAT - LATER

35

BEN lies face down on the bed, naked apart from a towel over his behind.

CHAI is dressed in T-shirt and shorts, massaging his neck.

CHAI
You like?

BEN
Mmmm. Who taught you?

CHAI
No-one.

BEN
You could make a living at it.

CHAI
Maybe.

BEN
Are you going to carry on dancing
at the bar?

CHAI
Shit job. Now Mr. Ben cook.

CHAI massages in silence, then..

CHAI (CONT'D)
Turn over.

BEN hesitates, not wanting to reveal his arousal.

CHAI (CONT'D)
Please.

Embarrassed, BEN turns onto his back - carefully adjusting his towel to hide his erection. CHAI observes, smiles to himself, then works in silence on his neck and down his chest.

CHAI (CONT'D)
Feel better?

BEN
Mmm.

CHAI
Less stiff?

CHAI is smiling, but BEN is unsure whether CHAI's pun is intentional. He decides to go for it.

BEN

Not everywhere....

CHAI looks embarrassed, but carries on with his massage intently. BEN is embarrassed too - worrying he's pushed things too far. He looks at CHAI's crotch, which is now very close to his face, then at his face.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm not the only one who's stiff...

BEN's instincts, born of years of experience, lead his hand towards CHAI's arousal. CHAI covers himself with his hands. But he doesn't move away. BEN senses the reluctance and remembers CHAI's earlier declaration. The hand changes direction, and moves up to brush CHAI's cheek gently. CHAI looks apprehensive, then smiles the coyest of smiles. BEN pulls his face towards him and kisses him gently on the cheek, then the lips. CHAI is still apprehensive, but doesn't resist. Then he reciprocates.

BEN's towel drops to the floor, followed by CHAI's shorts and singlet.

The two lie naked and facing each other. CHAI looks longingly into BEN's eyes. BEN is visibly moved.

CHAI's face on BEN's chest as the latter runs his hands through his hair.

CHAI smiles and turns his back to BEN. BEN reaches for condoms in the drawer.

CHAI wants to please BEN and so tries to disguise how much it's hurting him as he is penetrated.

A tender goodnight kiss, before BEN turns out the light and they lie in each others' arms. CHAI is very happy.

36

INT. FLAT - MORNING

36

BEN's mobile phone sounds an alarm. He reaches out to switch it off. CHAI is next to him and also wakes up. BEN ruffles his hair. CHAI flashes his smile, then looks apprehensive - has he given himself too soon?

CHAI

I make breakfast. What you like?

He gets out of bed and pulls on his boxers.

BEN
No rush...

CHAI
You like coffee? Fruit? Eggs?

BEN
I like you..

CHAI
I make kettle.

He goes to the kitchen.

BEN senses that he might have gone too far last night.

37

INT. FLAT - MORNING

37

BEN is dressed and sits at the table with a cup of coffee and a plateful of fruit. He looks at CHAI who is once again preparing scrambled eggs, still wearing only his boxers. BEN sips the coffee cautiously, and is relieved.

BEN
Great coffee!

CHAI plates up the eggs and brings them over. BEN cannot resist touching him, but CHAI jumps and the eggs fall off the plate. They bounce on the floor.

BEN (CONT'D)
Maybe scrambled eggs need more practice..

CHAI is crestfallen.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey - it doesn't matter!

He stands and pulls CHAI to him who resists at first, then accepts the cuddle.

BEN (CONT'D)
Sorry if I rushed things last night....

CHAI
It OK.

Then after a moment, looking BEN square in the face.

CHAI (CONT'D)
Chai first time.

BEN stands back and looks in the CHAI's eyes - with surprise and guilt. CHAI looks away, unconsciously touching his backside.

CHAI (CONT'D)
Sorry a bit tight.

The door buzzer goes. BEN looks at his watch.

BEN
Shit!! I completely forgot - my
colleague - we have a meeting.
You'd better get some clothes on.

CHAI hurries to the bedroom. BEN picks up the doorphone.

BEN (CONT'D)
Colin?

COLIN (OOV)
Hi.

BEN
Come on up.

He buzzes him in, then goes to the flat door to let him in.

COLIN
Morning. How are you?

BEN
Good. Coffee? There's some made.

COLIN registers someone else in the flat. Ben notices.

BEN (CONT'D)
Did I tell you I got a cook?

COLIN
Good idea. How much are you paying
her.. Him..?

BEN
3,000 a week. Sound OK?

COLIN
As long as he's good. I'll skip
coffee - we should go. Could I use
your loo?

BEN
Of course.

COLIN heads for the bathroom, passing CHAI as he emerges from the bedroom, now dressed in a T-shirt and shorts. He wais COLIN, who responds.

COLIN

Hi.

CHAI smiles shyly and hurries past.

COLIN follows him with a knowing gaze, then, when he is safely out of sight pushes open the door to the bedroom from which CHAI has just emerged. He then checks the other room and sees the undisturbed bed. He smiles to himself and goes into the bathroom.

In the kitchen CHAI is clearing up the eggs.

BEN

See you later!

BEN leans in to kiss CHAI, but hearing the flush immediately followed by the bathroom door jumps back. He works too hard at the 'boss' role.

BEN (CONT'D)

Dinner at 8 then?

CHAI

Yes sir. Need more food.

BEN gives him money.

BEN

Is that enough..?

COLIN enters

BEN (CONT'D)

...for the food.

CHAI

Yes sir. What time you back sir?

BEN looks at COLIN.

BEN

Seven?

COLIN

I guess. Ready?

BEN

Sure.

To CHAI

BEN (CONT'D)

Bye then.

He again doesn't know how to say goodbye. CHAI looks at him. 'What am I to you?'

BEN sees this look but returns a 'boss' look as he exits with COLIN.

CHAI starts cleaning.

38

INT. FLAT - NIGHT

38

BEN is inserting a Thai SIM card into a cheap phone. He pokes around at it, struggling to understand and make it work. The other side of the room CHAI is taking his apart and resetting the battery. BEN is getting irritable.

CHAI comes over and takes it from him, putting his own down beside him. While CHAI sorts BEN's phone out, BEN inspects CHAI's - it is very old and has a cracked screen.

BEN

How long have you had this?

CHAI

Belong my cousin. Very shit!

He hands BEN's back to him. He's added a number.

CHAI (CONT'D)

That my number.

BEN

Thank you.

CHAI

Call me.

BEN keys the phone. CHAI's phone rings. He doesn't answer but stores the number. He smiles.

CHAI (CONT'D)

I got Mr. Ben number now.

They are now sitting side by side on the sofa. BEN puts his arm along the sofa, trying to retrieve the intimacy.

BEN

Last night was lovely. Are you..
ok?

CHAI
If Mr Ben happy, Chai happy.

BEN
If you'd rather be in your own room
tonight..?

CHAI
What Mr. Ben want?

BEN's look makes that clear. He brushes CHAI's cheek.

BEN
Tomorrow's Saturday. No work. You
can show me Bangkok.

CHAI
What you want see?

BEN
I'll leave that to you.

CHAI looks concerned at that responsibility. How can he
please BEN?

39 EXT. RIVERBOAT - MORNING.

39

BEN and CHAI sit on a boat going up the river. BEN observes
the traffic - the tail boats and hustle and bustle. He is
struck by the contrast of opulence, poverty and spectacular
traditional temples.

BEN
So where are you taking me?

CHAI
You want go Wat Pho?

BEN
Sure. Is it far?

CHAI shrugs

CHAI
First time on boat.

BEN
You're kidding.

CHAI addresses a fellow passenger in Thai to get the
information.

40 EXT. PIER - DAY 40

BEN & CHAI disembark at a ramshackle pier and fight their way past stalls selling all kinds of things. BEN is apprehensive. CHAI is unconcerned.

41 EXT. WAT PHO TEMPLE - MORNING. 41

BEN & CHAI wander round the temple amongst the crowds.

BEN
When was it built?

CHAI goes to read a sign. BEN follows. CHAI starts to translate the sign, but it's also in English. They exchange smiles, then wander round. CHAI is bored, but trots round after BEN.

They look at the Farang Guards.

CHAI
Guys look like that in UK?

BEN
Not quite.

BEN gets out his camera to take a photo. CHAI insists on taking one of him with the guards.

CHAI
In UK you marry boyfriend?

BEN
You can. We...

He stops himself and quickly changes the subject.

BEN (CONT'D)
But in England it's cold and wet.
Don't you like living here?

CHAI shakes his head.

BEN (CONT'D)
You miss Mum? Tam?

CHAI's look says 'yes'.

BEN (CONT'D)
You'd like to go back to Isaan?

CHAI shakes his head.

CHAI
 Chai no good in Isaan. Chai like
 guys. And no money in Isaan.

BEN's questioning has upset CHAI and he sees it. He puts a
 comforting arm round the his shoulders.

CHAI (CONT'D)
 Where we go next?

BEN
 You tell me!

CHAI looks blank.

42 EXT. MONTAGE - DAY. 42

They see a tourist office and enter. CHAI picks up a guide-
 book and shows it to BEN, who gives him the money.

BEN takes photos of the various sights - up Wat Arun, the
 Grand Palace, Jim Thompson's house, etc. - one with and one
 without CHAI each time.

CHAI asks for his camera and takes one of him. Then asks a
 passer-by to take one of both of them.

In a bar having a drink together as they look at the map.
 CHAI starting to relax and enjoy being close to BEN.

43 INT. FLAT - EVENING 43

A weary BEN & CHAI enter. CHAI sees and picks up a card which
 has been put through the door.

CHAI
 You got internet..

BEN
 Great!

BEN wants physical contact. He takes CHAI's arm and pulls him
 into an embrace. CHAI doesn't resist.

BEN (CONT'D)
 Thank you for a lovely day.

CHAI smiles - he likes to please BEN.

CHAI
 Cup of tea?

BEN
You already know me so well.

44 INT. FLAT - MOMENTS LATER

44

A steaming cup of tea beside BEN as he opens Skype on his computer. He finds 'ALEX' in his contacts but he's offline. He checks his watch, then goes into the kitchen where CHAI is again studying his cookery book.

CHAI
What Ben want for dinner? Fishy
chips? Stayandkidney pie?

BEN
Now if you can make me one of those
I'd love you forever.

CHAI beams.

BEN (CONT'D)
Used to be my favourite, but Alex
doesn't.. I haven't had it for
years.

CHAI
Who Alex? Your cook in England?

BEN smirks.

BEN
Kind of.

CHAI studies the instructions in his book with increasing consternation.

CHAI
What 'pastry'? How you make?

BEN shrugs

CHAI looks crestfallen.

BEN
You know what. I love fish and
chips too!

CHAI
I like cook for you Mr. Ben. I want
make stayandkidney pie.

BEN
Honestly, fish and chips are fine.

CHAI
I go get. I want cook for you every
day. Always.

As CHAI heads out, BEN is uncertain where this is leading.

45

INT. FLAT - EVENING

45

CHAI and BEN are finishing a meal of battered fish and rice.
Both eat the same.

CHAI
Sorry no chip!

BEN
Fish and rice is just fine!

CHAI clears away the plates. BEN goes to his computer.

As CHAI clears up in the kitchen he hears BEN start talking.

BEN (CONT'D)
Well hello!

ALEX appears on Skype - the first time we have seen his face.
He's a few years older than BEN - fiftyish - but takes good
care of himself and carries his years well.

ALEX
Hi. How've you been?

BEN looks towards CHAI, aware that he can hear.

CHAI turns back to his cleaning.

BEN
OK. You? Busy it seems...

ALEX
I'm sure you've been busy too..

BEN
Meaning what?

ALEX
So many boys.. So little time.

CHAI can't quite hear what is being said. BEN glances over
towards him.

BEN
Sorry. Sound is crap.

ALEX
OK this end.

CHAI in the kitchen very much wants to hear what is being said.

BEN clicks off the sound and types.

BEN
Thai internet for you.

ALEX
Sorry about the other night.

BEN
It's ok

ALEX
How's the houseboy?

BEN
Fine. Keeps the place clean.

He glances to CHAI still busying himself in the kitchen. CHAI returns a smile.

ALEX
Good cook?

BEN
Better than me!

ALEX
A retarded orang-utan cooks better than you. Nice cock?

BEN
How would I know?

ALEX
I might be a fairy but I dropped off the Christmas tree a long time ago.

BEN thinks. Starts to type, but erases.

CHAI smiles and waves at BEN from the kitchen. BEN waves back uncomfortably, then writes..

BEN
Sorry.

ALEX
Oh go fuck your boy!

The picture clicks off. BEN sits back, annoyed. CHAI sees something is wrong. He walks towards the bedroom.

46

INT. FLAT BEDROOM - LATER

46

CHAI is in bed. BEN enters He's grumpy.

CHAI
How your cook?

BEN
Sorry?

CHAI
Alex. Your cook in England.

BEN
Well he's a bit more than that -

CHAI
Your boyfriend.

BEN
I share a place with Alex - just like you used to share with those guys.

CHAI
Him a fuck boy then?

BEN smiles.

BEN
Not when he's around me he's not. Not for a long time.

CHAI
You marry him?

Beat

BEN
No.

BEN smiles at CHAI and touches his face. CHAI turns away.

CHAI
It ok. He your boyfriend. Chai your cook and fuckboy.

CHAI reaches into the bedside drawer and takes out a condom and a tube of lube. He hands them to BEN. He lies on his stomach, throws back the cover and parts his legs.

BEN looks at him, then puts the equipment back in the drawer and gently pulls up the covers over CHAI. He puts a hand on the his shoulder, but there's no response.

He kisses CHAI's cheek. Still no response. At a loss he ruffles the his hair, then turns out the light.

CHAI lies awake - his dream in tatters.

47

INT. FLAT BEDROOM - MORNING

47

BEN and CHAI asleep. The door buzzer goes. BEN wakes and looks at the time. It's 9.00. He sees that CHAI is still fast asleep, so gets out of bed, puts on a dressing gown and goes to the door-phone.

BEN

Hello

GEE OOV

Mr. Ben. Gee. About the boy.

BEN

Oh right. You'd better come up.

He buzzes him in.

In the bedroom CHAI has woken up and overheard. He hastily gets up and dresses.

BEN opens the door to GEE.

GEE

Hello my friend.

He offers a low wai. BEN reciprocates clumsily, but doesn't invite him in.

CHAI listens, just out of sight.

GEE (CONT'D)

How is the boy? You like?

BEN

He's a good lad.

GEE

You keep another week?

BEN

Sure.

GEE extends his hand for money.

GEE
Then another 3,000.

BEN
Hang on.

He goes into the bedroom to retrieve his wallet, passing CHAI, who scurries into the kitchen.

BEN returns to GEE at the door with money.

BEN (CONT'D)
Why don't I give Chai next week's money directly.

GEE shakes his head.

GEE
Tch Tch. Tell Chai to come to bar later. Bye my friend

BEN
Bye

He closes the door and goes into the kitchen where CHAI is making breakfast. There's a moment of tension.

BEN (CONT'D)
Gee says for you to drop by the bar later for your money.
How much is he paying you?

CHAI
Enough.

BEN
But I assume rather less than I'm paying him.

CHAI shrugs.

BEN (CONT'D)
Listen - why don't we cut out the middle man? I'll pay you directly what I pay him.

CHAI
No mess with Gee. You go home. I need new job.

BEN
Another job like this?

CHAI

Dance boy. Money boy. Why you care?

Before BEN can answer CHAI's phone rings - it's a message. CHAI looks at it briefly, then carries on preparing breakfast. It goes again.

BEN

You're popular today.

CHAI brings him a cup of tea and a plate of bacon and eggs.

BEN (CONT'D)

And you're getting the hang of scrambled eggs! What's with all the texts?

CHAI

Friends.

BEN

Is it your birthday or something?

CHAI

Why you care?

BEN is stung. He sneaks a look at CHAI's phone and sees a Happy Birthday emoji and the number 17.

BEN

You're 17!? Your ID says 18.

CHAI shrugs.

BEN (CONT'D)

Listen. You're not cooking tonight. I'm taking you to dinner.

CHAI's phone rings - it's a call this time. BEN picks up the tattered relic, glancing at it as he passes it to CHAI. CHAI takes it, and speaks in Thai.

CHAI

Hi Mom.

He takes the phone into the other room to finish the conversation. BEN's gaze follows him. How can he repair the damage?

BEN and CHAI enter the restaurant he and COLIN ate in before. As they are shown to their table they see COLIN and NGAM.

CHAI recognises COLIN and looks at BEN, who carefully steers them clear. They are led to their table by a WAITER who quietly acknowledges something with BEN.

BEN smiles his thanks as he and CHAI sit. CHAI looks around in awe.

49

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

49

BEN is finishing an English dish, CHAI a Thai one. BEN drinks wine, CHAI coke. BEN reaches into his bag and produces a carefully wrapped present which he gives to CHAI, along with a birthday card. CHAI is amazed.

BEN

Open it!

CHAI does so. It's an i-phone. He can't believe it.

BEN (CONT'D)

I think you could use a new phone.

CHAI

iphone 6! Is 25,000 baht!!

Instinctively CHAI rushes round the table and gives BEN a great big hug.

CHAI (CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Ben the best man in the world!

He is soon adeptly getting to grips with his new phone. BEN's phone goes. It's a 'Whatsapp' message from ALEX.

Hi. What are you up to?

BEN texts back:

In a restaurant.

ALEX

Who with?

BEN

Chai.

CHAI is putting his SIM card in etc.

ALEX

Dinner dates now then?!!

BEN

It's his birthday. Catch u later.
XX

ALEX

*How much did you spend on his
present? Joint account's
overdrawn....*

BEN sweeps the message off the screen and puts the phone away. CHAI is too busy with his present to notice.

Two WAITERS approach carrying a cake with lighted candles. The restaurant music changes to a tacky version of 'Happy Birthday. The WAITERS set the cake down on BEN & CHAI's table.

BEN

Wow. Thank you.

The WAITERS applaud and other customers join in, including COLIN & NGAM who suddenly notice BEN and come over.

COLIN

Ben. Hi.

NGAM

Hi Ben.

BEN shake hands with COLIN, wais clumsily to NGAM.

BEN

This is Chai. It's his birthday...

COLIN

So we gathered. Hi Chai.

CHAI offers him a low wai. Colin returns it. He then wais NGAM, who returns it too.

NGAM (IN THAI)

Good to meet you.

CHAI (IN THAI)

Hi. You too.

BEN

Can't make him cook for me on his birthday.

NGAM (IN THAI)

How old are you?

CHAI looks to BEN before answering.

CHAI (IN THAI)

19

COLIN understands and doesn't believe him. He looks at BEN who hasn't understood.

COLIN
He's saying he's 19.

BEN
They all look so young here....

COLIN
Happy Birthday Chai.

CHAI proudly shows off his i-phone to NGAM, who is suitably impressed. She speaks in English for BEN's benefit.

NGAM
That's a wonderful present - you'll
be the envy of all your friends.
You must be a very good cook!

COLIN looks at BEN and raises an eyebrow.

BEN
Coming on by leaps and bounds!

COLIN
Enjoy your birthday!

To BEN

See you tomorrow!

NGAM
*Lovely to meet you Chai - and to
see you again Ben.*

To CHAI in Thai:

Happy Birthday.

COLIN and NGAM return to their table.

Suddenly BEN is very conscious of being the centre of attention in a restaurant with a Thai teenager who is supposed to be his cook. He feels very uncomfortable.

BEN
You had enough?

CHAI nods distractedly - busy tucking into cake and playing with his phone, and very happy.

He goes to BEN & puts his arm round him, then takes a 'selfie' of them both with his new phone.

BEN signals a waiter for the bill.

50

EXT. THA TIEN - NIGHT

50

BEN & CHAI walk along the river at Tha Tien. Wat Arun is romantically lit up behind them.

CHAI

You make birthday special. You a special guy.

BEN

I'm just me. Old enough to be your Dad.

CHAI

Like older guys.

BEN

Not guys your age..?

CHAI pulls a face.

CHAI

Drugs. Crazy stuff. Just want sex. Older guys good.

He offers a very low wai. BEN reciprocates, equally low, bumping CHAI's head. CHAI laughs.

CHAI (CONT'D)

Khun Ben do terrible wai!

BEN

Wai?

CHAI demonstrates.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh that's a wai.

He follows CHAI's example.

CHAI

You older man. I do low wai, you do high wai.

BEN

Why?

They laugh..

CHAI
 Respect. Low wai I respect Khun
 Ben. High wai say 'thank you'.

CHAI attempts to school BEN in the art of the wai - putting his hands in the right place and demonstrating the importance of the low and the high.

Not taking it entirely seriously, BEN uses it as an excuse for physical contact. He tickles CHAI. As the lesson finishes BEN puts his arm round CHAI's shoulder.

BEN
 Will you get any other presents?

CHAI
 This first present ever.

BEN
 You're kidding!

CHAI
 No kid.

BEN
 Not even from your Mum?

CHAI
 Mum no money!

They stop to enjoy the view.

CHAI (CONT'D)
 You always get present in England?

BEN
 Usually.

CHAI
 From your boyfriend?

Beat. BEN avoids the challenge.

BEN
 From lots of friends.

CHAI
 England good place.

They enjoy the atmosphere for a moment.

BEN
 If you came to the UK you'd be very
 popular you know. Lots of guys..

CHAI stops him by grabbing his hand.

CHAI
Chai no want lots of guys. Lots of
guys here.

He looks fixedly at BEN.

CHAI (CONT'D)
Just one special guy. Most special
guy in the world.

BEN is visibly moved. His phone goes. It's a text from ALEX:

*Looks like you're still busy with
your boy. I'm off out. Contact me
if/when you can be bothered.*

He puts the phone away, annoyed. They begin to walk along
the river, Ben's arm still on CHAI's shoulder.

BEN
What's your dream Chai?

CHAI looks puzzled.

BEN (CONT'D)
What would make you truly happy?

CHAI
Chai happy now.

BEN stops and faces CHAI. Wat Arun behind them.

BEN
But for the rest of your life....?

CHAI hesitates, not daring. Then..

CHAI
Live UK with Mr. Ben.

BEN turns to gaze across the river. CHAI looks apprehensive.

BEN
Just as well you met your Fairy
Godmother then...

CHAI
Fairy what?

BEN
They make dreams come true.

CHAI
You mean.....?

BEN
Sure. Why not?

BEN puts his arm round CHAI whose smile goes from ear to ear. He cuddles Ben tightly. Both are lost in the romance of the place and the moment. They gaze at the illuminated Wat Arun reflected in the river.

CHAI uses his iphone to take another 'selfie' of the two of them with the temple behind.

51 INT. FLAT BEDROOM - NIGHT

51

CHAI is sending the picture to his brother TAM, whose image we see on the phone. He then calls and speaks to him in Thai.

CHAI
My new friend and me.

TAM
Where's he from?

CHAI
UK. We're going to live there together.

LIVING ROOM.

BEN is skyping with ALEX. The door is closed.

ALEX
So you won't want to know that the bloody washing machine has packed up. It's £100 to fix it, so I don't think it's worth it.

BEN
Let's get a new one.

ALEX
We'll both need to put some more in the joint account then. (pointedly)
It's been hammered a bit recently!

BEDROOM.

TAM

Can I come to Bangkok? I want to meet Ben.

CHAI

Maybe - put Mum on.

LIVING ROOM.

ALEX

Your Mum rang.

BEN

Sorry. I should have called her. I'll send her a postcard.

ALEX

You've not done that yet?

CHAI rushes in smiling behind BEN.

CHAI

Mr. Ben can we.....

He sees who BEN is chatting to, and exits hurriedly.

ALEX

Mmm. He is cute! Very you! How's his cooking?

BEN looks over his shoulder, but CHAI has gone.

52

INT. FLAT BEDROOM - LATER

52

CHAI lies disconsolately in bed. BEN comes in and climbs into bed.

BEN

Is everything ok?

CHAI

Sure. You busy with boyfriend.

BEN

Alex and I are old friends. But not lovers now. With guys it's different from how your Mum and Dad are.. were. Especially when we're different ages like you and me.

CHAI looks at him, not understanding.

CHAI

Chai love Khun Ben. Age no problem.

BEN

And I love you too, Chai. But you can love more than 1 person. You love your Mum too don't you?

CHAI

But don't make sex with Mum!

He pulls a face. BEN smiles

BEN

I hope not!

He wants to explain more, but CHAI cuts in.

CHAI

She want come Bangkok.

BEN

Your Mum?

CHAI

She very happy about you and me. Want meet you.

BEN is not keen. He climbs into bed.

BEN

It's a small flat.

CHAI

Oh no stay! Just dinner. Mom and Tam. Uncle bring them. They stay with Uncle friend here.

BEN looks at him, not keen on the idea.

CHAI (CONT'D)

5 months I no see my Mom. She miss me. I miss her. Tam too. She want meet you.

He puts his arm round BEN's neck.

CHAI (CONT'D)

I cook. I buy food.

BEN

When do they want to come?

CHAI

Next week. Please Mr. Ben.

He puts his arms round BEN from behind and snuggles in.

BEN

What are you up to you...?

CHAI reaches into the drawer for the condoms and lube.

CHAI

You want Chai go top?

BEN

You're full of surprises aren't you..

CHAI smiles and snuggles in more.

53

INT. COFFEE BAR - MORNING.

53

NGAM sits at a table. BEN brings over two coffees.

BEN

Am I crazy?

NGAM

You must make them welcome. You are very honoured. Family are important here, and it will be vital to him that this goes well. How much does his mother know?

BEN isn't sure how much NGAM knows.

BEN

She knows we share a flat. I think. You didn't answer my question.. Am I crazy?

NGAM

In Bangkok it's easy to get sex with boys. But they don't tell their mother. This is different.

She leans forward and touches BEN's arm gently.

NGAM (CONT'D)

Don't break his heart.

BEN looks apprehensive.

54

EXT. HUA LAMPONG STATION - DAY

54

CHAI waits nervously on the crowded platform.

He sees SUMANA a warm, motherly figure who looks older than her 38 years, and TAM, an energetic 11-year-old, led purposefully by Uncle BANYAT - a large, rather aggressive looking man of 45. He carries a large bag, the others small ones. They are poorly dressed compared to others.

CHAI runs to them, hugs SUMANA, high 5s and hugs TAM and offers a low wai to BANYAT, who returns it then quickly leads them away.

55

EXT. BANGKOK - AFTERNOON.

55

CHAI, TAM, SUMANA and BANYAT walk through the streets. BANYAT leading purposefully, SUMANA and CHAI chatting excitedly.

TAM is wide-eyed on this, his first visit. Unnoticed by the others he stops to look in a girl bar. CHAI realises he is not with them and goes back to find him and drag him away.

BANYAT too realises and comes back sternly to collect both and hurry them on.

At a Sky Train station BANYAT tries to usher SUMANA and TAM on to the platform. They speak in Thai.

BANYAT

My friend's place is only 20 minutes from here. We'll drop our bags and come over. What time?

CHAI

7 o'clock?

BANYAT

OK. Tam! This way.

TAM

I want to go with Chai. I'll help him.

BANYAT

You come with us. Chai will be busy.

CHAI

It's ok.

SUMANA

Let him go with his brother. It's been a long time.

BANYAT is not happy.

SUMANA (CONT'D)
Come Banyat. Let them go.

BANYAT
OK. But Soi Cowboy and Patpong are off limits!

CHAI
Sure. Of course! Bye.

CHAI and TAM rush off.

56

INT. FLAT - AFTERNOON

56

BEN works on his computer. He looks stressed. CHAI and TAM enter, chattering excitedly. BEN gets up for the usual kiss, then sees TAM and stops.

BEN
 You must be Tam. Pleased to meet you.

He holds out his hand. Slightly in awe, TAM having started a low wai, takes it. It's the first time he's used the Western greeting. He has practised his words.

TAM
 Me happy meet Mr. Ben.

BEN
 You speak good English.

TAM beams.

BEN (CONT'D)
 Where's your Mum?

CHAI
 She go with Uncle. Come later.

BEN
 What time?

CHAI
 Seven.

BEN looks at his watch.

BEN
 OK. I've got this report to finish. Let me know if you need any help.

CHAI
No need help. Chai and Tam do
everything.

He goes into the kitchen. BEN returns to his computer. TAM
stares at BEN till CHAI drags him into the kitchen.

CHAI is busily preparing everything, checking his book
watched intently by TAM, who takes every opportunity to steal
bits of food. Eventually CHAI shoos him out and he goes once
more to stare at BEN. After a while BEN can no longer ignore
him.

BEN
You like computers?

TAM examines the machine over BEN's shoulder.

TAM
Playstation 4?

BEN
No no. This is for work.

TAM
No game?

BEN
Well I do have one or two...

CHAI now carefully prepares the table. Everything is done to
look perfect. Candles, napkins - he is very stressed.

Intercut with:

BEN demonstrates a computer game to TAM.

57

INT. FLAT - LATER.

57

*Throughout this scene the Thais speak their own language
except when talking directly to BEN.*

CHAI completes final preparations. TAM plays on BEN's
computer while BEN looks on in apprehension.

The doorbell rings. CHAI goes to answer it and ushers in
BANYAT followed by SUMANA. SUMANA looks admiringly at the
flat. BANYAT, looking uncomfortable, goes through to the
living room where BEN gets up to greet him.

CHAI rushes in to make the introductions - to BANYAT in Thai,
to BEN in English

CHAI
Mr Ben - Uncle Banyat.

BEN
Pleased to meet you.

CHAI translates as BEN offers his hand. BANYAT offers a high wai suspiciously. BEN clumsily responds - not sure whether to go high or low. BANYAT speaks to CHAI in Thai.

BANYAT
How did you meet him?

CHAI
A friend told me he needed a cook.

BANYAT
You cook now?

CHAI
I learned. I cook well.

BEN looks on uncomfortably. It's clear they're talking about him. SUMANA comes out from behind BANYAT.

BEN
You must be Chai's Mum.

SUMANA offers a very low wai, which BEN returns, still clumsily. SUMANA's English is very limited.

SUMANA
Sumana. Chai Mom honoured meet Chai friend Khun Ben.

Behind them TAM continues to play on the computer, intent on his game. BEN feels uncomfortable with this, and with not understanding parts of the conversation.

BEN
Would anyone like a drink?
Wine...?

CHAI translates. BANYAT shakes his head. SUMANA speaks to CHAI in Thai. CHAI translates to BEN as he follows him into the kitchen.

CHAI
Mum and Banyat drink water or juice. Tam too.

They look over at TAM on the computer, and BANYAT notices him too. He goes over to see what the boy is doing.

BEN is uncomfortable with both Banyat and Tam on his computer, but has to finish getting the drinks.

CHAI is now preparing to serve the meal. He chats to SUMANA in Thai as she helps him.

SUMANA

The UK is so far away.

CHAI

I'll come back to visit. And you can come there.

Aware again he is being discussed, BEN goes to give BANYAT his drink and uses the opportunity to check out what is happening on the computer.

CHAI and SUMANA are bringing in the first course and setting it out on the table. CHAI lights the candles. It looks amazing - his efforts have been very successful. He calls his family to the table in Thai, then to BEN in English.

CHAI (CONT'D)

We eat now.

BANYAT

Where is your bathroom?

CHAI points to the bathroom. BEN gets the idea of what has been asked, but is again apprehensive about BANYAT, who heads off to the bathroom.

CHAI drags TAM from the computer. BEN checks it then shuts it down.

All now sit round the table and admire CHAI's spread.

SUMANA

You are my clever boy.

BEN puts his hand on CHAI's shoulder and speaks quietly.

BEN

Well done!

CHAI beams.

BANYAT emerges from the bathroom and takes the opportunity to check the bedrooms. He sees the double room, clearly slept in by two people. He checks the single room - clearly not used. He returns to the dining room where all are seated and waiting for him to join them.

SUMANA and CHAI chatter excitedly in Thai.

CHAI gestures to the empty seat but BANYAT remains standing. SUMANA goes to BANYAT and speaks to him in Thai while CHAI looks on in apprehension.

SUMANA

Chai was telling me that he will live in England with Khun Ben in his house. He will got to college - he's a clever boy, so he will do well. He'll be a long way away, but as long as he's happy...

BANYAT

And how many bedrooms does Khun Ben have in his house?

He looks accusingly at BEN who is getting the gist of this.

SUMANA

Maybe many bedrooms. He's a rich man..

BANYAT

This man is a pervert who has defiled your son.

SUMANA looks shocked, then to CHAI.

BANYAT (CONT'D)

You let him come to Bangkok - this is what happens!

BEN gets the message but observes helplessly.

CHAI

Uncle please sit and eat.

SUMANA

Banyat - look at this lovely meal..

BANYAT

I cannot eat with this man.

He looks directly at BEN. CHAI goes over to Banyat.

CHAI

Ben is my friend. He is good to me.

BANYAT

He destroys you.

SUMANA

Banyat...

BANYAT
He is a pervert.

CHAI looks at BEN and SUMANA, then goes over to Ben and takes his arm.

CHAI
He is not a pervert. I love him. He loves me!

BANYAT
Shame on you!

CHAI
In his country they understand. We will be married.

SUMANA
If they love each other..? If Chai is happy..? In UK..?

He kisses BEN full on the lips. BEN doesn't respond. There is silence as TAM, BANYAT and SUMANA observe.

BANYAT (TO CHAI)
You bring shame on your family! In front of your brother too.

TAM looks bewildered.

SUMANA
Banyat please! Look at this lovely meal my boy has cooked for us... Sit down. You too Chai. Let's eat.

CHAI has much he wants to say to Banyat, but controls himself, with clear difficulty. He indicates once more the empty chair. A moment's stand-off, then:

BANYAT
Come, we are leaving.

He strides round the table, grabs SUMANA's bag and coat and ushers her out of the door. He then goes for TAM, but the boy rushes to CHAI and clings to him.

TAM
I stay here with my brother.

He grabs BEN too.

TAM (CONT'D)
With my new Dad!

BEN looks on helplessly. BANYAT grabs TAM. A tussle ensues, but BANYAT, the bigger man prevails. BANYAT guards SUMANA and TAM behind him and offers a hand to CHAI, suddenly calm.

BANYAT

Come with us too boy and put this behind you.

CHAI trembles, then completely loses his temper and screams out the worst Thai curse he can.

CHAI

The Thai equivalent of 'FUCK OFF YOU STUPID OLD CUNT!!!!'

Even SUMANA and TAM are shocked.

SUMANA

Chai!

BANYAT hurries them out of the flat without another word and slams the door behind them.

CHAI collapses on a chair and buries his head in his hands. BEN feels desperate for CHAI, but at the same time is relieved that the family have departed.

Suddenly CHAI picks up a plate of food and hurls it at the wall. BEN goes to him and hugs him. CHAI buries his face in BEN's shoulder for a moment, inconsolable.

Then he quietly gets up and clears up the broken plate and spilt food. BEN watches as he calmly resets the table for just the two of them, putting all the spare plates etc. in the kitchen.

BEN's phone goes. It's ALEX. BEN switches it off.

CHAI pours them both a glass of wine, and clinks BEN's with his.

CHAI

To my Khun Ben. He make me happy.

BEN clinks his glass, wordlessly. They eat, CHAI desperately trying to forget what has happened, BEN beginning to realise what he has got himself into.

58

INT. COFFEE BAR - MORNING

58

BEN having coffee with COLIN and NGAM. Their two children play nearby.

NGAM

He's now in a very difficult position with his family. To insult his uncle like that....

COLIN

He knows you're off in a couple of weeks?

BEN

I've not reminded him.

NGAM

Please give him my number. He'll need help when you've gone.

COLIN makes a decision and leans forward.

COLIN

Listen, there's another job come up we could use some help on - up in Chiang Mai. Probably at least a month or two.

BEN looks at him, tempted.

59

INT. FLAT - EVENING

59

CHAI is cleaning in the kitchen. He has his iphone in his pocket and earphones in, and is dancing and singing along to the pop song he's listening to.

BEN enters and watches for a moment, unseen.

Suddenly CHAI sees him and jumps. Then gives him a kiss and makes him dance too.

BEN

How's my handsome?

CHAI

Chai good. Chai with Mr. Ben! Soon in UK!

He makes BEN dance some more. Not so keen on the dancing, BEN enjoys the physical contact.

BEN

Maybe not just yet..

CHAI

What you mean?

BEN
Wouldn't you rather be with me in
your own country?

CHAI shrugs. He wouldn't. But then smiles again.

CHAI
Be with Mr.Ben. Anywhere!

BEN wants to say something, but stops himself.

BEN
Let me make a call.

He gives CHAI a hug before breaking away and going to his computer in the other room. He closes the door. CHAI wonders what BEN meant. He goes to listen at the door.

In the living room BEN is Skyping with ALEX.

ALEX
I'm sure you'll make the most of
your last couple of weeks.

BEN
Listen Alex, I....

ALEX
I've asked Andrew & Jon over. The
Saturday after you get back. Kind
of a 'Welcome Home' party. Hope you
won't be too jet-lagged.

Looking for an excuse to go into the living room, CHAI opens a beer and gets a glass.

ALEX (CONT'D)
If you like you can fall asleep in
the corner and we can party round
you.

BEN
It's just that..

ALEX
And don't forget your Mum is down
for a few days from the Monday.

BEN
Is she?

ALEX

I did tell you.. I booked tickets for us all for Miss Saigon - it's on in Brum at the Hippodrome.

BEN

Great.

CHAI knocks at the door and enters with the beer, carefully staying behind the computer screen. BEN looks at him.

ALEX

What do you have planned for your last weekend?

BEN is paralysed with indecision.

60 INT/EXT. MONTAGE HOLIDAY ISLAND - DAY/NIGHT 60

BEN and CHAI get off a boat and start to explore the island. Sunshine and tourists - a holiday atmosphere.

BEN and CHAI sitting on a beach. CHAI plays with his phone, while BEN observes a family nearby with a teenage son. The father plays with his son in the sea.

Self-consciously, BEN & CHAI play in the sea in a similar way, resisting what they really want.

Lying together on the sand they furtively hold hands, but let go when someone passes. Nearby a man and woman are embracing without inhibitions.

They enter an expensive hotel - Chai is in awe. As they enter their room they instantly embrace and kiss. CHAI is thrilled - plays with the fancy shower. BEN enters the cubicle with him.

BEN & CHAI cuddled up in bed. CHAI beatifically happy.

In a tourist shop, CHAI wants to buy a cheap souvenir - BEN pretends to like it. He pays for it.

61 EXT. BEACH - EVENING 61

Alone in a quiet part of the beach, BEN and CHAI embrace as they watch the sunset together, both blissfully happy in the moment.

62 INT. SMALL FLAT - AFTERNOON 62

BEN and CHAI enter a small, rather dingy studio flat. CHAI carries the one small bag he had when he arrived at BEN's. As soon as they are in the door BEN hugs him from behind. CHAI tries to look happy with what he sees.

BEN gives an apologetic shrug.

CHAI

It ok. Only few weeks. Then I come UK.

BEN

I've paid up front here for three months.

CHAI

Thanks Kuhn Ben. My Mr. Ben.

He beams at him. They embrace.

63 INT. SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT - MORNING 63

BEN has checked in and stops by the departure gate with CHAI. They desperately want a hug, but neither feels comfortable doing that in public.

CHAI

I love you Mr. Ben. I always love you.

BEN takes his hand and squeezes it discreetly.

BEN

I know. You are very, very special.

The emotion is tangible. BEN finally turns and goes through to security. He looks back at CHAI - an increasingly lonely figure in a large and busy airport.

64 EXT. SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT - MORNING 64

A large jet takes off.

65 INT. SMALL FLAT - AFTERNOON 65

CHAI in his flat. He looks at the selfies of him and BEN on his i-phone. His eyes fill up.

66 INT. AIRCRAFT - AFTERNOON. 66

BEN flicks through photos of CHAI on his phone. He looks wistfully out of the window.

67 EXT. HEATHROW AIRPORT - MORNING 67

It's cold and wet. ALEX, wrapped in a raincoat, hurries into Arrivals.

68 EXT. THA TIEN - NIGHT 68

CHAI, alone, gazes at the river. It's dark and Wat Arun is lit up on the opposite bank.

Nearby a straight couple with their arms round each other also enjoy the place.

69 INT. HEATHROW AIRPORT - MORNING. 69

A weary BEN emerges from Arrivals. ALEX is waiting for him. BEN wasn't expecting that. A pause as they meet, then a wordless hug. They are both feeling very emotional.

70 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 70

CHAI walks alone in the streets of Bangkok. He gets a call from SUMANA. But his eyes fill with tears and he can't face answering it.

71 EXT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - EVENING 71

A very English housing estate.

A BMW pulls up outside a well-kept semi - BEN & ALEX's home. Two men in their 40s - ANDREW & JON - smartly, but casually dressed and generally well-presented - emerge and walk to the front door. They ring the door bell.

ALEX answers and greets each with a hug and kiss on both cheeks.

72 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - EVENING 72

A smart and well-presented, but not opulent home.

In the living Room BEN is reading a text from CHAI:

I love you very much Mr. Ben.
XOXOXOXOX

He turns the sound down on his phone, then goes out to join ALEX in greeting the visitors.

73 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - EVENING 73

A dinner party. ALEX and BEN, plus ANDREW and JON. Conversation in full swing. BEN observes.

ANDREW
We loved the place, didn't we Jon?

JON

You did!

ANDREW

The place where everyone loves a fairy when she's 40..

JON

Everyone loves a fairy's wallet!

ANDREW

Well they deserve something - all poor as shit. But you can have a new one every night for a week and still come back with change from, what.... 150 quid.

ALEX

So you were doing the temples while Andrew was shagging his way round the boy bars?

JON

I didn't say that... But I just found it a bit like, I dunno - a.. a cream cake - attractive to look at and 1st bite is great.. but the more you eat the more cloying it becomes. You can't resist eating it all but when you get to the end you wish you hadn't.. And you know it's done you no good. Anyway, Ben - nice to have you back.

BEN has been listening to this, unimpressed but reluctant to comment.

BEN

Thanks.

JON addresses ALEX.

JON

Weren't you tempted to go with him?

ALEX

Best to let him sort his mid-life crisis by himself.

He looks at BEN. BEN smiles mirthlessly.

JON

And did you?

BEN

I had ... an interesting time.

He throws a look at ALEX.

ALEX

I'll say this much for him - as far as I can tell he wasn't actually screwing around!

ANDREW

OMG.! Ben keeping his trousers on! What happened....?

ALEX

I didn't say he wasn't screwing.

Glances round the table pick up on the hint of tension.

BEN

I was there for work.

ANDREW

Same as the boys. A lot of them are straight anyway. They can earn more in an hour than they'd get in a week as a waiter or something, so who can blame them? There are worse ways to pay the rent.

BEN is suddenly angry.

BEN

Some are straight. Some aren't. And for those that aren't it's not as easy as you think. A choice between being an outcast in your village or putting a price tag on your ass in Bangkok. These are people, for Christ's sake, not just fucktoys!

Uncomfortable reactions all round. ALEX takes in this outburst in silence.

74

EXT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT

74

CHAI passes the Go Go bar where he used to work. He stops to look inside. A MIDDLE-AGED CUSTOMER entering the bar cruises him. He hurries off, then stops and texts.

75 INTERIOR. BEN & ALEX'S HOME. NIGHT. 75

BEN is in his study on his computer. He opens Skype where there's a message from CHAI. Are you home now? I miss you so much.

ALEX pops his head round the door. BEN quickly changes the screen.

ALEX
I think that went OK.

BEN
Sorry for my outburst.

BEN gives a coy 'naughty boy' look. ALEX's look is reproving/forgiving.

ALEX
I'm going up. Don't be long.

He leaves the room and Ben reopens Skype and types a reply to CHAI:

Yes I'm home. Miss you too. Big hugs. XXX.

He shuts down the computer before CHAI can reply. He rubs his face in sadness, then leaves the room.

76 INT. SMALL FLAT - MORNING 76

CHAI lies on his bed reading BEN's message on his phone. He sees him go offline. He types:

Mr. Ben. Mr Ben. Hello!!

But there's no reply. He buries his head in the pillow.

77 INT. BEN & ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 77

ALEX sits up in bed reading. BEN climbs in beside him.

BEN
You want to read?

ALEX puts his book on the bedside table.

ALEX
Just waiting for you.

BEN
Sorry.

ALEX

It's OK. Good to have you back.
This bed's felt very empty.

BEN

How empty has it been?

ALEX

A lot emptier than yours in
Bangkok.

BEN says nothing. ALEX leans over and kisses him. BEN smiles
an acknowledgement.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Goodnight. Hope you sleep ok.

He turns out the light. After a moment ALEX snuggles behind
BEN and puts his arms round him. BEN acknowledges the
contact. ALEX is happy. BEN is not. He lies awake.

78 EXT/INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

78

CHAI looks at a sign in Thai in the window. He goes in and
talks to the Head Waiter.

He washes up and cleans in a busy kitchen.

He is elbowed aside by a burly chef.

79 INT. SMALL FLAT - DAY

79

CHAI is in bed with his i-Phone on Skype. Against BEN's name
there are 3 unread messages from the last 3 days after the
one from BEN.

*2 days ago: Hello Mr Ben. How are
you?*

Yesterday: Are you there?

He types another:

*I don't hear from you. I miss you.
Had to get shit job.*

80 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME/SMALL FLAT - AFTERNOON/NIGHT

80

BEN logs on to Skype and sees several of his favourites
online, including CHAI. His mouse hovers over CHAI's name.
Then he gets a message and checks it. The sender is a good-
looking young man:

Hi Sexy. Long time no see....

SMALL FLAT

CHAI is visibly excited to see BEN online. He types:

Mr Ben! My love! I miss you so much.

He gets a reply:

My sweet boy! How are you? Sorry I haven't been in touch. Crazy busy.

CHAI types:

Can I call you?

BEN replies:

1 minute.

CHAI is upset. He types:

For ages I don't hear. Then you no time for Chai.

He waits impatiently.

After a few moments he gets a a call from BEN. As the picture comes up his face is wreathed in a smile.

BEN
Hello my sweet.

CHAI
Mr Ben!!

BEN
Sorry I've not been in touch.

CHAI
You too busy now. You no love your boy no more.

BEN
It's not that, you crazy boy. But I am busy...

BEN turns his head guiltily as he hears the door.

BEN & ALEX'S HOME

ALEX pokes his head round the door.

ALEX
Don't forget we're out to Jon and
Andrew..

He sees CHAI on the computer. That your Bangkok boy?

BEN
Yes. Chai. We're just...

But ALEX has left, closing the door sharply without a word.

SMALL FLAT

CHAI
You still with boyfriend?

BEN
My friend. Yes.. We..

CHAI
When I come to UK?

BEN
It's a bit difficult at the moment.

CHAI
You say you love your boy.

BEN
Of course I do.

CHAI
No bring him to UK. Only 3 weeks
left at flat.

A beep as BEN gets another message. You still busy?

CHAI (CONT'D)
Who else you chat to?

BEN
Just a friend.. Look - I have to go
out. Can we speak tomorrow?

CHAI
When?

BEN
This time.

CHAI
Promise?

BEN
Of course.

CHAI
OK. 7.30 o'clock your time. 1.30 in morning mine.

BEN ends the call. CHAI stares at his phone.

BEN & ALEX'S HOME.

BEN clicks on the other friend's chat.

81 INT. SMALL FLAT - NEXT NIGHT 81

CHAI enters his flat tired after a long shift at the restaurant. There's a letter on the floor which he picks up and reads. It's a bill for the rent. 2,000 Bht.

He looks in his wallet - he has 1,000. He looks at his phone, it's midnight. He lies on his bed to wait, struggles to stay awake.

At 1.30am he opens Skype on his phone. BEN is offline. He waits patiently.

82 INT. UK. CAR - EARLY EVENING 82

BEN is with the YOUNG MAN he chatted to on Skype.

83 INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT 83

CHAI checks his watch again - it's 2am. He finds BEN's mobile number and sends a text.

84 INT. UK. CAR - EARLY EVENING 84

YOUNG MAN now has his head in BEN's lap. BEN's phone goes. He picks it up from the dashboard and checks it, then checks his watch. He mouths an expletive. He has completely forgotten his arrangement with CHAI.

85 INT. SMALL FLAT/ISAAN - MORNING 85

CHAI has fallen asleep fully clothed. His phone rings next to his head. He grabs it eagerly, then sees it's 8am, then that it's his mother. His face registers disappointment, then concern. He answers (in Thai)

CHAI

Hi Mom.

SUMANA

Chai I'm so worried. Is Tam there?

CHAI

Of course not!

SUMANA

He ran away. He left a note - said he was coming to you. He took some money... You must call him.

CHAI

Sure I'll call him. He's a crazy boy.

CHAI's face says 'Give me a break!' as he ends the call and calls Tam.

CHAI (CONT'D)

Tam! Where are you?....OK - Get a Tuk-Tuk - I'll text the address.

He ends the call and begins to text.

86

INT. SMALL FLAT - LATER

86

CHAI roughly manhandles TAM into the flat and keys the phone.

CHAI

Mom? He's here. Tonight he gets the night train back.

TAM

I'm not going back! I'm coming to the UK to be with you and Mr Ben.

SUMANA

I can't control him. He gets into trouble.

CHAI stares angrily at TAM

SUMANA (CONT'D)

You must take care of your brother

CHAI is torn between the desire for TAM's company and worry about the responsibility it represents.

CHAI

Mom I'll call you back.

He keys off the phone. TAM beams at him.

CHAI (CONT'D)
*You must behave well, or I'll call
 Banyat and he will come for you.*

TAM
*Not Banyat. Mr. Ben. When you go to
 the UK you take me.*

CHAI
How? Who will pay?

TAM
Mr. Ben. He likes me.

CHAI
*You're crazy. Anyway you need a
 passport.*

TAM produces one from his bag.

TAM
*Mum got me one so that I can visit
 UK when you go.*

CHAI picks up his phone and messages BEN on Skype:

Hello Mr. Ben. I need chat.

87 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME/SMALL FLAT - MORNING/AFTERNOON 87

BEN opens Skype and sees several messages from CHAI, who is offline, ending with:

*Please! Big problem. Tam here. He
 run away.*

He looks annoyed. He texts:

Hi Chai. He must go home.

With CHAI as his phone registers the Skype message. Excited to find BEN online, he replies. TAM observes.

*Hi Mr. Ben. My love. He won't.
 Want to come to UK with me.*

CHAI waits for a message. He sees that BEN is writing one, then deleting it. He looks at TAM who is trying to see what he writes, but CHAI pulls it away.

At last the message comes through.

I see.

CHAI
When I come?

With BEN. The noise of the front door as ALEX enters.

ALEX (OFF)
Hi Ben.

BEN
Hi.

He types:
It's difficult at the moment.

Outside BEN's door ALEX waits for him to appear and greet him.

CHAI
You promise. Marry me. Adopt Tam.

BEN
I didn't promise to bring Tam.

CHAI
Please Mr. Ben.

Annoyed, ALEX hangs up his coat.

BEN thinks, then types:

I'll have to see.

With CHAI as again he has to hide this from TAM. A tussle.

With BEN as ALEX goes to his door and enters.

ALEX
I'm home!

BEN
Yes. Hi. Sorry.

There a bleep as CHAI sends a message:

You there?

BEN types
BRB.

ALEX
Will you marry me?

BEN
I'm sorry?

A bleep indicates a Skype message. Ben kills the sound.

ALEX
It's a simple question.

BEN
I thought I had..Seventeen years ago.

ALEX
We've lived together for seventeen years.

BEN
Is this about a CP?

ALEX
Yes. I want to know where you are.

BEN
Here. With you.

ALEX
In body perhaps. But your heart's in Bangkok. Your dick's in any passing lad with a dad issue who'll give you access.

BEN
I thought we had an open relationship?

ALEX
Yes.

BEN
So?

ALEX
I'm fine with the open. It's the relationship I'm not sure about right now.

BEN
You've not exactly been the Pope..

ALEX
While you were away, no.

BEN
I got the impresssion you were glad
of the freedom.

ALEX
Maybe. For a week or so.

BEN
You were never in.

ALEX
But then I knew I missed you.

He looks hard at BEN, who can't hold the look.

BEN
Is a CP going to fix things?

ALEX
Absolutely not. I just want you to
make your mind up.

BEN says nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Chat to your boy. I'll get dinner.

He leaves the room and closes the door. BEN opens the
computer.

There are 4 messages on Skype:

*Please help Mr. Ben.
I miss you so much.
Tam miss you so much.
Tam cost me much money..*

With CHAI as he types another message.

Please Mr.Ben. I love you Mr. Ben!

With BEN. He makes a decision and types:

*I have to go now. Catch you later.
xx*

With CHAI as he reads this.

88

INT. BANGKOK SUPERMARKET - MORNING

88

CHAI & TAM shopping. CHAI buys simple food - rice,
vegetables. TAM looks at expensive trainers. CHAI pulls him
away and continues shopping. But next time he looks round TAM
has disappeared. He shakes his head and continues shopping.

TAM reappears, looking guilty. CHAI makes him open his bag - the trainers are in it.

CHAI (IN THAI)
*You do that once again you go to
 stay with Banyat!*

He takes them out angrily, holds on to the bag and insists that TAM replaces them. TAM dutifully does.

89 EXT. BANGKOK STREET - MORNING 89

CHAI and TAM carrying the shopping home. They pass some food vendors.

TAM is clearly hungry. CHAI reaches into his pocket for money and buys some kebabs which he gives to TAM. TAM devours them while CHAI has nothing. CHAI looks at his dwindling money.

90 EXT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT 90

GEE is enticing in some customers to his bar as CHAI approaches. They speak in Thai.

GEE
Hello! What brings you back?

CHAI
Can you lend me some money?

GEE shrugs.

GEE
You can come back in the show.

CHAI
And we need somewhere to live.

GEE
We?

CHAI
*My brother is here now. I have to
 take care of him.*

GEE thinks for a bit.

GEE
The room upstairs is available.

CHAI
How much?

GEE
*You work in the show, you stay for
 free. How old is your brother?*

CHAI
 12

GEE looks askance.

GEE
He can clean maybe?

CHAI looks around the bar. Teenage boys in shorts with numbered badges parade on the stage. Some sit with middle-aged customers. Two on the stage are simulating sex.

CHAI (RELUCTANTLY)
No thanks.

He leaves.

91 EXT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT 91

CHAI is coming home and sees TAM fishing a Macdonalds box out of a rubbish bin. He finds a few chips in the box and eats them.

CHAI runs to him, seizes the box and hurls it back in the bin. TAM cries out, but CHAI seizes his arm and marches him back to the flat.

92 INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT 92

CHAI and TAM enter.

TAM (IN THAI)
*I'm hungry! When do we go to the
 UK?*

CHAI says nothing but goes online on his phone.

TAM (CONT'D)
Can I chat to Mr. Ben?

CHAI is looking up flights from Bangkok to London. His face is set, determined. He sees a price of 22,500 BHT and is appalled.

TAM is apprehensive at his brother's silence and attitude.

CHAI makes a decision.

93 INT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT

93

MONTAGE:

CHAI on stage, just in shorts - now he has a number - 13. He clearly feels very embarrassed and uncomfortable compared to the others, who are brazen.

CHAI sits with a middle-aged man, then leaves the bar with him.

GEE smiles at CHAI's ready success with the clients.

CHAI pocketing a 1,000 BHT note.

- returning to the bar.

- back onstage in his numbered shorts. More confident.

- with another client.

- pocketing more money.

- back onstage. He has discovered his power now.

- more money.

- returning to his flat at 3am, exhausted, and checking that TAM is asleep before hiding his wad of money very carefully and climbing in next to him.

94 INT. COLIN'S OFFICE - DAY

94

COLIN at his desk. The phone rings and he answers in Thai.

COLIN
Who are they?

He looks puzzled, then shrugs.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Send them in.

After a moment there's a knock at the door.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Come in!

CHAI and TAM enter.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

The boys both offer a low wai.

CHAI
My name Chai. Mr. Ben's cook.

COLIN
Of course! How are you?

CHAI
This my brother Tam.

TAM wais and COLIN acknowledges.

COLIN
What can I do for you?

CHAI
Mr. Ben. You have address in UK?

COLIN
Probably.

He finds the address on his computer.

COLIN (CONT'D)
Yes I do.

CHAI
Can I have please?

COLIN
Sorry. Company policy. We don't
give out private addresses without
permission.

CHAI looks thwarted, then has an idea.

CHAI
I want send him birthday card.

COLIN
Well you let me have the card and
perhaps I can send it on.

CHAI throws a meaningful look at TAM, who looks around and spots a new computer in the adjacent office.

TAM
Wow! That an iMac?

He rushes next door and starts to play with it. COLIN heads off in pursuit.

COLIN
Hey! You leave that alone!

But TAM has altered some settings which COLIN has to undo, and he's not familiar with the machine.

COLIN (CONT'D)

What did you do?

TAM looks over his shoulder as CHAI seizes the opportunity to look at COLIN's computer screen where he sees BEN's address. He quickly takes a photo of the screen on his phone.

TAM

Sorry Mr. I fix.

He takes his time to reset the computer, glancing at CHAI. COLIN picks up his look and follows it, but CHAI is sitting back in the chair.

COLIN and TAM return.

CHAI

So sorry Mr.

COLIN

You sit there young man and stay sat!

CHAI smacks TAM's ear. TAM looks shocked.

CHAI (IN ENGLISH)

Tam you mustn't play with computers.

COLIN

Do you have the card?

CHAI

Not yet.

COLIN

Look, I'll email him and ask if it's ok...

CHAI gets up to leave.

CHAI

Thank you. Say Chai say 'hi'.

COLIN

Ngam was asking how you were. Is everything OK?

CHAI

Everything good now Mr.

COLIN reaches in a drawer and rummages for a business card.

COLIN
Here. If you need anything....

As he produces the card the boys have gone.

95 INT. BANGKOK TRAVEL AGENT - DAY 95

CHAI and TAM at the counter talking to a female TRAVEL AGENT. He produces an impressive wad of money which the woman eyes suspiciously.

TRAVEL AGENT
And you have your visas?

CHAI looks at her, thwarted again.

96 INT. GAY GO-GO BAR - NIGHT 96

CHAI in his shorts - talks to GEE in Thai. GEE shakes his head.

GEE
Visas? Very hard for Thai boys. You need a UK guy who will invite you.

CHAI's plan is falling apart.

GEE (CONT'D)
You remember that guy.

He nods towards an overweight MIDDLE-AGED MAN sitting in the bar. It is one of CHAI's's ex-clients. The man smiles at him. CHAI looks at him and shudders.

GEE (CONT'D)
He's not married. He doesn't wear a ring.

CHAI
I have UK boyfriend - Kuhn Ben. We will marry soon. I just have to get to the UK..

GEE shakes his head, looks at CHAI sadly. CHAI walks away. GEE goes after him and gestures for him to wait

He goes over to talk to another client, DONALD - a portly Caucasian in his 50s.

CHAI observes as they look back at him - clearly talking about him.

DONALD is clearly taken with CHAI. GEE ushers him out the back of the bar, then returns to CHAI.

GEE

Donald works at the UK consulate.

He shoos CHAI after DONALD.

97

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM - NIGHT

97

DONALD and CHAI are naked together in the bed, having had sex. DONALD has his arm round CHAI. CHAI reaches for his phone, and goes to take a 'selfie'. DONALD shakes his head.

DONALD

No no no.

CHAI

For me! To remember my sexy man!!

He has taken the photo. DONALD is unhappy but is won over by CHAI's smile.

CHAI (CONT'D)

You take shower?

DONALD looks askance at the grubby bathroom behind a bead curtain.

DONALD

It's ok, I..

CHAI

I clean up here then come in too....

He smiles his winning smile and DONALD cannot resist this prospect. He goes into the shower.

CHAI quickly finds his discarded jacket and in the pocket his wallet. There's money in it as well as some business cards.

CHAI checks the cards and finds both a business one and a private one. He looks delighted, and takes one of each, then replaces the wallet and jacket exactly as they were.

He hides the card in his discarded shorts before going to join DONALD in the shower.

98

INT. SMALL FLAT - AFTERNOON

98

TAM is watching TV. CHAI is typing an email on his phone:

Dear Mr. Donald. I hope you well.
(MORE)

CHAI (CONT'D)
*I'm sorry but need help with visas.
 Here nice photo of us. Can send to
 your boss, your wife...*

99 INT. SMART OFFICE - DAY 99

DONALD is reading CHAI's email.

Sorry. Please help us. Your Chai.

DONALD looks alarmed at the photo. He mouths an expletive. He checks to ensure he isn't overlooked, then picks up his tablet and starts to type a reply.

100 INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT 100

CHAI is reading DONALD's email on his phone:

*I'll need your passports and an
 address in the UK.*

CHAI smiles. Then willingly sets about his washing up.

101 INT. SMALL FLAT - NIGHT 101

CHAI looks at a birthday emoji with the figure 18 on his phone. He swipes through the pictures and finds the 'selfies' taken of him and BEN at his 17th birthday dinner. His smile fades.

He goes to Skype looking for BEN but he's offline again. He starts to type a message anyway:

*Hello Mr. Ben. Today I'm 18. 1 year
 ago we have dinner. Good news. Tam
 and Chai come to UK very soon.*

CHAI is thrilled to see BEN come online.

Messages come through:

*Happy Birthday Chai! Coming to the
 UK is a bit difficult at the
 moment...
 Sorry - can't chat now.
 Have a great day. XXX*

CHAI is reading BEN's message. TAM tries to read over his shoulder.

TAM (IN THAI)
From Mr. Ben?

CHAI prevents him from reading the message.

CHAI (IN THAI)
*Yes. He says 'Happy Birthday' - and
 all ok.*

There's a knock at the door. CHAI goes to the door and is given a package. He opens it - it's his and TAM's passports back with their visas. He shows TAM excitedly - they 'high 5' and hug each other excitedly.

CHAI puts his favourite track on his iphone and they dance around the room. Two very happy boys.

102 EXT. THA TIEN - NIGHT 102

Alone CHAI gazes again at the illuminated Wat Arun. He takes his 'No 13' badge out of his pocket, looks at it and hurls it in the river. He smiles happily.

103 INT. SMALL FLAT - DAY 103

CHAI sends an email to BEN with the flight details adding:

Can you come airport - 11.15?

He then carefully writes out the same message in a clumsy hand and puts it in an envelope on which he writes the address he got at the office:

27. Acacia Ave., Leicester...

104 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - MORNING 104

BEN picks up the post on his way to work and is alarmed by CHAI's badly written envelope with a Thai stamp. He opens it. ALEX enters and BEN quickly hides the letter and envelope.

ALEX
 Anything interesting?

BEN
 A couple for you. Looks like junk.
 See you later.

BEN hands over a couple of letters. They kiss goodbye and BEN leaves. ALEX watches him go, noticing his edginess.

105 INT. SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT - EVENING 105

CHAI & TAM step off the Airport Link train carrying a small bag each. TAM is overawed by the sight of the airport. He smiles at CHAI. CHAI forces a smile back. But his face betrays his worries. They walk into Departures.

106 EXT. SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT - EVENING 106

A jet takes off

107 INT. HEATHROW AIRPORT - MORNING 107

A tired CHAI and TAM emerge from arrivals with their bags. CHAI scans the waiting faces looking in vain for BEN. He checks the time - 11.30. He calls BEN's number. After a few rings it goes to voicemail.

CHAI

Hi Mr. Ben. It's Chai - in London.
You come? You call me?

He looks like a frightened child, but forces a smile for TAM.

108 INT. HEATHROW AIRPORT - LATER 108

It's 13.30 - CHAI sits forlornly with TAM asleep on his lap. He tries to call BEN again but now it goes instantly to voicemail - BEN has switched off his phone. He wakes TAM.

CHAI (IN THAI)

We go find Mr. Ben.

They get up and head off in search of transport.

Seeing a sign for 'Trains to Central London' they follow it. At the ticket office CHAI pays for two tickets from a small wad of UK notes - around £45 in all.

109 EXT. PADDINGTON STATION - AFTERNOON 109

CHAI and TAM emerge from the station. CHAI stops a woman passer-by.

CHAI

Please missis. How get to
Leicester?

WOMAN

Leicester Square? It's quite a
walk. Or you can get the tube.

CHAI

Walk OK.

The WOMAN directs them.

110 MONTAGE. LONDON - LATE AFTERNOON

110

CHAI & TAM look at the sights of Marble Arch and Big Ben as they find their way to Leicester Square. They are at first excited, but soon exhausted.

They buy a MacDonaldis and share it as they shelter from the rain in a doorway.

In Leicester Square they are awed by the lights and the crowds, but look in vain for BEN's address. CHAI attempts to stop various passers-by.

CHAI

Where Acacia Ave?

PASSER-BY 1

No idea, Sorry.

PASSER-BY 2

Not round here.

Finally he shows the image of BEN's address to PASSER-BY 3

PASSER-BY 3

Ah - you want Leicester, not Leicester Square.

CHAI

Where Leicester?

PASSER-BY 3

Must be 100 miles or so. Up north. You'll need to get a train.

111 INT. ST. PANCRAS STATION - EVENING

111

A very tired CHAI & TAM are at the ticket office.

TICKET AGENT

Singles?

CHAI looks puzzled.

TICKET AGENT (CONT'D)

Are you coming back? Or just one way?

CHAI
No come back.

TICKET AGENT
That'll be £120. Platform 7 in 10
minutes.

CHAI looks at his money - there's barely £50 left. He shows
it to the TICKET AGENT, who smiles.

TICKET AGENT (CONT'D)
Sorry. Nowhere near enough! Card?

CHAI shakes his head.

CHAI
You have cheap ticket? 3rd class?

TICKET AGENT
That's the cheapest for today. I
can do you next Tuesday on
Supersaver for £48. Got a
railcard?

Confused, CHAI shakes his head and starts to walk away, close
to tears. TAM follows. He senses CHAI's failure.

TAM
*You said it was all ok!! We'll
never get to see Mr Ben!*

A lady in the queue has overheard and sees CHAI's distress.

LADY
You can get a bus a lot cheaper you
know.

CHAI
Where get bus?

LADY
I think they go from Victoria.

112 EXT. LONDON - NIGHT 112

Exhausted, TAM & CHAI walk the streets of London from King's
Cross to Victoria Coach Station.

113 INT. VICTORIA COACH STATION - NIGHT 113

CHAI is at the ticket office.

TICKET AGENT 2
I'm afraid you just missed the
21.30. The next one is 8.30 in the
morning.

CHAI
How much?

TICKET AGENT 2
For two that's £38.

CHAI looks at his dwindling cash - there's just £32.

114 EXT. STREET NEAR VICTORIA - NIGHT 114

CHAI & TAM huddled in a doorway vainly trying to beg. But
there's no-one about.

TAM (IN THAI)
More people in Piccadilly.

They get up and move on.

115 EXT. PICCADILLY CIRCUS - NIGHT 115

A weary CHAI & TAM are begging with a little more success.
They count the coppers and silver up to £2. A middle-aged MAN
stops and waves a £10 note. The boys look at him and each
other.

MAN
You boys need somewhere to stay?

TAM
Sure Mister.

CHAI
Where?

MAN
I've got a place. A few stops up
the tube.

TAM looks happily at CHAI and picks up his bag.

CHAI
How many bedroom?

MAN
Just the one.. But I'm sure you
wouldn't mind sharing.

TAM
Thank you Mister!

CHAI observes the MAN's eyes light up at TAM's enthusiasm. He replies firmly.

CHAI
No. Thank you.

MAN
Suit yourself.

He turns to leave. CHAI follows and grabs his arm.

CHAI
You give me money or I tell that
policeman you want fuck my 12 year
brother!

He indicates a patrolling POLICEMAN. The MAN looks guilty, thinks a little, then swaps the £10 for £5 which he gives to CHAI and hastily leaves. TAM looks bewildered.

CHAI is counting the money - they have just the £38. He takes TAM's arm and drags him off, headed once more for Victoria.

116 INT. VICTORIA COACH STATION - NIGHT 116

Music - Humming Chorus from Madama Butterfly over next 3 scenes.

An exhausted CHAI & TAM huddle together for warmth as they settle down for a night in the waiting room.

117 INT. COACH - DAY 117

CHAI & TAM are fast asleep in their seats.

118 EXT. LEICESTER BUS STATION - MORNING 118

The bus pulls in.

119 INT 119

The driver wakes the boys.

INTERIOR COACH

Sleepily CHAI and TAM collect their bags and leave the bus. It's raining.

EXTERIOR.

They look around for some idea of where to go. CHAI approaches a TAXI DRIVER and shows him the address on his phone and the remains of his money - around 75p.

TAXI DRIVER (LAUGHS)
I'll take you to the end of the
road for that.

CHAI
OK. We walk.

TAXI DRIVER
I hope you brought macs! Rains in
this country you know...

CHAI
We OK. Which way?

TAXI DRIVER
Head for Loughborough. Watermead
Park.

The boys starts to walk.

120 EXT. LEICESTER STREETS - DAY 120

CHAI and TAM are walking wearily through the suburbs. It's
raining hard and they are soaked to the skin. A car passes
and CHAI vainly sticks out his thumb, but it doesn't stop.

121 EXT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - DAY 121

A drenched CHAI and TAM find No. 27. At first they are very
apprehensive and dare not approach. CHAI checks the address
again carefully. He cautiously leads the way to the door and
rings the bell.

ALEX opens it. He is astonished. CHAI also surprised.

ALEX
Can I help you?

CHAI
Mr. Alex?

ALEX
Yes.

CHAI
Where Mr. Ben?

ALEX
He's at work.

CHAI
He tell you we come?

ALEX (HEAVILY)
He didn't mention it...

Suddenly all CHAI's desperation pours out of him.

CHAI
Me Chai - this my kid brother Tam.
We come from Bangkok - 2 days - no
sleep - no money - we find your
house - I write Mr. Ben - email -
Skype....

He looks beseechingly at ALEX, no longer able to control his tears. ALEX looks at them both in astonishment.

ALEX
You'd better come in.

Gratefully the bedraggled boys enter the warm house. TAM whispers in Thai to CHAI.

TAM (IN THAI)
*Where is Mr. Ben? You never said he
had a boyfriend.*

CHAI (IN THAI)
It's complicated.

122 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - AFTERNOON

122

CHAI & TAM, dressed in oversized T-shirts and jeans, are tucking into healthy platefuls of beans on toast. Their clothes are drying on a rack.

ALEX is playing some music from his ipod. TAM wrinkles his nose.

ALEX
What do you mean you don't like
Rihanna? Everyone likes Rihanna!

TAM holds his hand out for the ipod. ALEX shrugs and gives it him. TAM looks through it. They hear the front door open and exchange apprehensive looks - wait in tense anticipation.

The door opens and BEN enters. CHAI stares at him. TAM observes his look. BEN looks from CHAI to TAM to ALEX, then back to CHAI. He doesn't know what to say.

CHAI stares at BEN, searching his face for clues to his feelings. The silence is tangible. ALEX looks at them both, then pointedly leaves the room.

BEN
Chai, I'm.. I'm...

CHAI slowly walks to him and puts his arms round him. BEN hugs him, filling up. CHAI clings to him as if his life depended on it. But his eyes are dry.

BEN offers a hand to TAM.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hi Tam.

But TAM just offers a respectful wai from where he is. After a while the embrace ceases. There's an awkward moment.

BEN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Chai - I never thought..

CHAI
You say come to live in UK..

BEN
Yes but...

He simply cannot deal with this.

BEN (CONT'D)
Finish your tea.

He hurries out after ALEX, leaving the boys to finish their food. TAM senses all is not well. He speaks in Thai.

TAM
I like Mr. Alex. Mr. Ben's a liar.

CHAI says nothing.

TAM (CONT'D)
I'm tired.

CHAI goes out to find ALEX and BEN. TAM looks lost.

123

INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

123

CHAI is looking for BEN & ALEX. In the corridor he hears voices from ALEX's office and peeps in through the open door. For a moment he observes and listens unseen.

ALEX
You want to sleep with him tonight? I'll sleep on the sofa bed.

BEN hesitates a moment too long.

BEN
Don't be daft.

Beat Look, Alex.. I'm sorry.

ALEX
Oh good. Have you mentioned that to those boys?

CHAI takes the opportunity of a pause in the row to knock at the door.

CHAI
OK we go sleep?

ALEX goes to him.

ALEX
Of course. You know where your room is. Go on up.

ALEX points up the stairs, then closes the door. CHAI listens outside.

BEN
I just didn't...

ALEX
Bloody right you didn't. Didn't didn't didn't! Think! Do anything! Apart from do a Pinkerton. And play the Butterfly too...

BEN
I'll sort them some tickets home.

ALEX
You'll what?!

BEN
What else..?

ALEX
You're unbelievable!!

BEN is silenced.

ALEX (CONT'D)
That lad rented his ass out to every passing queen in Bangkok, then had the gumption, the guts to risk everything and get himself and his brother halfway round the world just to find you.
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Because he loved you. He trusted
 you. He's 18!! You act like
 you're still 18 most of the time -
 try remembering what it was like to
 be in love back then!

Angrily ALEX sorts some papers on his desk. BEN says
 nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 And you'll just pack him on a plane
 home? You should work for the
 Border Force - they'd love you too!

ALEX finds a bank statement - and waves it accusingly at BEN.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Plus where do you plan on laying
 your hands on - I don't know - 1000
 odd quid..?

He files the statement.

BEN
 What makes you think he rented? He
 always refused to do that!

ALEX
 Grow up, for Christ's sake. How
 else did he get enough money for
 the tickets?

BEN says nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 He did it for you.

BEN
 But you don't know..

ALEX
 He told me. And he blackmailed some
 guy in the consulate to get the
 visas. For you!

Outside the room TAM has joined CHAI, but, hearing ALEX
 approach the door, CHAI ushers him upstairs to their room.

124

INT. BEN & ALEX'S SPARE BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

124

CHAI and TAM enter the twin-bedded room. They speak in Thai.

TAM
What's happening?

CHAI
I don't know.

TAM
You said it would all be ok. It's
not OK!

CHAI
Go to sleep.

He climbs into his bed and hides his head, unable to deal with TAM. TAM gets into the other bed. Two boys very lost and alone.

125 INT. BEN & ALEX'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON 125

ALEX is clearing up the boys' plates. BEN enters.

BEN
I'll phone in sick tomorrow.

ALEX
It's ok.

BEN
We can't leave them here on their
own.

ALEX
I can work at home.

BEN
What are we going to do?

ALEX
You tell me. How about changing the
habit of a lifetime and doing some
thinking!

He loads the dishwasher. BEN wipes the table in silence.

126 INT. ALEX'S STUDY - LATE AFTERNOON NEXT DAY 126

ALEX and TAM are engrossed in a computer game together on ALEX's X-Box.

TAM
Pow!

ALEX
Aaagh - Got me!

BEN enters from work. Engrossed in their game, ALEX & TAM hardly notice.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Hello.

TAM looks up briefly but says nothing.

BEN

Where's Chai?

ALEX

Upstairs. You should speak to him.

Feeling excluded, BEN exits.

127

INT. BEN & ALEX'S SPARE BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

127

CHAI sits on the bed hugging his knees. BEN enters.

BEN

You OK?

CHAI just looks at him.

BEN (CONT'D)

I never thought you would come.

CHAI

You tell me come. We live together. Marry. I earn money .. write you.

BEN

I...

CHAI

Mr. Alex your boyfriend.

BEN

It's complicated...

CHAI

You sleep with him.

BEN

Yes. But that's all we do.

CHAI

You love him. Don't love me.

BEN

You can love more than one person.

CHAI

Mr. Alex a nice man. He take good care of Tam.

BEN
They seem to be having fun down
there.

CHAI looks at him.

CHAI
That all you ever want with Chai -
fun!

BEN says nothing.

CHAI (CONT'D)
You want fun now? That why you
come to me?

He rolls onto his front and pulls down his trousers.

CHAI (CONT'D)
You fuck me. Pay me like a money
boy. I buy ticket home.

BEN pulls up his trousers and turns him over. They look into
each others' eyes for a moment, remembering....

CHAI then kisses BEN, passionately. For a moment BEN is back
in Bangkok and returns the kiss with real passion.

128 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - AFTERNOON 128

ALEX comes upstairs on his way to the loo. As he passes the
bedroom door he listens but hears nothing. He continues to
the bathroom and slams the door.

129 INTERIOR. BEN & ALEX'S SPARE ROOM. LATE AFTERNOON. 129

In the bedroom BEN and CHAI hear and react. BEN pulls back
from the kiss and lies on his back.

He ruffles CHAI's hair and it becomes affection rather than
sex.

CHAI
Mr. Alex - you think he like me?

BEN
How could he not?

CHAI
I cook. I clean. Get job to pay
for Tam.

BEN
How long does your visa last?

CHAI
 1 month. Then we marry. Adopt Tam.
 Alex 'Uncle'.

BEN looks at him but says nothing. CHAI registers this. He makes an attempt to resume the love-making but it is not going to work for BEN.

130 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - 3 DAYS LATER 130

CHAI is Hoovering round TAM who plays on ALEX's XBox. BEN watches TV. ALEX enters carrying a package.

ALEX
 Hi Guys. Good to see someone's
 busy.. Thanks Chai.

BEN
 Sorry Alex, I...

But ALEX has gone, heading for the kitchen. BEN follows him. CHAI watches them go.

131 INT. BEN & ALEX'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 131

ALEX is unwrapping the package.

ALEX
 I picked this up from the framers.

He looks at it and shows it to BEN, but we do not see it.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 You'd almost think we were happy.

BEN looks at it for a moment then puts it down on the table, face-down.

BEN
 Sorry.

ALEX
 If you say 'sorry' once again it's
 divorce! I've been to the Adoption
 Agency too.

BEN
 Oh?

ALEX
 We can adopt Tam. If his mother
 agrees.....

BEN

Wow.

ALEX

...and we can prove we have a
'strong and stable relationship'.

He looks hard at BEN.

BEN

From what Chai's said his Mum
shouldn't be a problem. Colin and
Ngam are coming over next month -
maybe they could bring her with
them?

ALEX

Worth a try. Except who'll pay? I
can't believe she'll have the
money. And she'll need a hotel -
we don't have room here.

They exchange looks. BEN shrugs 'Us!'

ALEX (CONT'D)

Forget Christmas in the Canaries
then.. A taste of things to
come..? (Sarcastically) Maybe we
could pimp out Chai's ass!

BEN

That's not funny. What about Chai?
Can we adopt him too?

ALEX

He's 18 now so too old.

BEN

Shit. So what do we do?

ALEX looks hard at him.

ALEX

You were going to do some
thinking. Remember?

BEN

Sorry.

ALEX

I warned you.

BEN

About what?

He gives BEN a very meaningful look, then exits to his study. BEN follows, concerned. He stops to smile briefly at CHAI who is coming in to put the Hoover away.

CHAI sees the face-down photo. He picks it up and turns it over.

It clearly shows BEN & ALEX's Civil Partnership celebration. Realisation dawns.

He looks towards the study, then goes into the hall to overhear the conversation which ensues there.

132

INT. ALEX'S STUDY - MOMENTS LATER

132

BEN

Is that what you want?

ALEX

Is it what you want? You'd be free to go off and be happy ever after shagging your boy.

BEN

You know it's not.

ALEX

Then why did you let that poor kid think it was?

BEN doesn't have an answer.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I don't have a problem with you screwing boys - but I do when you don't think it through. They might not get pregnant, but there are consequences.

BEN

Do you imagine I don't know that?

ALEX

You give the distinct impression you just found out....
I think it's for the best.

BEN

What?

ALEX

Divorce.

BEN
Is it what you want?

ALEX
No.

BEN looks puzzled

ALEX (CONT'D)
But it's what Chai needs.

BEN
It would never work.

Outside the door, CHAI's face registers this harsh reality.

ALEX
Maybe you should have thought of
that a little sooner.

BEN is stunned into silence for a moment.

BEN
I've really fucked things up,
haven't I?

ALEX
Only a bit!!

We can live in the UK without being married. Chai can't.

BEN
Does that mean we split up?

A long pause.

ALEX
I don't know.

BEN
So I'm married to Chai and Tam's
Dad?

ALEX
You get what you wanted.

BEN
I can't do that. I need you.

ALEX
Yes you do. So do the boys.
That's the problem.

Outside the door CHAI makes a decision and walks towards the living room.

133 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER 133

TAM still plays on ALEX's X-Box. CHAI looks in on him. TAM looks up briefly and smiles at CHAI. He's happy. CHAI smiles back, then returns to the hall where he hears BEN & ALEX's row in full swing.

BEN (OFF)

I thought he'd find someone else. I never thought..

ALEX (OFF)

You can stop right there. You never thought.

134 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER 134

CHAI enters the spare room and collects his things from around the room, and puts them in his bag. He picks up his phone and starts to record a video message in Thai.

On the landing he checks downstairs before carefully going into BEN and ALEX's room. On the bedside table he finds BEN's wallet, which he opens and take out 2 x £20 notes. He finds a post-it and writes a note.

He goes downstairs with his bag, which he leaves in the hall. He overhears ALEX and BEN's continuing row.

135 INT. ALEX'S STUDY - MOMENTS LATER 135

BEN

I do love you....

ALEX

Or maybe you just need me. It isn't just those boys who need a Dad!

136 INT. BEN & ALEX'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 136

CHAI enters to find TAM still playing his game.

CHAI (IN THAI)

I'm just going to the shop.

TAM (IN THAI)

OK

CHAI hugs him tightly. TAM wonders why so tightly, but is too engrossed in his game to give it much thought.

Back in the hall, CHAI picks up his bag and quietly slips out of the house.

137 INT. ALEX'S STUDY - MOMENTS LATER 137

ALEX
So I can't leave.

BEN pauses. Then goes and hugs ALEX.

ALEX (CONT'D)
We won't say anything to the lads yet..

BEN
Let's sleep on it.

ALEX
I need to see to dinner.

BEN
I'll lay up.

They exit.

138 INT. BEN & ALEX'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 138

Alex enters, followed by BEN, who sees the CP picture face up and is puzzled, thinks. ALEX looks at it ruefully, then at BEN. BEN puts the photo to one side - again face down, trying not to make a point of that.

139 EXT. LEICESTER STREET - NIGHT 139

CHAI is walking by a main road and trying to hitch a lift.

140 INT. BEN & ALEX'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 140

ALEX is starting to serve.

ALEX
It's ready. Can you call the lads?

BEN (CALLS OFF)
Chai! Tam! It's ready.

TAM (OFF)
OK.

TAM enters.

BEN
Is Chai coming?

TAM
He go shop.

BEN
To the shop? He never said...

TAM
10 minute.

BEN looks at the CP photo and thinks. He exchanges glances with ALEX.

141 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

141

BEN rushes upstairs and looks in the spare room. He sees CHAI's stuff all gone. ALEX & TAM have followed. BEN notices the light on in his and ALEX's room and goes in. He sees his wallet and the note:

I (Heart) you. Sorry about the money.

BEN
Fuck!!

His phone is also on the table. He picks it up and calls CHAI. ALEX & TAM hear it ringing in the spare room and find it on the bed. TAM picks it up and sees the message. He starts it and listens with increasing horror, looking at ALEX & BEN, who watch and get the message even though they don't understand the Thai.

TAM
He go away. Say no place here. You guys take care of me! He give me i-phone.

As his face crumples ALEX goes to hug him. BEN hovers.

ALEX
How much was in your wallet?

BEN
No more than 40 quid.

ALEX
He won't get far with that. He'll head for London on the bus.

They all head downstairs and grab coats.

142 EXT. LEICESTER BUS STATION - NIGHT 142

BEN & TAM are looking around. They meet ALEX emerging from the ticket office.

ALEX

The next London bus is in 40 minutes.

BEN

If he's walking he wouldn't be here yet.

ALEX

You wait here, I'll take Tam and check the train station.

ALEX takes TAM and BEN sits down to wait.

143 EXT. LEICESTER TRAIN STATION 143

ALEX and TAM walk into the ticket office.

ALEX

Do you have a picture of your brother on your phone?

TAM explores his phone and finds one. ALEX shows it to a STATION MANAGER.

ALEX (CONT'D)

If you see this lad - could you call this number? He'll be headed for London.

He scribbles the number on a piece of paper and offers it. The STATION MANAGER looks suspiciously at the photo.

STATION MANAGER

You do appreciate sir that we have a duty to report suspected illegal immigrants.

ALEX

He has a visa!

The STATION MANAGER is not convinced.

144 EXT. ROAD JUNCTION - NIGHT 144

A car pulls up by a road sign indicating 'M1 - London'. CHAI gets out and waves a thank you to the driver. The car drives off. CHAI puts out his thumb once again.

145 EXT. LEICESTER BUS STATION - NIGHT

145

ALEX and TAM meet BEN who shakes his head.

BEN

Should we call the police?

ALEX

He doesn't want to be found, and it might open a whole can of worms when he outstays his visa.

TAM

You got to find my brother!

ALEX

We will. Don't you worry.

He hugs TAM.

BEN

What else can we do?

ALEX

Any suggestions?

BEN hasn't any. They leave together.

146 EXT. ROAD JUNCTION - NIGHT

146

CHAI is attempting to make himself look more appealing. He opens a shirt button and adopts a sexier pose as he puts out his thumb again. A car pulls up and the window lowers. CHAI leans in, then gets in. The car drives off.

147 INTERIOR. BEN & ALEX'S KITCHEN. EVENING.

147

ALEX is reheating the plates of food in the microwave. He takes one out and gives it to TAM, and puts the next one in. They both look at TAM who glumly tucks in.

Suddenly TAM is overcome. He rushes to ALEX & hugs him. BEN observes.

ALEX

We'll take care of you, don't you worry. We just need to talk to your Mum.

TAM

No go back! Hate Isaan!

BEN watches, excluded.

- 148 INT. GAY BAR, LONDON - NIGHT 148
Loud music and a crowd of men. CHAI is being heavily cruised by several of them. He soon leaves with his very good-looking 30-something PICKUP as the others look on with envy.
- 149 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 149
CHAI is being pounded by his PICKUP, who is sniffing poppers heavily and thrusting them under CHAI's nose too. He tries it once but then turns away. There's no sense of pleasure for CHAI.
- 150 INT. CHEAP CAFE - AFTERNOON 150
A miserable CHAI desultorily eats a greasy breakfast.
- 151 EXT. LONDON - DAY 151
CHAI wanders around the streets at a loss what to do with himself. He looks at smiling, happy couples - feels desperately lonely.
- 152 INT. GAY BAR, LONDON - EVENING 152
CHAI is picked up again by an OVERWEIGHT MIDDLE-AGED MAN. HARRY, a large, but well-dressed and impressive-looking middle-aged man watches them go.
- 153 INT. GRUBBY BEDROOM - NIGHT 153
CHAI gets dressed and accepts £50 from his pickup before leaving.
- 154 INT. GAY BAR, LONDON - LATER 154
This time CHAI is outside as the bar is full. He is approached by HARRY.

HARRY
You're working hard tonight.

CHAI
Need money. Need a room.

HARRY
I might be able to help you there.

CHAI looks at him.

- 155 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY 155
ALEX parks his car outside and walks in with a very nervous TAM.
- 156 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - AFTERNOON 156
TAM and a SCHOOLFRIEND play on ALEX's X-Box.
ALEX brings in refreshments. BEN walks past, looks in on the boys but doesn't greet them.
- 157 EXT. PARK - DAY 157
ALEX, BEN & TAM play football. BEN is in goal and rubbish. Both TAM & ALEX score past him with ease. BEN is not really enjoying himself. His phone goes and he checks it, letting in another goal. ALEX and TAM laugh at him.
- 158 INT. ALEX'S STUDY - AFTERNOON 158
TAM is on ALEX's computer as he enters his study. He looks up guiltily and clicks something off as ALEX enters. He exits past him without acknowledging him. ALEX checks his browsing history and finds a straight porn site.
Later BEN & ALEX are looking up how to effect internet parental controls.
- 159 EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON 159
BEN waits in his car outside to collect TAM. While waiting he looks at a picture of CHAI on his phone. Then stares into space.
He gets a text message:
Hi Sexy. Up for a meet tonight?
It's no longer what he wants. He deletes the message.
He opens the Grindr app where there are 10 messages waiting. Without reading them he deletes the app from his phone.
TAM approaches and climbs into the car.
- TAM
Where Mr. Alex?
- BEN
He's working.

TAM's antipathy is tangible. BEN wants to say something, but can't find words. He drives off.

160 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - AFTERNOON

160

ALEX picks up the post and opens an official envelope. He takes it into the kitchen where BEN is having breakfast, looking glum. He puts Tam's adoption application on the table.

ALEX

We need Sumana's signature when she gets here. But that's just the start!

BEN makes no response. ALEX is fed up with this moodiness.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Look, Ben, if we're going to do this...

He is interrupted by TAM entering in his school clothes. He completely ignores BEN but happily greets ALEX.

TAM

Hi Alex.

ALEX

Hi there Trouble! What would you like for breakfast?

TAM

No time! Late!

ALEX sits him down firmly and butters him some toast.

ALEX

Get this down you. I'll get you to school.

BEN observes this domestic scene with an increasing sense of alienation. He observes, scarcely hears. He goes quietly out.

ALEX watches him go with concern, then hurries TAM out of the door clutching his toast.

161 INT. BEN & ALEX'S BEDROOM - MORNING

161

BEN lies awake on the bed, fully clothed. The curtains are drawn. He hears the door open downstairs.

ALEX (OFF)

Ben?

ALEX enters the room and looks at BEN, surprised.

BEN

I phoned in sick.

ALEX

What's the matter?

ALEX sits on the bed. BEN says nothing for a while.

BEN

I have to leave.

ALEX

Why?

BEN

I'm a big boy now. It's time.

ALEX

How's that going to help? If we're going to adopt Tam it needs both of us. In a 'strong, stable relationship'.

BEN

Or one very together guy on his own.

ALEX says nothing.

162 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - SPRING AFTERNOON

162

Caption. '3 weeks later'

The doorbell rings and ALEX answers it. COLIN, NGAM and SUMANA are there.

ALEX welcomes them in, shaking hands with COLIN and NGAM, but not sure how to respond to SUMANA's wai.

ALEX

You found us! Welcome.

SUMANA looks in awe at the house.

TAM rushes out from the back. A guilty moment - he's not sure how SUMANA will feel about him. He wais low. SUMANA looks stern.

But after a moment SUMANA opens her arms and he rushes to her and they hug for a long time, tearfully on both sides.

The others observe. ALEX is visibly moved - almost jealous.

TAM offers a low wai to NGAM who returns it. Then he exchanges looks of recognition and guilt with COLIN before offering him a low wai too.

SUMANA

Mr. Ben?

ALEX

He's, um away at the moment I'm afraid....

COLIN picks up ALEX's look

COLIN

What's up? I hear he's been off sick for a week or two

NGAM explains in Thai to SUMANA, who looks concerned.

163 INT. DINGY STUDIO FLAT - EVENING

163

The place is not well looked after. A dishevelled BEN eats a takeaway meal straight out of the containers. There's a framed picture of CHAI on the chest - the only personal item in the room.

His phone goes. It's a text from ALEX.

Sumana's here. With Ngam. We need to talk.

BEN swipes the message off.

164 INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

164

NGAM and BEN sit with coffees. BEN's is untouched.

NGAM

Sumana isn't happy. She wants to see Chai. She's had money from him - a lot - but he won't talk to her - just says he's busy.

BEN suspects what CHAI might be doing.

NGAM (CONT'D)

She's so proud that her boys are in the UK - she's been telling the village. So if this doesn't work out..... !

BEN looks down.

NGAM (CONT'D)

And she insists Tam has two parents. That's what's right to her.

BEN

The boy hates me.

NGAM

He's young and confused. And he misses his brother.

BEN

What can I do?

NGAM

Give him back what he's lost perhaps?

BEN understands but looks at her, helpless.

165 INT. DINGY STUDIO FLAT - NIGHT

165

BEN scours the internet. He googles CHAI's name and looks at the results. He tries Facebook. Then Gaydar. Then every other social media site, gay and straight, he can think of.

A collection of coffee cups indicate the passage of time.

Finally he types in 'Male Escorts' and finds dozens of sites. He revises to 'Asian Male Escorts' which reduces the result. He sets about scouring the sites, rubbing his eyes.

More coffee cups. Nothing. He lies awake on his bed.

166 EXT. CHEAP HOTEL, LONDON - NIGHT

166

BEN walks into a dingy hotel with a small bag.

167 EXT/INT. OLD COMPTON STREET - NIGHT

167

BEN walks the Street, and goes into a gay bar, where he shows a picture of CHAI on his phone to a customer, who shakes his head. And another, and another. He shows it to the barman, who shrugs, but directs him to another bar.

Same routine in the next bar, where he gets some very aggressive looks.

Finally he enters the bar where CHAI met HARRY. He shows the barman the picture. The BARMAN calls a colleague who recognises CHAI.

BARMAN 2

Talk to Harry. He'll be in later.

BEN

How long?

BARMAN 2 shrugs.

BEN settles down with a drink, observing young happy guys cruising, chatting, meeting, being affectionate. But he is the invisible man and cuts a lonely figure.

He buys another drink.

At last HARRY enters the bar. BARMAN 2 catches BEN's eye and points him out. BEN approaches him and shows him CHAI's picture. HARRY eyes him suspiciously then extracts a card from his pocket and gives it to BEN.

It has 'EXCLUSIVE BOYS - for the discerning man' above CHAI's shirtless picture, and a phone number. BEN looks at it, then at HARRY.

168 INT. CHEAP HOTEL, LONDON - NIGHT

168

BEN waits nervously. There's a knock at the door. BEN stares at the door for a moment, then apprehensively approaches and opens it. It's CHAI. He's very expensively dressed, but looks gaunt. He has a fixed professional smile which disappears when he sees BEN. He turns to leave, but BEN grabs his arm and pulls him into the room, barring the door.

They stare at each other in silence for a moment. Then CHAI sulkily starts to take his clothes off.

BEN

Stop it!

CHAI

That's why you call me. But you pay me £200 now.

BEN tries to embrace CHAI, but he pulls away.

BEN

Your Mum's here. She wants to see you. I hear you send her money.

CHAI
Chai good for money. You like my
clothes?

BEN doesn't know what to say.

BEN
And when you're 40?

CHAI
Maybe I go to Bangkok and buy boy!

BEN is stung.

BEN
Tam misses you like crazy.

CHAI
You guys take good care of him?

BEN
I've...

BEN suddenly sees how he's failed. Again. He cannot admit it.

BEN (CONT'D)
Yes. Of course.

CHAI
You take care my brother!!

BEN
It's his birthday next week.

CHAI
You think I don't know Tam
birthday?!

BEN
Call him. He loves you.

CHAI looks down.

BEN (CONT'D)
We all love you!

CHAI looks at him long and hard. BEN struggles.

BEN (CONT'D)
I love you!

CHAI's stare is relentless, accusing. 'You never loved me'.
BEN cannot bear it.

BEN (CONT'D)
I'm taking you to dinner.

CHAI
It Tam birthday soon. Not mine.

BEN
You look like you need a good meal.
And we can talk.

CHAI, his eyes filling up, stands there. He desperately wants to. He looks compliant.

BEN (CONT'D)
Don't move!

He nips into the bathroom. Looks at his face in the mirror and tidies his hair, then turns to the loo for a pee.

In the room CHAI stares at the bathroom door, his eyes full of tears. He looks to the room door - back to the bathroom door.

In the bathroom BEN washes his hands.

The bathroom door opens and BEN emerges. But CHAI has gone. BEN rushes into the corridor. But there's no sign.

169 EXT. CHEAP HOTEL, LONDON - NIGHT 169

BEN emerges into the street and looks up and down. But CHAI is nowhere to be seen. He keys his phone, but it goes to voicemail.

BEN
Chai. Call me! Please!!!

170 INT. BEN & ALEX'S HOME - SUMMER AFTERNOON 170

The door bell rings. ALEX answers it. It's BEN. ALEX steps back and BEN enters, silently. They don't kiss.

ALEX
You've got his number?

BEN nods.

BEN
He won't talk to me but he might to you.

BEN shows ALEX the number and ALEX tries it on his phone.

ALEX

How was he?

BEN

He looked like shit. Well-dressed
shit.

The number comes up 'unobtainable'. ALEX holds it to BEN's ear.

BEN (CONT'D)

Fuck Fuck Fuck!!!

ALEX

They'll be here any minute. Sumana
desperately wants to speak to him.

BEN

Will she sign the papers for Tam?

ALEX

She might. If she thinks we're
together!

BEN looks away.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And she's the easy bit! You've yet
to meet Sam - the scary social
worker with serious misgivings
about adoptive dads retaining their
testicles! Tam's touching tale of
how he got here needed some
editorial intervention....

BEN says nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)

He's in the living room.

After a pause BEN goes through to the living room, where TAM
plays on ALEX's X-Box. He has brought the picture of CHAI
which he offers to TAM.

BEN

Hi Tam.

TAM looks up briefly then straight back to his game. ALEX has
followed. He takes CHAI's picture and puts it next to the CP
picture. There's also one of TAM there.

BEN (CONT'D)

Chai sends his love.

TAM looks up.

TAM
You see him? Where Chai?!

BEN
In London. Working.

The doorbell goes again. BEN and ALEX exchange looks. ALEX answers it. It's COLIN, NGAM and SUMANA. ALEX ushers them through to the living room. BEN and SUMANA look at each other. She offers a low wai which he returns. She touches his arm and smiles.

SUMANA
Mr. Ben. Good see you. You stay now?

She puts BEN and ALEX's hands together. They exchange looks.

SUMANA (CONT'D)
Please!

BEN
If that's.. what Tam wants....?

He looks at TAM, but the boy looks away. ALEX goes out.

SUMANA
You meet Chai?

BEN
He sends his love. To both of you.

At last TAM looks up at BEN.. starting to forgive him.

ALEX brings in a birthday cake with 13 candles on, to a round of applause.

ALEX
Happy Birthday Tam! A teenager at last..

He puts the cake down and TAM blows out the candles to a cheer. ALEX starts to cut the cake. COLIN makes himself useful passing round plates.

TAM's phone bleeps to announce a message. TAM picks it up routinely and looks at it. He becomes very excited and shows it to everyone.

TAM
It from Chai!!

There is a picture of a smiling CHAI holding a drink on what is clearly a luxury yacht. The message reads:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TAM! (in English)

Then Thai writing which TAM translates. ALEX, BEN, TAM and SUMANA are all huddled over the phone.

TAM (CONT'D)

He say he happy - send love to Mr.
Alex. Mr. Ben - he happy see you!

ALEX

Do you have the number?

TAM looks for it but finds 'number withheld'. BEN & ALEX exchange glances. TAM pulls up the photo again and SUMANA admires it.

TAM

Best birthday present ever! Can I
go with him on boat!

While TAM and SUMANA chatter excitedly in Thai BEN moves away - his emotions in conflict. ALEX sees his concern. He puts a hand behind BEN's neck - a discreet hug. Their foreheads touch.

NGAM brings over a document which she offers to SUMANA. It's the adoption papers.

SUMANA sees the papers, then goes to TAM and hugs him. She takes him over to ALEX and BEN, pulls them together and wraps their arms round him.

ALEX and BEN are visibly moved - guilty. BEN nervously puts a hand on TAM's shoulder.

TAM looks at SUMANA, then BEN, then touches his hand. SUMANA looks at the family group she has created, at ALEX and BEN's clear signs of affection.

She speaks to TAM in Thai as she signs the adoption papers where NGAM indicates.

SUMANA

*Ben and Alex are your Dads now.
You be a good boy. Work hard. You
will do well here. You must go to
college.*

She turns away to hide her emotion. BEN comes over to her and takes her arm.

BEN

Look - he needs his Mum too. You must come to live here. We'll find a way....

SUMANA doesn't understand, so NGAM translates. SUMANA shakes her head, then speaks in Thai. NGAM translates.

NGAM

She says she's too old to learn English now and her home is in Isaan.

SUMANA speaks again in Thai, and looks at TAM.

NGAM (CONT'D)

But Tam must go home to visit every year.

SUMANA (IN THAI)

And bring Chai.

No translation is needed. They all look back at the photo of CHAI, which animates to:-

171 EXT. LUXURY YACHT - SUNNY AFTERNOON 171

CHAI is sunning himself on a sunlounger. A uniformed CREWMAN comes and summons him inside.

172 INT. LUXURY YACHT - AFTERNOON 172

The CREWMAN shows CHAI into a cabin, where a PORTLY MAN, in an expensive suit, is taking off his tie. His demeanour suggests a rich and powerful businessman or diplomat. He offers his hand to CHAI who responds with a low wai.

CHAI lies face down on the bed. The PORTLY MAN pleasures himself, sweatily and grunting, in his body.

Later CHAI sits in a jacuzzi. Beside him a large, careless wad of banknotes. Remembered images of boys at the bar, with BEN at Tha Tien and at Phi Phi island, and with ALEX & BEN are washed away in turn by the bubbling water.

He picks up a mirror and looks in it, then slams it down, smashing it. He picks up a piece of the broken glass and holds up his arm, then winces as he cuts into his flesh.

He has scratched the number 13 into his wrist. The banknotes are clearly visible. The jacuzzi stops bubbling. His image is reflected in the still water.

THE END