

A Merry Christmas

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Scene 1

It's cold and dark. Lee and Julia are in the San Francisco International Airport. The hands of the clock on the wall point to half past eleven.

(Lee carries the baggage and walks forward. Julia follows him. They keep walking without any words. The sorrow shows on both their faces. Other passengers in the airport are laughing and talking. Lee and Julia stop at the boarding gate. They turn to face each other. Tears blur Julia's eyes. Lee looks gloomy.)

Lee: (looks around and sighs) Maybe we are the most miserable couple here in this happy Christmas Eve! (with a bitter smile)

(Julia bends her head and wipes her tears. She stays in silence.)

Lee: (feels sorry to see her tears) Dear! Don't cry, my baby! I...

Julia: (cries out) Stay with me, Lee! You said you will never leave me. You promised. You promised.... (tears over her face)

Lee: Julia, my dear! I have to go. I really don't want to leave you if I don't have to. But now there is a great chance to fulfill the dream of my whole life. If I don't seize it now, I know I will regret. Believe me, I do love you. I love you with all my heart. But now.... I'm sorry, baby...I.... (in pain)

Julia: (feels hopeless) I know you love me, but you choose your dream instead of me. I love you so much, Lee.... (pause for a few seconds) All right, baby. I set you free...free to pursue your dream...your love.... (still tearful)

Lee: (with soft voice and sweet smile) Don't worry, Julia! I'll be fine. And you will, too. (embraces Julia in his arm and whispers to her) Find another guy, my love. You have all my blessings. Good-bye, baby.... I love you.... (gives a long kiss on Julia's cheeks; then turns away and goes straight through the gate)

(Julia sees Lee leaving. She sheds bitter tears down.)

Scene 2

Three years later. It's a cold and dark Christmas Eve in Taipei. Julia is in a fancy restaurant.

(Lee steps into the restaurant. He looks around. A smiling woman catches his eyes. Julia waves her hand toward Lee. Lee walks to her.)

Lee: Hi, Julia. So many years, you are still beautiful. (smiles and sits at the other side of the table)

Julia: Really? You too! You look great!

Lee: I'm really surprised when receiving your call. It's really a long time. Wait a minute.... (count on his fingers) Oh, three years! Yeah, right! The same Christmas Eve like today....

Julia: (with a bitter smile) Right, three years! How's going? Everything's ok? You really did something successful, right?

Lee: (hesitates for a while) Yeah. You can say that. For these three years, I really spend lots of time making my dream real...a lot of time and heart... all I have now is my work. (seems lost in thought)

Julia: (notices Lee's peculiar face) I'm really glad you can fulfill your dream. I know you'll be great. (with soft and sincere voice) Are you married?

Lee: Huh, no... I have left my love behind in San Francisco at that time.

(Julia lowers her head and crosses her hands. She keeps in silence.)

Lee: (awakes from his own thoughts) Hey! Why do you come to Taipei? I don't remember you have any relatives in Taiwan. (in doubt) Do you?

Julia: Oh! Actually, that's the news I want to tell you. (hesitating) My fiancé's family is all in Taipei. So I come here with my fiancé this time, and...(interrupted by Lee)

Lee: Your...fiancé? (stunned) You mean... you're going to get married? (opens his eyes wide and shows unbelieving face)

Julia: Yes. (smiles) I want to invite you to my wedding. Our wedding will be in San Francisco. I wonder if you are free, but I really want you to come.

Lee: (feels heart-broken, surprised, and confused) Well, I'm not sure. (pause) Does he really love you? I mean.... (stammers) is he...good?

Julia: (laughs) Of course. Don't worry. I'm sure he loves me more than anything. I think I'm happy now.

(Lee is not in the mood to talk too much with Julia. He feels depressed and sad.)

Scene 3

They're outside the restaurant. A man in a car turns down the window and waves his hand to Julia.

(Julia says goodbye to Lee and gets on the car. Lee looks at the car driving away. He hears the passersby singing the Christmas carols. A clergyman walks by and stops in front of him.)

Clergyman: Merry Christmas, young man!

Lee: (shouts) Go away from me. (the clergyman leaves Lee alone) I don't believe what the hell in Christmas... (shouts to the sky) I knew it! You like to play tricks on me, right? You always want to see me suffer, just like three years ago.... A *Merry Christmas* is bullshit! (bends down his head and puts his hand on his left chest) Why do I still feel heartbroken now? Why do you play such a big trick on me. I thought I've put her away in San Francisco. (feels remorseful and angry) It's too late. Too late..... (kneels down and holds his head) For that stupid dream! Ah..... (cries out)

(lights out and the curtain down)