

A Destined Couple

by Amber Yu-Jie Lin 林鈺潔

Characters:

Emma—a single mother, 32years old

Ben—a 7-year old boy, Emma's son

Ann—a 7-year old girl, Ben's classmate

David—Ann's father, 36 years old

Jean—Emma's best friend

Scene One

The scorching sun shines above the sky though it's just 9AM. The provoking heat attacks the pedestrians and almost dries the trees dead. People speed their steps, trying to escape the burning sun, and hastily heading for their destination. The hustle and bustle of the Taipei city makes people more annoyed. An anxious woman stands at the intersection, impatiently waiting the red light. In her hand, she holds a little boy, Ben, who looks still sleepy. They are mother and son. The woman, Emma, 32 years old, wears a pair of black-rimmed glasses, carrying a briefcase under her armpit. Wearing her hair in a bun makes her more gumptious-looking. Ben, who is 7 years old, leans against Emma with his eyes half-closed, yawning all the way.

Emma: Gosh! I am late again. It's all for that stupid car. The cost of repairs is enough

for a new one. (She looks at her watch and complains out loud.).

Dress yourself up and wake up. (She turns to Ben, looking at his messy clothes.)

Ben: Mom, I seemed to forget something. There is nothing on my back. (Ben shrugs

his shoulder and innocently pouts, with his deep black eyes staring at her.)

Emma: You are really a troublemaker. I have told you for a thousand times that you

should have prepared all the stuff you need for the next day. You almost drive me crazy.

Ben: I am so sorry, and I promise I will be careful next time. By the way, today I have

to hand in 30 dollars for the outdoor activity held next week.

(Emma has no time to lecture, and then she tries to locate her purse in the briefcase.)

Emma: Jesus, I left my purse on the pocket of the short pants.

Ben: We are really mother and son!

(Ben bursts into laughter and make a face at Emma.)

Scene Two

(Jane is Emma's best friend. She is dainty and bright, and her curly hair makes her more attractive. She likes to introduce male friends to Emma and often arrange appointments for her. Today, Jane calls Emma and talks about another new guy.)

Jane: He has a prosperous business overseas and has just returned from New York. It

is said that he is rich and owns many real estates there. Most importantly, he

treats friends well and takes good care of others. Beside, he.....

Emma: Enough! The guy you introduced me last time kept bothering me and he is

totally a nuisance. It took me lots of time to get rid of him. I don't wanna get

into trouble again.

Jane: Come on. You should try again. I promise this man is definitely right for you.

(Emma turns on the TV and watches the evening news without listening to Jane.)

At the night of that day, Emma is cooking spaghetti in the kitchen, lightly swinging her slim figure to the soft music. Ben stays in the living room and draws a picture of a cute girl. After a while, the air is filled with the smell of spaghetti. Emma walks to Ben from kitchen with the dishes.

Emma: Dinner is served. Clean up your drawings and go wash your hands.

(Emma noticed Ben's drawing, while Ben went to the washroom.
Soon, Ben is
back.)

Emma: wow! What a cute girl! Is that someone you like?

(Ben immediately blushes and stares at his painting.)

Ben: She is Ann, who transferred to our school this morning. She acts like a princess,

gracefully and elegantly. I cannot help fixing my eyes on her. She is so beautiful

that I dream of being her prince.

Emma: Hey, look at you. You just met Ann this morning and think about her all day

long. What about me? I have got along with you for 7 years, but now you are

going to abandon me just for a little girl.

Ben: Don't worry. You are still my lovely mom. No one can replace you.

(Ben throws himself to Emma and kisses her on the cheek with his hands

around Emma's neck. Emma hugs him tight and blissfully smiles.)

(The day of outdoor activity)

It is 6:10 in the morning. Ben gets up very early and stands in front of the mirror, admiring his handsome face. Because he is in the same group with Ann, he can't wait to get to know her more. Ben rushes to Emma's bedroom and wakes her up.

Ben: Mom, you're going to be late. It's 8:30 now.

(Emma turns to the other side and hides her head into the sheet.

Suddenly, she sits up as something important flashes into her mind and she screams.)

Emma: What! It's already 8:30. Gosh, I'm gonna be fired if I am late again.

Ben: Mom. Don't worry. I'm just kidding. Today is Sunday, the day of our outdoor

activity; you have to drive me to the Mu-Zha Zoo.

(Ben takes out Emma's blush and asks her to clean up, giving her a morning kiss.)

Emma: You.... frighten me all the time. Such a naughty boy.

Scene Three

Emma and Ben soon arrives at Zoo. Ben looks around and eagerly searches for Ann. Before long, there is a black van slowly coming to the front door. Here comes Ann and a middle-aged man. Ben pulls Emma by her hand, excitedly running toward Ann.

Ben: This is Ann, Mom. And this is my mom.

Ann: Nice to meet you, auntie. You look fabulous. This is my dad, and he is a little bit shy.

Emma: Nice to meet you, too. You are really a pretty. No wonder Ben likes you very much. (Emma turns to Ann's father and smiles.) I am Emma, good to see you.

David: I am David, Ann's father, just come back to Taiwan with Ann. However, she

seems to be getting used to here, and she often talks about Ben, who takes care of her very much.

Emma: Yeah, he likes to make friends. I hope he doesn't bother Ann very much. So....

you are not very familiar with here. I guess it's the first time that you visit the Zoo.

David: That's right. Would you mind showing me around?

Emma: Of course not. It's my pleasure.

(Ben and Ann join the whole class, and follow the teacher to visit the Zoo. Emma and David walk around and have a deep talk.)

Emma: So what do you do? Have you found any job here?

David: Actually, I am an architect. When I was in America, I expanded my business to

Taiwan; therefore, I got a company here and I am in charge of it now. How about you?

Emma: Comparing with you, I am just an employee in a trade company. Dose your wife help you in the company?

David: It's kind of embarrassing to mention that. In fact, I am a single dad. My wife

died of cancer 3 years ago. I couldn't bear such pain and decided to leave New York.

Emma: Really! I am a single mom, too. Ben's father had a love affair with another

woman, so I divorced with him.

David: I am sorry to hear that.

Emma: Never mind. Now I lead a happy life with Ben, and I enjoy such a simple life.

(Emma stretches out her both hands and takes a deep breath. David smiles and looks at her. They seem to get along with each other well and leave a good impression toward the other.)

Scene Four

Jane walks back and forth at the front door of the restaurant, and keeps watching the time. Then a lady shows up. It is Emma. Jane rushes to her and hugs her.

Jean: Thank God! You finally come. I am so happy to see you. I promise it's the last

time that I arrange an appointment for you. Do you remember the man I told

you last time? He is really a gentleman and suitable for you.

Emma: I've told you that I have a crush on somebody recently. I won't like the guy

you mention.

Jean: Come on. Don't jump to the conclusion. You two can make friends first.

(Jean enters the restaurant, followed by Emma, who reluctantly moves her step.

They walk towards the table which is by the window. As they gradually approach it, the man stands up.)

Jean: Hi. David, this is Emma. And this is David.

(Emma and David stare at each other, with the sweetest smiles wearing on their faces.)

David: Hi, Emma, nice to meet you.

Emma: Nice to meet you, too. David

(They sit side by side, holding each other's hands beneath the table without listening to Jean.)

(Curtain)