

THREE FLAMES

CHAPTER TWO

"DIRTY THINGS"

Written by

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First Draft

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FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

A CABIN by a LAKE sits at the base of a menacing mountain range. The outline of the GREAT WALL hangs behind it, like an undulating dragon resting on its peaks.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

A group of CAMPERS arrive.

SU YIN (19) is the youngest. She's dressed like a tomboy, wearing an oversize T-shirt, baggy pants, a Yankees cap, but underneath is a girl looking to get out. She has a ton of religious beads and bracelets of many faiths ranging from Buddhist to Christian faiths covering both of her wrists.

SU YIN

You were right, it's beautiful up here.

ZHU ZHU (21), Su Yin's best friend and a flirt.

ZHU ZHU

I told you. A few days out here will really clear your mind.

SU YIN

Thank you Zhu - for being here for me. I know I was M I A for awhile and I'm sorry.

ZHU ZHU

You're my best friend Su. I'll always be here for you... no matter how long you decide to disappear for. Besides, isn't this what your doctor prescribed for you...? What did you say she said? "Spend a few moments with nature and you'll see there is a purpose for everything".

Su takes a deep breath, lets the good vibes soak in.

SU YIN

Yeah... something like that.

ZHU ZHU

Look at that lake. Lets skinny dip!

SU YIN
I don't know, Zhu Zhu.

ZHU ZHU
Come on Su!

XIAO PENG (O.S.)
Can I join in ladies?

XIAO PENG (25), sneaks up behind them with his brother, SHI TOU (24).

ZHU ZHU
You wish!

SHI TOU
Come on Zhu Zhu. You know you want some of this.

Shi Tou flexes his skinny frame.

SHI TOU (CONT'D)
Quick, look...
(straining)
Shit! I think I just pulled a muscle!

Zhu Zhu giggles - takes her top off and throws it at his face.

SHI TOU (CONT'D)
(excited)
Look! They're taking their clothes off!

He pulls away Zhu's top only to see her wearing a bikini as she run towards the lake with Su in tow, fully dressed.

XIAO PENG
Put it back in your pants little brother... I think they're lesbians.

CUT TO:

ON A TRAIL

Struggling towards the brothers is WANGJIE (20), a young man with a few extra pounds and a pair of birth control glasses. He's pulling a cooler on wheels with one hand and pumping an INHALER with the other.

SHI TOU
You okay Wangjie? Need help with that?

WANGJIE
No... I'm cool. Don't worry about me.

XIAO PENG
Don't fucking die on us. I'm not carrying your fat ass down to the village.

WANGJIE
Fuck you Peng.

ZHU ZHU
Hi Wangjie! Come join us!

The girls waves Wangjie over.

XIAO PENG
Fuck me! Really?

Wangjie tosses his pack to Shi Tou, takes his shirt off, and throws it into Xiao Peng's face.

SHI TOU
I guess he's got personality...

XIAO PENG
(pulls off shirt)
Maybe he's the heir to a tech billionaire.

SHI TOU
Maybe... Here.

He gives Wangjie's pack to Xiao Peng then goes to join them in the water.

XIAO PENG
Fuck me.

Shi Tou, Wangjie, and the girls splash water at each other, having a great time.

Xiao Peng heads inside the cabin.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Xiao Peng enters. The interior is quite small - very old, pre-cultural revolution.

There are no electricity or running water. The humble space is occupied by a wooden table in the center with four chairs, surrounded by two bunkbeds, a window, and a door.

He drops everything on the floor, not impressed at all.

XIAO PENG
(to himself)
What a dump!

The rest of the group comes rolling in. Dripping wet.

SHI TOU
You're shitting me.

SU YIN
What the hell Xiao Peng. This is what we paid for? Where's the kitchen? You said it had a kitchen.

ZHU ZHU
Where's the bathroom?

XIAO PENG
It looked so much better in the pictures.

WANGJIE
That's what you get for using a new app no one's ever heard of.

XIAO PENG
We're only spending one night here before hiking to the Great Wall. Besides, we have camping supplies.

Shi Tou looks out the window towards the back of the cabin.

SHI TOU
Well, I found the bathroom...

He points to an outhouse about fifty feet off the cabin, almost at the edge of the woods.

ZHU ZHU
I'm not going in that!

SU YIN
Looks like you don't have a choice.

XIAO PENG
There's no running water either, guys. Sorry.

WANGJIE

We can use the water from the lake.
Just make sure to boil it first or
you'll be using that outhouse for
the rest of the trip.

ZHU ZHU

There's only four beds and there's
five of us-

SHI TOU

You can always share with me.

ZHU ZHU

Go fuck yourself. You'll have a
better chance.

Xiao Peng laughs.

SHI TOU

You picked this shit-hole. You can
sleep on the floor!

Everyone claims a bed quickly. Xiao Peng beats Wangjie,
throws his pack on the top bunk above his brother's bed.

XIAO PENG

Too slow, fatty.

WANGJIE

I can't sleep on the floor. I have
sleep apnea.

XIAO PENG

Too bad.

SU YIN

You're an asshole. Wangjie, you can
have my bed. I'll sleep on the
floor.

WANGJIE

No. No... it's okay. You take the
bed. I can sleep on my side.

SU YIN

(to Wangjie)

Don't let him bully you.

He's obviously got a crush on Su and Peng notices it.

XIAO PENG
 (whispers to Wangjie)
 Hey, you're wasting your time,
 she's not interested, you know...
 in guys.

WANGJIE
 Really...?

Su hears him, but ignores it. She unpacks her stuff on the bunk.

ZHU ZHU
 It's getting dark guys. Lets get
 situated and start dinner soon.

They take out their battery operated LANTERNS and other camping gear. Wangjie pulls out a small BUTANE STOVE from the cooler and places it on the table.

Su peeks over his shoulder. She sees all sorts of goodies.

SU YIN
 Wow, looks like we're at least
 going to eat good tonight.

WANGJIE
 Yup! My mom made the hot pot base.
 I hope you like it spicy!

SU YIN
 I live on spicy hot pot!

XIAO PENG
 (chuckles)
 You can always count on fat people
 to bring good food!

SU YIN
 (to Xiao Peng)
 Grow up.

SHI TOU
 (holds the full bottles)
 We still have about two liters of
 water left. I'll go get more water
 from the lake.

Shi Tou grabs the two empty liter bottles with him and heads outside.

WANGJIE
 Remember, the water needs to be
 boiled.

ZHU ZHU
I'll go with you.

EXT. CABIN - DAY/NIGHT

TIME-LAPSE --

The day fades away to the night and a nearly full harvest moon.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Their four lanterns gives plenty of light inside the cabin - feels much warmer than before. Wangjie's hot pot spread is impressive by camping standards.

Shi Tou pours a liter of water into the hot pot with the spicy base. He tries to light the burner. CLICK, CLICK, CLICK.

SHI TOU
It's not working.

ZHU ZHU
(teasing)
You have to use this, stupid.

She hands him a butane can.

SHI TOU
(chuckles)
Oh, yeah. Want would I do without you?

ZHU ZHU
(grins)
Try using your hands...

XIAO PENG
Get a room guys, I'm going to puke!

CLOSE UP -- STOVE

The stove lights up.

The table overflows with all kinds of delicious hot pot foods.

XIAO PENG (CONT'D)
Come one, come all. The soup is boiling! Let's eat!

Everyone grabs a chair but once again, Wangjie was too slow to get one.

WANGJIE
There's only four chairs...

XIAO PENG
Just use the cooler. It'll hold
you... maybe.

Su pulls the cooler between her and Xiao Peng.

SU YIN
Come. You can sit here.

WANGJIE
Thanks. Come on guys. This is my
mom's soup recipe. Eat.

They start to eat. Shi Tou pulls out bottles of beer from his pack and hands it out to everyone.

SHI TOU
You have to have beer with hot pot.
Here Zhu-

ZHU ZHU
No, I don't like beer.

SHI TOU
Oh...? I have something for you
later.

He pulls out his bag of weed.

ZHU ZHU
You trying to get me incapacitated
or something?

SHI TOU
No... of course not!

ZHU ZHU
(giggles)
Give me that bottle of water. You
can have the beer and the weed.

Shi hand her a bottle. The rest of them laughs at his fail attempt at wooing Zhu.

XIAO PENG
So anyone have any good scary
stories to tell?
(MORE)

XIAO PENG (CONT'D)

It's the seventh lunar month and you know what that means... The Hungry Ghost Festival! When all the dearly departed are allowed back on earth to roam freely-

ZHU ZHU

I don't like talking about those dirty things.

WANGJIE

There is no such things as ghosts or demons. They're all created by man to explain things we do not understand. Just like gods, Jesus and everything in between.

SU YIN

I agree. God died along time ago for me.

SHI TOU

Yeah? If that's the case, what's with all that shit on your wrists?

SU YIN

(raises her arms)

These? This is called fashion you dip shit. Just like my cap. I don't give a fuck about the Yankees. It just looks dope on me.

XIAO PENG

I don't believe you. No one wears that many religious crap on them if they don't believe or praying for forgiveness or some shit like that.. My mom is deep into that buddha shit - I know a blessed buddhist beed when I see one. What are you praying for? What did you do that was so bad you're afraid of karma catching up with you?

Xiao Peng hits a nerve.

ZHU ZHU

Stop it Peng. Just stop it!

WANGJIE

(whispers to Su)

I believe you.

Zhu takes a huge gulp of water.

ZHU ZHU

This hot pot is spicy as hell.

SHI TOU

Alright guys. Chill. I have something that will relax all of us for dessert later. Besides, you don't want to yell too loud or curse... or they'll hear you!

ZHU ZHU

Who? We're the only ones out here.

XIAO PENG

He's referring to one of the seven things not to do during the Hungry Ghost Festival.

WANGJIE

(chuckles)

Well, at least there's only a couple of days left before the seventh lunar month is over. They all have to go back to hell.

They all laugh.

SU YIN

So what's the seven things not to do. This ought to be good for a laugh.

ZHU ZHU

It's true Su. My grandmother use to tell me all sorts of crazy stories about the festival.

SU YIN

It's only true if you believe it to be real.

ZHU ZHU

I'm not as brave as you. Can we please not talk about it? I'm scared!

SU YIN

I'll be here to protect you Zhu.
I'm not going to let any ghost...
(to Shi)
Or anyone else to touch you!

Su puts her arms around Zhu.

WANGJIE

Me too. We have science on our side!

XIAO PENG

(to Shi)

I told you they were lesbians.

SHI TOU

Holy shit...

SU YIN

Okay. Just for shits and giggles... what's the seven "things" we are not suppose to do?

XIAO PENG

For one thing, you're not suppose to curse.

SHI TOU

Well, I guest we're all fucked here tonight then --

XIAO PENG

May I continue? So, the other six; One - do not whistle at night. Ghosts are attracted by it. Two - do not hang your clothes to dry overnight. They may get attached to one they like. Three - don't walk on a single road alone at night. They will follow you home. Four - do not take photos during the seventh lunar month. They may be captured in your photos-

WANGJIE

How in the world can you not take a picture nowadays with everyone taking selfies all the time with their cellphones--

XIAO PENG

As I was saying... Five - do not go near water. They can drown you.

SU YIN

Well, there goes the lake, or does that only apply to night?

ZHU ZHU

Only at night, I think.

WANGJIE

Well that's good to know. I was worried this morning-

SHI TOU

Wait... you don't need a ghost to drown yourself in water.

XIAO PENG

Look, I didn't make these rules up...

SU YIN

Then who did?

XIAO PENG

I don't fucking know. Are you going to let me finish or what?

Smoke wafts out of Shi's mouth as he laughs uncontrollably.

ZHU ZHU

You started already? Give me some of that.

SHI TOU

Really? I thought you don't smoke.

ZHU ZHU

It calms me down.

Shi is happy to oblige, hands her the blunt. She takes a deep puff.

WANGJIE

So what's the last thing you can't do?

XIAO PENG

You know... I don't know... I forgot-

ZHU ZHU

Dirty things...

Zhu's already high. She speaks through the smoke.

ZHU ZHU (CONT'D)

(serious)

It's dirty things...

WANGJIE

What...?

ZHU ZHU

The last thing you're not suppose to do... dirty things.

(beat)

My grandmother use to say that you always have to clean up after yourself. You know, keep you room clean. Don't leave any rice in your bowl, clean up your mess after you eat. If you don't... it'll attract dirty things... ghosts... demons... And the worst of them all, hungry ghosts - lost souls condemned to eat as ghosts but always remain hungry. Everything they try to eat just falls out of them. An eternal punishment for their materialistic and wasteful lifestyles when they were alive... Dirty things attract... dirty things.

She stay stoic for a moment, then breaks out in laughter.

WANGJIE

Well, she's not scared anymore.
See, it's all in the head.

SHI TOU

That's because she's fucking high
as a kite!

Everyone laughs.

Suddenly -- A LOUD GUTTURAL GROWL breaks the laughter. It spooks them.

A silent pause.

ZHU ZHU

(holding her stomach)

Oh god, sorry that was me. My stomach hurts like hell! I think I have food poisoning!

XIAO PENG

I don't feel anything.

SU YIN

Me either.

WANGJIE

Me too

SHI TOU

Yea. We all ate the same thing. I'm fine.

ZHU ZHU

Water, I need some water.

Shi gives her another bottle of water.

WANGJIE

Wait... Did you boil the water like I told you?

SHI TOU

Why? This is the water we brought with us. I use the lake water for the hot pot.

WANGJIE

No you didn't. That's the lake water.

ZHU ZHU

(farts)

I need to take a shit... NOW!

SHI TOU

Shit...

Zhu beelines for the DOOR, holding her hand on her ass as if it's going to stop it from coming out.

SHI TOU (CONT'D)

I'll make sure she gets to the outhouse.

He runs after her.

XIAO PENG

I guess when you have to go, you have to go!

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Shi catches up to Zhu on the open field. He helps her run to the OUTHOUSE.

SHI TOU

I got you Zhu Zhu.

ZHU ZHU

Where the fuck is the outhouse?!

SHI TOU
It's right over there. I got you.

THE OUTHOUSE

Zhu rushes inside, pulls her daisy dukes down, squats, and just when she's about to do her deed, she remembers Shi is right outside the door.

SHI TOU (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You okay in there?

The waning gibbous moon shines through the slits of the outhouse, giving her just enough light to see what she's doing. She finds her phone.

INTERCUT -- INT./EXT. OUTHOUSE

ZHU ZHU
(holding it in)
Yeah... I'm okay.

She fumbles with her phone, through her playlist.

SHI TOU
You sure?

ZHU ZHU
Yes! Yes!

She plays her playlist of songs... LOUD. Then lets loose.

EXT. OUTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Shi can HEAR her FARTS and SQUIRTS clear as day through the MUSIC. He can't help but to crack up, holding his hand over his mouth.

Suddenly, he HEARS something else... High-pitch wailing.

He scans the woodline. He thinks he sees something, but doesn't.

ZHU ZHU (O.S.)
Shi... You there?

SHI TOU
Yeah, I'm still here. Don't worry.

ZHU ZHU
Don't fucking leave me out here
alone.

As he turns back to the cabin, we SEE a SHADOW FIGURE at the edge of the woods.

SHI TOU

I won't.

INT. OUTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zhu finishes then realizes she doesn't have toilet paper.

ZHU ZHU

Shit!

SHI TOU (O.S.)

What's wrong?

ZHU ZHU

(embarrassed)

Ugh... I don't have anything to wipe with.

He chuckles.

ZHU ZHU (CONT'D)

Stop laughing and get me some toilet paper!

SHI TOU (O.S.)

Alright, alright. I'll be right back.

ZHU ZHU

Wait! Where you going?

SHI TOU (O.S.)

Well, I don't have any on me... unless you want to use my sock. I have to go back and get it.

ZHU ZHU

Hell no! That's disgusting!

(beat)

Okay then. Do it quickly.

SHI TOU (O.S.)

Gotcha. Be right back.

INT. CABIN - SAME

CLOSE UP --

CHINESE PEANUT SAUCE SQUEEZED INTO A USED BOWL

WANGJIE

I can drink a whole bowl of this
sauce!

They're is still eating. Xiao Peng kills another beer. They
each take a hit from what's left of the blunt, except for
Wangjie.

XIAO PENG

Hope they don't make too much noise
out there. Ghosts just loves noises
at night.

WANGJIE

Come on. Stop it with the ghost
stories. There is no such thing as
ghosts.

Shi Tou BURSTS in, startling them.

SHI TOU

Toilet paper... I need some toilet
paper!

XIAO PENG

What the fuck! You scared the shit
out of us!

SHI TOU

Come on, come on. I don't want to
leave her out there too long. Just
give me some TP!

Su Yin tosses him a roll from her pack.

SU YIN

Here.

SHI TOU

Thanks.

He rushes back out.

INT. OUTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zhu waits. She plays with her phone as the next track begins
with a whistling opening. She sees the moonlight filtering
through the cracks on the door blocked, as if someone just
walked across it.

ZHU ZHU

Shi Tou...?

Whoever it was, now blocks the moonlight in front of her. She turns off her music.

ZHU ZHU (CONT'D)
(frightened)
Shi Tou...?

There's a long silent pause.

She begins to HEAR the faint wailing outside. Her heart is pounding out of her chest. It almost drowns out the wailing from the woodline. There's a shakiness in her voice.

ZHU ZHU (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Shi Tou...? Is that you...?

Something BANGS on the door LOUDLY. Zhu SCREAMS from the top of her lungs and cries.

SHI TOU (O.S.)
It's me... It's me! I'm just going to open the door a little so I can give you the toilet paper, okay?

ZHU ZHU
(crying)
Okay...

She takes the roll of toilet paper.

SHI TOU (O.S.)
(chuckles)
Did I scare the shit out of you?!

ZHU ZHU
Shut up!

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

XIAO PENG
So you really don't believe in ghosts?

WANGJIE
The only thing I believe is death and taxes...

XIAO PENG
What about you, Su Yin? What do you believe in?

SU YIN
I'm with Wangjie on this one.

XIAO PENG
What about god? Do you believe in
god, the buddha, Jesus?

SU YIN
If there are ghosts, I haven't seen
any, and if there's no ghosts,
there's no god. It's a ying yang
thing. One can't exist without the
other.

WANGJIE
Hmmm... there's something very
quantum about what you just said.
I'm impressed.

XIAO PENG
What if I can prove it to you they
exist?

SU YIN
-Then I'll blow you.

XIAO PENG
Done! We can invite one in. Prove
it to you two once and for all.

SU YIN
Sure, I'll just pull out my ouija
board from my pocket.

WANGJIE
(to Su Yin)
What? No! You won't really do that
would you?

SU YIN
Oh, you care! Don't worry about it.
Ghost don't exist, right?

WANGJIE
(smiles)
Right!

A KNOCK on the door interrupts them.

ZHU ZHU (O.S.)
Why you guys lock the door?

Su Yin OPENS the door for them. Zhu runs to Su Yin, hugs her
tightly.

SU YIN
You alright?

ZHU ZHU
I thought I saw something dirty out there.

XIAO PENG
Yeah, your ass. Did the toilet paper help?

ZHU ZHU
Fuck you!

Shi Tou brings in a COT.

SHI TOU
Hey, Look what I found outside. Now no one has to sleep on the floor.

As Shi Tou closes the door behind him, we SEE the Shadow Figure has followed them to the cabin. It remains outside for now.

XIAO PENG
Get your lipstick ready. We don't need a ouija board-

ZHU ZHU
Ouija board? What's he talking about.

WANGJIE
Xiao Peng here's going to prove to us ghost exists. I call bullshit.

XIAO PENG
Wangjie. Isn't it your turn to clean up after dinner today?

WANGJIE
Yes, why?

SU YIN
He's thinking about Zhu's dirty things story.

WANGJIE
Oh that... bring it on. What do I have to do.

XIAO PENG
That's the beauty of this dare. You don't have to do shit.
(MORE)

XIAO PENG (CONT'D)
Just declare you are responsible
for cleaning up... then don't.

ZHU ZHU
No, I don't like it. I don't like
it at all. Don't do it-

WANGJIE
Sure.
(loudly)
I declare I am responsible for
cleaning this hot pot mess and if
there's any hungry ghosts hanging
around, you're welcome to eat all
you can and haunt my fat ass.

SHI TOU
Damn, that's some brave shit!

ZHU ZHU
What the fuck, Wangjie.

Shi Tou puts his arms around Zhu Zhu.

SHI TOU
Don't be scared. I'll protect you.

XIAO PENG
Damn, what happened out there? You
two bonded or what?

SU YIN
This is stupid. I'm going to sleep.
Don't worry Zhu Zhu. There's too
much Yang energy in here. No ghosts
coming in her tonight.

Su yin rips Xiao Peng's pack down and tosses it on the cot
resting below the window.

XIAO PENG
What the hell? That's my bunk.

SU YIN
Not anymore. Your ghost is going to
need a clear view of Wangjie
tonight and that bunk is right in
the line of sight of that mess.

She points to the table. There's half-eaten foods, leftover
meats, and empty beer bottles everywhere. The fat is already
congealing on top of the hot pot soup. It's dirty, really
dirty.

SHI TOU
She's got a point, big brother.

WANGJIE
Thanks again Su Yin.

He smiles at her - she smiles back.

SU YIN
You're welcome.

A GUST of wind BLOWS the window open. The wailing winds from the Great Wall Shi and Zhu's been hearing WHISTLES into the cabin, sounding more like cries and screams than wind.

It catches everyone by surprise.

XIAO PENG
Don't say I didn't warn you guys...

CUT TO:

MIDNIGHT -- DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. LAKE - AFTERNOON

SOMEONE'S POV -- LOOKING THROUGH BRANCHES AT THE LAKE

Zhu Zhu and Su Yin are NAKED, waist up in the water, locked in an embrace. They KISS romantically. Then --

Both of them are suddenly taken under by an unseen force. The disturbance in the water quickly returns to stillness, as if nothing happened.

CUT TO:

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Wangjie wakes with a BONER.

The moonlight spilling through the window is exceptionally bright. He tries to go back to sleep, but it keeps him awake.

Everyone else is in a deep slumber. He toss and turns for awhile then begins to nod off, but his own snoring wakes him again.

He tries counting himself to sleep.

WANGJIE
 (quietly)
 200..., 199..., 198..., 197...,
 1...

His eyes gets heavier as he tries to continue. Then...

The CLICKING of the portable stove gets his attention. He turns to the table but can't see anything without his glasses.

WANGJIE (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Who's there? Shi Tou...? Xiao
 Peng...?

He waits for a response - gets nothing but silence, tries to sleep again. Then --

The SOUND of lips SMACKING together as if someone was eating something so decadent, he didn't care if it's rude.

Wangjie reaches for his lantern hanging on his bunk. It doesn't work. He squints but only makes out a faint silhouette of a figure sitting at the table with its back towards him, eating the hot pot.

WANGJIE (CONT'D)
 Haha, very funny...

It ignores him.

WANGJIE (CONT'D)
 You do know leftover meat in this
 weather will give you the shits.
 It'll be worst than that water from
 the lake.

It continues to eat...

Wangjie is getting impatient, he finds his glasses and puts it on. What he sees next is beyond his comprehension...

It's the same specter that followed Zhu Zhu and Shi Tou from the edge of the forest. It's dressed in ancient hanfu. The torn and tattered appearance of the clothing suggests it went through some kind of violent event.

It's traditional hat is that of a scholar, also soiled and weathered. The moonlight doesn't reflect any shade of color... just a grayish hue.

You couldn't see its face - just an inkling of human flesh exposed beneath its long, wiry black hair.

This is the HUNGRY GHOST (1500+), give or take a few centuries. It's feasting on the dirty leftovers, stuffing itself as if it has not eaten for ten lifetimes, maybe more.

But no matter how much it eats, food just falls through it, on to the table. But the more it eats, the more hungry it gets, working itself into a horrific frenzy.

Wangjie is frozen in fright. He calls out to his friends as quietly as possible, but no one hears him. He sticks his head down to the bunk below to Shi Tou.

WANGJIE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Shi Tou... Shi Tou, wake up. Please wake up...

He slowly pulls himself up but knocks his lantern off his bunk. CRASH!

The Hungry Ghost stops eating...

Wangjie looks up, hoping it didn't hear him... but it did.

CLOSE UP --

HUNGRY GHOST

It SLOWLY turns to Wangjie revealing more of its face, but he SHUTS his eyes just before he can see it. He pulls himself against the wall and covers his face with his blanket and for the first time in his life, starts to pray to... EVERYONE!

WANGJIE (CONT'D)

(praying)

Buddha, Buddha, omee-tofou, forgive me for I have sin, Jesus, Allah akbar.... Buddha... Buddha...

A long silent pause.

Wangjie slowly pulls his blanket down, but his eyes are still closed.

He OPENS his eyes and SEES...

SU YIN's face, two inches from his. She scares him so bad, it triggers his asthma.

SU YIN

(whispers)

What the hell is wrong with you?

He tries to speak over his asthma.

WANGJIE

I... I... saw... it! I saw...

He can't catch his breath.

SU YIN

Shit, you okay? Where's your
inhaler?

She fumbles for his inhaler, reaches in his blanket but finds
something else-

SU YIN (CONT'D)

What the fu-

WANGJIE

(embarrassed)

Sorry...

SU YIN

It's alright.

He hides his dream boner and finds his inhaler - takes two
long puffs.

He places his hand on her shoulder.

WANGJIE

(trembling, whispers)

I think I saw it...

SU YIN

Saw what?

WANGJIE

The Hungry Ghost... behind you...
at the table... eating!

Su Yin looks into his eyes - he's not lying.

A chill crawls up her spine. She puts her hand on his,
bracing herself for the worst. Turns slowly around as Wangjie
peeks over her shoulder at the table... NOTHING, except for
the mini stove boiling over the hot pot.

She lets out a sigh of relief. Turns back to Wangjie.

SU YIN

There's nothing there Wangjie. I
think it's your apnea and the lack
of oxygen is playing tricks on you.

WANGJIE

Well I didn't turn on the stove.
How do you explain that?

She looks over to Xiao Peng on the cot, scratching his ass.

SU YIN

That's not hard to explain. Don't
let him bully you... There is no
such thing as ghosts or spirits...
right?

WANGJIE

But...

SU YIN

Go back to sleep. We have a long
hike to the wall tomorrow.

WANGJIE

Okay...

Su Yin turns off the mini stove and goes back to her bunk.

WANGJIE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Su...

SU YIN

(from her bunk, whispers)

Yeah?

WANGJIE

(whispers)

Thanks...

SU YIN

Goodnight Wangjie.

She closes her eyes and falls asleep unusually fast. Wangjie calms down, relaxes. He watches his sleeping beauty for awhile, smiles.

The moonlight intensifies, pouring into the cabin. We see more clearly than before.

Wangjie rolls on his back, faces up and finally SEES --

-- The Hungry Ghost's FACE in all its ghastly glory, floating inches above him, still trying to eat. Its gaze puts Wangjie into a coma-like state. His eyes remain wide open. He can't move, talk, or blink. The half-eaten food falls out of its mouth, onto Wangjie's face and into his mouth.

The night terror continues as he's forced to stare into the depths of the specter's eyes, absorbing all of its suffering, hopelessness, sadness, all at the same time. He is a prisoner of his own doing, trapped by his dirty things.

CLOSE UP --

WANGJIE'S EYES

JUMP CUT TO:

DAYBREAK --

The first golden rays of the sun pours into the cabin. We HEAR a rooster crow outside.

Shi Tou wakes, smells something awful... follows his nose to Wangjie's bunk. He's shit himself.

SHI TOU

What the fuck Wangjie! Did you shit
in your pants?

Everyone wakes - smells it. They go to his bunk.

SHI TOU (CONT'D)

Wangjie...?

Wangjie is wide awake but oblivious of his friends. He stares into space and mumbles incoherently.

XIAO PENG

What's he saying?

SU YIN

Wangjie... you okay?

ZHU ZHU

It was here... the hungry ghost. I
told you guys not to mess around
with dirty things.

SHI TOU

Dirty is right. He made a hell of a
mess on this bunk!

SU YIN

(on phone)

I called Mr. Ye from the village.
He's sending a van to take Wangjie
down to the village. Come on guys,
lets get him down.

XIAO PENG
Hell no! He's got shit all over
him.

SHI TOU
Don't be an asshole, give us a
hand.

They carry Wangjie off the bunk and onto Xiao Peng's cot.

XIAO PENG
Come on... my blanket! That's
fucking disgusting!

EXT. CABIN - LATER

Mr. Ye (57) from the village, helps Shi Tou move Wangjie.

Su Yin is right beside him as they carry the cot to the van.
He stops mumbling, reaches and grabs her wrist.

WANGJIE
I saw... it.

She doesn't know what to say.

WANGJIE (CONT'D)
Don't go to the wall. Come back
down the mountain with me.

XIAO PENG (O.S.)
What? No way, we're still going.

Shi Tou and Mr. Ye carries him away into the van.

SU YIN
(to Wangjie)
Hey...! What were you mumbling
about?

MR. YE
He was praying...

Mr. Ye closes the van's hatchback, walks back to Su Yin.

MR. YE (CONT'D)
There's still room in the van. I
can take all of you back down
before nightfall.

SU YIN
No, we're going to finish our trip.

MR. YE
Oakly then, here.

Mr. Ye hand her a bracelet charm.

MR. YE (CONT'D)
It's a protection charm... from my
village. It'll keep you safe.

SU YIN
Thanks Mr. Ye, but I don't need it.

MR. YE
A non-believer?

SU YIN
Sorry... I don't-

MR. YE
But they do... Just wear it for
fashion then...
(points to her other
charms)
...with the rest of those.

He puts it on her wrist with the others.

SU YIN
I will... Thank you.

Mr. Ye drives away. Su Yin walks to the rest of the group,
all ready packed and waiting for her.

They HEAR the wailing of the wind, making them just a little
unnerved.

XIAO PENG
It's just the wind. There's no such
thing as ghosts... right?

SHI TOU
Right...

Su Yin gives the campsite a once over, then walks off frame.
As the CAMERA lingers, we see the Hungry Ghost LOOKING out
the WINDOW.

We RISE above the cabin, to the outline of the Great Wall
above the mountains.

CUT TO BLACK.

END