

The Love of a Mother

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2ETP (2018)

Ext. Park - Day

[Scene 1a]

Lights on to reveal SON cycling on a tricycle. MOTHER is seated on a bench, reading newspapers in the distance. SON falls off the tricycle and cries in pain. MOTHER runs over to son and checks wound.

MOTHER

Aiyo, why you fall down ah? Be
careful next time, ok?

SON

Ma... Pain...

MOTHER

It's ok. Just breathe in, breathe
out, and shout I'm alive!

SON

(follows)
I'm alive!

MOTHER

There, you're alright. Still alive.
Feeling better?

SON nods. MOTHER helps SON onto tricycle and watches as he continues to cycle. Lights off.

Int. Living Room - Day

[Scene 1b]

Lights on to reveal BOY is sitting at the table, putting his hands over his eyes. MOTHER comes in from the backdoor, with a box in her hand. There is a standing board with butcher paper. The cover page is blank.

MOTHER

No peeking ah!

SON

Ma... What is it!

(MOM reaches the table and places
the phone in front of SON.)

MOTHER

Ok! You can open your eyes now!

SON

Wah! What's this!

MOTHER

Well, only one way to find out!

(gestures at him to open the gift,
and someone flips over the cover
page of the butcher paper to
reveal a nicely drawn handpone)

SON

Wahh! An iPhone!!!!

(hugs MOTHER)

Thanks so much ma!

MOTHER

Happy birthday son. Whenever you
use your phone, remember Ma ok?

SON

Of course!!!

SON continues to check out the phone, while
MOTHER cleans up the wrapping paper. Lights off.

Int. Living Room - Early morning [Scene 2]

Lights on to reveal living room. MOTHER is preparing the table
for breakfast. Clock says 6.30am. MOTHER calls out to SON.

MOTHER

(loud)

AH BOY AH 6AM! Time to wake up!

SON

(inside his room)

I later come ok? I very sleepy...

MOTHER

(Yelling)

You better come now! Breakfast
waiting for you!

SON sighs and obliges, walks out of his room in his uniform
and sleepily starts eating his food.

MOTHER

Ah boy ah, you faster eat, if not
later will be late to school one

SON

OK OK, I eat.

SON slowly eats the porridge while MOTHER chatters on.

MOTHER

Today you go tuition (pronounced
"dui sion") ah! Also, you at school
don't drink all the soft drink, you
see you so fat already.

MOTHER

Ma...

MOTHER

I go get your bag for you ok?

SON

(Monotonously)

Ok thanks.

MOTHER gets up from seat, goes and gets bag from room. SON
continues eating, then pulls out phone when finished. MOTHER
comes back with bag, puts on chair.

MOTHER

Stop playing your phone! Always
play but never study.

SON
Tsk. Ok loh.

SON stands up and picks up bag and walks towards the door.

MOTHER
Study in school ah!

SON
Ok. Bye ma.

Lights off.

Int. Classroom - Morning [Scene 3]

Lights on to reveal SON in class with several other students.
TEACHER is handing out exam results.

TEACHER
(while giving back scripts)
Please take some time to look at
your scripts and see how well
you've done, and where you can
improve on.

STUDENT 1
Wah! You got full marks leh!

STUDENT 2
(joins in)
Really ah? (looks) Darn! You really
did it! (more students join in)

SON
It's not much...

STUDENT 3
Ah yah, don't talk like that lah!
Good is good, don't need shy. Next
time teach us please.

STUDENT 1
(act cute manner)
Teach us please Senpai!!

STUDENT 1, 2 and 3 go back to their table. GIRL goes over to SON.

GIRL

Wah, full marks?! Congrats!

SON

Yeah, thanks.

GIRL

Well, if you got the chance, teach me!

SON

(Awkward) Heh, ok...

[Bell rings]

GIRL

Well, I have to go now.

SON

See you soon.

Lights off.

Int. Living Room - Evening

[Scene 4]

Lights on to reveal the living room. SON, wearing his school uniform and school bag, opens door to home. Immediately lies down on sofa, very tired. MOTHER walks out of room, looks at SON in disgust.

MOTHER

You ah... Why so late come home?!

SON

Ma... CCA say need stay a bit longer...

MOTHER

Now so late, your O Levels leh?

SON

Ma, O Levels one year away, why need study?

MOTHER

I scared you cannot go JC, no

opportunity! I think you better
quit your CCA, make you so late
come home.

SON

(angrily)

Ma! I in this CCA how long liao!
Why need quit!?

MOTHER

Wah you ah, I am the one that
cares for your future. Will your
CCA help you get job next time?
Will it give you food to eat?
Don't talk back to me when you
don't know anything!

SON

Aiyah I'm going to my room, you so
noisy.

(SON angrily stomps to room, drops
phone along the way. Stage Crew
flips the butcher paper to reveal
a slightly cracked phone. SON
gasps and examines for cracks)

MOTHER

You see, you so careless, phone
crack liao!

SON

What me! Who ask you keep nagging!
First thing come home nag already!
Can't even rest for a while!

SON stomps into room, leaving MOTHER furious. Lights off.

Int. Party - Evening

[Scene 5]

Lights on to reveal a party. People are doing various things
like chatting, drinking, laughing. SON is there with a few
friends at one corner. GIRL is also there with her friends at
another corner.

FRIEND 1

Eh, you see that girl over there?
Go talk to her la!

FRIEND 2

Yah loh, I thought you said she
like you one? Ask her out la!

SON

Cannot la, later she reject then
how? It'll be so embarrassing lo!

FRIEND 1

Ah yah, she won't la! You already
said that time she tried to get
close to you right! Or you make up
story is it

FRIEND 2

(to FRIEND 1)
Must be he bluffing

SON

Oei! Don't anyhow talk ok!
Watch this!

SON shakes himself up to mentally prepare himself, then
bravely walks towards GIRL. Meanwhile, GIRL is still chatting
with her friends.

SON

Uh...

GIRL ignores him, continues talking with friends.

SON

Excuse me...
(GIRL notices)

GIRL

Oh its you... what do you want?

SON

Would you like to uh... go out
with me?

GIRL's other friends start

giggling to themselves and start whispering among themselves. GIRL, embarrassed, pulls him aside.

GIRL

(teasingly)

Oh.. for what? You want to take me out on a date is it?

SON

Uh yes ma'am..

GIRL

You sure or not? How you know I won't just spend all your money and run off?

SON

(sheepishly)

Haha that's ok... at least it would be something worth spending on..

GIRL

(covers her mouth and giggles)

Alright... Well... Ok! Since you're so clever.

SON's eyes light up in happiness. GIRL takes an apple from a pile of fruits.

GIRL

Here, have an apple.

(SON takes and bites into it)

GIRL

(puts hand in her pockets)

So, handsome boy, aren't you going to ask me for my number so you can properly talk to me and plan an outing?

SON

(still munching apple and almost chokes, gives phone to GIRL) Oh yea sorry hehe. (GIRL takes phone and keys in her number)

Lights off.

Int. Canteen - Afternoon

[Scene 6]

Lights on to reveal GIRL sitting at a canteen table, doing her work. SON walks in from back door with two trays.

SON

Hey... I got you your favourite
chicken!

GIRL

(sweetly)
Thanks!

SON

No problem.

GIRL

Oh yea, by the way, Mrs Chan's
homework is so hard... I don't know
how to do any of them. Eh, later
can let me copy your homework?

SON

Sure, why not? As long as it makes
you happy.

GIRL

You're so sweet! (takes out a pen
and proceeds to draw on SON's arm)

SON

Hey wha-

GIRL

I'm drawing a smile on you, cause
you make me happy.

SON is delighted. Lights off.

Int. Home, Dining area - Evening

[Scene 7]

Lights reveal a dining table. There is food. MOTHER is bringing out the last dish. SON comes in from the backdoor and sits at the table. He places his phone on the table.

MOTHER

How was school?

SON

Its fine, just tired.

MOTHER sits beside him, phone buzzes, causing MOTHER to look at his phone.

MOTHER

Eh, ah boy ah, how come you have a contact called "baby" on your phone ah? And why this "baby" sending you hearts?

SON spits out dinner in surprise and immediately lunges forward, trying to retrieve phone. Mother backs away, holding phone away from him.

SON

Give me back! It's not what you think!

MOTHER

So you have girlfriend now ah? How come you never tell me? I thought I told you that you cannot have girlfriend until university?

SON

Ma, I almost 17 liao leh, I almost adult already!

MOTHER

Adult or not, you are still my son, and your happiness will always be my priority!

SON

So your definition of happiness is my sadness and subjugation?

MOTHER

You're too young to know if the girl is good for you or not!

SON

You so old also don't know that Pa
not-

SON censors himself, but MOTHER is repelled by SON's comment and raises her hand; SON backs away and accidentally knocks his phone onto the floor. Butcher paper is flipped to the next page which reveals the same phone but with more cracks.

MOTHER

You... you go to your room now!

SON picks up his phone and runs into the backdoor. Mother slumps in chair.

MOTHER

What have I done wrong?

Lights off.

Int. Shopping Center - Evening [Scene 8]

Lights on to reveal SON and GIRL walking along the corridor of a shopping center. SON is carrying a few paper bags. They meet a pushcart operator selling hairpins.

GIRL

(looking at the hairpins, tries
one on)

Wah so pretty! Hey, can buy the
hairpin for me?

SON

Huh... I don't have much money left...

GIRL

Ah yah, buy lah, I also no money
leh...

SON

I told you, I cannot!

GIRL

Tsk. I thought you say you will do
anything that makes me happy?
Aiyah empty promises...

SON caves in and lets out a sigh.

SON

Ok, Ok I buy it for you

GIRL

Yay! You're the best! (holds onto
his arm)

[Son buys hairpin for Girl]

SON

Eh its dinner time, shall we eat
the B1 food-court?

GIRL

Huh... I don't want, I want go
Watami eat!

SON lets out another sigh of disappointment, and
GIRL reacts by pouting.

SON

All right, all right...

Both walk off as the lights off.

Int. Shopping Center - Evening [Scene 9]

Lights on to reveal MOTHER working as a cashier working at the
supermarket. She is attending to someone, tagging their
groceries. She looks tired. She looks at her watch. Her voice
sounds like she has not slept in ages.

MOTHER

Wah, finally, end of shift! (starts to think a little)

Oh wait, Ah yah, I'm doing overtime today.. aiya never mind at
least can finally pay rent with the OT money..

She continues to tag customers' items. Lights off.

Lights on to reveal SON and GIRL eating at a restaurant. MOTHER enters, walks past them, and spots them. Rushes to confront them.

MOTHER

Son! I work at the supermarket every day, give you money to spend properly on books and savings, and this is how you waste it??

SON

Ma! Not here!

MOTHER

No! This girl har... she's nothing but a money sucker, want to take advantage of you. Why are you so stupid, can't you see behind her niceness!

SON

Oei! She's my girlfriend, how can you say that in front of her!

MOTHER

I must say it in front of her! The longer you keep her, the less money we will have. Soon she will suck my bank account dry!

SON

Why must always like this, why must you always interfere in my life? Why must you keep controlling me?!

MOTHER

Because I know what is best for you, because to see you happy makes me happy!

SON

Then I now happy, why can't you just let me be?

MOTHER

Because this is false happiness!
You know what, give me back the
phone. You don't deserve it!

SON

(in a fit of anger)

Fine! Don't need your stupid phone
anyway!

(takes out phone and throws it on
the floor. Butcher paper flips to
the next page which shows the
smashed phone)

GIRL

(joins in)

Aunty! You don't talk so much about
happiness la. You understand true
happiness meh? Look at your life!
So old already still only a
cashier? And where's your husband?

SON

(surprised and starts to feel abit
guilty)

Hey! Don't say already let's go!
(drags girl away)

MOTHER is left to slump on a chair as she see her SON and the
GIRL walk off. Lights off.

Int. Void Deck - Evening [Scene 11]

Lights on to reveal a HDB void deck. SON is dragging GIRL by
the arm onto the stage. They stop at the center.

SON

How could you say such things about
my mother?

GIRL

Why cannot? It's true what. She's
just trying to control you.

SON

So what? You can't just shame my mother in public! She's my mother!

GIRL

Oei! Why you shouting at me! I'm your girlfriend ok!

SON

Girlfriend so what? Between you and her, she's the one that's always been giving, not like y-

GIRL

(outburst)

I knew it! Deep down you still a mommy's boy! You know what, go back to your uneducated low class mother, I don't need you!

SON

(finally understands)

You absolute piece of trash.
(GIRL tries to slap him but he grabs her hand) I have finally realised what a horrible person you are. And now I have the courage to cut all my ties with you. Goodbye. Forever.

Lights off.

Int. Mother's Bedroom - Evening [Scene 12]

Lights reveal MOTHER sleeping on her side on the bed. SON knocks on the door. MOTHER wakes up.

SON

Ma... Can I come in?

MOTHER

What is it?

(SON comes in)

SON

Ma... I just wanted to say I'm sorry. Deep down I always knew the girl wasn't really into me. I guess... I guess I just didn't care. I just thought if I gave in enough she would finally change and start to love me.

MOTHER

It's ok. Son you must understand. In this world, if someone truly loves you, you will know it right from the start. All these suspicions you had right from the start, you shouldn't have ignored them.

SON

You're right. I'm sorry.

MOTHER

It's ok.